

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 16th March 2016

Present: Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**) (Secretary), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Tony Harris (**TH**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**)

In Attendance: PC Liam Chapman, Chris Brace (**CB**, CEC)

Public: Irene Hood

Apologies: Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Julian Newman (**JN**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Eileen Francis (**EF**)

Absent: Graham Muir (**GM**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**)

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Chris Brace, Cycling Officer for CEC. Chris described the “Action Plan for Walking and Cycling” which needs lots of promotion and education. The target is that by 2020 15% of all journeys to work should be by cycle and 10% of all journeys. In 2014 these had reached 7.5% and 3-4%. There are two types of infrastructure being introduced – “family network” and “quiet route network” which should be suitable for 12-year olds to cycle on their own. Surveys indicate that more people would cycle but are frightened of the traffic. Local routes include the Marchmont-Kings Building route which has various challenges as Kilgraston Road is narrow. Following informal consultation there will be a loss of parking along West Mains Road to provide a segregated cycle lane. Formal consultation is expected in mid-summer – construction could start in late 2017. Also working with James Gillespies and SESTRANS – possibly more pedestrian crossings. A second local route is Pollock Halls to Ratcliffe Terrace – consultant has just been appointed and will meet GPCC and the Blacket Association over the summer.

Points and questions:

- DH commented that bikes on pavements are dangerous for blind people and asked how people like him are consulted. CB said the access panel was consulted; also that cyclists and pedestrians should be separated as much as possible – one suggestion was a 50mm difference in levels between cycle and pedestrian lanes. This could be a trip hazard – CB said this is still being discussed with Street Design Guidance and they are trying to get agreement across the city.
- Cllr CR asked if the advance cycle plan for Blackford junction is still in the proposal. CB confirmed that cyclists will get a few seconds before lights change for cars.
- SG commented on problems in Kilgraston Road especially at the Grange Loan intersection. CB said there will be changed priorities and a raised table to slow vehicles; also possibly a pedestrian crossing.
- ST asked about the delayed implementation of the revised cycle lane in Ratcliffe Terrace. CB said this might be progressed in June.

- ME asked about costs. CB guessed that the cost of the Pollock Halls to Ratcliffe Terrace route could be £200k. He said CEC spends about 9% of the transport budget on cycling – other funds come from SESTRANS (Scottish Government is putting an extra £500k-£1m into cycling).
- MH commented that discussions about a cycle route through the Blackets had been going on for about 10 years.

JS then thanked CB for his presentation and for answering questions.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** None

3. **Minutes of the Meeting 17th February 2016**

The minutes had been previously circulated; proposed by ME, seconded by HD.

4. **Matters Arising (not on the agenda)**

KB proposals: ST hadn't yet received a reply from Anna Stamp to the invitation,

5. **External Reports**

a) Police Report: PC Chapman explained that he is responsible for the Dumbiedykes area but had been asked to attend as the local officers were required elsewhere. He reported:

Crimes down by 40% compared with Feb 2015. Crimes of violence the same (one); indecency and dishonesty all down; housebreak-ins down by 25% - 5 solved in February; drug offences down. Detection rate for February 2016 was 36% compared with 45% for February 2015.

JS thanked the PC for coming and for his report.

b) Councillor's Report:

Cllr CR reported and gave information in answer to questions:

- **Council Budget:** The budget had been passed resulting in a reduction in staffing of about 2000. This is happening very quickly and is tied up with moving to Four Localities. It's a difficult time for both staff and the public.
- **Parking – Central area:** No extension of the time of controlled hours.
- **Sunday Parking:** No controls in the morning but the period 13.30-18.30 will be controlled. This will be implemented in about 2 years.
- **Cameron House:** problems with design and build of the Centre will go to the Council shortly.
- **CC Elections:** Cllr CR still doesn't know the date but expects to be told soon.
- **Staffing reductions – impact on services:** DH asked what the figure of 2000 reduction related to and what impact this would have on services. Cllr CR said the figure related to a full time equivalent of about 16,000. He thought most work could be done more efficiently (e.g. with more on-line work) – there is also a new IT contract.
- **Low level lighting:** ME said she had no reply to her letter complaining that the lighting level from the new lights was too low. Cllr CR said the pilot scheme was considered a success – he suggested that ME gets several people to complain and action might then be taken to increase the level.
- **Taxi card problems:** Some customers had been confused by a letter sent from a company – because CEC had awarded the contract to a different company.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH reported in addition:

- **Minto Hotel 16-18 Minto Street:** A new application includes changes to which addressed many of the GPCC concerns. The Blacket Association is still concerned about over development and privacy. TH suggested that GPCC should object again, welcome changes but say there are still concerns about overdevelopment etc. TH will circulate a draft.
- **20 Duncan Street:** proposal to demolish a listed structure with no proposal of what will replace it. Local Plan suggests that demolition is refused if there is no proposal for the replacement. TH suggests GPCC objects as cannot judge if demolition is a benefit or not. This was agreed.
- **20 Lady Road:** Several problems with this application and unanswered questions. GPCC agreed to object and TH will circulate a draft objection.
- **46 Grange Road:** The Grange Association is pursuing the question of whether it is possible for recent applications to be considered when a new application is received.
- **Development Management Sub-committee:** TH reported unhappiness among several CCs that CCs are only allowed 5 minutes to speak whereas the Developer still gets 15 minutes.
- **Newington Library:** CEC had carried out checks and the noise levels are below national guidelines. More work is planned to try and baffle the noise from the air-conditioning unit.

b) **Roads and Transport:**

- **South Suburban Railway:** TH had contacted Lawrence Marshall (Capital Rail Action group) for advice about who to contact about a possible feasibility study.
- **South Central Decides:** GSD reminded the meeting about attending on 30th April in order to support GPCC proposals for Road Funding money.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing to concern us in our area.

d) **Publicity.**

MH reminded everyone about the agreement to produce a newsletter over the summer. He brought copies of the last edition and suggested that the tone should be “we can make a difference” with illustrations of what we have done (JS). Other articles could be transport including cycle routes (GSD), Newington Cemetery (BM), Planning (TH). All ideas to MH.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** BM reported:

- **Snowdrop walks:** These had been very successful with over 100 visitors who had appreciated the enthusiastic volunteers.
- **Working Party:** Next one will be on Monday 21st.
- **Grant application:** Will apply for a grant to re-erect the fallen angel – one quote had been received to date – more are awaited.

7. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair's Report:** JS said she had met Southside CC at a recent meeting and will develop plans for joint working.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** No report as treasurer away.

c) **Secretary's Report:** Nothing to report

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a) **SCNP:** TH had attended the meeting Monday March 14th.

- David Doig (Environmental Manager) was retiring and thanked for all he had done for the community.
- **Open Space Strategy:** this is being revised with a workshop in May. TH had said we would want to be involved.

b) **SCNP Action Groups:** Nothing to report

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 20th April 2016

10. AOCB and Open Forum

The meeting closed at 8.55pm