

Grange Prestonfield Community Council

Cameron House Community Education Centre

Minutes 20 March 2019

Present: Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair & Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Henry Philip (**HP**), Tony Harris (**TH**), Sue Tritton (**ST**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Joe Griffin (**JG**), Alan Gilmour (**AIG**), Isabel Clark (**IsC**), Cllr Cameron Rose (CR)

In attendance: PC Neil Mackay, Ian Bieniowski (Lothian Buses) (**IB**), Stuart Tooley (UoE) (**StT**)

Apologies: Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), Ian Murray MP, Daniel Johnson MSP

Absent: Denis Stevens

Public: Pat Jones, Peter Jones, Ian Carter, Anne Sturrock

- 1) **Welcome:** JS welcomed everyone. She suggested that the Police Report be heard first to allow the PC to leave.
- 2) **Police Report:** PC Mackay gave the following updates and information:
 - a) He reported a murder on 21 February – a 16 and 19 year old have been charged and the Police aren't looking for anyone else
 - b) A 21 year old has been arrested for 2 sex assaults
 - c) 15 March - Home Office Investigation visited a Nail Bar in Newington looking for trafficking victim
 - d) 8 March - two 16 year old males have been charged with pedal cycle thefts in Cluny and Braid.
 - e) 17 March – 2 night-time robberies in Sciennes House Place – one man is in Custody and a second person has been identified
 - f) A 20mph compliance check has resulted in several warning notices being issued for speeding.
 - g) Graffiti mentioned by ERJ at the February meeting has been removed.

Talk by Ian Bieniowski, Network Performance Manager of Lothian Buses. He introduced himself and said he had joined Lothian Buses 19 years ago and had spent the past 15 years in the commercial team. He mentioned the following points:

- a) LB try to limit changes (such as to timetables or routes) to only one or two per year.
- b) Passenger base is static – compared with lower base elsewhere.
- c) Main shareholder is CEC – this means profit can be reinvested rather than paying shareholders.
- d) New 100-seat buses are being introduced on the Morningside-Leith route to increase capacity.
- e) New housing developments create more opportunities but also more congestion.
- f) Working with CEC to try to reduce problems caused by congestion – this includes reviewing the position and number of bus stops (each stop takes an average of 30-45 seconds); more bus priority lanes. All bus corridors are being reviewed in an attempt to reduce journey times.

Questions and comments

- **DS asked about the bus tracker system – in relation to information at bus stops.** IB said CEC controls the location of these stops.
- **JN asked about the colour and position of the display for the tracker signs – very difficult to read.**
- **TH asked about “touch pay”.** IB said this had started in 2017 on Airlink services and in 2018 on country services. A better (Model 2) system – more like the London system - will come later.
- *As time was limited other queries should be sent to IB by email at IBieniowski@LothianBuses.co.uk.*

IB left at 19.45.

- 3) **Minutes of 20 February 2019.** Accepted as a correct record. Proposed by TH; seconded by IC
JN was thanked for the production of the minutes.
- 4) **Matters Arising:** TH made a further plea for Planning and Licensing to be separate items on the agenda. MH said they were both statutory functions of the CC. TH said they had only been put as a single item as he had dealt with both matters. ST said they had been separate items in the past. Agreed to separate them.
- 5) **Councillor's Report** – deferred until Cllr Rose arrived.

6) Reports of Subgroups

- a) **Planning.** TH had circulated a report; he drew attention to the following:
- Royal Blind School: An email had been received from CALA with revised proposals. TH suggested holding another public meeting on 4 April if that date suits CALA. The meeting agreed.
 - Edinburgh University- Peffermill fields. There will be a presentation at the April meeting. It is a sensitive site as part of the land is green belt. AIG said there were concerns about parking. Everyone was encouraged to visit the exhibitions on 24 and 25 April.
 - Metal shed at 54 Craigmillar Park. Agreed to object – TH to circulate the objection.
 - Consultation on pre-Application advice. Agreed to object – TH to circulate proposed objection.
- b) **Roads and Transport.** A report had been circulated. Points to note:
- East Mayfield footway: There should be news soon about the grant for this repair.
 - Mayfield Gardens: JN had noted that proper repairs to potholes had survived the recent bad weather whereas cheap temporary repairs had quickly disintegrated.
 - Temporary traffic signs: Several had fallen over in the recent high winds and most had not been replaced. The fallen signs are a hazard to pedestrians. JN and IC have the names of the traffic people to contact about such problems.
 - Edinburgh Bus Users Group: There will be a meeting in April.
JN was thanked for inviting IB to address the meeting.
- c) **Communication:** Topics for summer newsletter had been circulated.
- d) **Environment:**
- Astley Ainslie Hospital. The AACT is holding two consultation days – Saturday 23 February “Ideas Day” and Sunday 31 March “Vision Day” – flyers had been circulated.
 - Communal Clean up kits: ST to check details and respond.
- e) **Newington Cemetery:** ERJ had circulated a report. The main item was that a very successful Snowdrop Walk had been held on Sunday 24 February.

7) Councillors report: Cllr Cameron Rose reported

- Student flats in Mayfield Road. Approved today.
- Priestfield Residents Association: This has been formed.
- Trams. Extension to Newhaven agreed by the Council.
- Graffiti: A sub-group of “Culture and Leisure” has been formed to address this concern and will report in 16 months. Local Chief Inspector, David Robertson, is coordinating a “graffiti plan” – work in removing graffiti will be done by community payback workers. The CEC officer is Gareth Barwell.
- Temporary Accommodation. B&Bs are being used for the homeless – there is a lot of work being done. However, there is not enough accommodation available and this is a difficult problem to solve.
- East Mayfield footway: There is a standoff with Morningside and there will be a meeting on March 25 to resolve the matter.

8) Reports of External Bodies.

- a) EACC Nothing to report
- b) SCNP Final meeting had been announced for March 25th but ST hadn't received any papers.

9) Office Bearers Reports.

- Treasurer's report: Bank balance at 22 February was £3148.53 (£322.15 belongs to Newington Cemetery). The accounts include donations of £100 to Newington Cemetery and £55.50 for printing leaflets for the Royal Blind School meeting.

10) AOCB

- a) TH said most proposals in the review of the Community Council scheme are common sense; closing date is 22 April. Suggested that we do need a complaints procedure and he recommended reading the document.
- b) StT reminded the meeting about the Community grants available from the University - £25k available in lots of up to £5k. He circulated the link.

11) Date of next meeting – 17 April 2019

The meeting closed at 20.45

Minute taker ST