**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 15 June 2022**

**Meeting held at Cameron House Community Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue, Edinburgh, EH16 5EU, and via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers -**

Chair - Ian Chisholm; Joint Vice Chair -Paul Rowllings, Ellen-Raissa Jackson,; Secretary- Raphael Bleakley; Treasurer - Paul Rowllings; Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark.

**Present:**

Sue Tritton, Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Tony Harris, Scott Paterson, Stanley Bird, Andreas Grothey, Julian Newman, Peter Jones, Bill Reid, Cllr Tim Pogson, Sgt Barry Mercer

**In attendance:**

Denise Fisher

**Apologies:**

Sally Griffiths, Tony Harris , Stuart Tooley (University of Edinburgh).

**Absent:**

Andreas Grothey, Maureen Edwards

1. **Welcome. –**Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 18 May 2022.** Circulated Minutes were agreed

**Action Points -**

i). Blackford Avenue Parking – No update

ii) Liberton Bus Lane Cameras – Response received on behalf of Cllr Rose. Council confirmed that bus journey times benefit from bus lanes and provision of bus priority measures has long been established as an approved policy. CEC responded to say that the lane layout and traffic signal sequencing is not unusual for a junction of this complexity. Removing the northbound bus lane would likely initially make the junction more attractive as a route for private cars, inevitably resulting in more traffic choosing to travel via this route, continued congestion and a queue of general traffic that buses would need to wait within. Note that a bus would need to wait to access the bus stop and then wait again to travel through the junction. Any queue of cars in the area of the existing bus lane would have a significant impact on bus journey times and reliability. Northbound traffic here is travelling onward to other junctions and congested areas and increasing the throughput of general traffic is likely to add to congestion problems further downstream. No improvements to signage or layout are proposed.

iii) Future GPCC Meetings – hybrid meeting being trialled in June.

iv). Fibre Broadband - Discussion that work carried out and mess left by contractors (eg boards left, pot holes, etc) in Priestfield Road, Mayfield Terrace, Dalkeith Road. City Fibre commissioned to carry out work. Raphael to email City Fibre with GPCC concerns

(iv) Newington Cemetery - Wall damaged by road accident. Continued to next meeting.

(vi) Short term lets - General response from Cllr Kumar. Continued to next meeting.

(vii) Ken’s motion to tidy and clean up City of Edinburgh as a priority for new Councillors. Ken raised that bins are overflowing, the city looks tired and dirty, pot holes, etc. Now is the time to start addressing these issues by the new councillors. Encourage CEC Councillors to tackle these concerns. Ken to draft a letter to be emailed to GPCC members prior to being submitted to the four Ward Councillors encouraging them to raise this to improve the city.

(viii) Summary of CEC Committees - no update yet. Continued to next meeting.

(ix) Police Scotland Representative - PS. Barry Mercer from St. Leonards Police Station present at GPCC meeting.

(x) Scottish Widows - discussed later at Planning 6(a)

(xi) Posters – Paul and Scott designed posters for display around GPCC area in shops, etc. Discussion to consider if GPCC could erect a Notice Board but would require CEC grant.

xii) Newington Cemetery - Open Day – Ellen-Raissa and Sue discussing this forthcoming event.

**4. Notice of Matters Arising-** None

**5. Reports (External) -**

1. **Councillors Councillor Tim Pogson**

Cllr Pogson expressed his delight at being present for the first time in his new role as CEC Councillor for Southside. Cllr Pogson advised that CEC had elected a minority lead Labour administration to deliver their manifesto but will need support of other parties. Long period of induction for new Councillors until end of June 2022. Ward Councillors have held two meetings and intend to work together. Cllr Pogson advised he is co-chair of a the Integrated Joint Board.

**Spaces for People - cycle/walk lanes**

Cllr Pogson advised that further consultation opened but due to close 3 July 2022. CEC intend to retain temporary cycle/walk lanes for another 18 months as not full volume of traffic flow and want to see how the cycle lanes perform. In Cllr Pogson’s view, most people do not like these temporary measures and if become permanent require consultation. Cllr Pogson urged GPCC members and public to submit their views to CEC on said temporary cycle/walk lanes . Ken enquired if there was an active survey being carried out by CEC on how the temporary measures were being used, what worked and what did not work. Discussion that there was no adequate research carried out before these temporary measures were brought in. Peter raised that Minto Street - Craigmillar Park was an example of misplaced traffic islands, parking bays, and drivers trying to cope with different road lanes in opposite directions. Raised that spaces for people measures had made it a lot safer for children to cross the roads. Discussion that some people were not happy with the haphazard way the cycle lanes were introduced- install them and fix them later.

After discussion enquiring if CEC would request a proper independent assessment of usage by Traffic Management of the cycle/walk lanes it was agreed that Alan, Ken and Julian would discuss and circulate to GPCC members a draft response for submission.

Scottish Widows – 15 Dalkeith Road

Advised there are three different Pre Application Notice Consultations, the last one taking place on 3 July 2022. Cllr Pogson advised he had received feedback from residents in immediate area and school which he had passed on to the developers. Most is quite positive but also some issues.

Planning application - Cameron Toll development

Noted that a planning application has been lodged for 159 bedroom Hotel at site. No application for houses yet. Same developers and PR company as Scottish Widows. Residents in Lady Road and Cameron March had raised concerns relating to traffic levels, junctions etc. Discussion that the consultation display was very light in detail and the 13 storey block of flats was not prominent.

Ken asked what issues were being raised with Cllr Pogson. Cllr Pogson said that so far they included speeding, unsafe buildings, masonry etc.

Clean Air Day 2022- Cllr Pogson raised that various primary schools are taking part in Clean Air Day. He is visiting Preston St. School to discuss the position with the LEZ at the site.

1. **Police Report – Sgt Barry Mercer**

Scams - Last month Police Scotland and Trading Standards were working together to fight scammers, Bogus workmen, etc. who send false text messages and emails allegedly from HMRC, DVLA with links. Police Scotland have carried out an education/media campaign with Police Stalls at various areas . Trading standards has an email detailing tips/hints on how to deal with false messages. HMRC, DVLA send letters by post and not text/email and would forward to GPCC

If someone comes to your house - do not let them in, say no. If they get into your house they distract the householders and steal money, etc. Phone 101 if any suspicious behaviour. Police Scotland internet website gives more information on this campaign.

Jubilee weekend - Police presence in Meadows which deterred anti social behaviour. Police Scotland commencing community engagements eg Sciences Primary school.

Motor Cycles - Police Scotland responding to City wide off road/dangerous driving by riders wearing balaclavas to hide their identities. Usually the motor bikes have been stolen. Police Scotland are seeking help from the public if they see any motor bikes being ridden in a dangerous manner, (speed, wheelies, on pavements, etc) or where the motor bikes are hidden.

e-Scooters - Police Sergeant Mercer advised that they were not for use on public roads. Only private grounds. E-scooters are classed as a motor vehicle (require DVLA and Insurance). Police will take action if driving on public roads.

Break-ins - Blacket/Mayfield area - Bikes. Discussion that electric bikes are being targeted. Police Sergeant Mercer encouraged everyone to make sure their sheds/garages were secure.

Tyre deflators. Police Sergeant Mercer advised there is a dedicated team working on this at present. Some cars have been damaged but it is also anti social behaviour.

Police Scotland statistics re Housebreakings, Scams, various crimes - are they available? Sgt Mercer advised used to be monthly report but now quarterly Report. Confirmed the Police information can go on GPCC Website and he could provide information in large Print.

**6.  Reports of Interest Groups -**

**a) Planning**

* Flat 3, 1 Peel Terrace - Planning application mostly for internal work with alterations to external balustrades. Lack of detail in application. Julian to discuss concerns with Tony.
* St Crispin School Site -Notice of Appeal by CALA. GPCC original objections will still be considered by Reporter.
* 15 Dalkeith Road - Scottish Widows - Pre-application stage. Raphael and Ellen-Raissa separately attended the exhibition and advised there had been detailed slides of the proposed development. Part of the offices would be demolished.   Some positive aspects included a improved permeability to the site and a commitment to 35% affordable housing on site. Application does not address impact on local amenities including school, increased traffic and local environment.  Developers intend to submit a planning application in August 2022.
* 9 Relugas Road - Discussion about the planning application relating to the 2 large sheds in back garden -  now designed as caravan’s and therefore do not require Planning permission. Continued to next meeting for update.

**b) Licensing**- None.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following:

* Consultation on sustainable connections across City of Edinburgh for Public transport -park and ride - Trams.   Significant new housing development schemes surrounding City which require improved bus services to encourage people to use the bus and not their vehicles.
* Lothian buses issued a new bus time service from 5 June 2022.
* Airport - drop off area costs £4 for 10 mins, £8 for 15 mins, £15 for 30 mins.   Lots of delays being experienced at present which is costing drivers more. Tram costs £6.50.
* Low Emission Zone (LEZ) - started on 1 June 2022.

**d) Communications/Publicity.**

Paul has updated the GPCC website to remove outdated information. GPCC posters had been designed, printed and in process of being displayed in shops, libraries, churches. Paul and Scott were thanked for producing the GPCC poster.

**e) Environment –** Nothing to report

**f) Newington Cemetery**

Ellen-Raissa advised that contractors have been into the cemetery and removed 30 Ash trees. Asked that

GPCC have been asked if the planter on Dalkeith Road outside the bathroom shop would be adopted and tended. Plants to be provided by Inch Nursery. GPCC agreed and discussed it could put GPCC name on the planter. Ellen-Raissa to send email to Inch Nursery confirming GPCC will adopt the planter.

Wall damage in the Cemetery - No further update who is responsible for cost of repair. CEC have made the wall safe.

Discussion that on 24/25 September 2022 for the Open Day there would be joint publicity for both Newington and Grange Cemeteries. Continued to next meeting.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul referred to his email to GPCC members. Balance of £4,141 made up of:

* + GPCC Account Balance - £1,538
  + Newington Cemetery Balance - £2,603

No new income this month. Expenditure of £77 on Zoom subscription and posters.

1. **Secretaries report -**

GPCC meetings – June meeting a trial with the hybrid approach. After discussion GPCC agreed would invest in a microphone to facilitate future hybrid GPCC meetings. Denise joined the June meeting via Zoom and was able to follow the meeting - she could see some people, sometimes she could not hear what was said.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. Ken advised introduction of a presentation on Observation for Sport in Scotland which involved Sporting education and training to promote sport participation, and would provide details. EACC funding (from Community Council donations) had raised £750.

9. **AOB - Open Forum -**

1. Motion  - presented forward by Ken.

“That GPCC begins this new elected official cycle by:  making “Edinburgh” a clean and tidy city, fit for residents and visitors alike” the Community Council’s “operational” priority asking that Southside & Newington Councillors endorse that motion and assign it as their own (operational) top priority.

Ken highlighted that with the new elected Councillors in GPCC area would they commit to tidying up Edinburgh as a day to day priority. Encourage local self help volunteers similar to Grange leaf clear up in Autumn.  Agreed that this should be pursued.

10.   **Date of Next Meeting   -  Wednesday 21 September , 2022 at 7 pm**.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Ken advised: advised EACC scheduled meeting had been put back a week.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 15 June, 2022, Cameron House & online at 7pm.**

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| **3 Actions** | Fibre Broadband - disruption and mess in area | Raphael to to email City Fibre with GPCC concerns | ASAP |
| **3  Actions** | Newington Cemetery -  Wall damage who is responsible for repair  Open Day -  24/25 September 2022 | Continued to next meeting for update | By September meeting |
| **3 Actions** | GPCC Meetings -  In person at Cameron House and Hybrid  GPCC to purchase equipment for zoom  Short Term lets - concern increased  volume of applications and how CEC deal with this  Ken Motion - see 9 for full details of motion to clean up Edinburgh.  Summary of CEC Committees - no update yet | Raphael and Scott to discuss and purchase of microphone equipment for GPCC hybrid meetings.  Continued to next meeting  Ken to draft letter to send to Councillors and circulate to GPCC members  Continued to next meeting | By September meeting |
| **5) a Councillor Report**  **5(b) Police Report** | Spaces for People - discussion if CEC carrying out a Survey to  Ascertain temporary measures  working or not.  Police Scotland Quarterly Report to be provided to GPCC  Large Print version also requested  Scammers - Trading Standards email on Hints/Tips re Scammers to be provided to GPCC | Alan, Ken & Julian to discuss and circulate draft letter to GPCC members requesting CEC Survey be carried out on the temporary Measures in place for Spaces for People  PS Mercer to provide information to GPCC | By 3 July 2022 |
| **6(a)**  **6(f))** | 1/3 Peel Terrace - lack of detail in application,  Julian to discuss with Tony and CEC  9 Relugas Road - discussion that 2 sheds now referred to as Caravans, Tony to provide update for next meeting  Newington Cemetery -  Planter on Dalkeith Road to be adopted by GPCC  Open Day 24/25 September 2022  Update  Damaged Wall (road accident) who is responsible for repair and upkeep  Eg CEC | Julian to discuss   concerns with Tony  Tony to provide update for next meeting  Ellen-Raissa to send email confirm GPCC will adopt Planter  Ellen-Raissa and Sue update  Any update who is responsible (eg CEC) | By September meeting |
| **9 AOB** | Motion for the New Elected Councillors to prioritise tidying up the City  Ken enquired if CEC provide a Summary of all Current Committee business and outcomes which would help everyone | Continued to next meeting for discussion      Follow up with Cllr Kumar to enquire and report. Back to GPCC | By September meeting |