

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

Present: Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Tony Harris (**TH**), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Irene Hood (**IH**), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Joe Griffin (**JG**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), Philip Murray (**PM**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Cllr Ian Perry (**IP**)

Apologies: Henry Philip (**HP**), Harry Mulligan (**HM**), Fraser Graham (**FG**),

1. Welcome

It had been advertised that CEC officers would attend from 6.30pm to explain the process by which the Council will develop plans for the next 5 years - this had been cancelled (by email) at about 4pm as she thought the Police were doing this. The email arrived too late to advise CC members about this. ST would report this to Mags Campbell.

JS welcomed everyone and asked people to introduce themselves again as some people had not been able to attend in October.

ST reported that she had just received an email from HP's daughter saying that he was in hospital having fallen the previous day and broken his hip. It was agreed that ST should send a card from the CC.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting 19th October 2016

The minutes had been previously circulated. Proposed by ME, seconded by TH.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

1. There had been a suggestion that the CC might want to have a wreath for the Ceremony at the Prestonfield War Memorial. This had not been supported as other similar services in the area might also need a wreath.
2. Empowerment Act: ERJ asked for this to be an agenda item – in particular to understand in what circumstances it could be used.
3. Flooding in Priestfield Avenue – TH had been informed that there had been meetings between officers and councillors.
4. Dalkeith Road shops flooding: ME reported that Scottish Water had visited all shops to see how water gets into the basements. This should be an agenda item for January.

5. External Reports

a) **Police Report:** None – in the absence of a Police Officer. This was the first time for several months that no officer had attended.

b) Councillor's Report:

Cllr IP said he had nothing specific to report. Most councillors' time had been taken up with trying to balance budgets; in particular to make the fewest possible cuts to the service. The allocation to Councils from the Scottish Government is not yet known and this makes planning even more difficult.

i) **Refuse Collection:** Cllr IP thinks too much has been taken from this service and would like more put back - this is especially true during Festival time when the service is completely overstretched. This service isn't contracted out and is all done in-house. Flexible working hours have been introduced so there is no extra payment to staff for doing evening collections etc. This also resulted in rejigging shift patterns which has annoyed the staff. The Council no longer collects from small businesses who must make their own arrangements and who cannot use communal bins. CC members commented that the collection from communal bins – especially the landfill bins – is under too much pressure and these regularly overflow. Cllr IP agreed to ask an officer to attend the February meeting.

ii) **"Room Tax":** Cllr IP said this is raised every year as possible income and is an issue between CEC and the Scottish Government – CEC needs the power to be able to do this.

iii) **"Lost trees":** AG asked if there is a policy to replace street trees which are cut down. Cllr IP agreed to check this.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

JS reminded everyone that they should consider joining one or more of these groups.

a) **Planning:** TH had circulated a report and highlighted the following:

- **Nursery at East Suffolk Road:** A new application had been submitted and withdrawn.
- **East Suffolk Road Playing Field:** The deadline for concluding the agreement on the upkeep of the open space area is now 30th November.
- **Kings Building Campus:** Planning consent has been given for the redevelopment of the Darwin Building. This is to be welcomed as it makes the campus more outward looking.
- **Strategic Development Plan (SESPlan2):** The consultation is on-line but making comments is somewhat complicated. TH has started a draft response and would welcome comments from members of the GPCC. Those who expressed interest are ST, JG, ERJ, AG – TH would circulate his draft to them. These people would also form the Planning Group.
- **Land Court:** JN reported that some neighbours were planning to go to the Land Court over a "granny flat" issue. This might be a feu (rather than planning) matter and all at this meeting were somewhat confused by this.

- **AAH/REH matters:** TH and ST had attended a meeting between CC reps (from the 5 neighbouring CCs) and NHS Lothian on 31st October. The Business Case for Phase 2 of the development at the REH is expected to be approved by the Scottish Ministers in February and the NHS will then start the process to dispose of the AAH site. It is expected that there will be various consultation meetings with local people to see what sort of development would be most acceptable to the community. This consultation period will then form the basis of a masterplan which will be used to market the site in 2-3 years. It is not yet decided whether the site will be sold as a whole or in parcels; it is also not decided if the site will have to be sold to the highest bidder or if “best value” for the area can be accepted. There will be a meeting of the CC reps before Christmas to plan how to advertise any proposals of NHS Lothian for public consultation etc. The NHS had promised to inform the CCs when any further details are available.

b) Roads and Transport: GSD had circulated a Planning report (attached (A)) he highlighted the following:

- **Parking in the Priestfield area:** GSD asked who should be contacted when vehicles park across driveways – is it the Police. Cllr IP will find out.
- **Review of the Priority Parking area in Priestfield:** TH reminded everyone that only a percentage of the proposed restricted spaces were introduced until it was known if more were required. It should be relatively easy to increase the number as had happened in “B1”.
- **Parking in the Blackets:** IC said that shared use areas and visitor permits were wanted in this area (as in “S1”). MH said this had been asked for several times – agreed to pursue this again.
- **Cameron Toll Bridge:** There will be a meeting on 21 November – all asked to inform GSD if you want to attend.
- **Illegal right turn into Cameron House Avenue from Peffermill Road:** HP had sent personal observations about this problem – GSD thanked HP for his suggestions which would be followed up.
- **Roads Capital Funding 2017/18:** GPCC had received details of a request from residents in Relugas Gardens to support their application. This would be considered at the January meeting along with other suggestions – GPCC would then submit one or two applications.
- **20 mph sign removal:** Still to find out who to contact about getting signs removed when the 20mph area is extended in early 2017.

The following asked to join the “Roads and Transport” group: IC, PM, JG, AG, MH

c) Licensing. Nothing in our area.

d) Publicity – Newsletter and website. MH had looked at the Morningside and Merchiston CC web sites and FB pages – these are very professional looking. It is possible to protect the web sites and FB pages so that only registered users can post comments. He asked if there was anyone in GPCC who has the expertise to improve the website. The website had originally been set up by AG who doesn’t have time to do much work on it. EF said that the Craigmillar Park website manager could probably help with this. AG said that we do have a facebook page but it is hardly used. The following joined this Interest group: MH, JG, AG, ERJ

e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS reported:

- **New sign:** This is due to be installed next week. JS thanked all involved.
- **Action points for the next 2 years:** Sarah Murphy is the head of Parks publicity and had visited the cemetery on 15 November. RSPB will visit shortly and be asked to supply “bug boxes” and nest boxes.
- **Access from Ventnor Place:** This had been discussed some years ago – there had been local opposition to making the cemetery more open.
- **Friends Group:** There has been discussion about whether the group should become a formal “Friends Group”. The AGM of all the Edinburgh Parks Friends groups is due to take place on 6th December; TH will attend to get information.

ERJ and IC had recently joined this Interest group.

7. **Reports from Office Bearers**

a) **Chair’s Report:** JS again thanked everyone for their work for the CC. She invited everyone to a party at her house on January 5th 2017. An email invitation will be sent out.

b) **Treasurer’s Report:** The current account balance is £2369.85 but, allowing for unpaid cheques, the CC has £2209.85 to spend - £470.40 belongs to the Cemetery group.

c) **Secretary’s Report:** A report had been circulated; points to note included the date of the next SCNP meeting on Monday December 5th and everyone was encouraged to attend.

8. **Reports of Outside Groups**

Both the “Active Living” and “Community Safety” groups of the SCNP had been cancelled at the last minute

Children and Young People’s Group: IH, HM and ERJ had attended the meeting on 9th November – although no papers had been sent out. ERJ had written a report (attached **B**) - she stressed that other areas (especially Liberton/Gilmerton) are much more involved with young people in their area and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for January. HM will be working with CEC officials over music activities. JS thanked ERJ for her report and all three for attending.

9. **Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18th January 2016**

10. **AOCB and Open Forum**

ST said that as we do not have to pay for use of the Com Ed Centre it had been the practice to give the Centre a gift at Christmas. The meeting agreed that ST should purchase something suitable.

The meeting closed at 9pm

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council –
Roads & Transport Report for Meeting of 16th November 2016**

1. Motor Vehicle Parking Issues in East Suffolk & Priestfield

I have been in email correspondence recently with local residents from both the East Suffolk and Priestfield areas of the Community Council regarding inconsiderate and dangerous motor vehicle parking.

The particular problems in East Suffolk relate to vans - one possibly being slept in overnight, which blocked access to driveways and another with an expired MOT certificate. The Priestfield problems are primarily vehicles being left all day blocking in other vehicles and blocking driveways, some parking millimetres from other vehicles. (See the two photographs, which I will circulate at the meeting).

Residents are uncertain as to whom we should contact in these situations so at the next GPCC meeting of 16th November I intend to ask the police and elected Councillors to confirm the procedures and organisations which should be contacted to resolve these issues.

We would therefore like the following points confirmed in writing: -

- a) What members of the public can do and to whom we should report these issues;
- b) The role of the police;
- c) The role of the traffic wardens who patrol some of the streets affected as part of the Priority Parking Areas B6 & B7 and
- d) The role of the City Council.

This will not instantly resolve these issues but hopefully clarify what can be done and by which channels of authority.

2. Review of Priority Parking Areas – B6 & B7

I have also been in correspondence with local residents and Councillor Jim Orr about the pressing need for a review of the new RPP areas in the light of the recurring issues listed in 1 above. The problems have been so bad recently that a resident has met with the police to resolve the matter and another has been in touch with Tommy Sheppard MP. We therefore want it noted that GPCC continues to press the City Council to carry out an urgent review of the streets affected by new PPAs B6 & B7.

3. Vandalised Bus Shelters

If you notice vandalism to a bus shelter contact a company called J C Decaux – their email address is - oqmmailbox@jcdecaux.com

Please provide them with precise details as to the location of the bus shelter and they will arrange a repair – in my recent experience they are quite prompt in responding. They are responsible for adverts and the cleanliness of the shelters too, though litter issues would fall to the City Council.

4. Cameron Toll Railway Bridge ‘High-Sided Vehicle Strikes’

The general consensus at our last GPCC meeting was that the response from the Council regarding the regular traffic congestion and disruption caused by high-sided vehicles striking one of the two Cameron Toll Railway Bridges was not adequate. There have been four recorded ‘strikes’ of the bridges in the past 3 years and the Council seems to anticipate that this ‘strike’ rate will continue and can’t be reduced further. Councillor Jim Orr, the Council Bridges Engineer and myself have agreed to meet at Waverley Court @ 2pm on Monday 21st November to discuss the matter further and in some detail. If any other Community Councillor would like to join the discussions then please let me know as soon as possible.

5. Illegal & dangerous driving – Right Hand Turn from Peffermill Road into Cameron House Avenue

Again this was discussed at our last GPCC meeting. In the latest November edition of Prestonfield Press – the newsletter of Prestonfield Primary School – under the section ‘Road Safety’ – Fiona Murray the Head Teacher, again asks parents not to take the illegal right hand turn from Peffermill Road into Cameron House Avenue.

The City Council’s last response confirmed that they are not going to take any action to change things at this junction and will not install a small physical barrier to solve the problem. After much further thought I have had another idea which might lead to a barrier being installed – note that by barrier I simply mean a fixed raised kerb or set of linked hard plastic blocks often seen at the edge of building and road work sites.

My new idea is to put forward this barrier scheme as one of our proposals into the annual ‘South Central Decides’ Roads Capital Funding Programme for 2017/18. If accepted by the Council as a valid scheme proposal, then at least we would learn the likely estimated cost of such a barrier and if a modest figure then we as a Community Council might even decide to pay for the installation! Our community is asking for action to be taken but no one seems to care enough to do anything. Action might only be taken after a traffic accident has taken place. (Also see 6. below)

6. Neighbourhood Environment Programme – Roads Capital Budget 2017/18

Under this scheme GPCC can apply for funding for a small road/carrageway repair or project - CC's across the City vote and the top projects go ahead in the 2017/18 financial year - in theory at least. Closing date for applications is 27 January 2017 - we can send in more than one proposal but the total cost must be within the overall budget of around £50-70,000 (my guess based on last year’s budget of £67,000).

GPCC will decide on our proposals at either this November or January meeting and so it would be helpful to have your thoughts soon - I have two schemes in mind at present - i) East Mayfield Footway *Part* Repair – total repair would exceed the overall budget - and ii) Road Barrier on Peffermill Road – see above. Suggest apply now.

Action Point for Nov/January meeting

Graham Dann, Roads & Transport Group Convenor, GPCC – 10/11/16

Children and Young People's Action Group Report

Three members of GPCC attended (HM, IH, ERJ), much to the group's surprise.

1. Youth Talk

Emma Smith, a library development officer working in Gilmerton, gave an update on Youth Talk, a programme that has managed to engage more than 1,500 young people aged 12-25 in deciding on local priorities and awarding funding. The project used innovative methods, such as turning a mobile library into a 'Big Brother' seat, and asking young people to film and record their ideas. The project has been so successful it is now being run in Leith.

The first 'asks' were for leisure centres and an ice rink, but when discussion continued, young people asked for better street lighting (for everyone to feel safer) and an improved crossing by the library. They also felt that they were not given enough recognition for their role in the community, so decided to set up the Youth Talk awards. They also asked to have direct control over some spending and were rigorous in their assessment of funding applications.

Three messages about engagement: talk to people directly, be visible in the community, use different approaches.

Youth Talk is an inspiring model and GPCC might learn something from their innovative approaches to engagement, particularly to improve our communication with younger members of the community and in raising awareness of what the community council does in general.

2. City Vision/Locality Improvement Plan Engagment

Mags talked about the locality improvement plan, to be published October 2017 and the changes in how South Edinburgh is to be represented (it will now cover a larger area to the east and stretching up to Frederick St in the centre). The discussion centred around the two questions the council is asking and there were several suggestions for improvements to the city in the future. There was general agreement about a concern that families are moving out of the city centre and the need for the city to have 'livability'. Everyone has an opportunity to comment and Mags stressed that this is the start of the process.

3. The Children and Young People's Action Group will not continue in its present form, under the new local area plan, but another group, probably broader in scope, will replace it.
4. The group meets quarterly and the proposed date of the next meeting is 8 February 2017 at 2pm.

Ellen-Raissa Jackson