

Stockbridge & Inverleith community council

February 2018 Draft minutes

Of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2018
at Stockbridge Parish Church, 7b Saxe Cobourg Street, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Gregan Crawford (Chair); Nigel Bagshaw; Pam Barnes (Planning Officer); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Nigel Clark (minutes) John Cowie; Tannis Dodd (Secretary); Andrew Morrison; Jerry Ozaniec (Environment and Transport); Clive Preston (Vice Chair)

Members of the Community: Rebecka Axerup; Maggie Dawson (Saxe-Coburg Residents Association); Liz Engelsen; Luisa Fidelo; Alex Johnson; Peter McLaughlin; PC Holly Matheson (Police)

Ward Councillors: Hal Osler; Max Mitchell

Apologies for absence: Cllr Gavin Barrie; Joan Beattie (Rep on Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership); Deidre Brock M.P. ; Penny Richardson (Licensing Officer); Cllr Iain Whyte

Minutes of previous meeting 17 January 2018 and Matters Arising:

Water of Leith landslip: Cllr Osler up-dated the CC on the Council's lack of action to address the blockage and that she was pressing for urgent action. The formidable barrier now erected terminates use of the path completely.

Andrew Morrison pointed out that he was very much in favour of a Youth Council and that the minutes might have suggested his query for clarification on the Youth CC's role indicated his disapproval, which was not the case.

Gate at 35 Inverleith Row: Clive updated the CC by saying that the resident acknowledged the changes to the gate had not been included in the original refurbishment plans and would reinstate to former status.

The Minutes were approved after the above notes.

2. Reports:

Gregan welcomed everyone to the meeting including a welcome back to Nigel Bagshaw who had previously served as a member of the CC.

PC Matheson from **Police Scotland** was welcomed and invited to address the CC: PC Matheson referred to Police monthly reports that go to the Council. She said that this covered activities Police logged over approximately 19 shift days. She had not heard of any crime particularly attributable to the increase in the Airbnb registrations. Vehicle speed checks were carried out within the twenty MPH zones. 20 warnings and 1 ticket had been issued. Members of the CC passed on observations of speeding taking place in Inverleith Row, Comely Bank and North West Circus Place.

PC Matheson offered some home security advice in the light of her experience walking the beat where doors and gates have been left open to allow opportunistic access to back gardens.

Gregan read out a letter from Costcutters shop at 67 Raeburn Place regarding their concerns where school pupils crowd into their shop during their lunch break. There is general bad behaviour amongst the pupils and possible theft too. Outside, some pupils have grabbed fruit or vegetables from the external shelves to throw at cars in the street. Alex reminded the CC that the School's Liaison Officer Catherine Frew at Broughton High School would be the logical point of contact with the school to raise the issue. Additionally PC Matheson said she would speak to the owners of Costcutters in connection with this and offer advice where appropriate.

a. **Chair** report;

Gregan said that **Raeburn Place Foundation** had been invited to this evening's meeting but have not been able to attend. It was his intention to invite them to the meeting on 21st March to give an up-date on the building plans. The Foundation has expressed an expectation to begin trading from the site this summer.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): Gregan explained that the EU is introducing regulations which will come into force on 25 May 2018 which will supersede the UK's Data Protection Act 1998. The CC will be required to conform to the new arrangements with regard to retaining email addresses for circulating agendas, minutes and publicity. The CC cannot retain these by default. The CC will therefore in future use wording to the effect: "... that the CC will remove your name from our mailing list unless you state positively that you wish the CC to keep this information."

b. **Secretary:** Tannis Dodd

Murals on the walls – There has been an interest expressed in painting some murals on the blocks of Saunders Street flats at the gable-end side fronting on to India Place. The artist Stefano Amurri is an experienced mural painter and is willing to do this work for free. The CC was emailed to ask how he should go about getting planning consent and how to get approval from the residents. Some examples of his work can be viewed on-line.

c. **Treasurer:** David Chamberlain reported that there was £2,850 in account.

Further expenditure needs to be made prior to 31 March year end and David sought clarification as to what future spending commitments there were. Gregan said that £35 was due for the CC to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (this is related to GDPR). The CC grant had been accepted as a contribution for purchase of the microphone used by the Stockbridge Church and available for the CC's use were it to oversee a public assembly event.

Further discussion took place on the CC's future activities to be supported and a number of suggestions were considered. In support of the bee corridor an amount of £500 would be set-aside in principal to contribute to setting up fixtures for the bee corridor.

We are paid up members of the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. They have requested our assistance in distributing notices and circulars, for example including them on our noticeboards. There was general discussion and approval that this could be accommodated though space was a somewhat limited.

d. **Environment and Transport:** Jerry passed round a written summary report on traffic disruptions and information about pedestrian crossings for East Fettes Avenue; Crewe Road South; Fettes Avenue; Telford Road and Queensferry Road East. Cllr Osler updated the CC saying consultation on lane changes have been put on pause for the moment. Traffic reports can be accessed directly from the Edinburgh Council Website.

Water of Leith Clean-up – 6 May 2018. The water of Leith Conversation Trust has announced the date to have a 'clean-up'. This is usually well supported by the Stockbridge Colonies as well. The CC has in the past organised and advertised this (on the CC's Facebook page), and to the point of setting a bar tab (£50) at Hamilton's Bar for helpers' benefit afterwards. Jerry was asked to coordinate efforts to this end for this year and to liaise with Joan Beattie to this effect.

e. **Licensing and Planning:** In Penny's absence Gregan updated the CC verbally: about the prospective changes of ownership to the Stockbridge Care Home with its pending acquisition by Mansfield Care Group. The contract still has to be concluded and is reliant on 3rd party approvals. Additionally there is a need to ensure existing staff do not suffer changes to their existing employment rights and arrangements. It is hoped a contract will be in place within the next few weeks.

Licensing Board consultation – the CC's contribution was dispatched to the Edinburgh Licensing Board in January. The Board intend taking a further meeting and agree the consultation's next steps in early March. A review (timetable and scope) of the Licensing Forum Constitution is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on 20 March 2018.

Planning: Pam Barnes responded to the draft Planning Bill on behalf of the CC and outlined salient aspects of the Draft Planning Bill for the benefit of the CC. It proclaims to support more community involvement but Pam thought that key elements seemed in favour of developers. Developers have a right of appeal but the community does not. Even if a development is against the Local Plan the developer can take the case to national level for a decision to reverse a refusal. Edinburgh Council does not have an option to reverse an approval. These rules can only be addressed at Parliamentary level. It is often the case that letters sent in support of a development have been directly traced to either the developer themselves or agents of them.

Meadowbank Stadium development – though out with our community area, plans show a substantial amount of green space is likely to disappear. The Cockburn Association has a Facebook page with information on the site and people were recommended to register views in the near future.

Theatre Workshop space in Hamilton Place still remains empty and apparently abandoned within.

Planning Application for extension at Edinburgh Academy Senior School

Residents from Perth Street and Henderson Row raised a number of issues arising from the School's extension plans just published on-line earlier in the day. Illustrations were shown to the CC of the proposed upper floor change of elevation to the science lab and the erection of a two metre high flue from the new roof. It is both visibly striking and whose outlet would be directed in the prevailing winds directly onto the Perth Street properties. Additionally there were changes to the site boundary including the removal a section of a listed wall replacing it with a louvered door that resembles a garage frontage, inappropriate to a conservation area.

After some discussion the residents affected were advised to contact ward councillors. Cllrs Osler and Mitchell are not able to represent residents in this case due to their role in the Planning Committee.

No dates were attached for comments or objections thus far though in due course this will be posted on portal site.

CC to pass details to Pam Barnes for her help and advice. The CC would support the residents' case should the development go to a future hearing. Also, it turns out that the area concerned lies within the boundary of the New Town and Broughton Community Council and while our CC can make comments to the Planning Department regarding this application, residents were advised to contact the NTBCC too.

Cllr Mitchell announced that he had been appointed Vice Convenor for the NW Locality Committee.

AoB

Tabled items:

Clean up for the vennel through from 22 Hamilton Place to St Stephens street: Cllr Osler said that residents to the vennel would use funding to clean up graffiti that has spoilt the close in recent weeks. Cllr Osler said that residents would use anti-graffiti paint if the CC would apply on their behalf. Hal said she would pass on details to the CC for this to be done.

Date and time of next meeting: 7pm on 21 March 2018