

**Stockbridge & Inverleith**  
community council

July 2019 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 2019  
at Stockbridge Parish Church , Edinburgh

**Present, S&ICC: Clive Preston (Vice Chair);** Pam Barnes (Planning Officer); Joan Beattie (rep on Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership); Nigel Clark (minutes); John Cowie; Gregan Crawford; Tannis Dodd (Secretary); Andrew Morrison; Jerry Ozaniec (Environment and Transport); Penny Richardson (Licensing)

**Members of the Community, including:** (Police); PC Holly Matheson; PC Ros Milne; Bruce Wilson; Olaf Furniss; Richard Thomas; Monica Charco; Alex Johnson

**Ward Councillors:** Cllr Gavin Barrie; Max Mitchell

**Apologies for absence:** Nigel Bagshaw (Chair); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); MP Deidre Brock; Cllr Hal Osler

CC Vice Chair Clive Preston welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. **Minutes** of last meeting 19 June 2019. Clive read out a change to previous minutes requested by Penny Richardson in an updated licencing report and with this noted the Minutes were approved. There was one matter arising regarding a request for installing a traffic island (between Broughton HS and Inverleith Park) Cllr Mitchell's enquiries established this to sitting in legal process but believed delivering the reshaped crossing might be expected to happen in a year's time.

2. Brief reports:

a. **Police Scotland** PC Matheson's update report on the past month included describing a shop breaking in Raeburn Place; a couple of shed break-ins and phone frauds. The Council's noise team attended a couple of neighbourhood complaints. Patrolling the Inverleith Park some young people had been identified with previous anti-social behaviour and were warned. There was the follow up with warnings to use CCTV surveillance but she said it was a lot calmer than last Sunday.

PC Matheson acknowledged the disappointment that was expressed the Police did not turn up at the Summer Solstice event to do some bike marking as this had been promoted as part of the event and apologised for this. She added that there were no reports of offences made to the police on the day.

b. **Councillors** (on any local matters/action points):

Cllr Mitchell said the Summer Solstice event garnered a lot of goodwill and agreed that planning for streets to be more open should in the future be made easier to deliver.

John – this was an event for local people

Cllr Barrie in reference to Open Streets in the city once a month remarked on the challenges to logistically close the streets but agreed with members of the CC that the Raeburn Place closure was an event for local people and acknowledged how much the community, especially young families enjoyed the occasion.

The view was also expressed how the local business benefited. A theme echoed where St Stephen Street has also been closed off in the past to stage traffic free events.

c. **Chair** Clive Preston welcomed the comments and thanked the Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the community and in particular mentioned the small team from the Community Council for the huge amount of work they put in to make the Summer Solstice event a success. He said in principal there was support for a repeat for next year.

d. **Secretary:** Tannis Dodd reminded everyone that Community Council elections are to be held in September and nomination period for this runs from Sept 9<sup>th</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. The new updated scheme for Community Councils was published and would send it round to members. In regard to an urgent request that individual members' addresses not be published Cllr Barrie agreed and said he would pass on this recommendation.

e. **Treasurer:** In David's absence Tannis reported that the accounts were now being drawn up with regard to the tidying up of receipts for the Summer Solstice events.

f. **Environment:** Jerry Ozaniec expressed the concerns, particularly from the Colonies' residents about the inadequate departmental response to the flooding of the Deanhaugh Path as the water was rising. The department have since acknowledged and apologised for saying they were too busy to field these calls. They have now explained the actions they took on the day to cope with the flooding and have explained the criteria they employ to mitigate the prevention actions they take when the water rises to high levels.

Jerry said there were a couple of consultations members should be aware of: 1. Contracted events taking place in Inverleith Park are coming to an end and the Council were consulting with the public on criteria that should apply in the awarding of future contracts. 2. There is a Scotland wide consultation on allowing Councils to apply licences for sexual entertainment; this would apply to the staging of strip bars and that the public were invited to make comment on proposals.

g. **Transport:** Jerry Ozaniec said a note of traffic disruptions and Footway improvements and changes have been uploaded to the website.

h. **Licensing and Planning:** Penny Richardson commented that there should be a review of the granting of occasional alcohol licences across the city, including the small fee of £10 irrespective of the length of the licence. She was concerned that the use of repeated occasional licences by individual premises might avoid the need for the application of permanent licences, which require greater scrutiny. There was discussion around how multiple occasional licences might lead to a general lengthening of licencing hours (into the early hours) in what is a relatively compact residential area. In addition, she informed those present that unlike permanent licence and planning applications there was no automatic notification to the community council of occasional licence applications and she had to look for them. She asked the councillors present to take the issue up with the Council, so that all applications could be known about automatically and considered by the community council.

She used an application for an occasional licence ( to 1 am) at 33 Deanhaugh St and outlined her objections to this. A member of the public ( Olaf Furniss) commented that there was not enough information provided re this application for a considered opinion to be given and he was concerned that there appeared to be a blanket opposition to extended licencing hours ( after 12 midnight) by the community council. He stated that some licensed properties in the area already had permanent licensing after 12 midnight without any problems and he felt that each application should be considered on its merit

and not automatically objected to. There followed lively discussion between community councillors and members of the public about the issues. It was ultimately decided by the community council that Penny should submit her objections to this particular application.

Penny indicated she intends to stand down from the licensing Forum though continue as a member of the Community Council. Clive led a vote of thanks to Penny for all her thorough and determined work particularly when faced with very complex regulations.

**Planning:** Pam Barnes said that there were no local applications to report on and confirmed the Planning Bill had gone through. There were no equal rights of appeal for the community nor controls on short term lets and people buying flats for this were not addressed. Cllr Barrie added that there was a Scotland wide consultation about licenses and the impact of the shortage of houses was having across the city. There were important planning applications affecting Edinburgh residents including a nine storey hotel planned for Haymarket. There are various surveys online regarding big plans for Edinburgh's future and we should log on to Edinburgh Changes.

She said that she attended a site visit to the Botanics with Councillors. The objections about the scale of the new glasshouse was not fully explained nor information about the new exit gate and how it will impact on local residents set out.

Cllr Barrie confirmed the Dean Bar in Dean Street had been granted a change in its use from public bar back to a residence.

**Sumer Solstice:** John Cowie took a number of photos on the day and compiled them into a slide show which recorded just how well attended and joyful the event had been. Jerry added that it was estimated that a maximum of 1,000 people were in Raeburn Place at any one time and approximately 7,500 to 10,000 people were there throughout the day. Cllr Barrie added that there were only good words and emails to the effect how much people enjoyed the day. Members of the Community Council joined in with praise for the way the day had gone and huge thanks to the team behind the planning including John Cowie and Alex Johnson and also to Elaine Lennon who brought especial expertise and practical help through her wide range of contacts. Particular praise and applause was given to Joan Beattie for her organisation and full planning and practical hands on work to ensure the success of the day. Chair Clive Preston gave Joan a bouquet of sunflowers and marigolds as an appreciation.

Joan added that at the end of the event a number of items were "handed over" to various charities for their benefit: Bistro table and chair sets were given to: Shelter; British Heart Foundation; British Red Cross; Save the Children; Barnardos. The Carpet tiles were passed on to: Stockbridge library; Stockbridge Nursery; Dean Nursery; Arbor Green Nursery and the artificial grass went to the Scotland Yard and the Community Garden. The donations from the bubble table went to Stockbridge Church – Malawi Fund £85.

The new **Neighbourhood Network system** - Joan said lots of community groups meet to contribute to the NW Locality Planning Partnership and they now need nominations now extended to 26 July. Joan has been nominated by Friends of Inverleith Park but if CC wishes to have a nomination then they would need to do so. It was agreed that Joan would also be nominated by the community council.

**EACC:** – Jerry explained the Council IT system should be geared to informing the communities about developments rather than individuals having to actively seek things out. Cllr Barrie acknowledged this saying that the City of Edinburgh Council is trying to get their public facing systems to function more proactively.

**Any other Business** – future meetings: monthly except not one in August, nor one in December.

**7.Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7.00pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend community council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise a subject, please contact the S&ICC.