

Tollcross Community Council

Meeting 10th September 2014, 18.45pm

Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. **Present:** Chair Andrew Brough, Secretary Ann Wigglesworth, Minutes Liz Summerfield, Mary Neilson, Roger Colkett, Heather Goodare, Andy Devenport.

Members of Public: Andreas Wilhelm, Michael Lister, Iain Black.

Police: PC Linsey Collins, St Leonards; PC Simon Wotton, Oxfangs

Apologies: Chris McGregor, Paul Beswick, Tim Puntis, David Liddle

Councillors/MSP: Councillors Rank & Burns, Sarah Boyak MSP

2. Matters arising

Brandfield Street: LS reported Staycity is advertising itself online as a hotel. Last minutes say Cllr Doran agreed to speak to Cllr Burns to check what action might be taken to reduce the impact of this business on local residents.

AW to chase this up with Cllrs Burns & Doran.

Meadows Events: HG reported that the objection to the **Meadows** being leased for longer than other city parks had been rejected by the transport & recreation committee. The meeting noted that substantial essential documents had not been forwarded to her until the Friday before the meeting, and attachments running to many pages were not released to her until 16.30pm on 21/09 for a meeting at 10.00am the next day. **The meeting agreed to ask our TX City Cllrs why the meeting voted 8:2 to ignore the recommendation of 15 days maximum for any event.**

Thornybauk: AW reported that we don't have an answer yet re trade waste bins and fly parking behind the New Cavendish.

It was agreed AW to chase this up with SCNP Kathy Evans. & Cllr Main

Grindlay St/Spittal St. MN reported poor waste disposal.

Contact Cllr Mowat.

Health Forum: we need to continue with this because TXCC is currently the only representation from CCs for the whole city.

3. Minutes accepted

4. **Police:** PCs Linsey Collins of St Leonards & Simon Wotton of Oxfangs stations both reported the main activity over the last month has involved bicycle thefts. Cyclists should use strong D locks and record serial numbers, make & model. Residents encouraged to install alarms in sheds and generally be more aware of security of possessions kept outside.

HG & LS commented that cyclists were routinely going against 1-way down Glengyle Terrace and Grove Street, and the pavements on Fountainbridge/Dundee St were being used as cycle tracks all day. AB reported seeing a cyclist being fined by police for cycling on a crowded pavement.

PC Wotton advised electronic goods were a common target for theft.

5. **Licensing:** RC reported 50 market stalls are proposed for High Riggs. We might object on the grounds that 50 would be too many. We also lack of information about the nature of the market – is it Christmas fair, festival fair, or what?

RC also reported that there had been no licensing applications relevant to our area since our previous meeting. On 20th Aug. he attended a Consultation meeting chaired by Councillor Gavin Barrie (the Convenor of the Regulatory Committee and its Licensing Sub-committee) on Late hours Catering. There were several other community councils represented and there was a general recognition of the need to balance the needs of shift workers and people heading home after a night out with those of local residents - bearing in mind that most take-aways occupy premises with residential tenements above. The main point registered was that the present zoning arrangements are not satisfactory as they are open to subjective interpretation resulting in inconsistent decisions. A map showing the boundaries of the various zones would be desirable but it seems there are difficulties producing this - perhaps a reluctance to lose flexibility? There had been a separate consultation meeting for members of the trade. Time alone will tell whether the consultation process results in any improvement.

6. **Councillors' comments & questions:** No councillors were present.

The meeting noted the following questions to be dealt with later:

HG - Craighouse outcome shocking, because of the difficulty of laypersons taking on the developers.

T & E decision: Lesley Hinds had replied to HG's email but with very unsatisfactory logic for allowing Meadows to be used for so long despite high water table. Majority of responses solicited said 4 weeks on Meadows was too long. Papers available last thing on Monday night – deliberate holding back. The meeting felt TXCC should send a letter saying it was outrageous we got the papers so late and asking why the council goes against its own advice. AD wondered who held the papers back and why? The papers were ready for the original meeting date of 23rd June so why did it take so long to circulate them? FoMBL is going

to refer the issue to the ombudsman.

The meeting agreed TXCC should send a letter of complaint to the leader of the Council re the T&E Committee's failure to reflect opinions contained in the Report on Parks Events and the statement of the Head of Parks, David Jamieson, that 15 days was the longest time the grass could be used if it was to survive a heavy event. AW to write.

AD – Street lighting in Grindlay Court permanently out (7 years). Apparently it complies with regulations but it's on in the day and out at night.

AD reported that the Council's finance department was still threatening the Meadows Festival with legal action over a cheque they cashed on 8th September, but now deny knowledge of. Councillors should be aware of deficiencies in record keeping in the finance department.

7. Planning; Vita Student Accommodation exhibition was this week LS tabled the copy of the presentation. AB reiterated what Vita's representatives said at the exhibition. They are targeting postgraduate international students. There is no accommodation suitable for married students, but many postgrads are married. LS tabled a paper compiled by Stan Reeves of FCI. (Attached). It details the number of student blocks in the immediate area, showing they are already in excess of the council's guidelines. The proposed buildings are of little aesthetic merit, and too high. It was agreed to ask Nick Munro to make an objection on the CC's behalf, and individual members to do so also. There are 21 days left to do this.

The proposal for a Co-op supermarket in Earl Grey St seems to have been withdrawn.

Sainsbury's application for an ATM and internal changes has been recommended for rejection by the Planning Dept. But it still has to go to committee.

8. Publicity Noticeboard: AB reported that our application for a publicity notice board has been granted. The meeting agreed to postpone a decision about where to site it until the October meeting. We would have the keys, so no-one else would be able to put notices in it without our permission. It was agreed that the sign should not have CEC's logo on it.

9. Meadows Mural: All members are invited to the launch of the mural

10. Christmas Tree: Light switch on will be Tuesday 2nd December. Scotmid has been asked for funding from a Community scheme which AW will hear about soon. We need help from volunteers nearer the time.

11. AOCB – ML asked how we can get an air quality report for TX? The meeting decided to put this on next agenda.

Meeting closed at 20.43

**Next meeting of TXCC
Wednesday October 8th @ 18.45pm
Tollcross Community Centre, Fountainbridge**

Please send apologies to Ann Wigglesworth, 228 6335, annwigglesworth@byinternet.com