

# **Tollcross Community Council Notice of Meeting and Agenda**

March 30th 2016

7pm Tollcross Community centre  
Room 4



**TOLLCROSS**  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Contact Tollcross Community Council via:

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# Tollcross Community Council

**Agenda March 30th 2016 7pm**

Tollcross Community Education Centre 117 Fountainbridge

1. **Welcome & apologies** – Additional Agenda items.
2. **Police matters** – With local community Police Officers.
3. **Minutes 24th February 2016** – Acceptance & Matters arising.
4. **Local Matters:**
  - a. **MABLAG – PB**
  - b. **Ward 9 Neighbourhood Environmental Projects** - Two Projects to go forward- **AB**
  - c. **Volunteers** – For Spring Fling and Participatory Budgeting event – **LS/AB**
  - d. **Review of A-Boards** – From Tollcross Street Audit – **RC**
  - e. **Two possible funding projects** – One Meadows based, the other at Thorny Baulk - **AW**
5. **Councillors' Comments & Questions.**
6. **Planning – PB.**
7. **Licensing – RC.**
8. **Reports in addition to those written.**
9. **AOCB**

**Next meeting: April 27th 2016 7pm at Tollcross Community Centre**

# Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 25 January 2016 at 7pm  
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Paul Beswick (Chair), Andrew Brough (Secretary), Tim Puntis (Treasurer), Richard Allen, Iain Black, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** PC Alan Jenkins, PC Tomasz Grizyski, PC Andy Forrest, PC Michaela Manson. **CEC Councillors:** Andrew Burns, Karen Doran, Melanie Main. **Members of the public:** Bill Day (TCAN/ALP), Alison Dickie, Jim Davidson, Philippa Faulkner (TCAN), Pamela Lyall (TCAN); Aitana Augustin (UoE), Marco Gabriel (UoE), Angelique Hannay, (UoE), Anushia Kulkarin (UoE). **Apologies:** Roger Colkett, Nick Munro; Cllr Gavin Corbett; Sarah Boyack MSP.

Paul Beswick welcomed everyone to the February meeting, which he said had a very full agenda. For the benefit of CEC councillors who had to leave the meeting early, he proposed switching items 5 (Local Matters) and 6 (Councillors Comments & Questions) around.

**2. Police matters** – PC Alan Jenkins, officer for the Meadows and Morningside, gave a short presentation with a breakdown of crime figures. In terms of crime reduction, Police Scotland had recently been targeting drug-related activities around Fountainbridge Library, and housebreakings continue to be an issue. More positively, he was able to say that reported vandalism crimes have been falling by 50% year on year; theft figures were down by 21%; minor assault crimes had fallen by 33%; over a 5-year period motor vehicle crime had fallen by 27%; shoplifting crimes had also fallen; and that there had been a drop of 32% in reported Highway Code-related crimes. Less encouragingly, he reported that housebreaking figures were quite high, but Police Scotland were targeting resources in certain areas. PC Jenkins talked about the work of Operation React and Capture (RAC), which consists of plain clothes and high-vis officers, both on foot and on car patrol, and advised the public if witnessing ‘crimes in progress’ always to contact the Police on 999 to allow police to react as quickly as possible. PC Jenkins also reported on the success of the recent ‘Smart Water’ initiative in the Grange and Craighleith areas, where households had been issued with micro-dot kits to protect objects of value, and that similar schemes were being considered in other parts of the city. In terms of other initiatives, Police Scotland are running information evenings as part of their on-going crime reduction programme.

**3. Minutes of Meeting of 27 January 2016 – Acceptance & Matters arising** – the minutes of the meeting of 27 January were accepted as correct.

**Matters arising** –

**5. Local Matters** –

**b. Future of Edinburgh Canal Society** – a meeting between Andy Devenport and Cllr Gavin Corbett is about to be arranged.

**c. Closure of Lauriston Fire Museum** – Liz Summerfield provided a very helpful update, and there followed a short discussion about this.

**7. Planning** –

**d. Railings/garden at 3 Panmure Place** – the issue regarding fencing on a public pavement had been now sorted as any application would require an order under Section 207 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and effectively this would stop any further applications based on the costs associated with the order.

#### **4. TCAN – Introduction to Tollcross Community Action Network**

Paul Beswick introduced Pamela Lyall from Central Hall, who talked about the genesis of TCAN and how it emerged from joint work undertaken by Central Hall and the Christian Evangelical umbrella-group Redeeming Our Communities. TCAN plans to work with the community and seeks to identify and fill gaps in the provision of community services, for example creating a Community Hub, based in the shop at Central Hall. Pamela's colleague Philippa Faulkner spoke about the three mission statements of TCAN – to respond practically to local needs; to build a cohesive community; and to speak out on issues that matter in Tollcross.

There followed a short question-and-answer session, at the end of which the Chair thanked the TCAN representatives for their presentation.

#### **6. Councillors' Comments & Questions –**

On local matters, Cllr Burns reported on the continuing planning developments along the Fountainbridge sites and the issues resulting from this, particularly the density of student housing. He mentioned that CEC have now proposed a redefined policy on student housing and that this was to go before the Planning Committee imminently and, if approved and adopted, would be a positive move.

In terms of city-wide issues, Cllr Burns spoke to the issue of the budget. With a reduction in spending of 9%, Cllr Burns stressed that unlike other local authorities in Scotland, CEC will not be closing libraries or swimming pools, but acknowledged that there will be very significant staff reductions and that this will not be without an impact on front-line services. He explained that with a view to protecting front-line services, CEC have tried – apolitically – to set a 1-year detailed budget within a 4-year framework. For further, more detailed information, Cllr Burns advised referring to the CEC website –

**[www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)**

Cllr Doran reported on ongoing anti-social behaviour issues in the Grassmarket, including buskers, and the continuing problems with waste. She also mentioned the Twelve Closes Project to reinvigorate these closes within the World Heritage site with new artwork and lighting, (see [www.ewht.org.uk](http://www.ewht.org.uk) for further information), and referred to the King's Stables Road development, reporting that the Planning Department has extended the deadline for objections and comments.

Cllr Main reported that much of her correspondence continued to concern the matter of bins. She spoke to the matter of the forthcoming SCNP budget events (**South Central Decides – Voice Your Choice!**), the closing date for which was 25 March, but that this deadline may be extended (see [www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central)).

She also spoke to the matter of Play Street – an initiative to reclaim streets for children to play out safely, and that the Play Out weekend would take place on 9 and 10 April (see [www.evoc.org.uk/noticeboard/notices/edinburgh-playing-out](http://www.evoc.org.uk/noticeboard/notices/edinburgh-playing-out)).

Looking ahead, Cllr Main mentioned the matter of Xmas Tree events and pointed out that because of budgetary restraints funding from CEC will be an issue.

Cllr Main suggested that on the imminent retirement of David Doig as Neighbourhood Service Manager – Environment (ie Head of Parks), Tollcross Community Council might wish to express its thanks to Mr Doig for his many years of service.

**ACTION: Paul Beswick to write on behalf of TXCC to thank Mr Doig for his many years' service.**

Cllr Corbett – in the absence of Cllr Corbett, Andrew Brough read a short report that he had provided.

**Friends of Gardener's Crescent** – the park has now been fully re-instated and there will be a final meeting of Friends of Gardener's Crescent on 14 March.

(See [www.friendsofgardnerscrescent.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgardnerscrescent.org.uk)).

**Re-Union Canal offices** – Cllr Corbett announced that he will shortly be attending a meeting about the relocation of the offices.

**Nari Kalyan Shangho** – following the disappointment over the withdrawal of funding for this project, the offer of additional officer support has been proffered to assist in finding new sources of funding for this project. There followed a short discussion about the grants' allocation process.

On the subject of the recent SWNP meeting, Andy Devenport asked Cllr Burns for some clarification on items at the meeting to which they both reported on.

Tim Puntis mentioned that he had recently had difficulties with the CEC website and was advised that there had been hiccoughs with the new website. It was also suggested that if these difficulties persist, it was possible to submit reporting matters via CEC councillors instead.

#### **5: Local matters –**

**a. Edinburgh CCTV** – this matter was referred to a future meeting.

**b. Nari Kalyan Shangho** – this matter was covered in item 6.

**c. Recycling Bins** – Iain Black reported that it was wonderful to have the extraneous bins gone from the south-west end of Panmure Place, but some trade bins remained in Brougham Street and that some businesses continued to store their bins outside their premises, contrary to regulations. Delighted with the appearance of medium-sized green bins, which take all recyclable waste materials save glass, he reported that the main issue continued to be the absence of glass recycling bins.

**ACTION – Cllr Main to enquire about this to CEC and to send Iain Black a copy of or link to the CEC interactive map that locates sites for all recycling bins.**

**d. Spring Fling** – Liz Summerfield spoke to the matter of a TXCC presence at this event on 9 April at the Eric Liddell Centre, and it was agreed to have a stall at a cost of £5 (returnable).

(See <http://marchmontandsciennes.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/spring-fling-arts-activities-fair> and [South Edinburgh Arts Fair Association – seafa@hotmail.co.uk](http://SouthEdinburghArtsFairAssociation-seafa@hotmail.co.uk))

**ACTION: Liz Summerfield to progress this matter.**

**e. South Central Decides** – a discussion about this important event took place. Because the closing date for applications is 25 March, anyone wishing to make an application must first submit their proposal to **Andrew Brough by Friday 4th March** to allow the TXCC Executive time to circulate such proposals via email for group discussion, approval and adoption.

It was also noted that in order to participate in this event, that is in order to vote in the process, it would be necessary for TXCC to take a stall at the event.

(See [www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central))

**ACTION – individual members to submit a proposal for funding to Andrew Brough by 4 March.**

**f. Meadows Festival** – Liz Summerfield spoke to this matter. Because she was waiting for confirmation about the yurt and yurt-related matters, it was agreed in principle to give £200 towards the event, provided this money was to be used for the benefit of children, as in previous years.

**ACTION – Liz Summerfield to progress this matter.**

**g. MABLAG** – Andrew Brough introduced the matter of the remit of MABLAG, while Cllr Main explained a little about the background and the current situation as it pertains to this advisory body. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to submit a written request to SCNP regarding the remit of the group.

**ACTION: Andrew Brough to liaise with the SCNP over this matter.**

**h. Communications sub-group** – Tim Puntis presented a short report on this sub-group, principally on the budget for the design and production of the TXCC banners to be used at the forthcoming Spring Fling. Because the costs involved had risen from £250 to £300, he asked for an additional £50 to be made available to cover this shortfall, which payment was unanimously agreed to.

**i. Representation on South Central Active Living Action Group** – following the resignation of Heather Goodare who had previously represented TXCC on this group, it was felt that if we need to participate in their meetings or contact them for any purpose, the flexibility exists for us to do so on an ad-hoc basis.

**7. Planning** – Paul Beswick updated the meeting on the following:

**a. 125A Fountainbridge** – 16/00762/PAN – (variation to scheme 15/00590/FUL) –the former Fountainbridge Palais de Danse – an application for demolition has now been submitted and its status is pending.

**b. PAN for the above** – a PAN for two exhibitions and consultation are proposed, but no date has been announced.

**ACTION: Paul Beswick to contact Planning for clarification.**

**c. Hotel at Dewar Place** – 16/00700/FUL – an application has now been submitted by the developers and its status is pending.

**8. Licensing** – nothing to report in the period.

**9. Reports in addition to those written** – Andy Devenport presented a short report on a recent meeting of the SWNP, see item 6 above.

**10 AOCB** –

Because time had run out, it was sadly not possible to assist at this time the Architecture students from the University of Edinburgh who had come with questions about the QuarterMile development. However, Paul Beswick said that he would be delighted to respond to their questions by email and provided them with his contact details.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30 March 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre**

**Reports**

Fountainbridge Canalside Sounding Board  
 Alcohol Focus Scotland  
 CEC CC Training on Planning  
 SCNP Participatory Budgeting Steering group  
 12 Closes Project  
 MABLAG March Meeting  
 FCI AGM  
 South Central Neighbourhood Partnership  
 SCNP Meeting papers MABLAG draft remit

**Fountainbridge Canalside Sounding Board 26 January 2016**

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**Present:**

Cllr Andrew Burns (Chair)  
 Jane MacPherson (COEC)  
 Elaine Watson (COEC)  
 Graeme McGartland (COEC)  
 Cllr Gordon Munro (COEC)  
 Pat Bowie (FCI)  
 Lynn Smith (EDI)  
 Roseanna Way (FCI)  
 Richard Allen (FCI)  
 Cllr Frank Russell (COEC)  
 Denise Havard (EDI)  
 Cllr David Key (COEC)

Cllr Gavin Corbett (COEC)  
 Ann Wigglesworth  
 Pat Bowie (FCI)  
 Jane Jones (FCI)  
 Robin Blacklock  
 Helena Huws (Scottish Canals)  
 Denise (EDI)  
 Kate Foster (EDI)  
 Ewan Anderson  
 Simon Brauholtz (FCI)  
 David Leslie (Grove)  
 Rosemary Way (Dunedin)

**Apologies:**

Paul Beswick  
 Helen Crocker(Napier)  
 Craig Dunlop (COEC)  
 Alex Blyth (COEC)  
 Ian Thomson (Historic Scotland)  
 Gerry Baker (FCI)  
 Cllr Richard Lewis (COEC)  
 Paul Heap(AMCO)

| 1.Welcome and apologies   | Action |
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| Councillor Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.   |        |
| <p><b>2. Previous minute of meeting</b></p> <p>Two minor amendments were made to the minutes of the last Fountainbridge Canalside Sounding Board of 8 September 2015. Page 1 under Update on Overall sites, the wording "(still in draft)" has been added to "Section 75..... ". On Page 3, Union office has been changed to read Re-Union office.</p>  |        |
| <p><b>3. Update on School</b></p> <p>Graeme McGartland advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Paul is the new Project Manager</li> <li>• The RC frame is approximately 2-3 weeks behind programme</li> <li>• The envelope installation is currently 2 weeks behind programme</li> <li>• Precast stairs have been installed ahead of programme</li> <li>• Internal fit out works have commenced</li> <li>• Viewforth west kerb line has been realigned 2 weeks ahead of programme</li> <li>• The park works have achieved practical completion.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Corbett raised the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of school opening</li> <li>• Peripheral issues</li> <li>• Useful to have Brian Paul at next meeting</li> </ul> |        |



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| <p>GM to provide JMAC with Brian Paul’s details - Brian Paul, Project Manager, Building Design Services, <a href="mailto:brian.paul@edinburgh.gov.uk">brian.paul@edinburgh.gov.uk</a> - 0131 529 5445</p> <p>The question was raised on how long Viewforth would be closed for and what the impact on traffic would be.</p> <p>GM &amp; JMAC obtained a response from the Department as follows:</p> <p>“The contractors (OHMG) building the Boroughmuir School requested the road closure until the end of March. This is to carry out work on their site boundary but also to widen the footway on Viewforth (West side) to accommodate the pupils, they are also going to be installing lights adjacent to the bridge, resurfacing the carriageway and renewing the footway on St Peters Place.</p> <p>We have been observing movements but have not encountered significant increase in traffic flows. We have received a few complaints regarding pedestrians crossing at Yeaman Place but as there are two controlled pedestrian crossings on Dundee Street either side of Yeaman Place it was felt that this was the safest route for any concerned parties. There are also pedestrian refuge islands and a zebra crossing at the roundabout at Polwarth. There are also carriageway build-outs outside and opposite no. 32 Polwarth Crescent to assist with pedestrians crossing this stretch”.</p> | <p>GM/JMAC</p> <p>GM/JMAC</p> |
| <p><b>4. Options for improved site security</b></p> <p>Sarah Price raised the issues of site security and measures to improve this without cost and with a friendly approach.</p> <p>Graeme advised that Police and Council officers to meet on site on 28 January 2016 to discuss this matter further. People could call the telephone number 0131 558 9304 for 24-hour security.</p> <p>Robin Blacklock advised that he would raise this with his own security.</p> <p>GM to check re school security cameras and the possibility of directing them on to the site.</p> <p>EDI are not allowed to use their security on 3<sup>rd</sup> Party sites</p>  | <p>GM</p>                     |
| <p><b>5. EDI Update</b></p> <p>Lynn Smith and Ewan Anderson gave a presentation to the Board, which they hoped would address some of the questions that people have.</p> <p>The presentation is not yet in the public domain but highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Event in March 2016</li> <li>• Detailed submission for Residential and Affordable Housing in April 2016</li> <li>• Enabling works construction to commence in Autumn 201 (subject to Planning approval)</li> <li>• Main works to commence early 2017</li> <li>• Development completion – late 2019</li> </ul> <p>Questions (response in italics):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of population/demographic profile? (SP) <i>The information has been requested from CEC Economic Development and LS will send on (LS)</i></li> <li>• Public Realm – water feature – update on slip way(JJ) - <i>(HH to respond)</i></li> </ul>   | <p>LS<br/>HH</p>              |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can Printmakers have ground level parking?(SP) – <i>In the last 8 weeks 21<sup>st</sup> Century Homes have requested 4 disabled parking bays adjacent to the DDA units for flat occupiers. The remainder of the site is parking free to discourage fly parking. LS suggests that Edinburgh Printmakers speak to planning about 2 disabled parking bays within their site boundary.</i></li> <li>• Green space on roof of South East retail unit – <i>This internal garden space block is private and that has always been the case – planning consent has to have private amenity space for all flat users and the site must comply with Edinburgh Standards (LS).</i></li> <li>• Adjacent site towards City Centre East (GC) – <i>No Funding partner being discussed(LS)</i></li> <li>• Is there a risk to having 2 different partners?(GC) – <i>Large volume of legal documents, common management company, all public realm enshrined in common management company, Council/EDI have golden share (LS)</i></li> <li>• Any risk to development viability to the rest of the site? (make sure the right type of investment is delivered on the site)(GC) - <i>Housing a priority(LS) – On a strategic level, there is no shortage of investment interest in Edinburgh(FR)</i></li> <li>• Proposed roof garden on top of store? (PB) – <i>The community garden that was planned to go into the area will now be situated behind the Printmakers building. Edinburgh Printmakers now propose that this area is now to be a hard area for parking (LS).</i></li> <li>• Is the rest of the area pedestrianised?(PB) – <i>Whole area is shared space. Most of residential space car free – access for cars to drop off(LS).</i></li> <li>• Width of towpath?(JJ) – <i>Towpath almost one and a half times as wide(LS)</i></li> <li>• Will Council maintain the site(S) – <i>No, the Management Company will maintain the site and owners will pay for this(LS).</i></li> <li>• Concern regarding the ‘buy to let’(AW) – <i>Not selling for buy to let. Aim to keep tenants for long term through a professional managed service provider. The fund and EDI are setting this company up (LS).</i></li> </ul> <p>The general consensus is that the plans look improved and AB thanked Lynn and Ewan for their presentation.</p> |                                      |
| <p><b>6. FCI</b><br/>Pat went through the points of the attached FCI Housing Issues note paper Ewan Anderson/Lynn Smith to provide answers to the points raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were further discussions on what space the community would use.</li> <li>• It was preferable to have space beside the canal side.</li> <li>• There is a need for a feasibility study.</li> <li>• EDI &amp; Denise are working on the possibility of setting up a community fund and have asked other site owners if they would consider a joint fund.</li> <li>• Denise to meet with FCI to discuss ways in which EDI can support FCI further.</li> </ul> <p>JJ stated that the Sounding Board had been very helpful. Requested further discussions with EDI on the next phase. Lynn advised that the Sounding Board is there to continue further discussions on a quarterly basis. There is also a date set for an event at the end of March.</p>   | <p><b>EA/LS</b></p>                  |
| <p><b>AOB</b><br/>DH mentioned the wonderful progress and the great events that the meanwhile site has had. JJ informed the board that the Wickie house is to be part of the International Science Festival and FCI wanted to thank DH for all her invaluable help. JJ &amp; PB to advise the Board of future event dates.</p> <p>LS advised that there was no longer dialogue with the Filmhouse but there are ongoing discussions on who should fill that space.</p> <p>PB advised that the Canal Festival will take place on 18 June and that she would be ‘tackling’ friends for more financial support. PB to provide info on project.</p>  | <p><b>JJ/PB</b></p> <p><b>PB</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The Board agreed that the date of the next meeting will be <b>Tuesday 10 May at 2pm in the Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers.</b></p> |  |
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**Alcohol Focus Scotland - 'Alcohol Licensing in your Community' – Toolkit Resource launch, 22/02/16**

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This event to launch this participatory toolkit resource for alcohol licensing in Scotland was attended by well over 50 delegates, including Roger Colkett, Iain Black, and Michael Lister, who represented TXCC. Produced following a series of user testing sessions in Edinburgh and Glasgow, the toolkit was designed 'to help anyone who would like to have a say on how alcohol impacts on their community, explains how the licensing process works in Scotland, and provides some practical tips to help people who want to get involved.'

As such, the toolkit constitutes a practical resource to allow members of the wider community to engage in the licensing process, it offers practical assistance, and gives 'top tips' on how to participate. The need to produce such a resource follows from the recognition that apart from a few engagees (ie community councils) who are statutorily required to be 'consulted', most other community groups and members of the wider public are not involved in this process. The current system perpetuates the unequal relationship that exists between those affected by licensing decisions and the licensing boards and generally disregards those most affected by licensing decisions. This toolkit aims to give the wider community a voice in the process.

Arranged in six sections, it contains an introduction to alcohol licensing and information on: raising concerns about alcohol in your community; raising concerns about an existing alcohol licence; commenting on an alcohol licence application; attending a licensing board hearing; and a detailed section entitled 'alcohol licensing explained'. The toolkit also contains details of licensing contacts in each authority area in Scotland.

Conceived as a general resource for the whole of Scotland, it is not area-specific, and so it is important to bear in mind that there will be regional variations, where, for example, meetings of Licensing Boards will be constituted, organised and conducted along lines different from other parts of the country.

Because it is an electronic resource, the toolkit can be easily updated to incorporate legal changes to licensing that come on stream. There is also a feedback facility, which can be accessed via [www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk](http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk)

[Copies of this](#) particularly helpful and easy-to-use toolkit can be accessed and downloaded from the website above.

**Michael Lister**

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**CEC CC Training on Planning - What Needs Planning Permission? 23/02/2016**

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Iain Black and Michael Lister were among the nine(!) representatives who attended this meeting as part of the ongoing Development and Support programme of training seminars offered to Community Councils by the CEC. This relaxed and informal presentation was delivered by Nancy Jamieson, who was extremely competent and thoroughly knowledgeable.

The session provided a very thorough introduction to the planning process as it pertains to domestic matters such as house extensions and alterations ; single- and more than single- storey extensions ; porches ; roof additions ; windows, solar panels, flues, satellite dishes ; sheds, greenhouses, etc. ; driveways and hard surfaces ; decking ; gates, walls, fences ; stone cleaning or painting ; flats ; change of use ; temporary buildings ; council development ; demolition, etc. ; bad neighbour development ; prior notifications ; and Article 4 directions.

For the greater part, the emphasis was on planning as it relates to dwelling-houses, and listed buildings and conservation areas. While the presentation was entirely appropriate as a beginner's guide to planning and indeed it addressed matters that reflected the main concerns and interests of the majority of the community council representatives present (all of whom seem to live in conservation areas), it could not take account of such juggernauts as the current re-development of Fountainbridge and the serious issues that this creates. Notwithstanding this observation, this was an extremely worthwhile meeting.

A further session on planning as it relates to much larger developments would be a welcome addition to the series of training seminars for community councils especially those of us in the inner city, though such a session with the focus on the objections procedures might understandably prove more problematic to deliver.

**Michael Lister & Iain Black**

### **SCNP Participatory Budgeting Steering group – 17th March**

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I attended the steering group, and with the date of the event coming up on 30<sup>th</sup> April, everything seems to be in good order. We discussed how we could get the event information out to as many people as possible in the next month, including covering small groups in the SCNP area, schools and other local groups. It was also noted that entertainment would be sort, to entertain and tempt people in on the day – with school choirs and brass or pipe bands being looked into.

A version of the forms for use on the day (voting/evaluation/scoring form) was handed out and some changes were made. They needed to be signed off so they could be printed rather than photocopied to save money.

It was also noted that the event will need about 30 volunteers from across the NP on the day to make it run smoothly, which Community Councils and other would be asked for help, and also the Council would make an effort to get NP staff and elected Councillors within SCNP along on the day as well.

The next meeting of the steering group will be held early April and at the venue itself, the Methodist Church, Nicolson Square to see how it might be set up for the event.

**Andrew Brough**

### **12 Closes Project - OX, 184 Cowgate, 16th March**

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Although just outside, but bordering on, the Tollcross Community Council area, the 12 Closes Project should not be without interest to those who live in Tollcross.

This public meeting, held under the auspices of the Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust, introduced the Edinburgh World Heritage group's 12 Closes project. This four-year project, to start later this year, is designed to protect, promote and preserve 12 selected historic closes off the Lawnmarket, High Street and Canongate.

Alison Morris from EWH gave a presentation of the work that will be carried out to re-establish pedestrian links and through-routes from these twelve closes which many do not realise are public thoroughfares. This work will include lighting design to emphasise the character and atmosphere of these closes as well as making them feel safer areas to negotiate, particularly after dark. The lighting design is being undertaken in conjunction with students from Edinburgh Napier University.

Although the meeting was attended by less than a dozen members of the public – none of whom were at all averse to this initiative – what was most interesting was the number of ‘repeated themes’ that emerged during the question-and-answer session. These were the issues of (i) anti-social behaviour in an area with many late licences; (ii) the perceived unsafe nature of the streets at night; (iii) current levels of street lighting (inadequate to very poor); (iv) rubbish; and (v) and the general untidiness of these areas. These ‘management issues’, we were assured, EWH will address in conjunction with CEC and local residents.

Described as a low cost but high-impact project, each close will cost £60 000 to restore, £10 000 of which will come from CEC.

**Iain Black and Michael Lister**

### **Meeting of MABLAG, City Chambers, 21 March 2016**

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Having been in existence since 2009, Meadows and Bruntsfield Advisory Group, a replacement for the Meadows Short Life Working Group, has met regularly since then as part of the sub-structure of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership.

On 1 September 2014, SCNP agreed to review the remit of MABLAG and its role. On 16 November 2015, following ‘a period of community and partner consultation’, MABLAG agreed a set of recommendations for this remit, viz, focus of the group; group responsibilities and decision-making processes; attendees to the group; and reporting structure to the SCNP.

Following the SCNP meeting of 14 March 2016, at which David Doig, the Neighbourhood Service Manager (Environment), presented a report about the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, and the future plans for the Council’s oversight of this ‘Premier Park’, some CEC councillors questioned the need for MABLAG to continue to exist in any form. In the event, the proposal put forward by one councillor to abolish MABLAG was withdrawn until at least the next meeting of the SCNP to allow for proper consideration of the matter.

Thus, the MABLAG meeting of 21 March 2016 had a single item on the agenda, that being the examination of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Management Plan 2016-2021 to bring into focus what actually requires to be done for MABLAG to function properly. This Management Plan carries on a number of matters from the previous plan, and it was emphasised by David Doig that a new approach was necessary because both plans had been formulated to meet the very strict criteria for achieving Green Flag status. CEC has now dropped its support for Green Flag awards on the grounds of cost.

The point was made by Heather Goodare that much in the Plan, for example background history, while very interesting was un-necessary, causing the document to be unwieldy. A much edited version is now being prepared following a detailed discussion. The Community Councils represented on MABLAG as well as other users of the Meadows – eg local schools, and Edinburgh University Students’ Association – are to be asked to comment on the draft of a new working document so that as many points of view regarding the use of this space can be accommodated.

**Iain Black**

## **Fountainbridge Canalside initiative AGM – 16th March 2016**

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The Fountainbridge Canalside initiative AGM was held at Kings Church Gilmore Place on 16 March at 18:00 There were 70 attendees.

The FCI Steering Group 2016 was elected –

Pat Bowie (**Chair**), Simon Brauhnoltz (**Treasurer**), Richard Allen, Jane Jones (**Secretary**), Gerry Baker, Gillian Lawrence Eilidh Dunnet, Toni Dickson, Rosemary Way. Co-opted members, Wendy Lord (**Grove**) Lotte Kravitz (**Forge**), Gillian Fraser (**Pregnancy & Parents' Centre**), Asma Kassim (**NKS**), Liz Summerfield (**TXCC**) Jonathan Riddle (**FCC**).

Pat bowie (Chair) ran through the year's report, we have had success with the development of the site in terms of the inclusion of central power supply and raising the number of affordable houses to be built.

- The meantime project had success with its growing programme despite having to be moved and the forge and other units are now up and running
- The building of the Wikihouse was a great success and provided a central point for the site
- The future will see investigations into community facilities and support
- The grove and meantime site will be moved off site in September to allow the first part of the building programme to commence
- The treasurer reported that FCI were in funds and grants for the grove and the wikihouse had been received and used.

Following the main business, Lesley Riddoch gave talk about the set and role of community groups and their relationship to government as exemplified in the scandic countries compared to the UK. We are very top oriented and local groups are given little or no power compared to our northern cousins as is the case throughout most of Europe.

The meeting finished with general discussion and displays by related groups including the Printmakers, the meanwhile groups and Re-Union.

**Richard Allen**

### **South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting**

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Ann Wigglesworth TXCC Rep. TXCC Cllrs present: Andrew Brough, Iain Black, Michael Lister, Andy Devenport, Chris Wigglesworth. SCNP Convener: Cllr Melanie Main

#### **5. SCNP Business**

5.1 Open Space Strategy presentation by Andrew Smith, (Planning & Building Standards). The Strategy is being rewritten. Should be out for Consultation in April 2016. He explained the current Policy 2010 that there should be open green space of 500 sq. m. within 400m walking distance of all residential areas.

\*Open Space Strategy 2010 available to read.

\*Exhibition / Public Consultation to be announced.

#### **5.2. Meadows & Bruntsfield Links** *David Doig (Services to Communities, including Parks)*

TXCC question re MABLAG was taken along with this report.

' TXCC ask that; the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group be reformed or dissolved. We believe that its remit & operation is out of date and does not conform to the principles of openness, transparency and general engagement with stakeholders. This advisory group would be much more credible if it were more transparent.

A new or reformed group should be constituted with a remit fit for a modern Meadows advisory/ management group, open to the public and allowing user groups who work, live or play in and around the Meadows (and BL) to have a say in decision-making about the Meadows. (& BL). Furthermore the minutes should be timeously in the public domain. This transformation would bring together the Council, Elected officials and the public in a group fit for purpose, sharing the decision making involved about a much loved Edinburgh Park. We believe that this change would give credibility and a sense of ownership to the wider community.'

After some discussion, Cllr Rose moved that MABLAG be discontinued. Chris Wigglesworth(TXCC) said that if this was done, another subgroup would need to be set up to be set up to liase with Council officials. David Doig stated that the group was an important form Cllrs & Officials to hear local views & to act on them.

As the draft MABLAG remit 2016-17 was included in this report, it was decided that this should be discussed in the light of the TXCC question and comments brought back to the next SCNP (June 13<sup>th</sup>)

New Remit: To Focus on: Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Events, Local Management Development Plan, Local Community Engagement

Composition of the group: 3.3.5 1 reps from each of the local Community Councils; SSCC, TXCC, MCC, MSCC: 1 rep from Friends of the Meadows & BL; 3 CEC Officials, mainly from the SE Locality Team. Others on invitation. All local elected members invited with an expectation of 2 at each meeting. Other partners or agencies as considered appropriate by the group.

5.2. South Centra£ Decides: Participatory Budget on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 11- 3pm. public and local organisations invited to vote for projects in the South Central NP area. Community Grants £24K (max grant £2500), Roads capital 67K, Housing 130K. Important to: Encourage mall projects to promote their projects with a good visual display. Advertise the Event widely on Facebook, twitter; A4 & A5 Posters.... word of mouth. Community Councils etc. to take a stall and to vote on the day. Last day for stall applications: Friday 25 March.

5.4. Transformation Update: Edinburgh City to be divided into 4 Localities Teams for Service Delivery; this may suit TXCC better as we will only be divided between 2 Locality Teams. However, the re-organisation is being carried out as a cost cutting exercise in the light of the severe financial cuts being forced on all Scottish Councils... 2000 CEC staff to be laid off.

5.6 Community Grants Applications: £57,327 disbursed to a wide variety of Community organisations balance of £47 in this financial year. For list of recipients see SCNP Papers & Agenda 16.3.16 p 39, 40 (available on our website @ <http://tollcrosscc.org.uk/next-south-central-np-meeting/>)

**Ann Wigglesworth**

## South Central Neighbourhood Partnership

6.00 pm, Monday, 14 March 2016

### South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group Update

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Item number       | 5.2  |
| Report number     | 1  |
| Executive/routine |  |
| Wards             | Ward 10: Meadows/Morningside<br>Ward 15: Southside/Newington |

#### Executive summary

This report is intended to provide members of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership with a summary of progress on the new remit of the MABLAG including the new priorities of the group in ensuring the development of the park in line with City Wide strategies for Parks and Open Spaces.

#### Links

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Coalition pledges        | <a href="#">P33</a>   |
| Council outcomes         | <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">23</a>    |
| Single Outcome Agreement | <a href="#">SO2</a> , <a href="#">SO3</a> , <a href="#">SO4</a> |



## Report

### South Central Neighbourhood Partnership

#### Action Group Update

#### Recommendations

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- 1.1 Note the contents of this report.
- 1.2 Agree the new remit of the group
- 1.3 Agree the composition of the new group
- 1.4 Agree to receive regular update reports.

#### Background

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- 2.1 In 2009, the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group (MABLAG) was formed to replace the then Meadows Short Life Working Group, which had met for a period of approximately 7 years, as part of the sub structure of the South Central Neighbourhood partnership.
- 2.2 On 1 September 2014 the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership agreed to review the future remit of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group (MABLAG) and its role.
- 2.3 **Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group to date – 2009 to date:**
  - 2.3.1 The MABLAG has met quarterly since the commencement of the group in 2009. The membership of the group was agreed as a mixture of Council Officials and Community Representatives to a maximum of nine. In addition invites are extended to all Ward Councillors for Wards 10 and 15.
  - 2.3.2 At its first meeting in 2010 a remit for the group was established with three main themes being the target of the group which would ensure that the park site be maintained in line with other parks across the city. The main themes of the group where:
    - Management Plan Development
    - Green Flag Award
    - Edinburgh Parks Manifesto in respect of the Meadows
- 2.1.2 The main area of activity at that time was to enhance the park to a standard that met the criteria for achievement of a Green Flag Award. In 2009 and 2010 applications to achieve the Green Flag Award were submitted however, due to a small number of factors, the award submissions failed to meet the necessary criteria.

- 2.1.3 The group continued to meet and worked on the other aspects of the remit.
- 2.1.4 The group by its very term was an advisory body with all major decisions being deferred to the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 2.4 On 16 November 2015, after a period of community and partner consultation, the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group (MABLAG) agreed a set of recommendations for the future remit of the group through four headings. These are:
- Focus of the group
  - Group responsibilities and decision making processes
  - Attendees to the group
  - Reporting Structure to the SCNP

### **Main report**

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- 3.1. Undernoted is the remit, currently under consideration, for MABLAG for the period to end of 2017.
- 3.2. **Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group Remit to 2017:**
- 3.2.1. At the November 2015 meeting of the group it was agreed to review and update the remit of the group and its attendees.
- 3.2.2. The group agreed to focus on three new actions
- Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Events
  - Local Management Plan Development
  - Local Community Engagement
- 3.3.3 Currently, the group provides advice on various aspects of activities that are occurring within the M&BL site and offers comment on larger city wide environmental issues. In general decision making on various aspects is deferred to the SCNP.
- 3.3.4 However, it is felt that the group could contribute to the general running of the park by liaising with Officers, for example, on the positioning of litter bins, new trees and/or planting schemes. Members of the SCNP should note that ultimately, responsibility and decision making with regard to the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links, rests with the Locality Manager.
- 3.3.5 At the same meeting a review of the attendees to the group was undertaken and these are listed as follows;
- One representative of each of the local Community Councils associated with the site, which are Southside CC, Marchmont Sciennes CC, Tollcross CC and Merchiston CC.
  - One representative from the parks friends group, Friends of the Meadows

and Bruntsfield Links (FOMBL)

- Three officials from the Council, mainly representatives from the South East Locality Team. Other Officials invited to attend as and when required.
- An invite to all local elected members be issued for each meeting with an anticipation that two may be able to attend at each one.
- An invite may be extended to other partners or agencies as the group see fit, these will be on an ad-hoc basis.

3.3.5 Reporting structures to the SCNP would remain as at present with a quarterly update of discussion points and decisions taken at MABLAG meetings being circulated as part of the quarterly SCNP Action Group Progress Report.

#### **Measures of success**

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4.1. MABLAG aims to improve the quality of the park site for all users. Key measures of the overall success of the actions and decisions undertaken by partners in the MABLAG Groups include:

- Satisfaction with facilities for all site users
- Improved delivery of local decision making
- Improved and agreed service delivery for the site through the management plan
- Managed use of the site as a place for recreational use and limited events

#### **Financial Impact**

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5.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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6.1. This report does not impact on risk, policy, compliance or governance for the City of Edinburgh Council.

#### **Equalities impact**

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7.1. The Action Groups of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership are aware of the Equalities Act 2010 and any changes to service provision arising from these groups would be subject to consideration of an Equalities Impact Assessment

#### **Sustainability impact**

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8.1. The work of the Advisory Group seeks to improve the physical, social and health environment for all its residents and visitors.

#### **Consultation and engagement**

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9.1. The Group comprise of representatives from the Community Councils throughout the Partnership area with an interest and/or expertise in specific areas or work. MABLAG members report to their membership on the work of the Group.

9.2. Background reading / external references

Minutes of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Advisory Group can be accessed via the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership website.

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/>

### **Sarah Burns**

Neighbourhood Manager

Contact: David Doig, Neighbourhood Service Manager - Environment

E-mail: [david.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:david.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 5187

### **Links**

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|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Coalition pledges</b>        | <b>P33 – <u>Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships &amp; further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used</u></b>  |
| <b>Council outcomes</b>         | CO10 – Improved health and reduce inequalities<br>CO21 – Safe – Residents, visitors and businesses feel that Edinburgh is a safe city.<br>CO23 – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community. |
| <b>Single Outcome Agreement</b> | SO2 – Edinburgh’s citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health.<br>SO3 – Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential<br>SO4 – Edinburgh’s Communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric    |
| <b>Appendices</b>               | None – copies of MABLAG Group Minutes can be downloaded from the <a href="#">South Central Neighbourhood Partnership website</a>   |

**Correspondences**

David Doig regarding his retirement

**Letter from TXCC Chair to David Doig**

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Hi David,

We found out from our councillors at last night's meeting, that you are leaving the Council. The whole community council just want to thank you for all your work and being the 'go to person' on so many issues. We wish you well in any future endeavours.

Best wishes, Paul

Paul Beswick (Chair Tollcross Community Council)

**David Doig's reply**

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Paul,

Thank you for contacting me regarding my impending departure and your kind words.

After 40 years+ working for the council I just felt that it was time for me to go and allow the new transformation of the service to take place. I have thoroughly enjoyed my lengthy service with the council and it only seems like yesterday that I started my apprenticeship.

Thank you for all the support and help you and your members have provided me during my time here and I trust that the Community Council will continue to thrive in years to come.

I am undertaking to seek some more gentle employment to allow my grey matter to be exercised enough to maintain my sanity and also challenging myself to reduce my golf handicap.

I wish you and everyone success in the future.

Regards

David



**Spring Fling** – April 9<sup>th</sup> 11am to 4pm Eric Liddell Centre.

We will be hosting a stall at this event, aimed at the over 50's and are looking for volunteers for the day.

Liz Summerfield is co-ordinating the event for us if you wish to let her know you can volunteer then let her know at our meeting.



## South Centra£ Decides

The event is fast coming up on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Church Hall, Nicolson Square.

The deadline has also been extended by a week to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. More info here:

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/what's-on/south-centra£-decides-saturday,-30th-april/>

South Centra£ Decides is an opportunity for local people to vote for projects that they want to see funded from local money. Those living in the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership area can vote and decide how three pots of money get distributed. These include:

- 1. Community Grants**  
This fund is available to any community or voluntary sector group – everything from the local Mother & Toddlers to a local Pipe Band (and everything else in between). A number of groups have applied for a grant and we need you to Voice Your Choice and tell us the projects you'd want funded. There is also still time if your group would like to apply for a grant – deadline: Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Ultimately, applications have to be for the benefit of South Central residents.
- 2. Roads Money**  
Several major roads and environmental improvement projects have been identified in the Neighbourhood Partnership area. We now need you to come along and Voice Your Choice and tell us which projects should be taken forward in the coming year.
- 3. Housing Money**  
A number of environmental improvements and landscaping projects have been identified in the South Central area. Examples include new fencing, installation of picnic areas, soft landscaping, civic art etc. We need you to Voice Your Choice and tell us the projects you want to see happen.

**WHERE & WHEN:**

**Methodist Church Hall**  
**25 Nicolson Square, EH8 9BX**  
**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm**

(Buses: 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 14, 33, 37, 47, 48, 49)

*People from the projects will be there on the day to tell you more about themselves!  
It will be great fun – so come along and Voice Your Choice!*

Information on all the projects will be placed on our website in advance of the event so that you can have a look but we really need you to turn up on the day and Voice Your Choice.

For further information, check out our website. <http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/> or email [margaret.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk) Tel: 0131-529 7182





## FCI Wiki house

FCI seminar about the Wikihouse movement and how we built the first UK community Wikihouse on the site will be on **Monday 28th at 5.30pm** in Summerhall as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival if you are interested in coming along to support us?!

More info below:

<http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/event-details/flatpack-in-fountainbridge>

<http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/event-details/wikihouse-demonstration-build>



**Tollcross Community Council Councillors:** Paul Beswick, Iain Black, Andrew Brough, Roger Colkett, Andrew Devenport, Chris McGregor, Nick Munro, Tim Puntis, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth.

**Tollcross Community Council Office Bearers:** Paul Beswick **Chair/Planning**, Andrew Brough **Secretary/EACC**, Roger Colkett **Licensing/EACC/CCNP**, Andrew Davenport **SWNP**, Nick Munro **Planning**, Tim Puntis **Treasurer/EARN**, Liz Summerfield **SWNP/Media Monitoring**, Ann Wigglesworth **SCNP**.

**Co-Opted Members:** Richard Allen **FCI**, Michael Lister **EHF**, Chris Wigglesworth **MABLAG**

**Tollcross Councillors:** **Ward 9 Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart** Andrew Burns (Lab) Gavin Corbett (Green) David Key (SNP) **Ward 10 Meadows/Morningside** Paul Godzik (Lab) Sandy Howat (SNP) Mark Mcinnes (Con) Melanie Main (Green) **Ward 11 City Centre** Karen Doran (Lab) Jonna Mowat (Con) Alasdair Rankin (SNP).

**Tollcross MSP's:** **Edinburgh Central** Marco Biagi (SNP) **Lothian Regional List** Sarah Boyack (Lab) **Lothian Regional List** Gavin Brown (Con) **Lothian Regional List** Cameron Buchanan (Con) **Lothian Regional List** Kezia Dugdale (Lab) **Lothian Regional List** Neil Findlay (Lab) **Lothian Regional List** Alison Johnstone (Green)

**Tollcross MP's:** **Edinburgh East** Tommy Sheppard (SNP) **Edinburgh South West** Joanna Cherry (SNP)

**Abbreviations:** **CCNP** – City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership. **EACC** – Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. **EHF** – Edinburgh Health Forum **EARN** – Equality and Rights Network **FCI** – Fountainbridge Canal Initiative. **MABLAG** – Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group. **MP** – Member of Parliament **MSP** – Member of the Scottish Parliament **SCNP** – South Central Neighbourhood Partnership. **SWNP** – South West Neighbourhood Partnership.

**Contact Tollcross Community Council via:**  
**Online: [www.tollcrosscc.org.uk](http://www.tollcrosscc.org.uk) | Twitter: @TollcrossCC | email: [sec@tollcrosscc.org.uk](mailto:sec@tollcrosscc.org.uk)**