

# Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 24 February 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 Craigmyle 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 been 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](mailto: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 The Yard Adventure Playground and adventure playground-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, as below:

Tollcross Community Council ask that: The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group be reformed or dissolved. We believe that its remit and operation is out of date and does not conform to the principles of openness, transparency and genuine 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 to have a say in decision-making about the Meadows. 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.

**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**