

# Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 7pm  
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

## 1. Welcome and Apologies –

**Present:** Paul Beswick (Chair), Andrew Brough (Secretary), Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth.

**Police:** PC Pennycook (Oxgangs), PC Wotton (Oxgangs), PC Leavy (St Leonards). **Members of the public:** one member of the public. **Apologies:** David Liddle, Nick Munro, Tim Puntis; PC Ponniah (St Leonards); Cllr Andrew Burns.

Paul Beswick welcomed everyone to the meeting, reminding us that there would be no meeting in July, and asked for any additional items for the agenda. (See AOCB).

**2. Police Matters –** PC Pennycook presented a short report on crime statistics for the Tollcross end of Ward 9 for the month of May. The figures referred to violent crimes, house break-ins, minor assaults, thefts (including motor vehicles), and road safety issues. While there had been a total of 84 crimes recorded, this represented a decrease of 20% compared to the same period last year; crime was falling and solvency rates were increasing, and this downward trend was encouraging. In relation to recent instances of card snagging and capture devices discovered at local ATMs, PC Pennycook reminded members of the simple expedient of shielding one's pin number.

PC Leavy, substituting for PC Ponniah who had absconded to London, (Court 2, Wimbledon), reported that the crime figures for May (144 in total) were down by 11% compared to the same period in 2015. In relation to house break-ins, PC Leavy reported that patrolling and localised plain-clothes teams remained a priority to combat such crimes, and that a crime prevention campaign in relation to car thefts was ongoing. It was reported that the St Leonards office had provided the Meadows Festival with officers (including two from the mounted division) and that the event provided the Police with a great opportunity for community engagement; and that in response to the continuing issue of bicycle thefts in the area, the security marking scheme was still available to cyclists at Fettes.

PC Pennycook also mentioned the changing role of community policing across the city, the introduction of which would begin in September. These changes would prioritise community engagement and there would continue to be three officers for the immediate area.

There followed a discussion about the wider issue of centralisation and amalgamation of police response call centres, and it was suggested that any concerns about this should be raised with elected members, and that decision-makers might be invited to attend a future meeting of TXCC to discuss these and related issues.

PC Wotton also reminded the meeting of the current online survey at [www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](http://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts) for the public to make their views known.

**ACTION: Andy Devenport to raise his concerns with elected members, ie CEC councillors, MSPs and local MP.**

### 3. Minutes and matter arising –

**Correction: 4.c. Meadows Festival – ‘Marchmont’ should read ‘Merchiston’**

#### Matters arising:

**5. Graffiti –** this matter to be tabled for discussion at the August meeting.

**ACTION: Ann Wigglesworth to contact Paul Baxter at SCNP about this matter.**

**7. Licensing –** Roger Colkett reported that he had submitted an objection re Concorde.

#### 4. Local matters –

##### a. Consultation on amplification in licensed premises

Paul Beswick spoke to the matter of this consultation and in particular the problems relating to the subjective definition of ‘nuisance’ and ‘disturbance’. There ensued a lively discussion on the need for the Council to adopt a sensible, measureable and enforceable framework.

**ACTION: Paul Beswick to submit a response on behalf of TXCC.**

**All councillors to submit individual responses to this consultation by 22 July.**

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

Responses to the consultation should be sent to [liquor.licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:liquor.licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk), or by post marked ‘Licensing Board Policy Consultation’ to – Licensing, 249 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ by 22 July.

**b. FoMBL –** Andrew Brough spoke to this matter. It was noted how important it was to continue to have input to decision-making and to participate fully in the work of FoMBL. Various options were discussed and agreed, including applying for corporate membership of FoMBL in order to have a formal presence at their meetings; appointing Iain Black to represent the interests of TXCC at FoMBL meetings; liaising with those CCs which had been formerly represented on MABLAG; encouraging FoMBL to apply for representation on the Neighbourhood Partnership.

**ACTION: Andrew Brough to progress these matters.**

**c.i. Trade waste guidance –** Iain Black spoke to the matter of the guidelines vis-à-vis the 2016 changes and the numerous exemptions that these guidelines grant to businesses. (These guidelines had been previously circulated and were attached to the meeting papers.) There again ensued a lively discussion with suggestions about how to address these and related issues of street management.

**ACTION – Iain Black to draft a letter for Paul Beswick to send to ward councillors highlighting the continuing problems and to seek definitive clarification about guidelines and exemptions and to ask them to take positive action to resolve these matters once and for all.**

**All community councillors to contact ward councillors individually to complain about the continuing problems regarding trade waste and bins and to resolve these matters.**

**c.ii. A-boards –** on the equally vexed related issue of A-boards, free-standing advertising stands, plumes, bicycles chained to railings advertising local businesses, etc, etc, etc, it was

suggested that in conjunction with Living Streets we petition the City of Edinburgh Council to implement a blanket ban on all advertising media on pavements.

**ACTION: Andrew Brough to liaise with Living Streets.**

**d. Canalside Festival** – it was agreed unanimously to make a payment of £50 to ‘Union Canal Boats’ as a token contribution towards costs.

It was pointed out that properly speaking the designation ‘Canalside Festival’ was incorrect and that it should be referred to as ‘Edinburgh Canal Festival’. The correct designation will be used in future.

**5. Councillors’ Comments** – it was noted with great regret that there were no councillors present at the meeting and that none had submitted a written report in their absence.

**6. Planning** – Paul Beswick reported on various matters:

**i. Dewar Place** – there will be a further PAN exhibition announced in due course.

**ii PAN exhibition** for the Cycle way from Roseburn has been deferred until September.

**iii Union Canal** – change of use application from restaurant to office (no objection).

**iv 3 Panmure Place** – private garden approved, but a ‘stopping-up’ order is still required.

**v alteration** to retail unit at student block at Fountainbridge/West Approach Road – reversion to original application to provide six additional student bedrooms (no objection).

**vi Horne Terrace** – new flats (no objection).

**vii King’s Stables Road development** – Paul Beswick will make a representation on behalf of TXCC at **City Chambers on Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July at 1pm** on this matter.

**ACTION – as many community councillors as possible to attend this hearing on Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July.**

**7. Licensing** – Roger Colkett reported that he had nothing to report in the period and had not received any new notifications from the relevant department of CEC.

**8. Reports in addition to those written** – there followed short verbal reports on the Edinburgh Canal Festival from Ann Wigglesworth and the Meadows Festival from Andy Devenport. Both events had been tremendously successful but nevertheless faced certain challenges in the future, particularly in terms of funding and volunteers.

A huge vote of thanks and congratulations were extended to those involved in the planning and running (and clearing up after) of both these events.

It was noted that it was essential to have a good and varied supply of TXCC information materials for display at such events, and that an inventory of and depository for such materials should be looked into.

**ACTION: Ann Wigglesworth to attend to this.**

**9. AOCB** –

Paul Beswick intimated that Tim Puntis was standing down as Treasurer with immediate effect and as a community councillor at the elections in September, due to ill health which was noted with regret.

**Fire Museum** – Liz Summerfield spoke to the matter of the Fire Museum and the need to involve parliamentary politicians in finding a solution.

**ACTION: Roger Colkett to liaise with the Fire Museum before raising this constituency matter with Ruth Davidson, MSP.**

**ACTION: Andrew Brough to extend an invitation to Ruth Davidson to offer the opportunity to introduce herself to their constituents and to discuss their views on the role of Community Councils within the frameworks of local democracy and the underpinning principle of subsidiarity.**

**EHF** – Chris McGregor presented a short report on her first meeting of the Edinburgh Health Forum, a patient and carer group that exists to discuss issues relating to the delivery of health and social care within the area, and described the positive contributions that this group can uniquely make to the community in a lobbying capacity.

**SWNP** – Andy Devenport, who had been unable to attend the 7 June meeting, said he would send papers to the Secretary for circulation.

**Planning Concordat** – Paul Beswick reminded the meeting that he had prepared and revised a draft response to the Planning Concordat, commenting particularly on the Council's and the Scottish Government's noble key policies of 'public engagement' and 'public consultation', which in the current climate and without additional resources are unrealistic and unachievable.

**Edinburgh Compact** – Richard Allen circulated 'Compact Voice', a report of Edinburgh's Third Sector, 2015/16.

**Thornybark and Gym Equipment** – Ann Wigglesworth reported on matters relating to Thornybark and that she had contacted Paul Baxter in relation to this. On the question of gym equipment for Meadows West, this matter needed more discussion.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 31 August 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre**