

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 31 August 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, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **CEC Councillors:** Cllr Andrew Burns. **Police:** PC John Pennycook (Craiglockhart/Fountainbridge), PC Jodie Brownless. **Members of the public:** Fiona Allen, David Liddle, Rachel Thomas, Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Chris McGregor, Nick Munro, Tim Puntis; PC Ponniah (St Leonards); Cllrs Corbett, Doran, Key, Main, Mowat, Rankin; Gordon Lindhurst MSP.

Paul Beswick welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any additional items for the agenda. (See AOCB.)

2. Police Matters – PC Pennycook presented a short report on figures for the Tollcross end of Ward 9 for the summer period, explaining that the new reporting system was still bedding in. The main focus of attention had been on anti-social behaviour during the school holidays, now greatly reduced since the return to school.

There had been two house break-ins during the period; no serious assaults; eight reported minor assaults, four of which had been solved; seven bicycle thefts; two recorded hate incidents; and ongoing drug-related issues at Fountainpark.

In relation to all crimes, but drug issues in particular, PC Pennycook reminded the meeting that Police Scotland relied on the public to provide information about their concerns to Crimestoppers, an independent, confidential intelligence-gathering service that communicates ‘sanitised information’ to the Police. **Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111.**

PC Pennycook also updated the meeting about the changing role of community policing across the city. The introduction of the new community policing model has been put back from September to October.

There followed a discussion about loud motorbikes and ‘construction and use offences’ and guidelines about exhaust and emissions, and the introduction of the 20PMH in the city centre. It was noted that signage about the 20MPH was not always clear.

PC Pennycook advised that a visibility and education programme, especially around primary school locations, including information about ‘smart and safe parking’, was being introduced to assist the public prior to the enforcement phase. In relation to cycle security, he also advised cyclists to secure their bikes in two places, and not just on one wheel.

3. Minutes and matter arising from minutes of meeting of 29 June –

Correction:

4.d. Canalside Festival – ‘Union’ should read ‘Re-Union’

Matters arising:

2. Police Matters – Action point – Andy Devenport was not aware that he had agreed to raise concerns with elected members, i.e. CEC Councillors, MSPs and local MP.

4. a. Amplification of music in licensed premises – Paul Beswick advised that while the consultation was closed, discussion was ongoing.

4.c. i. Trade waste guidance – Iain Black reported that he was in the process of drafting a letter for the Chair to send to ward councillors.

4.c. ii. A-boards – Cllr Burns advised that a review of CEC policy is to be considered.

8. Reports in addition to those written – TXCC publicity materials – Ann Wigglesworth queried the action point attributed to her in relation to TXCC publicity materials.

Paul Beswick suggested that members holding any materials to send a note of what they have to Andrew Brough.

9. Fire Museum – Roger Colkett advised the meeting that he had written to Ruth Davidson MSP, but had had no reply from her directly. In relation to the current situation, Cllr Andrew Burns provided a brief update, regarding the sale of the building.

4. Local matters –

a. Community Council Elections 2016 – Andrew Brough spoke to this matter, explaining the procedure, the dates of the nomination period (5 September – 26 September), where nomination forms were available (via CEC website), what the residence requirements were, who the returning officer is (Cllr Melanie Main – melanie.main@edinburgh.gov.uk), and all contact details. See: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ccelection or call 0131 469 3838.

b. Banking Resolution – following difficulties caused by the Cooperative Bank, Paul Beswick spoke to this ongoing matter.

He proposed that we adopt the proposal (see paper attached to August meeting papers.)

Andrew Brough seconded this proposal.

Following a vote, the matter was adopted unanimously.

c. Graffiti (and trade waste and street furniture) – Ann Wigglesworth explained how the previous system of reporting eruptions of graffiti and problems with trade waste to CEC had operated.

Questions about ownership of bins and ownership of buildings and bridges affected by graffiti have made matters more complex. Ann intimated that she was happy to coordinate complaints about graffiti, etc. and approach CEC directly with these matters. In order to do so, she needed individual councillors to send her the precise locations including street numbers.

ACTION – individual councillors to send this information to Ann Wigglesworth.

5. Councillors' Comments – Cllr Burns reported that planning matters continue to dominate his postbag.

He informed the meeting that the new school was still scheduled to open in January 2017 and that planning applications for the housing section on the Viewforth/Fountainbridge site were

due to be submitted in the first week of October, with other applications due to be submitted in the following six to twelve months. While this was to be welcomed, the downside was that the mean-time uses were having to go, with the Grove Garden being relocated to two or three new locations (including Harrison Park), the Forge going to North Edinburgh, and the WikiHouse going to Tollcross Primary School.

There followed several questions about the imminent (temporary) closure of the tow-path; the forthcoming work to be done by Scottish Canals at Canalside; the possible long term closure of Viewforth to traffic and the continuing discussions and considerations surrounding long-term secondary school provision in the area.

a. Recycling Bins – Liz Summerfield and David Liddle both spoke to the matter of the underground silo at McEwan Square which had recently been left uncovered so posing a highly dangerous safety threat given its proximity to a childrens' playground, and the confusion about who had responsibility for the repair and maintenance of this facility. It was not clear whether Dunedin Canmore had responsibility as factors, or if it was a matter for CEC.

ACTION: Liz Summerfield to contact Cllr Andrew Burns to investigate this matter.

On a related recycling matter, Liz Summerfield raised the question about the food waste bin at Brandfield St, which had not been emptied in an age. As such, this posed a health hazard.

ACTION: Liz Summerfield to contact Cllr Andrew Burns giving the precise location of this bin.

Following a further discussion about food waste bins, there emerged reports about other bins in Lonsdale Terrace and at Lauriston Gardens which had been covered in maggots and were posing public health risks, this is a result of fewer collections and bins being not cleaned. (The large black containers were also found to be particularly offending.)

Cllr Burns pointed out that more people were now recycling and that 45% of all waste in the city was now being recycled, but acknowledged that there was still a good deal of catching up by the Council to be done.

It was noted that there was a need for more resources to ensure that the very minimum requirement for food waste bins in particular to be emptied more frequently and kept properly cleaned was achieved.

ACTION: all community councillors to contact their ward councillors about overflowing and unhygienic bins.

6. Planning – Paul Beswick reported that there was very little to report on, except that permission for partial demolition at King's Stables Road had been granted and that a full planning application for work at the new Printmakers' in Fountainbridge has been submitted.

7. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported that he had nothing to report in the period, but wondered if local councillors automatically received notification about licensing applications, as one ward councillor seemed to be unaware of a recent application.

In the matter of the recent CEC consultation on the amplification of music in licensed premises, and subsequent CEC meeting, there followed a discussion about this vexed question.

Andrew Brough advised that this would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of EACC and that he would report back on this.

8. Reports in addition to those written –

a. Fountainbridge Canalside Sounding Board – Richard Allen gave a detailed verbal report on that afternoon's meeting of the Sounding Board. He reported that the mean-time groups will now be moving off to other locations, and EDI will consider returning some land for other mean-time use; the district heating plan is to go ahead, with some support from the Scottish Government and it is hoped with some European funding; the Printmakers' were forging ahead and hope for completion in 2019; the 'cultural area' is now open to new suggestions following the withdrawal of interest from the FilmHouse; and that the 'Here and Now' project to involve local residents in decision-making had recently carried out a survey with requests from the public for more open space and more green space to be included on the site.

b. Thornybauk –

Ann Wigglesworth updated the meeting on matters at Thornybauk. While with Mike Shields's involvement, wild flowers had been planted, there still remained wooden pallets in the area and orphan bins, turning the place literally into a dump. Graffiti was a problem, as was the use of the site as a public latrine following the closure and upcoming sell-off of the nearby public toilets. There followed a discussion about the involvement of the SCNP and CEC for practical and financial support to improve the area, the possibility of a mural, and the need to take action to make the site attractive for local residents and for local schoolchildren as it is on the way to their school.

c. Financial update –

Paul Beswick informed the meeting that TXCC had £2000 in the bank account; had recently received its annual grant of £900 from CEC; and had already spent £850 this year.

d. Transport & Environment sub-Committee CEC, 29 August 2016 –

Andy Devenport reported on his attendance at this meeting and wished to comment on the way in which he felt the meeting had been conducted. He felt that it had been chaotic, shocking and disgraceful – some of the presentations he found appallingly badly presented, with very poor presentation skills making it very hard to follow arguments; though he felt it was only proper to praise the eloquence of Cllr Main. He felt that in regard to some matters under discussion it seemed that decisions had been already taken prior to the meeting, so rendering it pointless to have deputations speak before the sub-committee; and that the behaviour of certain councillors was questionable.

On the question of the Meadows, he reminded the meeting that this was first and foremost a public park, not an events space.

e. **Scottish Canals** – following his attendance at a recent meeting, Andrew Devenport expressed his concern about plans of Scottish Canals to make changes to facilities at the Falkirk end, when their principal function was to keep a navigable waterway.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm

PROVISIONAL date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28 September 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre