

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Andrew Brough (Chair), Liz Summerfield (Secretary); Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Roger Colkett, Michael Lister, Katie McGhee, Chris McGregor, Ann Wigglesworth. **CEC Councillors:** Cllr Andrew Burns, Cllr Gavin Corbett, Cllr Joanna Mowat. **Police:** PC Bruce Burt, PC Susan Purnell. **Members of the public:** Andreas Wilhelm, Anne Wimberley **Apologies:** Paul Beswick, Iain Black, Andy Devenport; David Liddle; Cllr Key, Cllr Main.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The matter of 'orchard and raised bed allotments on the Meadows' was raised as an additional agenda item. The Chair then invited the police to present their reports.

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police Matters – in response to complaints about the number of rough sleepers in private and public areas in some parts of the city, PC Burt reported on the success of the new Police Scotland initiative involving working with the Border Agency, where rough sleepers from EU countries are rounded up and deported back to their country of origin under the terms of the Lisbon Treaty.

PS Purnell read from a report supplied by colleagues in the South West Community Policing Team for Ward 9 crimes figures for January. There had been one housebreaking where entry had been gained, but nothing taken, and one attempted where nothing had been taken; there had been three assaults in the area; ongoing speed checks were being conducted around local primary schools; and there had been numerous reports of traffic issues on Dundee St and the surrounding area. There had been eight thefts reported, including the theft of a parcel, machinery, motorbike, two pedal cycles and three instances of shoplifting. No hate crimes had been reported.

In Ward 9, there have been a number of planned operations to tackle antisocial behaviour and drug-related issues. Operation Eliminate (Phase 2), in partnership with Dunedin-Canmore Housing Association, to target repeat anti-social behaviour offenders, will begin next week; and there have been numerous traffic stops conducted during specific times recognised as active housebreaking operation periods.

A number of questions relating to rough-sleeping were asked of the Police. These included the involvement of agencies such as StreetWork and Bethany in helping to alleviate the problem. It was acknowledged that some agencies are not always keen to be seen to be working with the Police and that rough-sleeping does not always involve criminality.

4. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 25 January 2017 –

Corrections –

Item 3 – Police Matters – 'Windscreen wipers' should read 'windscreen'.

Item 8 – Planning – Roger Colkett would supply a clarification to be inserted into the Minutes.

ACTION – Roger Colkett

Item 9 – Licensing – Roger Colkett asked for 'Hooter's Bar' to be corrected to read as 'No 1 Showbar Baby Dolls', and again would supply a clarification to insert into the Minutes.

ACTION – Roger Colkett

Matters arising –

Item 5 – Local matters

c. AirBNB – the Chair explained that the meeting chaired by Andy Wightman was a private one and that a public meeting would be held at a later time.

5. Local matters –

a. Progress of hustings meeting – Liz Summerfield reported that three candidates had already accepted the invitation (Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Joanna Mowat, and Claire Miller) to attend the hustings on 12 April, but she was still to hear back from Cllr Rankin. She would invite further candidates once the list of candidates is published after 22 March. Cllr Burns suggested she contact Chris Highcock at CEC for further information [chris.highcock@edinburgh.gov.uk]. Liz mentioned the difficulty she had experienced when enquiring about bookings at Central Hall, and further to Ann Wigglesworth's suggestion to involve TCAN, it was pointed out that most of the members of TCAN do not reside in the Tollcross Community Council area. As there had also been difficulties trying to find out about booking Tollcross Community Centre for the event, the Chair reported that he and Roger Colkett were looking at various other possible venues.

ACTION – Liz Summerfield, and Andrew Brough and Roger Colkett

b. Health matters – Chris McGregor had been in touch with the SCNP and with other community council acquaintances to enquire about how health matters are addressed by other community councils, but felt that she had drawn a blank. There followed a short discussion, at the end of which it was decided to return to this matter when more information was available.

c. Let there be Light campaign – Michael Lister updated the meeting on the campaign and reported that following the decision of the City of Edinburgh Council to grant planning permission for development at the India Buildings, leave to make an application for a court action for judicial review of the decision had been granted on Thursday 16 February in the Court of Session.

d. Spring Fling – Liz Summerfield suggested that TXCC share a stall with the Meadows' Festival at this event on 6 May and was looking for volunteers to staff the stall.

It was agreed to take a stall, provided that sufficient people could staff this. The following expressed an interest in helping out – Roger Colkett, David Liddle, Chris McGregor, Ann Wigglesworth.

ACTION – Liz Summerfield

e. Update on planning meeting organised by Leith Links CC – the Chair gave some background to this initiative and explained that Paul Beswick and Roger Colkett were working on an official response from TXCC to the Planning Consultation of the Scottish Government.

6. Councillors' Comments –

Cllr Burns briefly reported on the local issue relating to the general management of traffic at the Fountainbridge site, and on the city-wide issue of the recently announced CEC Budget for 2017/2018. He said that the latter was to be welcomed as the increased revenue from the new Council Tax would stay in the city, although there was to be no increase in the block-grant.

There followed a question about short-term lets and a general discussion to which all three City of Edinburgh Councillors present contributed. Cllr Corbett mentioned that there was still much to do in relation to this issue especially in inner-city neighbourhoods, and that on the question of short-term lets and problems associated with this, he reminded the meeting that complaints can still be made via planning enforcement at planning@edinburgh.gov.uk. Also discussed was the matter of the Sick Kids.

Cllr Mowat gave some background to the subject of short-term lets and the requirement placed on landlords to apply for permission for change of use of properties. She announced that a report on this was to be tabled at the Planning Committee on 2 March. She acknowledged that there was currently a weakness in regulatory provision, but that this issue was now coming up the agenda.

On the Royal Infirmary application (**16/05400/LBC**), Cllr Mowat intimated that the application was being continued, and gave a detailed account of the matter. There followed a discussion about this and heritage and planning issues in general.

Cllr Corbett announced that pavement improvements had been made to Lower Gilmore Place and Lochrin Basin Lane and that a new Dunedin-Canmore Housing Association development was underway at Lochrin Basin Lane. He also reported that EDI had held an event last week about the 'cultural quarter' at the Fountainbridge site, and that he would forward papers about this to the Secretary/Chair.

ACTION – Cllr Corbett

7. Planning –

Royal Infirmary planning application (16/05400/LBC) – in the absence of Paul Beswick, the Chair intimated that while the Planning Department had recommended granting permission to demolish the gatehouse, the decision of the Planning Committee was to continue the application.

8. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported that there were no new applications in the period, but that he would be attending the next Licensing Board in 1st March.

9. Reports other than those written – Ann Wigglesworth reported on the meeting of the Tollcross Community Centre Management Committee of 1st February 2017, highlighting concern about the future of the post of the sole Community Education worker and the request of long-standing for an automatic door to be installed. It was suggested that Ann draft a letter for the Chair of TXCC to send to Cllr Cameron Day, Convenor, Education, Children and Families Committee.

ACTION – Ann Wigglesworth and Andrew Brough

10. AOCB –

The Meadows – Chris McGregor queried the proposed 'orchard and raised bed allotment(s)' on the Meadows. While there was no dissent about the desirability of fruit trees and growing spaces in principle, there was great concern about the lack of information surrounding the proposal as well as the authority of Parks to grant permission without public consultation. As the Meadows is not free land to be given away, it was suggested that the Fountainbridge site would be an ideal place for 'community raised-beds', as there had been a community garden there previously. The Chair explained that he had written to CEC and was awaiting a response.

Ponton Street signage – Fiona Allen asked about the sign for the Tollcross Early Years Campus. It was suggested that she write to Cllr Corbett to ask him to enquire of Cllr Cameron Day, Convenor, Education, Children and Families Committee about the costs involved.

ACTION – Fiona Allen to write to Cllr Corbett

IT support for Secretary – Ann Wigglesworth raised the question of IT support for the Secretary. It was decided to place this item on the Agenda for the March meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 29 March 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre**