

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 30 August 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Andrew Brough (Chair and Secretary), Paul Beswick (Treasurer); Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth.
Police: PS John Pennycook (West End). **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Miller (standing in for Cllr Doran).
Apologies: Katie McGhee, Chris McGregor; David Liddle.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the August ordinary meeting, while Cllr Miller explained that a new rota for CEC councillors' attendance at CC meetings has been drawn up, and that a substitution arrangement was in place for this meeting.

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police Matters –

PC John Pennycook began his presentation by referring to the new boundaries and that in future we may well see more Police from City Centre attending our meetings. August had been a busy month given the school holidays and the attendant issues surrounding anti-social behaviour and motorcycle thefts in certain parts of the city. He reviewed some of the crime figures for the Fountainbridge area; referred to the ongoing issues surrounding loading and unloading of pantechnicons at Tarvit Street (King's Theatre); and the relative absence of any reported 'serious' incidents in the City Centre during the period. On the question of suspected drug-dealing in stairs or on the streets, he said that Police Scotland welcomes any intelligence from members of the public who witness drug-dealing to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or phone the non-emergency number 101. He also reported that with the new school session, Police Scotland were taking a pro-active approach to road safety.

PC Pennycook also reported on the ongoing Policing consultation – 'Policing your community. Tell us what's important to you'. The online consultation, hosted by SurveyMonkey, is open all year, the results of which are released on a quarterly basis.

To take part in this consultation, go to <http://scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts>

On the related question of public engagement, he mentioned the new Neighbourhood Watch alert service to which members of the public can sign up on an individual basis. For more information go to www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

As the Tollcross Community Council area now falls mostly but not exclusively within the new City Centre ward, there was concern expressed by some that certain streets are served by Police offices outwith the area, PC Pennycook reassured the meeting that phone calls to 101 are responded to from a central call centre and assigned as necessary, but agreed that local community-funded officers are probably best placed to deal with local matters.

Questions were asked about traffic going down the wrong way on and exiting from Leven Terrace and Tarvit Street; grocery delivery vans not respecting the 20MPH limit; Uber taxis; cycle couriers cycling on pavements in Fountainbridge; and the incidence of begging. To report any concerns or issues, PC Pennycook again urged members of the public to phone 101 in the first instance, and handed out various information leaflets for the TXCC Noticeboard.

ACTION: Iain Black

4. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 28 June 2017 –

Corrections:

Andy Devenport was present at the June meeting, and the Minute has been adjusted accordingly.

5. Local matters – Memorial to David Rintoul – the funeral had taken place on 10 June; '1st of July' should read 'first week of July'.

Matters arising:

Reports – FOMBL – further to Iain Black's reports on recent meetings, Andy Devenport, Chair of FOMBL, reported that he had recently had a meeting with Mike Shields of CEC. Reinstatement work on the Meadows following Festival events was already in progress and some ground preparation had been done prior to the beginning of the Festival. Preparations surrounding the large cycling event to take place on 3 September had already been planned and agreed, and as a result of forward planning, it was not expected that there would be much or any damage to the area.

5. Tollcross Area matters –

a. Plans for the year ahead – the Chair invited members to suggest plans for the year ahead. While there was considerable discussion about some of the items proposed, the Chair pointed out that at this stage he was taking soundings about possible items and that many of the suggestions would be returned to and discussed more fully at later meetings with the intention of trying to adopt and implement these proposals. Those items the meeting agreed to take forward included:

1. Thornybauk improvement (see below).
2. Action on Short Term Lets (see below).
3. Litter, including, street cleaning, festival litter etc. (see below).

b. Local issues –

i. Thornybauk – initial suggestions for a positive plan to reclaim the zone and beautify the area – described as an 'impossible piece of land' – were discussed at some length. Cllr Miller agreed to take forward these suggestions to Sarah Burns, currently South East Locality Manager, and arrange for council officials to do a walkabout at the site.

ACTION: Cllr Miller

ii. Litter and Street-cleansing – there followed a long discussion about the pressing need to seek an improvement in the general cleanliness of our streets. Included in the discussion were suggestions about a quick win solution for litter control during the Festivals, with those who own, lease or control Festival venues to be involved in measures to control litter, whether through statutory means of CEC byelaws and the participation of the Fringe Society; the introduction of a city-wide education programme for rubbish and recycling, 'from crib to care-home'; more clearly defined and more widely publicised information about the separate responsibilities of CEC and private refuse contractors, and the growing problem of creeping privatisation of the public realm where private land appear not to be covered by the same standards of refuse collection as does public land; and the real need for CEC to improve civic pride and civic responsibility on the part of all. To address some of these concerns, Cllr Miller suggested that she could ask Gareth Barwell, Head of Place Management, to contact TXCC with a view to coming to a future meeting to discuss these issues.

ACTION: Cllr Miller

iii. Common Repairs and Temporary Road Occupation Regulation – these two matters were also suggested as possible topics for further discussion in the course of the year.

iv. Outside Speakers – in addition to Gareth Barwell, other speakers could include Anna Herriman, CEC; a representative from Living Streets; and a licensing representative from CEC.

c. Short-term lets and AirBNB – the Chair reported that, thanks to Cllr Miller and Andy Wightman MSP, progress is being made on this subject and that a city-wide public meeting is to be held in October. It is thought that legislation through the Scottish Parliament will be required to address this problem. Date and venue of the public meeting are yet to be confirmed. It was stressed how important it was that we all lobby our seven MSPs on the question of short-term lets.

ACTION: All TXCC Councillors

d. Update on Memorial Tree – Liz Summerfield reported that she had had a meeting with Mike Shields of CEC about the tree and a plaque, and that he would report back to her once all the information is available. She added that it might be the case that TXCC would need to make a contribution towards the cost of these.

e. Pregnancy Centre, Lower Gilmore Place – the Chair reported that following possible planning permission to develop this area coming soon, the Centre would be looking for new premises. It was suggested that Vastint might be able to make premises available, but this was not certain. In the meantime, the Chair asked all community councillors to let him know if they are aware of any suitable premises in the area that are or might become vacant.

6. Councillor's Comments and Questions –

Cllr Millar mentioned concerns that she had received about the new restaurant development at the corner on Home Street. She had attended the CCNP meeting the previous evening, and reported on the progress made in developing the Local Improvement Plan, which was due to be signed up to by the Edinburgh Partnership in October. Cllr Miller had received a significant amount of correspondence, sometimes on a daily basis, about fly-tipping by HMOs in Upper Gilmore Place, and that as some of these issues were similar to those in other parts of the TXCC area, she asked if she might put her constituents in Upper Gilmore Place in touch with the Chair of TXCC to discuss these issues of shared concern.

ACTION: Cllr Miller

Asked about the future of Neighbourhood Partnerships, Cllr Miller explained the proposed changes, mainly concerning governance, and reminded the meeting that for the time being Community Grants were still available. She also referred the meeting to a Performance Update report on the Waste and Cleansing Service and a Progress Update report on the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan that had been discussed at the 10 August meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee of CEC (See: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4200/transport_and_environment_committee: Item 8.2 - Waste and Cleansing Service - Performance Update; Item 8.3 - Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan - Progress Update)

Cllr Miller also reported that at the recent Regulatory Committee, CEC had decided not to extend late hours catering, as there seemed to be limited public support for any extension, and therefore no changes were to be made to current licensing policy. On the question of the new Boroughmuir High School, Cllr Miller pointed out that it had been agreed at the August meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee that a feasibility study should be progressed to consider the possibility of additional capacity for Boroughmuir High School being provided on the India Quay site. (See:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4203/education_children_and_families_committee, meeting of 15 August 2017, Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate – Strategic Review Report, Item 7.2)

A complaint by a local resident had been received about Atik putting out glass bottles late at night, contrary to agreed practice.

ACTION: Cllr Miller

7. Planning – Paul Beswick reported on the following new applications in the period:

Ref No: 17/03391/FUL – Proposed Change of Use from Class 1 to Class 2, 22-24 Home Street

Ref No: 17/01972/FUL – Proposed Change of use and creation of a 60 seater restaurant within 4-8 Lady Lawson Street over ground and basement floors of former retail premises

Ref No: 17/03596/FUL – erection of 11 residential flats, 18-20 King's Stables Road – outcome awaited

Ref No: 17/02227/PPP – for two hotels (Class 7), office (Class 4), retail (Class 1), restaurant(s) (Class 3), pedestrian deck, and bridge link and accesses from Western Approach Road and Canning Street; detailed approval for siting, maximum height & limits of deviation of proposed buildings, partial demolition, and refurbishment of façade of former electricity station, 2 Dewar Place – outcome awaited. Paul Beswick expressed his concerns about the increasing (mis-)use of PPP applications from developers.

8. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported that he had submitted objections to two applications (former Clydesdale Bank, Lothian Road, and Footlights Bar, Spittal Street) and although there were no substantive grounds to object to the University of Edinburgh's application for a public entertainment licence at the former Museum of Fire, he was inclined to submit an objection notwithstanding.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre**