

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 29 November 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

Police: P C John Pennycook. **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Claire Miller. **Public:** Andreas Wilhelm. **Visitor:** Janet Dick (Old Town Community Council). **Apologies:** Cllrs Doran, Mowat and Rankin; David Liddle.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the year and announced that Katie McGhee had communicated to him her decision to stand down from the Community Council.

AOCB – Memorial tree to David Rintoul, Scottish Book Week Book Sale.

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police Matters – PC Pennycook reported that there was very little to report on the Tollcross Community Council area (ie the West End/Tollcross policing beat), as most of the operations and initiatives he has been conducting relate to Ward 9, but that community officers have been involved in a number of planned operations in the wider area – Operation Screening - crimes of dishonesty (house break-ins); Operation Sedgwick - Youth anti-social behaviour (mainly in the Hutchison/Slateford/Fountainbridge policing beat, ie to the west of the TXCC area); Operation Elementary - thefts of pedal cycles; and Operation Heddle - road traffic. There was one report of car theft in Lower Gilmore Place, and an individual had been found in possession of property and charged. There were on-going issues relating to antisocial behaviour at Rosemount Buildings and one individual was now awaiting sentence. In the immediate area, there had been 59 calls to the police, 6 crimes recorded, and one crime solved. PC Pennycook also announced that the Festive Driving Campaign would commence this week. On the question of cyber-crime, PC Pennycook reported that a number of 'phishing exercises' had been reported and urged members of the public to be vigilant, advising people to use 'reverse number look-up' on computer search engines to verify telephone numbers. On this occasion there were no questions for PC Pennycook.

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

Corrections: none

Matters arising:

Tollcross area matters –

5. d. Short-term lets – Andy Devenport asked for an update on this subject. Cllr Miller reported that a city-wide meeting with cross-party support from CEC to take place in early 2018 was being considered and that cross-party discussions were on-going. Janet Dick of the Old Town Community Council reported on the 6 November meeting hosted by Sustainable Communities – Stockbridge, which had been very well-attended, where it had been noted that not only was legislation required, it would also need to be enforced. There was some discussion about the existing powers that CEC has within Planning legislation, particularly 'change of use', and it was noted that enforcement has, to all intents and purposes, stopped. Cllr Miller had received an 'AirBNB Briefing Note' and would send a copy of this to the Chair to circulate.

ACTION: Cllr Miller

6. Councillor's Comments and Questions – on the matter of textile recycling, Fiona Allen reported that she had been in touch with Lothian Cat Rescue and the A&E department of the RIE. In addition to donations of t-shirts and joggers for patient admissions, the RIE welcomes donations of less

'presentable' items of clothing such as t-shirts, leggings and joggers for trainee medics for practising cutting. She would be happy to coordinate a collection of such items.

A recent recycling initiative of boots and shoes on the part of Tollcross Primary School and the Tollcross Community Education Centre was also mentioned, and Richard Allen proposed to look into this.

ACTION: Fiona Allen

ACTION: Richard Allen

The Minutes were then accepted as correct. This was proposed by Richard Allen and seconded by Iain Black.

5. Tollcross area matters –

a. Future Licensing – Roger Colkett had prepared a discussion paper (circulated with the meeting papers) on the consultation on the terms of the Edinburgh Licensing Board's Statement of Licensing Policy, and spoke to the matter.

Following a detailed discussion, it was agreed to ask the Board to designate Tollcross as an area of over-provision (with certain streets in the area specified); to return to the previous policy on amplified music for licensed premises in residential tenement buildings; and indeed to ask the Board to make the whole of Edinburgh an area of over-provision.

The Chair thanked Roger for the amount of work he had put into the paper. There was unanimous agreement that Roger submit his discussion paper as the official response of TXCC to the consultation.

It was also suggested that neighbouring community councils (OTCC, New Town and Broughton, and Southside) might wish to submit a collective response to the consultation, but it was pointed out that as was the first stage in the consultation process, a cooperative approach might be adopted at a later stage.

ACTION: Roger Colkett

b. Bins – Fiona Allen commented on the food waste recycling bins and the in-built design fault of some that makes them unhygienic and unpleasant to use. She suggested that the back wheels be replaced with smaller wheels so that the bins can sit at a tilt and that food waste falls safely in to the bins.

It was also pointed out that these bins need cleaned and washed, as there is a proliferation of maggots in many of them; and that they are not emptied often enough. Rats have been seen around the food recycling bin in Lonsdale Terrace.

ACTION: Cllr Miller to raise this matter with Head of Waste.

c. BID (Business Improvement District) status for the High Street – the Chair reported that he had recently written to the Chair of the Old Town Community Council via the Secretary to offer to support moves to reject the extended BID status for the High Street. It was pointed out by Janet Dick of the OTCC that the consultation on this BID closed on 30th November.

General hostility about the extended BID and about the increasing Disney-fication of the Old Town was expressed. Concern about the recruitment of 300 volunteers for the Christmas Festival events was also noted.

d. Living Wild event, Saturday 27 January 2018 – Richard Allen spoke to the 'Living Wild' being proposed by the Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative to improve and enhance greens spaces along the canal and among the new housing at Fountainbridge. Tollcross Community Council was unanimous in its decision to be supportive of the event.

e. Community Centre possible closure – the Chair updated the meeting on the current status of the Community Centre adding that the CEC was not considering closing the Centre, but that major changes affecting the Centre had taken place. As TXCC is very supportive of the Centre, the Chair asked for a nominee to act as the official representative of TXCC on the management committee of the Centre,

Richard Allen was appointed as nominee, with Ann Wigglesworth as substitute. This was proposed by Andrew Brough and seconded by Roger Colkett.

f. CC Christmas Drinks date – drinks at the Hampton Hotel on Fountainbridge were proposed for Monday 11th December, 8pm.

6. Councillor's Comments & Questions –

Thornybauk – Cllr Miller updated the meeting on the ongoing situation at Thornybauk and that she would write to Gavin Barwell at CEC.

ACTION – Cllr Miller

Lower Gilmore Place – Cllr Miller reported that there was some discrepancy between the information put out by the developers and that put out by Dunedin-Canmore over the plans for the site and the future of the tenants, and that the Pregnancy Centre was still looking for new premises.

Concorde – Cllr Miller reported that the Concorde had applied for a late-night food licence. Roger Colkett replied that in line with TXCC policy in relation to all applications for late-night food licences, he would object to this.

ACTION – Roger Colkett

Lochrin Basin Lane – Cllr Miller reported on the ongoing issue concerning the shared use of this lane by pedestrians and traffic and the previous plan to introduce bollards. She was working on this with the Roads Department and would report back on progress.

Riego Street – Roger Colkett mentioned that the bollard on Riego Street which had hitherto ensured that the street was pedestrianised, had been removed, thus opening it up again to traffic.

ACTION: Roger Colkett to send photograph of Riego Street to Cllr Miller who will take up this issue with Roads.

Graffiti – PC Pennycook asked about the outbreak of graffiti on the canal wall at Lower Gilmore Place. A discussion about various options to address this took place, including lowering the wall and installing railings or hedging, which would make the area look more open, but also provide security. There would be costs involved in this, and this would be a matter for Scottish Canals.

Street-lighting – Andy Devenport mentioned the ongoing problems at Grindlay Court where lights are still out months after first being reported. It was acknowledged that there was a backlog of lighting repairs and insufficient capacity to attend to all repairs timeously, the delay was not acceptable.

ACTION: Cllr Miller to pursue.

Gate to Princes' Street Gardens on Johnston Terrace – Roger Colkett again asked about the gate, which is currently locked.

ACTION: Cllr Miller.

Council Budget – Cllr Miller reminded all present to take part in the Council Budget consultation.

7. Planning – Paul Beswick reported on the following matters:

1. Old RIE site – permission to carry out demolitions on the site (public lavatories and listed wall) has been granted.

2. Vastint – a letter has been sent to the developers in which it is intimated that TXCC would support the entire application as submitted but without amendment (see Paul Beswick's email of 29 November)

3. Haymarket development – a PAN would take place on 30 November at the Grosvenor Hotel.

4. Sick Kids' – exhibition boards for this proposed development have been circulated. PANs on 10 January (2.30-7.30pm) and 7 February (2.30-7.30pm) at St Catherine's Argyle Church, Grange Road.

5. Application for advertising drums – no objection.

6. King's Stables Road – amended application. Objections to this have already been submitted.

7. King's Stables Road – application for scaled-down proposal for eleven residential flats – no objection.

8. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported that there were no new applications in the period, and that he would submit an objection to the Concorde application.

9. AOCB –

Fly-posting on railings at Tollcross – Ann Wigglesworth noted that ATIK has posted a large advertisement on the railings leading into West Tollcross.

ACTION: Chair to contact ATIK.

Memorial tree for David Rintoul – Liz Summerfield reported the plans for the memorial tree for David Rintoul were well under way. Wording for the memorial plaque were still to be discussed and agreed. The cost of this would be £145+VAT; the tree would cost in the region of £150-200. It was hoped to be able to secure financial contributions from CEC and from local groups.

ACTION: anyone wishing to suggest wording for the plaque to contact Liz Summerfield by email.

Scottish Book Trust Book Sale – Liz Summerfield asked for book donations to be taken to Fountainbridge Library on Friday 1st December between 1-4.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 31 January 2018 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre**