

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes Wednesday 27 October 2021 7.00 pm

BY ZOOM

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Richard Allen(Chair), Paul Beswick(Treasurer), Roger Colkett, Donald Craig, Andy Devenport, Liz Summerfield(Engagement Secretary).

Ellie Roger (U of E for Stuart Tooley)

CEC Councillors: Cllr. Joanna Mowat

Members of the public: Andy Follis, Jane Robinson

Apologies: Fiona Allen, Cllr. Clare Miller, Gillian Martin, Iain Black

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Police Matters

There had been no newsletter or correspondence this month although the police timescale may well not match the CC timescale.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021

There were no corrections

That the minutes were a true record was proposed by Roger Colkett and seconded by Paul Beswick and agreed as a true record by the meeting.

Matters Arising: The walkabout with the council officials was still at the planning stage and Cllr. Mowat was now chasing this up.

4. Tollcross Matters

IT (Website and emails)

LS explained that we were still unable to use the website and emails were problematic and she cannot manage the list on google groups. Andy Follis offered their expertise in helping with this and LS/RA would send her all the IT details from Andrew Brough.

5. CEC Councillors Comments and Questions

Cllr. Mowat said the LEZ consultation was now closed. The proposal had been partly defeated in Council and its implementation may now be delayed. There are concerns about the boundary and effects on residents/traffic around the boundary of the proposed zone.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about bins and particularly the Council proposal to create bin hubs with enhanced recycling.

RA explained that the bins should be brought together with better food waste facilities and bottle banks and a better chance to enhance recycling. There would be more vehicles and collections but the siting of the hubs was to be finalised.

Cllr. Mowat explained her disquiet at the lack of consultation and the absence of information about where the hubs would be sited and felt that this would be very controversial as it had been in the New Town.

AF suggested local knowledge should be used to determine the siting of the hubs and Cllr. Mowat explained that there was belatedly going to be a public engagement phase to the plans as simply producing the TROs for the sites would create a furore.

AD said some bins were blocking pavements and pointed out that the current Council map of bin sites was full of errors so it was almost impossible to complain about bins online. Cllr. Mowat pointed out that this bad list might be contributing to bins being missed for emptying.

RC pointed out that there were no current or projected plans to allow recycling of small electrical items. He suggested that there could be cages for these items at hubs. AD and RA thought there might be collections being set up in some charity shops and Boots.

6. Planning

PB listed a few of the recent planning applications (all for our area had been circulated). Underbelly's Christmas plans had not yet been approved but they are due to start next week. There had been a rise in the number of applications for STLs, possibly due to the publicity about the new legislation which PB considered had now been watered down. We had endorsed the plans for the public realm around the east of the old infirmary buildings and ER for the university was pleased about this. There was another brown field development site (Haymarket Yards) where a hotel and office were proposed. PB stated that this seems the norm with very few sites in our area going for housing.

7. Licensing

RC explained that Sainsbury's were applying to get standard licenses in all their stores and this included having music and tasting sessions. He wondered if that was for alcohol and how that affected overprovision. We have three small Sainsbury's in our area. Cllr. Mowat felt it was an exercise in tidying up their licenses, some of which were legacy licenses and that these activities would not impact on small Sainsburys. We agreed not to object. Cllr. Mowat led a discussion about the difficulties of interpreting overprovision and the conflicts between Planning and Licensing where they both seemed to be giving permission or not for premises to be used in a certain way.

8. AOCB

AD and RA explained about past and upcoming events on the canal, such as the Flotilla of Lights at 18.45 on 20th November at Harrison Park. RA had circulated the details. AD explained that the Canal Society was going through a revival and there was a consultation on line. IT might even result in the refurbishment of the boat house

The meeting was closed at 20.10 and the date of the next meeting is 24 November 2021

