**Minutes of Tollcross Community Council Meeting 29 November 2023**

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| 1. Welcome | **Present**  Members**:** Richard Allen, Roger Colkett, Iain Black, Rebecca Fairbairn, Tim Puntiss  Councillors: Margaret Graham Jo Mowatt  Three representatives of the Gillespie Crescent Community and three other members of the community.  **Apologies:** Fiona Allen  Absent: Liz Summerfield, Stuart Tooley, Paul Beswick, Andy Devenport, Cllr Findlay Macfarlane  No police representatives. |
| 1. Minutes of last meeting | Correction: none.  The minutes of the last meeting were approved, proposed by Roger Colkett, seconded by Iain Black. |
| 1. Members | The Chair agreed to explore on-going non-attendance. |
| 1. Updates | **Police:** there are no police available to attend community council meetings until the Christmas markets close and normal duties resume in January. TXCC noted the extreme pressure on Police Scotland and wanted to record formally their concern that major and long-running events in Edinburgh are being approved without full consideration of the pressure these put on already stretched services and the impact this has on the city.  **Action: Cllrs Mowatt and Graham agreed to raise the issues caused by the redeployment of community policing for major events.**  **Councillors:**   * **Issue 1.** Councillors noted that council officers are under extreme pressure and made a plea for all members of the community do as much as possible using “self-serve” online processes. * **Issue 2.** Inaccessible STL notifications. TXCC suggest requirements include a photograph of the placement of notifications to demonstrate the requirement to present accessible official notifications of STL plans has been met. **Cllr Mowatt agreed to raise this again with officials.** TXCC noted the need for a renewal of civil licensing legislation; members of the community are encouraged to contact their MSPs about this so that the community feeling is heard. |
| 1. Tollcross Matters | **The website:** A number of issues with the website were raised:   * Issue remains with accessing the agenda and minutes through the website. * Council tweets are not displaying.   TXCC agreed the importance of updating the website and addressing the obvious issues, and prioritising this within the budget to rework the website.  **Action from October: PB to explore, including contacting Andrew Brough or using canva.**  **The Clock:** No updates. The clock remains in storage awaiting the funds for repair. TXCC reiterated the request for the clock to be temporarily re-located on the junction. Councillors present confirmed this remains on their radar.  TXCC noted the broader issue of private owners of buildings of public note not necessarily taking due care of items of historic or civic value.  **Canal:** Rebecca from Canals Scotland updated TXCC on her role, part funded by the council and part by Canals Scotland. She spoke about key priorities for the canal, noting user behaviour and user management seem to be a key issue in the TX section of the canal, including antisocial behaviour and behaviours of commuter cyclists, particularly in the dark. She highlighted that there is not much data on dangers or incidents along the canal. TXCC discussed the behaviour of cycling commuters and the use of powerful electric bikes which is increasing issue across the city. TXCC suggested the used of wraparound signage (as used for public safety during the pandemic) as a successful example to influence behaviour that could be reworked for canal towpaths. Small traffic signs to remind people of proximity of schools, parks and junctions could also be useful. TXCC noted that alternative route choices for cyclists needed to be useable. Members of the community interested in this work should contact Rebecca at [Union.canal@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Union.canal@edinburgh.gov.uk) with suggestions or comments.  **Action:** Cllr Mowatt agreed to forward maps of proposed alternative cycle routes that feed into the TX area. |
| 1. Planning | **Short Term Lets (STL):** 57 applications this month, almost all for flats.  **Gillespie Crescent.** Applications for “substantial demolition in a conservation area” and construction of a new building have been submitted. TXCC will be formally objecting and encouraging others to comment**. Deadline for comments has been extended to 29 December** given the lack of appropriate submission of paperwork on the planning portal.  Gillespie Crescent and Community Resident’s Association has now been officially established. TXCC noted the issues being faced by the CRA in managing media engagement given the professional communications campaign being used by the developers and Sight Scotland. |
| 1. Licensing | Westport café license decision delayed. Nothing else to report. |
| 1. AOB | TXCC is unlikely to be able to respond to the consultation on the community council scheme, but will consider an additional meeting focused on this.  A report from the Entertainment Venues Hearing was circulated.  Meeting closed at 20.25  **Next meeting at 19.00, Wednesday 31 January 2024**  **Discussion topics: University of Edinburgh project and Membership** |