

West End Community Council

1 March 2016 at Ashfield, 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh

Present: Jock Miller (Chair), Alan Weddell, Isabel Thom, Gordon Renton, Colin Johnston, Rory O’Riordan, Martha Baur, Ian Robertson, Gordon Wylie, Cllr. Joanna Mowat
 In attendance: Claire Miller (City Centre Resident – Scottish Greens), Paola Manzini (Resident), Jennifer Paton (Edinburgh School of English), PC Susan Purnell, Steven Fraser (Resident), Naomi Rayner (minutes)

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Apologies and welcome Apologies were received from Dierdre Brock MP, Marco Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cameron Buchanan MSP, Cllr. Alasdair Rankin, Cllr. Karen Doran, Alexander Hamilton</p>	
<p>Jennifer Paton from the Edinburgh School of English, based in the Canongate.</p> <p>The Edinburgh School of English has a summer school based at Mary Erskine. The pupils stay with host families whilst they are in Edinburgh. The school is looking to reach out to residents local to the Mary Erskine school to find more host families, and is asking the WECC and residents to spread awareness of hosting.</p> <p>Jennifer Paton left the meeting. Cllr Joanna Mowat (Cllr JM) arrived.</p>	<p>JM to put the poster on website and AW the WECC notice board.</p>
<p>2. Minutes of meetings held on 1 February 2016 Correction: Planning report para 3: 204 Rose Street: should read “Historic Environment Scotland,” not “Historical Scotland”. (Historic Scotland and RCAHMs have joined to form this new body).</p> <p>Correction: Police Report: “Hibbes” should read “Hibs”</p> <p>Correction: AOCB para 4: “road” should say “pavement” and “1984” should be “1964”</p> <p>Accepted.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p><u>6 October 2015</u> Cllr JM to investigate why anti-jaywalking fence was removed at St John’s Church Princes Street. Completed. Cllr JM explained that when the fence was taken down, it was on the basis that it would not be put back up unless problems were reported. Cllr JM to ask for CEC to review.</p> <p><u>5 January 2016</u> 1/20 Douglas Crescent. Ref: 15/05499/LBC. AW stated that there was an issue in relation to the earlier application where WECC had objected as a CC. A report was put on the planning website that suggested that we had withdrawn our objections. Councillor said that our objections do</p>	



<p>not carry any weight as we made representation, not as statutory consultees. It was suggested that JM should write to the chief executive of the council for clarification on this. Outstanding</p> <p><u>2 February 2016</u></p> <p>Jock Miller (JM) asked that AW draft him a letter to send to the Chief Executive and copy in Historic Environment Scotland. Completed</p> <p>2F 20 Eglinton Crescent. Ref: 15/056737/LBC. GF 20 Coates Gardens. Ref: 16/00246/LBC/..7/FUL. Object for both 20 Eglinton and 30 Coates Gardens as we must be consistent. Completed</p> <p>85-87 Shandwick Place. Ref: 15/05790/LBC. IT to make objection and ask the case officer for more detailed information. Completed</p>	
<p>4. Police Report PC Susan Purnell presented her report:</p> <p>There have been a couple of break ins (and attempted break ins) at small businesses around the William Street area and one house break in at Rosebury Crescent.</p> <p>There have been reports of a homeless male at the medical centre. The police have not found him to be a cause for concern. Rough sleepers are an issue across the city centre, especially at Randolph Lane. The police have been trying to discourage this using legislation against camping out.</p> <p>Cyclists have been seen cycling on the paths, the police are putting together a few day shifts to educate them.</p> <p>Cars have been seen violating the Colme Street no left turn, whilst pedestrians have been crossing using the green man. The Police have been issuing tickets.</p> <p>WECC discussed the no left turn at Charlotte Street, and the turn at Glenfinlas. Cllr Joanna Mowat (Cllr JM) explained that this has been thoroughly reviewed by CEC and is unlikely to be reviewed.</p>	
<p>5. Neighbourhood Partnership Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>6. Councillors' Report</p> <p>Cllr JM updated WECC on the Roseburn/Leith Walk cycle route. The proposals will be not be discussed at the CEC March Transport Committee, but will be carried over to the next meeting. The consultation has attracted many responses; the Bishops' Walk has been identified as a part of this.</p> <p>Steven Fraser (SF) has been corresponding with CEC regarding road repairs. In August 2014 Graeme Paget at CEC has responded to say that</p>	



<p>the roads mentioned in SF's correspondence will be repaired, and that a checking schedule will be put in place. This is still not in evidence. SF has been reporting paving and roads since the tram corridor was finished. There is a problem with workmanship on many of the recently installed pavements; SF argues that the new pavements have not been well installed, which is causing them to require constant maintenance and repair. The roads need surveyed, and repaired, particularly Shandwick Place.</p> <p>Cllr JM explained that CEC has recognised that some road repairs have not been carried out to the required standard, and there has been a wholesale review of how repairs are carried out, so that ongoing scheduled maintenance will help prevent the serious issues occurring. JM asked who is checking the work, and what is happening with defective work. Cllr JM explained that some the work is a mixture of in-house and framework contractors, and the recourse for defective work is different in each case.</p> <p>Rory O'Riordan (RO) asked about the budget. Cllr JM explained that the budget has been passed and that council tax is frozen for another year.</p> <p>AW asked about city deals. Cllr JW explained that the Edinburgh City Deal is under discussion.</p>	
<p>7. Correspondence</p> <p>Steven Fraser's correspondence has been dealt with under the Councillors' report.</p>	
<p>8.1 Financial Report £404.28 and no outstanding debts.</p>	
<p>8.2 Planning Isabel Thom (IT) presented Planning Convener's report:</p> <p>W of 2 Dewar Place. Ref: 15/05132/PAN Ref: 16/00700/FUL</p> <p>Gordon Wylie (GW) is worried about the detail of the report, and the use of sandstone. Gordon Renton (GR) would like to object on the basis of over-provision of hotels in the area. Martha Baur (MB) felt that an objection could be raised regarding the scale of the development; the density of the neighbouring buildings; on the grounds of parking, and the question of where coaches would stop. GR stated that the site, on the corner of a main artery, is inappropriate and would obstruct traffic. AW expressed support of rejuvenation of a site which has been derelict for 30 years; AW argues the application is comprehensive, and addresses the issue of the demand for hotel accommodation. GR objects to a residential area being developed into a commercial area.</p> <p>SF brought up the UNESCO World Heritage Site status, and the possibility of it being withdrawn due to planning decisions. Cllr JW</p>	



<p>explained that this is not a real threat, whilst planning policy is adhered to.</p> <p>IT asked about the appeal for the Royal High. Cllr JM explained that nothing had come through yet.</p> <p>IT brought up the loss of interiors in listed buildings, particularly B listed buildings. Cllr JM is currently looking a building control in the context of walls being knocked through, she will integrate this concern into this work. AW brought up concern regarding original fireplaces being removed, and on this topic IT asked for better photographs of applications. Cllr JM stated that she was aware of the issue of unclear or unrepresentative photographs, and has raised the question with the planning department.</p> <p>IT notified the WECC that CEC have reduced the powers of Community Councils to present at planning meetings, WECC will now be limited to 5 minutes presentation time.</p> <p>City for all ages advisory group has been acknowledged as influential by the Evaluation Report carried out by EVOC.</p> <p>JM and IT attended the planning support program: "What is permitted development?"</p> <p>IT asked about the number 13 bus, which she has heard is subsidised on 3 month renewable contract, WECC felt that this was an shortsighted way of running the service. Cllr JM agreed that it was a lifeline service, and she was unaware of the arrangements surrounding it.</p>	
<p>8.3 Environment and Transport</p> <p>RO reported that 20 mph speed limits are going ahead. RO left the meeting.</p>	
<p>8.4 Liquor/Gambling Licensing</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>8.5 Civic Licensing</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>9.0 AOCB</p> <p>JM wants to raise the issue of holidays, and whether the WECC is required to meet in the summer months. There will not be a meeting in August.</p>	
<p>10. Date of the next meeting</p> <p>5 April 2016</p>	