

West End Community Council
2nd September 61 Ashfield Melville Street Edinburgh at 7.30 pm
Minutes of Meeting

Present: G. Renton, Jock Miller, Rory O'Riordan, Colin Johnston, Ian Robertson, Martha Baur, Dr. G. Wyllie, Alan Weddell, Isabel Thom,

In attendance: Joanna Mowat, Sgt. Wallace (Police Scotland), Alexander Hamilton, Dr. W. Herbert

Apologies: Marc Biagi, Sarah Boyack, Mark Lazarowicz, Alasdair Rankin, Karen Doran

Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting 1st July approved.

Police Report Sgt. Wallace

Taxi rank outside Haymarket station causing problems backing up into Roseberry Crescent. Taxi drivers will be charged if illegally ranking. Dalry road was suggested as a ranking area but there is no left turn into the station. A number of thefts / house break-ins in the West End about 20 per month. Cycling on pavements seen as a problem. May be due to the inflexibility of routes where desire lines of cyclists do not coincide with traffic flows. Joanna Mowat in response to the tram crash question was caused by a cyclist on the pavement going into the road and the bus had to take avoiding action. More flexibility required when accidents happen to keep traffic flowing. G. Renton asked the police officer if extra provision of police resources were required to tackle late licences and detract from normal duties. Ian Robertson suggested co-operation between WECC and Police for dissemination of information to the community.

Neighbourhood Partnership

Isabel Thom suggested that several grants were available for funding small improvements in the area pavements etc.

Councillor Report: Joanna Mowat

Joanna Mowat asked for questions from the floor. Question about traffic in Hope Street now access from Charlotte Square is to be implemented to a two way system. Traffic to be reversed on Young Street. Questions raised about poor quality of refurbishment of Atholl Crescent and Coates Crescent re-turfing abandoned for reseeded three trees have died and seats seen to be in the wrong place. Alan Weddell asked about the felled Elm tree was it to be turned into wooden benches as promised. Dr Herbert asked about plaque for Gladstone monument opposed by Colin Johnston. Further consultation to be sought before completion. Isabel Thom raised issue of lack of toilet facilities at the West End this was seen as a failure of the council. Bench at Haymarket in the past was sponsored by the WECC what had happened to it. G. Renton asked to investigate. Delays to passengers at Haymarket Station during football and rugby matches. Objection raised about A boards on West Maitland Street blanket ban requested by members on safety and convenience grounds.

Alan Weddell talked about rubbish collection problems J Mowat was well aware of the problems but proving difficult to supervise and get consistent service. Some of the bins crews are doing a very good job temporary staff are more difficult to monitor although this should get better according to new reporting systems at the council as outlined by Ian Robertson.

Correspondence

Planning proposals and general plan version two distributed.

Financial Report: Alan Weddell, Treasurer
£1046.14p balance annual grant received from council.

Planning: Isabel Thom

Representation had been ignored it would appear for a planning application for Devon Place. Joanna Mowat to investigate. Planning approved for conversion of garages in Canning Street Lane to dwelling houses. Garden to parking in Coates Place refused Dr. Herbert thanked the WECC for its support.

Planning objections due in by 12th September concerning design of Haymarket development. Street Development meeting attended by Isabel Thom. Development of Skyparks at 64 Morrison Street no objection as the current building is not being used.

Objections to Palmerston Place change of use from flat to holiday lets.

G Renton said we should have a policy to oppose holiday flats and party lets which disrupt residents amenity.

Several objections lodged to the planning proposal at 31 Lothian Road.

Dr Herbert raised objection to redesign of car parking behind Manor Place Joanna Mowat will insist works sticks to original plan.

Communications: Jock Miller

New Website will go live 3rd September.

Environment & Transport: Rory O'Riordan

Traffic pollution increasing on Slateford Road and South Bridge.

Tram discussion on capacity based on anecdote figures should be available soon on capacity.

Liquor/Gambling Licensing: Alan Weddell

Nothing to report.

Civic Licensing: Jock

Nothing to report.

AOCB

Alan Weddell asked about works priority for pavements etc. Tar replacing stones.

Gordon Renton asked about what sort of vision we would like for our part of the city. It was agreed to raise this on our website which should be the start of a more general discussion. Alexander Hamilton wanted to see Atholl Crescent as a site for a plinth which would promote art galleries etc. Joanna Mowat thought more visitors should come to the West End as it is a city centre. Dr Herbert reflected on days gone past as a city centre it had been dour but was now perhaps a bit too active for residential comfort. Ian Robertson suggested a wider discussion and agreed by others. Outdoor seating seems to appear without consultation which questions why city officers attend our meetings and talk about consultation.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th October