

West End Community Council
5 May at Ashfield 61 Melville Street Edinburgh at 7:30pm
Minutes of Meeting

Present: Jock Miler (Chair), Alan Weddell, Isabel Thom, Colin Johnston, Rory O’Riordan, Gordon Renton, Martha Baur, Ian Robertson,
In Attendance: Cameron Buchanan MSP, Cllr. Joanna Mowat, Dr Herbert, Alex Hamilton, Sophie Cogle (minutes)

1. Apologies:

Dr. Gordon Wyllie, Marco Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Mark Lazarowicz MP, Cllr. Alasdair Rankin, Cllr. Karen Doran,

2. Previous Minutes:

There were several mistakes found in the minutes of meeting 7 April. **Action** Jock Miler to amend.

3. Matters Arising:

Following on from the report of a restriction at Haymarket station, Joanna has notified to officers but is yet to have a response. She also advised that she had heard nothing from Tiger Developments from her queries on toilet provision. **Action** Joanna Mowat. Joanna has had an interim update regarding taxi’s at Haymarket Terrace. **Action** Joanna Mowat

Discussion over the imminent move of the bus stop by Rosebury Crescent. We agreed that the position of the current bus stop is ideal and it was also noted that JC Decaux have taken over the advertising contract for all bus stops in Edinburgh and carrying out a bus stop replacement scheme.

Colin Renton advised that he witnessed a women riding a bicycle at high speed by Haymarket station and as she hit the tram tracks, fell off her bicycle. As per the police report, this area will continue to monitored. Isabel informed us that Spokes are carrying out an education programme for cyclists when dealing with tram tracks.

Jock has not heard from the West End Association regarding the CCTV points. **Action** Ian Robertson to look out alternative email address to pass to Jock.

The building at Torphichen Street was discussed. We noted our frustration as our view and voice was not taken into account and no restrictions were put in place. This is an example where buildings have crept up, width and depth and it was too late to action anything.

King’s Stable Road –we were heavily involved 5/6 years ago, but we have not received an invitation this time round despite other counsels being spoken with. **Action** Joanna to investigate and ask to contact the WECC.

Cameron Buchanan had a response from Lesley Hinds about the issue of cutting the corner into Torphichen Street and North Charlotte Street turning left into Colme Street. There were safety concerns and the report

recommends the opening of Hope Street to all traffic westbound, providing an alternative to northbound traffic. This report also deals with the opening to the left turn into Colme Street. It was noted the increase of traffic of c.4000 cars, on to a hugely residential area.

Isabel reported back on sound proofing policy. Where there is a change of use, there is a opportunity to require sound proofing from traffic. In addition, if a building has floor to ceiling windows above ground level they must have Juliet balcony as a safety measure. Isabel added that this would only need to be implemented if there was a change of use to the building and not just doing work on your own home.

Ian Robertson gave a CPPP update – spoke to Will Garret in Planning who is able to facilitate a brief exercise around The Place Standard in the June session and it was suggested that Ian MacPhail and Katie Swann could also attend. **Action** Ian to organise.

Jock has made contact with Ian Mowat & Bill Cameron from New Town and the Old Towns. There will be a preliminary meeting on 26 May. Jock also informed the committee that the Community Council boundary will not be affected by the changes to the Murrayfield CC boundary.

4. Police Report

None.

5. Neighbourhood Partnership

We have covered this.

6. Councillor's Report

Cameron Buchanan reported that things have been quiet at Holyrood. The Air Weapons Bill will be coming out in the next few weeks which will mean the licensing of air guns for the person, not the individual gun. Shooting clubs will have a separate licence for the club. Cameron spoke about alcohol licensing and trying to separate sexual entertainment to alcohol licensing. The community empowerment bill has gone through and there have also been a number of debates on recognising Palestine. In addition, there has been a lot of discussion about Green belt and Brown field sites. Are we able to give incentive to build on Brown field sites? The proposal is to reduce planning fees and take out requirement for there to be 25% of affordable housing on brownfield sites.

Joanna Mowat reported that Edinburgh are to obtain 5 more councillors, and that although the internal boundaries will change but the boundaries of the local authorities will stay the same. This will go to public consultation in June. Joanna mentioned discussions on the local development plan and where housing will go for next 10-15 years. Areas mentioned were Burdiehouse, Mayfield, Maybury and associated transport infrastructure that is required to service these areas. **Action** Joanna to report back.

7. Correspondence

Timothy Horn wrote in to say he had not been getting far with the council regarding the Shandwick place and Princes Street pavement.

Action Joanna will forward the response she has had to Jock. There is a delay as longer term plans are being looked at with a more holistic approach.

Gordon Renton would like to minute a vote of thanks to our Councillor's for the pavement that has been laid in Torphichen Street.

8. Reports from Conveners

Financial Report: Alan Weddell, Treasurer
£345.31 in the bank with no outstanding bills.

Planning: Isabel Thom

Donaldson's School – Isabel spoke with case officer, there are several things we might be interested in when planning application comes forward: use of chapel, gated community, lighting, parking allowance and the routing of traffic.

Isabel attended a meeting for the City for All Ages and a preliminary meeting for the Voluntary Sector Forum. Isabel to attend the next meeting on 10 June and see if there is a need for the CC to be represented in this forum.

Isabel summarised a new planning application for 1 Lothian Road – St John the Evangelist church hall. **Action** community councillors to look up the planning application and report back to Isabel with comments.

Communications and Publicity: Jock Miler
None.

Environment and Transport: Rory O'Riordan

In response to an article which Colin Johnston presented about fly postering, Joanna explained the situation around the low level contract which was put in place about 6/7 yrs ago. Joanna has asked that this contract is looked at again and reviewed.

Alex brought up the subject of trade waste. Plastic bags are being attacked by seagulls and leave the area a complete disgrace with Biffa and William Tracey being two obvious culprits. Large containers for trade waste are no longer to be in use. Examples were given about businesses using residential bins and we were reminded to report these incidents. Joanna reported that by the end of the summer a new scheme should be in place.

Colin asked what the weekly running figures of trams to airport and what are the receipts. He also noted an interest in the % of use from Edinburgh airport using the tram. Joanna reported that figures are not publically available due to confidentiality. An annual report will be produced shortly and some information will be available to the public. Joanna remarked that due to higher level of use we are better off than the forecast figures. Gordon has also mentioned these points on Colin's behalf to Councillor Rankin who will try and get an answer.

Isabel reported that Cycle Network will be having another meeting shortly. They will be looking at Melville Street and the Dundas Street statue and what to do about improving, environment and circulation of traffic. **Action** Isabel will report back.

Rory mentioned the increase in bus fares. Single fare remains the same but the day ticket has gone up from £3.50 to £4 which he feels is a considerable increase, however we recognise the fare has not gone up over last few years.

Rory also enquired as to who is surveying the City and why? **Action** Joanna to find out and report back.

Jock spoke about Haymarket station and that an investigation is being carried out after a fatality at Waverly. The Infrastructure and Capital Structure committee has set up a survey: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/haymarket
Jock spoke about setting up a visit at Haymarket station for the committee..
Action Jock will look into setting this up.

Liquor/Gambling Licensing: Alan Weddell

Alan reported about the Weatherspoons pub on Lothian Road has now got a planning consent. There was some discussion on the concentration of public houses on Lothian Road and if this was having a detrimental effect on Edinburgh..

Civic Licensing: Jock Miler

None.

9. AOCB

Alex has been perusing an answer on the West End fountain with Cllr. Rankin. After 2 independent reports, there was a quote for £1.5M to restore. We agree that it will take a private appeal or subject to an application for a Lottery or Heritage funding to go ahead.

Isabel mentioned an election leaflet by a major Westminster party containing a picture of a community councillor supporting this candidate. Isabel called the council and no action will be taken in this case, but Edinburgh council would send out reminders to every CC that this should not happen.

Alan asked that it be recorded thanks to the councillors for getting the City council to paint the railings of West Princes Street Gardens.

Jock will report on the old constitution and new constitution at the next meeting. **Action** Jock Miller

Jock has donated 'The Donaldson Area – a brief history', to library here.

Ian Robertson reported that as the chair of Edinburgh branch of St John's charity he has donated 4 defibrillators into Waverley station, next will be Haymarket. Full training to staff has been given.

10. Date of next meeting: 2 June 2015