

West End Community Council

7 July 2015 at Ashfield, 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh

Present: Jock Miller (Chair), Alan Weddell, Isabel Thom, Rory O’Riordan, Gordon Renton, Ian Robertson, Gordon Wylie.

In attendance: Deirdre McCarthy (JLL Planning Consultants), Andrew McParland (Parlison Properties), Alex Hamilton, Steven Fraser, PC Susan Purnell, PC Grant Saunders, Naomi Rayner (minutes).

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Apologies and welcome Deidre Brock MP, Cameron Buchanan MSP, Marco Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cllr. Alasdair Rankin, Cllr. Karen Doran, Cllr. Joanna Mowat, Martha Baur, Colin Johnston.</p>	
<p>Andrew McParland (AM) outlined recent developments. Highlighted that community engagement activities. Tollcross CC has supported the application Capital Square Office Proposals: the site is currently a disused car park owned by CEC, other portions of the site belong to Hermes Investment Managers and Sheraton.</p> <p>Proposal is public car park in basement access off Western approach road, and Grade A* offices above car park.</p> <p>Changes have been made to top two floors to answer planners concerns regarding the “glimpsed view” of the building from Festival Square. Building now “stepped back” on top two floors; material changed to create a more “light-weight” look; frontage has been made more “regular” and so as to seem a continuation of Edinburgh One. AM showed plans including a computer generated view comparing the two plans. AM confirmed that the changes entailed a sacrifice in rentable space in order to reduce impact. Public Car Park has also been altered to allow pedestrian access from Conference Square to Festival Square and to give a pedestrian entrance to the public car park from Festival Square. Offices will have route onto Chuckie Pend and from there onto city centre. Link from EICC to food and beverage outlets at Sheraton Hotel. Development will have Breeam Excellent rating; though much the building is glazed the design allows for shading; solar panels on roof; car park to have electric parking points and 98 lockable cycle spaces and a suite of showers. A new staircase will lead to Chuckie Pend, increasing footfall to the area. AM confirmed that no client will commit until planning consent is given. Car park will be let out to a car park operator. AM confirmed that if planning were granted on 29th July, there would be 6 months of tender and design before work could commence.</p> <p>WECC committee was generally favourable to the proposals and expressed thanks to AM coming to speak to the committee. AM and DM left meeting.</p>	<p>Isabel Thom (IT) to email Colin Bryons the planner to confirm that the WECC are comfortable with the plans.</p>
<p>2. Minutes of meetings held on 5 May and 2 June 2015 The committee approved the minutes of 5th May and 2nd June.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising <u>5th May</u> 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.</p>	<p>Since no councilor was present at the meeting JM to contact those with action</p>

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.

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.

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

2nd June

Question came up on umbrellas outside The Caledonian. Iain confirmed that the umbrellas do have planning permission, albeit temporary which all forms part of the report. **Action** Iain MacPhail to send the community council the planning permission around this.

Colin asked Iain about the whereabouts of the Sinclair Fountain which was formally in the West End before it was dismantled. Colin asked if it was in council storage. **Action** Iain MacPhail to find out about this.

Hamish addressed Iain on behalf of the business community. They understand the delays, the problem isn't that not that Atholl Crescent/Coates Crescent gardens hasn't been achieved yet, albeit disappointing, but that the consultation hasn't taken place. Certainly the businesses want to put feedback in so hopefully we are signing off on the plan and know what the budget is. They asked for a date when a document will be delivered where we have all agreed what we want to happen there. The businesses were looking to be involved and maybe even to try and contribute but nothing has happened to date. **Action** Iain Phail to pick it up with Fiona Rankin from the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust as they are the lead partner on this project.

Gordon Renton asked about the long term plan from West End from a council point of view. Iain reported that a lot of it will be starting with the public spaces manifesto - the key public spaces. In response to this, Hamish had a meeting with Cllr Steve Cardownie and Cllr Frank Ross who reported that they saw the West end of Edinburgh having a strong bar/café area and compared it to the West End of London. The business community expressed concern – it was felt this was neither not good for the community or for business. Iain was in agreement. Hamish is waiting to hear back from them both. **Action** Iain MacPhail will bring this to Cllr Steve Cardownie's and Cllr Frank Ross's attention he recognises that we all need to work in partnership if we are going to be successful. There has got to be a balance.

points to enquire as to progress.

<p>Anna reported that there is also a role for community councils in informing licensing policy and licensing decisions. She has witnessed significant input from community councils and from individual community groups, police and health to the licensing board both about the statement of licensing policy over a subsequent 3 year period and on individual applications and so far they have had very little impact on the decisions made by the committee, however, the Scottish Government legislation is coming in making the need to consult much more significant and part of the statutory process. 18 months ago they did a lot of ground work with health and police on getting the data that demonstrated shelf meters of alcohol availability and impact on communities, alcohol late licensing and licensing hours. Anna is going through this process with Leith and we will come to move onto the City centre and they would love our input. Action Anna Herriman to send some alcohol profiles for this area.</p>	
<p>4. Police Report Susan Purnell (SP) explained Police Scotland community role is being more specifically defined. SP and Grant Saunders (GS) are now the officers for the City Centre electoral ward. This may still be subject to change but aim is to provide consistency. WECC expressed approval for a move to more consistency. SP outlined that there has been a pattern of motorbike theft, during office hours and also of tourists' touring bikes. GS stated police are not allowed to pursue motorbikes. There have been 9 house break-ins since May, which is slightly up from previous years, but no business premises break-ins. The wider Edinburgh area has seen more break-ins generally, especially in more suburban areas. 20 extra officers will be brought in to assist with the policing of the festival. Licenses will be extended for the festival and there will be extra police on hand to deal with this. GW enquired about rumours of the West End police station closing. SP and GS explained rumours run, but that they know of no such intention. SP explained West End station is still busy. RO asked about premises with outdoor seating: is alcohol permitted on the chairs outside? PS explained that street licenses are granted to premises with outdoor seating, and that these should be displayed on the premises. Drinking in public places is prohibited by byelaw but the Edinburgh guidance links the policing of this to disorder, and officers aim to apply common sense. Shona Fleming is the licensing officer, and could be invited to a meeting. RO asked about disturbances in flats. SP explained that it is always possible to call the police for matters of breach of the peace. JM asked why CCTV cameras have not been reinstated following the tram works. SP explained that the council are responsible for CCTV camera installation. IT asked if rumours of high-end cars being stolen had any basis. SP said she wasn't specifically aware of this. SF asked about the enforcement of the forthcoming 20mph limit. GR wondered if these signs were for guidance or statutory. RO confirmed that the council had stated that the new speed limits would be statutory.</p>	<p>JM will write to City Councillors to ask for the reinstatement of the CCTV cameras which were taken down during the tram works.</p>
<p>5. Neighbourhood Partnership Nothing significant to report.</p>	

<p>6. Councillor's Report No councillor present. IR updated the committee briefly on the upcoming changes to the directorship of the City of Edinburgh Council.</p>	
<p>7. Correspondence Jock Miller JM presented an interview from Elvira Torres of City of Edinburgh Council who is researching community capacity building objectives including the potential impact of the integration of the public health function at a community level. WECC briefly discussed the contents of the interview.</p>	<p>JM to email the interview to WECC members for comment, collate responses from members and respond on behalf of WECC.</p>
<p>8. Reports from Conveners</p>	
<p>8.1 Financial Report Alan Weddell £315.31 and no outstanding debts.</p>	
<p>8.2 Planning Isabel Thom</p> <p>1. Consultations Ref: 15/00090/PAN; Ref: 15/02593/LBC; Ref: 15/02641/LBC/42/FUL. Donaldson's School. Plans approved by WECC. Ref: 10/02373/FUL The Haymarket – new PAN being lodged. There will be a public consultation on 20 August. GR stated WECC were promised monthly update, which we have not received. IT explained application still at PAN stage. WECC will have to wait to receive full application in order to comment. Ref: 15/02892/PPP. Springside, Fountainbridge. Alan expressed that WECC is still supportive. They have taken on comments. Still issues with the third phase, but this is not the subject of the current plans so any objection will have to be made later. Ref: 15/00322/FUL. 62 Morrison Street – WECC are generally supportive. Ref: 15/01936/PAN. King's Stables Road. Still in PAN stage, therefore no design just overview. Retaining central pathway and tenement. Retail and food outlet, plus housing in tenement. Some concern has been expressed regarding more managed student properties in the area. The arts space is less prominent. PAN is closed for comment; WECC must wait for full application for more detailed plans.</p> <p>2. Major Applications. 14/04512/FUL. 59,60 Belford Road. Revisions imminent. Concerns expressed re height have apparently been addressed. WECC will wait to see new plans.</p> <p>3. Local Applications 13/04867/FUL/LBC. 37 Palmerston Place. We have sent in representations. Nothing further to report. 15/01839/LBC. 1 Lothian Road. Application has been granted.</p> <p>4. Minor Ref: 15/02646/LBC/FUL 142 – 144 Princes Street. IT called attention to the rear elevation. WECC will not act. Ref: 15/02148/FUL 5 Sunbury Place. IT queried the use of artificial grass in conservation area. WECC will not pursue.</p>	<p>IT to put in a supportive submission for Springside.</p> <p>IT to review the Starbucks application at 1A Haymarket Terrace.</p>

<p>Ref: 15/02873/LBC 10A Queensferry Street. Listed Building Consent (LBC). WECC cannot object on loss of family housing due to the plan being LBC and not full plan. GR expressed concerns about the flat being turned into "Party Flat." WECC will have to wait until a full application comes forward in order to act.</p> <p>Ref: 15/02650/FUL 1 Palmerston Place. Not a concern.</p> <p>Cycle Network – IT attended the Cycle Network meeting. They were looking at the Melville Street part of route, seeking solutions to the problems of parking, traffic flow, how to navigate past statue. All suggestions will be looked at by City of Edinburgh Transport Team along with Aitkins consultancy team.</p> <p>IT attended a meeting for the Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland. Main Issues Report being launched in the upcoming weeks. This will be the time for comments. The main question how will the area cope with the expected increase of population. IT outlined the overview of the SES plan and the issues facing the region. Consultation will be closed by the end of August.</p> <p>City for all ages – Edinburgh Trusted Traders scheme for the elderly provides Police Scotland vetted traders. IT distributed <i>Preventing loneliness and social deprivation for older people</i></p>	<p>Jock Miller to send SES plan to WECC members.</p>
<p>8.3 Communications and Publicity Jock Miller: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>8.4 Environment and Transport Rory O’Riordan</p> <p>WECC has been approached by a group of residents wanting the WECC to send a letter to a neighbour who is drying their washing in the street, which they feel is unsightly. WECC general feeling is that this is a matter for the residents to address between themselves.</p> <p>RO reports that bus drivers are upset about the slowness of the traffic due to trams.</p> <p>Alan reported problems with communal bins and rubbish uptake. The communal bins have been badly installed. WECC agreed that it is up to residents to contact council.</p> <p>GR presented photos litter in the West End due to overflowing bins. SF has written in the past to Leslie Hinds re the overflowing bins and paving stones with some success.</p> <p>RO asked for it to be minuted that the WECC enquired when the trams inquiry is expected to be reported.</p>	<p>Gordon Renton to provide .jpeg files to JM in order to forward them to City Council. Pictures to be time and date stamped. JM will forward images to City Council.</p>
<p>8.5 Liquor/Gambling Licensing Alan Weddell</p> <p>GR stated that an application has been submitted for 7 day 9am – 12am license for 24-28 Torphichen Street for a hotel changing to pub with. Residents are upset and looking for WECC to register an objection.</p>	<p>AW to review application.</p>
<p>8.6 Civic Licensing Jock Miller: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>9.0 AOCB – Constitution</p> <p>JM presented the constitution. WECC members were generally supportive. It was noted that it will be necessary to backdate the AGM</p>	<p>September meeting to be AGM.</p>

<p>and financial report to come in line with the dates specified the in constitution. The constitution was approved and signed.</p> <p>GR on behalf of John Herbert. GR distributed leaflet of information placed on Gladstone Statue at Atholl Crescent. WECC should be proactive and seek funding to have a sign placed with information about the statue. IR suggested this be tied into heritage trail to tie into the map. GW suggested we could apply to Central Neighbourhood partnership for a grant.</p> <p>Alan brought up <i>Meet the WestEnders</i>. The WECC felt it was a shame that the WECC was not consulted and a missed opportunity.</p> <p>GR brought to the CC's attention that businesses in Edinburgh's West End have voted in favour of creating a Business Improvement District, which has been successful. He warned of the possible conflict between business and residential interests.</p>	<p>JM Neighbourhood partnership will be invited to meeting in September to discuss Gladstone statue.</p> <p>JM on behalf of WECC should write to Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and cc Council to express disappointment the WECC was not consulted and to invite them to a meeting.</p>
<p>10. Date of the next meeting Jock Miller: 4th August meeting will be the walkabout. Meeting outside 61 Melville Street. Haymarket Station visit on the 1st September.</p>	