

West End Community Council

1 September 2015 at Ashfield, 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh

Present: Jock Miller (Chair), Alan Weddell, Isabel Thom, Gordon Renton, Ian Robertson, Colin Johnstone, Martha Baur

In attendance: Cllr. Alasdair Rankin, Hal Osler (Inverleith & Stockbridge CC), Katie Swann (Neighbourhood Partnerships), David Perry (Dean Village Association), Dick Fowles, Dr Herbert, Constable David Scott, PC Leo Baker, Naomi Rayner (minutes).

| Discussion | Action |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Apologies and welcome Apologies were received from Marco Biagi MSP, Cameron Buchanan, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cllr. Karen Doran, Cllr. Joanna Mowat, Gordon Wylie, Rory O’Riordan</p> | |
| <p>2. Minutes of meetings held on 7 July 2015 and Notes from the 4th August: Accepted.</p> | |
| <p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p><u>5th May</u> King’s Stable Road Action Joanna to investigate and ask to contact the WECC.</p> <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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Rory also enquired as to who is surveying the City and why? Action Joanna to find out and report back.</p> <p><u>2nd June</u> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>NOTE: None of the people with actions from the 5th May or 2nd June being present, all actions from these dates were carried forward.</p> |



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.

Anna reported that there is also a role for community councils in informing licensing policy and licensing decisions. **Action** Anna Herriman to send some alcohol profiles for this area.

7 July 2015

*Isabel Thom (IT) to email Colin Bryons the planner to confirm that the WECC are comfortable with the plans. - **Complete***

JM will write to City Councillors to ask for the reinstatement of the CCTV cameras which were taken down during the tram works.

*JM reported that CCTV is being reviewed by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), and the issue will be looked at following the review. - **Complete***

*JM to email the interview to WECC members for comment, collate responses from members and respond on behalf of WECC. - **Complete***

*IT to put in a supportive submission for Springside. - **Complete***

*IT to review the Starbucks application at 1A Haymarket Terrace. – **Complete – no further action.***

*Jock Miller to send SES plan to WECC members. - **Complete***



| | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>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. - Complete</i></p> <p><i>Alan Weddell to review Liquor Licence application for 24-28 Torphichen Street. AW reported that the licence is quite restrictive, and there will be no parties or music. Complete - no further action.</i></p> <p><i>September meeting to be AGM. – Postponed until October.</i></p> <p><i>JM Neighbourhood partnership will be invited to meeting in September to discuss Gladstone statue. - Complete</i></p> <p><i>JM on behalf of WECC should write to Edinburgh World Heritage Trust (EHWT) and cc CEC to express disappointment the WECC was not consulted and to invite them to a meeting. - JM wrote to the EWHT, WECC will be informed at the next update of Westenders. - Complete</i></p> | |
| <p>4. Police Report</p> <p>PC Leo Baker (LB) and Constable David Scott (DS) reported that a male has been arrested for 47 house break-ins in the area. The crime statistics for July showed no usual trends. In response to a query, LB stated that West End Police Station front desk is open 8am – 4pm. A phone box allows you to dial through to members of staff at all times.</p> <p>Gordon Renton (GR) reported repeated abuse of the blue badge system in the area. LB explained a specific department within the CEC deal this and the police only support this department. It is possible to notify the police of blue badge abuse via email.</p> <p>LB and DS left the meeting</p> | |
| <p>5. Neighbourhood Partnership</p> <p>A group called ARTWESTART is proposing an art trail through the West End, encompassing the Gladstone monument. The general view of WECC is that signage might encourage people to further explore the West End and encourage footfall in local shops. Katie Swann (KS) suggested the Community Arts Fund, where you can apply for grant of up to £5000. As this would be insufficient KS suggested working with EWHT or another body. The Neighbourhood Partnerships board would not be actively involved with the plans. KS suggested a briefing document as a first step.</p> <p>Dr. Herbert stated that the “Alight here for the Gallery of Modern Art” have been removed from Haymarket Station and not replaced.</p> <p>Isabel Thom (IT) brought up the hoarding at 5 Belford Road which is</p> | <p>JM to write to KS with further details of the ARTWESTART proposals.</p> <p>JM to enquire at Haymarket visit regarding signs for “Alight here for the Gallery of Modern Art.”</p> <p>IT to send Public</p> |



| | |
|---|---|
| <p>owned by Scottish Caledonian Trust (SCT). There is a proposal to display art on the hoarding. SCT have indicated that they would support the suggestion. There would need to be a supervisory body to ensure that the content of the art was suitable and to coordinate painters.</p> <p>Colin Johnstone (CJ): A decorative bench has been removed from Haymarket Station. CJ suggested it could be relocated in the area.</p> | <p>art for social spaces briefing to KS.</p> <p>IT to approach network rail regarding the bench.</p> |
| <p>6. Councillor's Report Councillor Alasdair Rankin (AR) presented the following report: City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has a new Chief Executive, Andrew Kerr, as of 27 July. The next Draft CEC budget will go out for public consultation at the end of September and run through to mid-December. A number of measures to be introduced to redistribute funds. Community Council will be able to respond as a council, as will individual residents. CEC has signed a new ICT contract with CGI, for IT, broadband and schools' IT. The aim is that 190 services will be online. Will mean savings of c. £6m/year. CEC moving to more up to date and extensive CCTV system, possibly digital. Estimated cost £2m. Contract to be signed in 2016. AR stated that he was not aware of plans to increase tram and bus fares before April.</p> | |
| <p>7. Correspondence An email received from Linda Wilson regarding the reinstatement of yellow lines in Magdala Crescent and Coates Gardens. The lines had been obscured during road works. Bryan Mackie of CEC responded that this is a high priority. Karen Blair at CEC also replied, stating that she chase of the timeframe for the works.</p> | |
| <p>8.1 Financial Report £755.02 grant received from CEC. £888.33 and no outstanding debts.</p> | |
| <p>8.2 Planning IT presented Planning Convener's report.</p> <p>15/03781/LBC & 15/03780/FUL Donaldson's School – new application 18th September for response.</p> <p>15/03314/PAN. The Haymarket, 189 Morrison Street. Approved. Objection to increase height by 1 foot and set back. Change of use implies new ceiling heights. IT noted there are no landscaping plans.</p> <p>15/02873/LBC 10A Queensferry Street. Granted under LBC. Now submitted as full plan under change of use to 6 bed HMO. WECC object to the loss of 2 family houses.</p> | <p>WECC to send comments on Donaldson's School to IT.</p> <p>IT to submit comments on The Haymarket.</p> <p>IT to object to 10A Queensferry St.</p> |



| | |
|--|---|
| <p>15/03596/FUL 9 Shandwick Place. WECC concerned re fixed parasol seating at the restaurant.</p> | <p>IT to submit comment on 9 Shandwick Place.</p> |
| <p>15/03620/LBC 8-12 Torphichen Street. WECC object to the sub division of rooms, due to the destruction of cornicing and to the painting of wood.</p> | <p>IT to submit objection to 8-12 Torphichen St.</p> |
| <p>15/03681/FUL/LBC - 10 Chester Street. WECC agreed it is worth looking closer at the plans.</p> | <p>IT to investigate 10 Chester St.</p> |
| <p>SES Plan IT presented the SES plan. There is an online survey for residents and Community Council's to submit comments. Hal Osler commented that alternatives can be suggested to the options given.</p> | <p>WECC to submit comments to IT on SES plan by 27 September.</p> |
| <p>Enforcement Boyd's Building, Queensferry No information yet received</p> | <p>Boyd's Building carried forward.</p> |
| <p>Public Realm George Street public realm street review was the 13 August. IT represented the general view of WECC: that the George Street tents and flower beds detract from the city scape. WECC agreed the need to coordinate the community councils, and their representation at this sort of event. AR stated that the tents at George Street will be taken away.</p> | <p>WECC to send comments on Royal High to IT.</p> |
| <p>The Royal High Plans are expected imminently, comments may be needed before next WECC meeting.</p> | |
| <p>City for all ages IT distributed leaflets from Scottish Older People's Associate and Action for Elder abuse.</p> | |
| <p>8.3 Communications and Publicity Nothing to report.</p> | |
| <p>8.4 Environment and Transport David Perry (DP) presented information about the hydro scheme in the Dean Valley. WECC is supportive.</p> | <p>DP to report back to Dean Valley Association.</p> |
| <p>8.5 Liquor/Gambling Licensing Nothing to report.</p> | |
| <p>8.6 Civic Licensing It was raised that 28 Douglas Crescent has applied for new 5 bed HMO. Has been operating as HMO for sometime; occasionally been troublesome for the families beneath. Notice on the lamppost. Comment required by 2 September.</p> | <p>JM to send an email to convener of the Regulatory Committee, MSP Gavin Barrie.</p> |
| <p>9.0 AOCB Visit to Haymarket Station - will be postponed until the 3 November.</p> | |



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Donaldson's Area Association will be joining the WECC.</p> <p>JM met with David Wood, Planning & Policy Manager, Planning Aid Scotland who may be able to help us with the Art Trail.</p> <p>GR approached by Tollcross CC, looking to coordinate activity between several of the community councils.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: JM circulated email to WECC members and has responded to Liz Summerfield indicating his support for the objectives set out in her mail. He also pointed out to her that this was already the case with certain planning applications e.g. Fountainbridge.</i></p> | |
| <p>10. Date of the next meeting 6 October 2015 7.30pm at Ashford. Melville Street.</p> | |