

## West End Community Council

6 October 2015 at Ashfield, 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh

Present: Jock Miller (Chair), Alan Weddell, Isabel Thom, Gordon Renton, Gordon Wylie, Colin Johnston, Martha Baur, Rory O’Riordan

In attendance: Cllr. Joanna Mowat, Dierdre McCarthy (JLL), Michael Kelmon (J A Leaske Architects), Dr. Herbert, Naomi Rayner (minutes).

Discussion	Action
<p><b>1. Apologies and welcome</b> Apologies were received from Marco Biagi MSP, Cameron Buchanan, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cllr. Alasdair Rankin, Cllr. Karen Doran, Ian Robertson, Alexander Hamilton</p>	
<p><b>Matter Arising taken at 7.30pm</b> Dierdre McCarthy (DM) outlined the proposals for the Charlotte Chapel on Rose Street– 22 rooms serviced accommodation on the upper floors, and 188 cover restaurant space on the ground floor, with a 46 cover basement bar. Michael Kelman distributed the planning application pack for the chapel. The alterations will have little effect on the external features of the building, beyond minimal signage. Restaurant is to be high end steak restaurant. Rooms to be operated by Carlton Hotel Division. WECC are generally supportive, as long as the standard promised will be delivered.  Colin Johnstone, DM and MJ left the meeting</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of meetings held on 1 September 2015</b> Accepted.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b>  <u>2<sup>nd</sup> 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. <b>Action</b> 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. <b>Action</b> 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. <b>Action</b></p>	<p>Note: Iain MacPhail has not been available. Jock Miller (JM) to chase.</p>



Iain MacPhail 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<sup>th</sup> July

*September meeting to be AGM. – Postponed until November now that visit to Haymarket Station has been postponed.*

1 September 2015

JM to write to KS with further details of the ARTWESTART proposals. **JM wrote to KS; no response received. JM to chase. Outstanding.** WECC discussed the proposals. GR suggested a triangular route linking the West end of Princes Street, Haymarket and the North. JM met with a representative of the portrait gallery.

JM to enquire at Haymarket visit regarding signs for “Alight here for the Gallery of Modern Art.” **Outstanding**

IT to send Public art for social spaces briefing to KS. **Completed**

IT to approach network rail regarding the bench. **Completed**

WECC to send comments on Donaldson's School to IT. **Completed**

IT to submit comments on The Haymarket. **Completed**

IT to object to 10A Queensferry St. **Completed**

IT to submit comment on 9 Shandwick Place. **Completed**

IT to submit objection to 8-12 Torphichen St. **Completed**

IT to investigate 10 Chester St. **Completed**



<p>WECC to submit comments to IT on SES plan by 27 September. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Boyd's Building carried forward. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>WECC to send comments on Royal High to IT. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>DP to report back to Dean Valley Association. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>JM to send an email to convener of the Regulatory Committee, MSP Gavin Barrie. <b>Completed</b></p>	
<p><b>4. Police Report</b> No police present.</p>	
<p><b>5. Neighbourhood Partnership</b> Iain Macphail needs to be contacted.</p>	<p>JM to chase.</p>
<p><b>6. Councillor's Report</b> Cllr. Joanna Mowat (Cllr JM) reported:</p> <p>A report will be published in December on the project principals of any redesign of George Street, there will be parking and a new cycle route joining Leith Street to Roseburn. WECC discussed the traffic, and the segregation of cyclists from lorries and vans. Isabel Thom (IT) brought up updates to googlemaps and questioned whether it is possible to update the routes being shown by SatNavs and Google Maps in order to divert traffic from unsuitable roads.</p> <p>Cllr JM reported that City of Edinburgh Council reorganisation will be staged, and drawn out over a longer period of time than previously planned. COSLA have agreed to the addition of 5 more councilors to the CEC.</p> <p>Gordon Renton (GR) brought up HMOs; he suggested that HMOs must employ a cleaner to clean the common stair and tend the common garden. WECC discussed the conditions that can be applied to HMO licences, how these can be enforced and what actions residents need to take if they encounter this problem. Dr Herbert suggested notices for HMO licence should be delivered to individual houses, rather than pinned to lampposts. WECC is supportive of the idea of lobbying for greater HMO contribution to maintenance of the common stair and garden. GR suggested WECC should that the density of HMOs be limited per block. Cllr JM explained that this is not possible within the legislation.</p> <p>The City Centre Council Ward boundaries are going to be enlarged. There is concern that Murrayfield, a suburban and residential area, is to be incorporated with the City Centre.</p>	<p>Cllr JM to investigate whether it is possible to influence the routes on Google Maps.</p> <p>Cllr JM to look for more info regarding conditions on HMOs.</p> <p>WECC to produce a comment regarding HMO common ground maintenance.</p>



<p>A vote of thanks to Cllr JM for dealing with the bins at Coates Gardens.</p> <p>Alan Weddell (AW) has brought up the bins at Magdala/Douglas Crescent, which have not been emptied. There are further unemptied bins at Williams Street.</p> <p>Cllr JM advised that there is now a ReportIt function on the Edinburgh.gov.uk website. AW informed the WECC it is now very difficult to phone through a complaint; you cannot get a direct line telephone number or a name to contact.</p> <p>GR proposed getting rid of the gull bags, which are not working, as they stay in the street all week long. There is a problem of enforcement of the rules for the gull bags.</p> <p>IT raised the problem with the steps from Magdala Crescent down to the Water of Leith. Parking attendants, taxi drivers are using it as a loo.</p>	<p>Cllr JM to chase response as to when Magdala bins will be emptied.</p>
<p><b>7. Correspondence</b></p>	
<p><b>8.1 Financial Report</b> £783.33 and no outstanding debts.</p>	
<p><b>8.2 Planning</b> IT presented Planning Convener's report.</p> <p><b>Royal High School</b> <b>15/03989/FUL; 15/03990/LBC</b> WECC discussed the change of use. The CEC lease to Duddingston is subject to planning permission. There is a long way to go: if planning permission is approved it will go in front of ministers; if it is refused it is likely to be appealed.</p> <p><b>1/20 Douglas Crescent 15/02691/LBC</b> Fireplace and supporting wall removal has been granted. AW questioned whether a change to a principal room have been allowed under a LBC application.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Partnership</b> IT attended the public meeting. Garden History Society presented their project to improve the banks of the Water of Leith.</p> <p><b>Civic Forum</b> IT asked the WECC if they would like to be involved in Comment of the India Building at Victoria Street.</p>	<p>Cllr JM to investigate why change to a principal room have been allowed under a LBC.</p> <p>Jock Miller to contact the chairman of the</p>



	Old Town CC to offer support.
<p><b>8.3 Communications and Publicity</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>8.4 Environment and Transport</b></p> <p>RO brought up the Parking Action Plan, the proposal to change the parking limitations: extending the hours when paid parking would apply into the evening; imposing Sunday parking charges; increasing mixed use spaces. Cllr JM explained that the Plan is still at a consultation stage.</p> <p>AW stated the CEC is not clearing gulleys and blocked drains; with autumn coming this will become a greater problem.</p> <p>IT brought up messy street frontages. JM stated the WECC require photographic proof to complain.</p> <p>AW reported that pedestrians are crossing Princes Street St Johns Church to House of Fraser/McDonalds. An anti-jaywalking fence was removed, and had not been replaced, allowing dangerous crossing.</p>	<p>WECC to complete the online consultation.</p> <p>Cllr JM to contact CEC regarding gully clearance.</p> <p>Cllr JM to investigate why anti-jaywalking fence was removed.</p>
<p><b>8.5 Liquor/Gambling Licensing</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>8.6 Civic Licensing</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>9.0 AOCB</b> IT noted that West End Medical practice visited within 3 hours when she had a urgent medical issue, and that this is a very good level of service.</p>	
<p><b>10. Date of the next meeting</b> 3 November 2015 7.30pm at <b>Ashford. Melville Street.</b></p>	