

West End Community Council

6th June 2016 at Ashfield, 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HL

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

In attendance: Cllr Joanna Mowat, PC Seona Flemming, James Benbow

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Apologies and welcome Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Ruth Davidson MSP, Cllr. Alasdair Rankin, Cllr. Karen Doran, Cllr. Claire Miller, Cameron Buchanan</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of meetings held on 2nd May Were approved.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising CEC will no longer be maintaining stair lights in tenement flats. CEC have stated that residents own the lighting in the stairs. There are still questions around the changes to the stair lighting. Cllr Day that CEC would pay for electricity but owners to maintain.</p> <p>CCTV report to be passed to JM</p> <p>IT asked for an updated list of planners.</p> <p>Cllr Mowat to look at why the Temporary Bus Stop in Queensferry Street is still there.</p> <p>All other matters dealt with.</p>	<p>Cllr AR</p> <p>Cllr JM</p> <p>Cllr JM</p>
<p>4. Police Report This past month your local Policing Team have been..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is gaining pace in relation to our buskers initiative with the details of several person warned having been recorded and the next phase being seizing equipment and reporting persons to the Fiscal. • Vulnerable persons intervention patrols in the early mornings checking on rough sleepers are continuing and persons moved on and signposted to support services. <p>* Funded officers planned and executed an operation with Home Office Immigration Enforcement Officers, regarding an encampment of EA nationals suspected of engaging in criminality, anti-social behaviour and begging across the city. 10 persons were found in the encampment and all were failing to fulfil their obligations regards their treaty rights to remain in the UK. As the conditions they were living in did not meet their expectations from when they travelled to the UK all 10 were grateful for home office assistance and returned to their home country the same day.</p>	



This past month Edinburgh Division has been focussed on..

- Drunk or ASB – Dedicated patrols to deter and detect those committing offences relating to alcohol related crime & ASB. VIP patrols & busker initiative.
- Drug Abuse & drug dealing – joint proactive patrols in ‘hot spot’ areasVIP- rough sleepers patrols
- Road Safety – Unipar checks and Cyclists warned

Good News

- Funded officers were able to identify the suspects for a serious assault in the city centre and subsequently detain said persons through their thorough knowledge of the persons of note residing or rough sleeping in our area.
- During an early morning patrol by funded officers, a male was discovered sleeping rough in the city centre who had been evading capture by Police after being identified as responsible for a serious assault near to St Cuthberts churchyard. Funded officers arrested the male on behalf of CID officers who had been looking for the male.
- Promotion of activities undertaken by funded officers have been tweeted out on social media
- There are currently no licensed premises or nightclubs subject to intervention by licensing and no increase in assaults & violence in the WECC area

Housebreakings

Very few HB’s but those, which have occurred, have targeted basement flats whereby entry has been gained by smashing a window.

Assault

Nothing of concern and mainly assaults are attributed to the nighttime economy, alcohol related & in or near to licensed premises.

Road Safety

Regular unipar checks of 20 mph zones and persons educated accordingly. 1 person issued with ticket re mobile phone offence and one school parking complaint resolved. 6 drivers issued corrective advice regards advance stop line regulations. 8 cyclists warned regarding pavements, red lights and one way street offences.

Theft

Mainly shoplifting by recidivist offenders who have been identified and placed on City Centre Exclusion bans. Motorcycle theft is down however bicycle thefts are still occurring with Haymarket being a repeat locus.

Hate Crime



<p>No increase to Hate Crime, there was one incident in a licensed premises and one at a takeaway but no repeat victims.</p> <p>Anti social Despite the better weather we experienced in May this did not bring about a general rise in ASB, street drinking, or drug taking. Op Penitant officers have been conducting plain clothes patrols in the area. However, Anti-social behaviour has been rising in West Princes Street gardens associated with street drinkers, and increased presence in this area has seen a rise in alcohol seizures. 2 persons issued with tickets for drinking in a public place, and one person charged with possession of a controlled drug.</p> <p><u>Update from last meeting request</u> WECC wish to be updated when the next Taxi Board Meeting is as the Inspector was going to raise the issue of taxi's doing u-turns on Atholl Place and the dangers of this. This was mentioned at the previous WECC meeting. (Can they be emailed with the date)</p>	
<p>5. Neighbourhood Partnership At the meeting of full Council on Thursday 25 May 2017, a motion was agreed to review the structure of committees and to establish four Locality Committees aligned to the four new Locality areas. Following this decision there will be no further Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) meetings.</p>	
<p>6. Councillors' Report Cllr Mowat advised that Cllr Ross was the new Lord Provost. The Council hadn't been formed fully this would be done at Full Council meeting on 29th June.</p>	
<p>7. Correspondence</p> <p>(1) Cycle-link: "James Benbow objected to the City Centre West to East Cycle Link proposal to remove all 5 parking spaces from the west side of Manor Place between Bishops' Walk and Melville St and to make kerbside parking along Melville St, when about 3 parking spaces are permanently in use by the Russian Consulate. In effect, the current proposals result in the loss of 8 parking spaces in a concentrated area. James Benbow further expressed the need for proposals to consider the impact on all stakeholders and for these proposals not to make cycling safer only to potentially endanger life for other stakeholders (particularly families and children at Melville St nursery."</p> <p>(2) Development at 19 William Street South West Lane (17/01337/FUL): "James Benbow asked whether as an owner of the adjoining property and sharing a party-wall, he should have been included in the neighbour notification list (see attached) for this development and asked to be given time to consider the proposed plans. JM agreed to raise the matter with the responsible planning officer, Diana Garrett."</p>	<p>Cllr JM</p>



<p>8. Financial Report There was £449.21 in the bank.</p>	
<p>9. Planning Isabel Thom spoke to her report and drew the meeting's particular attention to a number of matters, including Dewar Place, height and massing JM to invite KW to present to next meeting, 7 Rutland Square to look at HES response and the Enforcement at 29 Eglinton Crescent.</p>	<p>JM</p>
<p>10. AOCB Discussion took place on Airbnb/Sub-letting and to what was happening in other European cities. Changes to rules would have to happen at Scottish Government level.</p>	
<p>11. Date of the next meeting 4th July</p>	

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