

West End Community Council

5th December 2017 at Ashfield, 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HL

Present: Dr G M Wyllie (in the Chair), Alan Weddell (Treasurer), Mrs Isabel Thom (Planning) and Messers Cameron Buchanan, Colin Johnston and Ian Robertson.

In Attendance: Steven Cuthill from Edinburgh City Council, and Police Constables Stuart Foster & Chris Green along with Mrs Simone Olds, Mrs Carmel Richmond, Denis Richmond, and Sam Scott.

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Apologies and welcome Apologies had been received from or on behalf of Community Councillors Jock Miller, Martha Baur and Gordon Renton; Deirdre Brock MP, Ruth Davidson MSP, and City Councillors Karen Doran, Joanna Mowat, Alasdair Rankin, Claire Miller, Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Iain Whyte, and Max Mitchell.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of meetings held on 7 November This was approved subject to noting in the penultimate line of Councillors' Report that the slippery new pavement referred to lies in Eglinton Crescent and not Douglas Crescent.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising There were no Matters Arising other than those on the Agenda.</p>	
<p>4. Police Report Police Constables Foster and Green commenced their Report by relaying the good news that reported incidents requiring police intervention had shown a decline over a four-year period, and since the last Report incidents had occurred as follows:- Housebreakings - One in Alva Street and an attempt in Morrison Street Incidents involving motor-cars - three thefts of contents, two attempts, and an incident of vandalism. No particular trends were currently discernible.</p>	

<p>There would be more plain-clothes patrols and there had been some contact with Christine Jardine MP. In that last connection Simone Olds said that over the period there had been 68 infringements of the new 20mph speed limit in Eglinton Crescent, which statistic she had felt impelled to mention not just to Mrs Jardine but to the local MSPs including Ruth Davidson as part of an overall enforcement issue. The Community Council was advised that while the police authority tries to respond when particular issues arise, this is an area where scarcity of resources is a relevant factor, and that on a longer-term basis public education will be the most effective approach. PC Foster referred to a "citizen-monitoring " anti-speeding scheme being "trialled" in Fife.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed regarding uneven enforcement of parking restrictions, with particular reference to a SVEN white van outside the West End Hotel in Palmerston Place, and the desirability of better arrangements for pedestrian crossings.</p> <p>After answering a number of questions Messers Foster and Green were warmly thanked for their attendance and retired from the meeting.</p>	
<p>5. South East Locality Although Sarah Burns was unable to attend today's meeting it was hoped that she might do so on a future occasion.</p>	
<p>6. Councillors' Report In the absence of the local authority councillors, no report was available.</p>	
<p>7. Correspondence – Works in Haymarket Terrace A long and lively discussion led by Mr Cuthill and Mrs Olds took place concerning the inconvenience and seemingly inadequate planning surrounding the extensive and disruptive works by Scottish Water in Haymarket Terrace and the extent to which statutory provisions might or might not have been complied with. Proximate responsibility anent the diversions was felt to lie with the City Council Traffic Management group although</p>	

<p>responsibility for adequate communication lies with the utility companies.</p> <p>This matter would be discussed further at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>8. Financial Report Treasurer Alan Weddell reported that the funds stood at £891.68.</p>	
<p>9. Planning Planning Convener Isabel Thom spoke to her pre-circulated Report, drawing particular attention to a number of current matters of concern.</p> <p>These included Dewar Place (Exchange 2) ref.17/02227/PPP; 17/02228/LBC; and 17/02229/CON (demolition) submitted by Scottish Power Electricity Networks and C220 (Duddingston House Properties, Catalyst Capital, and Sir Robert McAlpine) anent 2 hotels, an office block, retail, restaurant, pedestrian deck, bridge link; partial demolition of Listed facade; and integration of facade into proposed hotel building: a response had been submitted.</p> <p>Attention was also drawn to 189 Morrison Street Ref. 17/04868/PAN and amendments to 10/02373/FUL and the public exhibition held on 30 November.</p> <p>It was felt that a better response could have been made by David Leslie of the Planning Department to communications from the Community Council and this would be pursued.</p>	
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting The Community Council would meet again on Tuesday 9 January 2018</p>	

This was all the business