

## Committee Minutes

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### **Pentlands Local Development Committee**

**Edinburgh, 26 January 2005**

**Present:-** Councillors Paisley (Convener), Elaine Aitken, Fallon, Henderson, Hunter, Laing, McInnes, Rust and Scobbie.

**Apologies:-** Apologies were received from Councillor Russell.

**In attendance:-** 31 representatives of local groups and individuals from 17 local organisations.

#### **1 Minute**

##### **a) Pentlands Local Development Committee**

The minute of the meeting of the Pentlands Local Development Committee of 3 November 2004 was approved as a correct record.

##### **Matters Arising**

##### **1.1 Traffic Filter at Craiglockhart Avenue/Colinton Road (Item 2) -**

The Committee had agreed, on a motion by Councillor Hunter, that a report be submitted on recent removal of a traffic filter at the junction of Craiglockhart Avenue and Colinton Road.

Councillor Hunter intimated that he was in ongoing discussions with the City Development Department on the circumstances of the withdrawal and on the implications for peak period traffic flows. He also drew attention to a letter from Craiglockhart Community Council on the number of complaints received at the loss of the traffic filter and at the removal of the filter without consultation.

##### **Decision**

The Committee noted the report and agreed to continue the matter to their next meeting for the report by the Director of City Development.

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- 1.2 Number 18 Bus Service (Item 3)** - Communication had been received from Mr Campbell, Operations Director of Lothian Buses, on the withdrawal of the number 18 bus service.

Additional information had been provided on the number 18 service confirming very heavy financial losses as the reason for the withdrawal of the service. Attention having been drawn to discussions with Edinburgh Council on the funding of uneconomic services, Councillor Scobbie confirmed that the issue of subsidy of uneconomic services had been called in to the Environmental Quality Scrutiny Panel and that the issue was the subject of ongoing discussions involving Councillor Elaine Aitken who had brought forward a motion on the matter to Council. The Scrutiny Panel had asked the Director of City Development to report on possible reinstatement of the number 18 service after consideration of the information provided by Lothian Buses on subsidies used on other routes. Councillor Scobbie also indicated that he believed that subsidy of services was one aspect of local transportation policy that could be reviewed at an early date if the Transport Referendum supported the introduction of Congestion Charging.

**Decision**

The report was noted.

- 1.3 Greenbank Road and Lane – Progress of Discussions (Item 5.4)** - Traffic calming works had recently been completed at Greenbank Road and Lane with talks on the effectiveness of the measures planned for the following week. Councillor Paisley indicated that he and Councillor McInnes, as local ward councillor, were involved in the assessment programme with City Development Department and local residents and that a further report on the matter would be forthcoming in due course.

**Decision**

The report was noted.

- 1.4 Local Governance and Local Community Planning (Item 7)** - Norma Cuthbertson, Corporate Services, reported on the outcome of the Focus Group discussions at the Committee's November meeting and confirmed that the comments made had been analysed and the results forwarded for inclusion in the response to the Edinburgh Partnership on the matter.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to receive further reports on the topic in due course.

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- 1.5 Services for Older People (Item 5.3)** - Councillor Fallon outlined progress on the plans for transfer of the Dove Centre to new accommodation and the progress of talks on future funding, expressing satisfaction at recent events and the progress of discussions.

**Decision**

To note the progress of the discussions with the Dove Centre and to instruct that further reports on funding and accommodation issues follow.

(References - minute of meeting of Pentlands Local Development Committee of 3 November 2004 (item 5); report by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

**b) West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership**

The minute of the meeting of the West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership of 2 December 2004 was approved.

## **2 Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Anti-Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 had received Royal Assent on 26 July 2004. A number of provisions of the Act were already being phased in.

**Donald Urquhart, the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Manager**, outlined the current proposals on anti-social behaviour, adding that more people were victims of anti-social behaviour than any other crimes.

The Act specified that the Council and the Police jointly develop a new strategy for dealing with anti-social behaviour. Edinburgh was one of the first cities to have such a strategy. Other parties such as the Health Board and the Fire Brigade would be involved. The Act, which covered anti-social orders, included 12-15 year olds and extended the Council's remit to dealing with behaviour within rented property. It allowed the issuing of dispersal orders, closure orders, parenting orders and restriction orders. There would also be intensive monitoring and electronic tagging was an issue which would require detailed consideration. There would be a scheme for the registration of private landlords to come in later in the year, seizure of vehicles, fixed penalty orders and changes to the Children's Hearing System.

Significantly, of the 37,000 young people in Edinburgh, only 2.3% were known to have offended. The majority of young people were recognised to be unaffected by the provisions of the Act.

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Mr Urquhart was at pains to explain that anti-social behaviour was often misrepresented as a problem associated with the young. In fact, anti-social behaviour took many forms, most of which related to actions of the adult population. The majority of incidents were not serious and could be dealt with by Council staff. Adults initiated most anti-social behaviour, often a result of alcohol or drugs. The consultative aspect was significant as the Act provided various remedies.

**Chief Inspector Brian Muir, Lothian and Borders Police**, reinforced Mr Urquhart's arguments, commenting on the good relationship existing between the Police and Council agencies. He also remarked that the Safer Community Units had received good press. There were four such units at present with two more to be established. The Youth Action Team also carried out useful work. Officers seconded to the Housing Department and the Transport Section gave a real insight into the problems and plans to identify "hot spots". Environmental Wardens and Community Concierges could also contribute to the overall effort to counter anti-social behaviour.

**Tom Munro, Community Fire Safety Manager, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade**, reported on house fires, deliberate fires, and attacks on fire crews. 70% of fires were in the home. As part of UK wide trend, the Fire Brigade was moving its response towards fire prevention. He also reported a worrying high number of fatalities. As part of the new process, there would be a Home Safety Plan, whereby every home would be offered a free fire prevention check. 75% of homes did not have working fire alarms and fire officers would discuss measures and if necessary fit appliances and give advice on what to do. The incidence of secondary fires was also increasing. These included fires in wheelie bins, refuse containers and derelict vehicles.

Physical attacks on fire crews and vehicles had increased markedly in recent years. The Fire Brigade had now initiated the "Cool Down Crews" and the "Phoenix Programme". Both these programmes, which were aimed at working with young people, were explained.

**Gordon Greenhill, Environmental Health Manager**, outlined his department's enforcement strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour. Three areas of domestic noise, litter and graffiti, and the registration of landlords, were discussed. A Night-Time Team would deal with domestic noise out of normal working hours. This would release Police resources to deal with more serious issues. From 1 October 2005, the Team would respond to calls between 8 pm and 4 am, 363 days of the year. The Team would also carry out inspections in pubs and clubs, inspect premises and ensure food safety. There would be joint working with the police. If people did not comply with requests to turn noise down, they could receive a fixed penalty notice and eventually could appear before the Procurator Fiscal. For litter offences, people could receive fixed penalty notices. Additionally, the registration of landlords would come into effect in October 2005 and would incorporate additional fire prevention measures. A helpline had been

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introduced for rented accommodation. In future, officers would also be empowered to report on smoking and health in public houses.

Councillor Paisley thanked the speakers. The elected members and officers then answered questions from those present, providing the following additional information.

- On the issue of youths stealing cars and using them as getaways for house breaking, it was explained that the response would depend on legislation, circumstances and would be predominantly a policing issue.
- Concerns were expressed at suggestions of a reduction in funding in 2006 for Safer Community Units. It was explained that a reduction in Central Government funding was not impossible. This could mean that the funding for the six units across the City could be reduced. This would depend on the outcome of negotiations with the Scottish Executive. If the funding was reduced, it could impact on the number of Police officers in the units. The possibility of reallocating social inclusion funding to the units was also discussed.
- The perceived threat to older people from large groups of young people was discussed. In further exploration of previous remarks on gangs of youths and threatening behaviour, it was stressed that a range of remedies was being considered. It was accepted that large gatherings of young people could appear menacing, however innocent and that there was a need to promote a better understanding within the community of the aspirations of both the young and elderly people.
- In response to a question, Councillor Paisley emphasised that he knew of no plans to oppose further stages of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act. He emphasised however that this situation could be reviewed and that he could give no commitment at this stage to his Group's position until the terms of any future legislation were detailed.
- In respect of complaints against students in residences, Gordon Greenhill explained that, if noise disturbed private residents, action could be expected.
- In respect of allegations of deliberate fire raising at Colinton Dell, it was noted that neither the Police or Fire Board representatives were aware of fire-raising at this location and agreed that the situation would be monitored.
- Further to earlier suggestions on the possibility of reductions in funding for current community policing units in Broomhouse, it was explained that funding was limited and provided for specific purposes.

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- In respect of abandoned cars, it was explained that there was now a fast track procedure for vehicle removal. The process for removal of abandoned vehicles and particularly for removal of burnt out vehicles was discussed.

### **Decision**

To note the presentations made and to express thanks to the contributors for their clear explanation of the position on the response to anti-social behaviour issues.

(Reference - The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004: Part 5, Noise Nuisance – Resolution of Hours).

## **3 Sighthill Health Centre - Hours of Opening**

The Committee, having agreed to receive a report on preliminary assessment of Sighthill Health Centre's reduced hours of opening in light of NHS 24, Dinah Pountain reported that the Centre was not open out of hours, except by appointment.

Gillian Laird, a Broomhouse resident, outlined her experience over the festive period with her sick daughter, whereby in response to a call to NHS 24, the call handler had confirmed the non availability of nursing assistance and suggested that she phone an ambulance. Having eventually made her own way to the hospital, she (Gillian) and her sick child had faced a three-hour delay before being seen, a situation which she described as distressing and a harrowing experience.

### **Decision**

To thank Mrs Laird for her contribution and to request a further report on the incident and on initial experiences of NHS 24.

(Reference - minute of meeting of the Pentlands Local Development Committee 3 November 2004 (item 6))

## **4 Access to Growth Areas - Inglis Green**

Approval was sought for a change to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order for the Inglis Green Road/Slateford Road junction bus priority works, which included replacing the roundabout at Inglis Green with traffic lights. The implications for plans to provide a pedestrian crossing in close proximity to the proposed new junction having been discussed given the need for a safe crossing for school children, it was confirmed that the proposed pedestrian crossing would be unaffected by the traffic light installation.

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**Decision**

To approve the amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order as recommended.

(Reference – report by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

**5 Local Development Committee Community Grants Fund**

Details of applications for grants from the Community Grants Fund were provided with recommendations for awards under the principal headings of Core and Quality of Life funding.

**Decision**

To approve the recommendations shown in Appendix 1 to this minute.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Services dated 14 January 2005, submitted.)

**6 Public Question Time**

Members of the public attending the meeting had been invited to submit questions on matters of local concern. The issues and responses given at the meeting are detailed in Appendix 2 to this minute.

**7 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 16 March 2005 - venue to be decided.

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **PENTLANDS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 26 JANUARY 2005**

#### **Core Funding Applications**

- 1) To award a grant of £4,133 to the Balerno Community Centre Users Committee for the project detailed.
- 2) To award a grant of £4,568 to the Balerno Village Conservation and Development Group for the project detailed.
- 3) To award a grant of £4,538 to the Oxfangs and Firrhill Community Forum for the project detailed.
- 4) To award a grant of £3,236 to the Community Education Service applying on behalf of the South West Edinburgh Community Learning Partnership for the project detailed.
- 5) To award a grant of £3,313 to the Young at Heart group, Balerno for the project detailed.

#### **Quality of Life Funding Applications**

- 6) To continue consideration of an application by the Housing Department in respect of boundary fencing at Riccarton Drive, Currie.
- 7) To award a grant of £775 to the Broomhouse Primary School Board for the project detailed.
- 8) To award a grant of £455 to the Longstone Community Council for the project detailed.

#### **Other Applications**

- 9) To continue consideration of an application by Pentland Panthers Youth Organisation in respect of the purchase of new sports equipment.
- 10) To note and to continue the applications from (a) Friends of the Award in Edinburgh and the Lothians and (b) Broomhouse Representative Council in respect of the projects detailed.
- 11) To approve in principle an award of £5,664 to Altogether in the Park for July 2005 events.

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**APPENDIX 2  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

No	Submitted by	Subject	Decision
1	Keith Bell, Sighthill, Parkhead and Broomhouse Community Council	Refuse collection over the Christmas and New Year period 2005/2006	Answered at meeting by Environmental Health Manager (Gordon Greenhill)
2	Louise Maguire, Fairmilehead Community Council	Removal of car tyres	Response to be given by Environmental Wardens at close of meeting
3	George Lighthouse, Ferniehill Community Council	Household waste collection including frequency of uplift of green bin and brown bin collections	Partial response given- further information to be provided by Environmental Health Manager (Gordon Greenhill)
4	Keith Bell, Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council	Congestion charging and access by the City Bypass to the ERI including possible postponement with the referendum	Answered at meeting
5	Keith Bell, Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council	Use of additional Council Tax revenue in the Pentlands area	Written response to be given by the Director of Finance
6	Andrew Pattison, Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council	Promotion of TROs to legitimise disabled parking bays	Written response to be given by the Director of City Development (Andrew Hamilton)
7	Carol Munro, Save Our Scheme Campaign	Resident's car parking in the Broomhouse area	Written response to be given by the Director of City Development (John Gill)
8	Carol Ross, Broomhouse resident	Provision of lighting and a bus stop in Broomhouse Drive	Written response to be given by Transport Initiative Edinburgh

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No	Submitted by	Subject	Decision
			(Lindsay Murphy)
9	Elaine Hoss, Broomhouse Drive resident	Consultation on removal of car parking in Broomhouse Drive relative to the West Edinburgh Bus Scheme	Written response to be given by Transport Initiative Edinburgh (Lindsay Murphy)
10	Gordon Buchan, Edinburgh South West Conservatives	Qualification required by "traffic enforcers" to drive two wheeled vehicles.	Written response to be given by the Director of City Development (John Gill)
11	Gordon Buchan, Edinburgh South West Conservatives	Traffic signal settings in the run-up to the Road Tolls Referendum	Written response to be given by the Director of City Development (John Gill)