

Committee Minutes

Pentlands Local Development Committee

Edinburgh, 29 January 2004

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

In attendance:- 47 members of the public, including representatives from 20 local organisations.

1 Deputation - Vandalism at Lanark Road

A request for a deputation had been received from Mr Scott Johnson on the issue of vandalism at Lanark Road.

Mr Johnson outlined the problems, attributing many of the difficulties to youths who used a footpath connecting Lanark Road with Wester Hailes. He alleged that he and his neighbours had suffered invasions of private property, threats had been made against house-holders and moving traffic had been attacked.

At his request, a consultation exercise had been undertaken on the possibility of closing the footpath. Mr Johnson felt that this canvass of local opinion had been too narrow and that no indication had been given on the survey form as to the reasons that closure was being suggested. Furthermore, forms had not been sent to house owners in Hailes Gardens.

Tom Clark, Network Services Manager, explained that the City Development Department had delivered 680 survey forms, of which 151 had been returned. Eighty-two percent of these responses expressed opposition to the closure of the lane.

Members then discussed alternatives to closing the lane to deal with the problem. These included the use of CCTV and improved street lighting.

Decision

- 1) To thank the deputation for their submission.

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- 2) To ask the Director of City Development to consider improvements to the lighting of the footpath and, in the interests of community safety, to investigate further the use of CCTV.
- 3) To invite the Director of City Development to consider extending the survey to Hailes Gardens.
- 4) That Councillor Henderson, local ward Councillor, be briefed on the results of the survey and be fully involved in future discussions.

(Reference - request for deputation and paper "Vandalism on the Lanark Road", submitted.)

2 Minute

(a) Pentlands Local Development Committee

The minute of the Pentlands Local Development Committee meeting of 12 November 2003 was approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Youth Issues (Item 5)

It was noted that a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Youth Issues had been arranged and that a report on developments would be brought forward in due course.

(b) West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership

The minute of meeting of the West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership of 20 November 2003 was approved.

3 Presentation on Operation Capital

Chief Inspector Brian Muir updated the Committee on Operation Capital since its inception in April 2003. He provided statistics for the Pentlands area comparing recorded and solved crime figures for the period before and after the reorganisation.

Whilst in most areas recorded crime had decreased between 2002 and 2003, and was down 14% in total, the numbers of solved crimes had also decreased, on average down 8% in 2003.

The Chief Inspector explained that teething problems experienced by Operation Capital in June and July had coincided with a high level of officer absences to cover other areas of the City. During these months solvency rates had suffered. This in turn brought down the overall figures for the year. It was also noted that comparisons between 2002 and 2003 were difficult as 2002 had proved to be a record year for crime solvency rates. The new systems were now, however, allowing more men to be put on the street and for a more effective and efficient use of the resources available.

In summary, despite these early teething problems, Operation Capital was now seen to offer significant benefits.

Decision

To note the presentation.

4 The Dove Centre

The Committee was provided with a report that had been considered by the Executive of the Council on 16 December 2003 concerning funding for the Dove Centre. At the meeting the Executive had decided to agree a one off payment of £21,354 in 2003/2004 to meet the Centre's projected funding on the condition that the Dove Centre committed itself to reaching and abiding by proposals for the proposed new community facility in Wester Hailes funded by the British Waterways Board.

Bruce Henderson, Dove Centre Co-ordinator, expressed thanks for the cross-party support received for the Dove Centre and informed the Committee that he had been notified of a further grant award from the Council and that agreement had been reached between the Social Work department and the Dove Centre for the group to continue to use their existing facilities. It was also noted that from April the Dove Centre would extend its community transport activities as a result of funding received from the Scottish Executive.

Decision

- 1) To thank Bruce Henderson for his report.
- 2) To invite a representative of the Social Work Department to the next meeting of Pentlands LDC to update the Committee on the funding for the Dove Centre.

(Reference - report by the Acting Director of Social Work to the Executive of the Council of 16 December 2003, submitted.)

5 City Development Department Programme

The Director of City Development informed the Committee of the planned programme of work by the Department in the Pentlands LDC area. The report covered the areas of road maintenance; street lighting; accessible transport; bridges and flood prevention measures; transport; pedestrian crossings; traffic signals and traffic calming proposals.

The Committee questioned the City Development Department representative on the programme, noting that the cost of works was met from the Departmental budget.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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

6 Review of Street Trading Policy

The Director of Corporate Services advised of proposals for the revision of policies affecting the licensing of street traders and the standard conditions attached to street trader's licences. The report had been referred to all Local Development Committees by the Regulatory Committee as part of the consultation exercise.

A summary of street traders licences currently in force for the Pentlands LDC area was also circulated.

Decision

To note the report and, on a question by Keith Bell, to agree that Mr Bell be provided with a detailed list of the locations of Street Trader operators in the area.

(References - report by the Director of Corporate Services to Regulatory Committee of 10 October 2003, submitted; summary of street traders in Pentlands LDC area, submitted.)

7 Waiting Restrictions at Meggetland Terrace and Craiglockhart Avenue/ Craiglockhart Dell Road

The Director of City Development advised the Committee on objections received to proposed waiting restrictions in Meggetland Terrace and Craiglockhart Avenue/Craiglockhart Dell Road.

Two Traffic Regulation Orders had been promoted in the interest of improving sightlines and road safety. A suggested loading/unloading prohibition was, on reflection, considered unnecessary and would be removed from both orders.

Concerns had been raised by residents at -

- Refuse vehicles trying to negotiate the bend
- Vehicles exiting and entering the junction due to parked vehicles

Two objections had been received relating to the perceived loss of car parking space and the potential for increased speeding.

Decision

To approve the recommendations that the outstanding objections be repelled, the loading/unloading prohibition of both Orders be removed and to process the waiting restrictions.

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

8 Waiting and Loading/ Unloading Restrictions at Buckstone Primary School

The Director of City Development reported on a proposal to apply waiting and loading/unloading restrictions at the entrances to Buckstone Primary School. Details of the objections received were submitted.

After the proposals had been re-advertised in February 2003, the Department had received eighty-one statutory objections. Thirty-seven of these replied to City Development's explanation of the proposals. Eleven had subsequently withdrawn their objections, leaving seventy outstanding objections. Should it be decided to proceed with the original proposal, it would be necessary to hold a Public Hearing.

Decision

- 1) To abandon the proposed restrictions.
- 2) That a new order be promoted for localised lengths of double yellow lines at two junctions in Buckstone Loan East.

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

9 Grant Applications

The budget for Community Grants in Pentlands amounted to £88,514. This comprised £60,092 in core funding and £28,422 from a Social Executive Quality of Life allocation.

The applications for financial assistance under the principal award headings of "Community Participation and Support", "Quality of Life" and "Social Inclusion" were detailed. A total of £54,062 had already been awarded from this budget with £2,059 remaining under the Quality of Life theme funded by the Scottish Executive.

It was reported that further information on an application by Longstone Community Council for financial assistance towards the cost of installing handrails in the Redhall Park had now become available. Councillor Paisley also invited consideration of an application by Pentland View Shopping Centre for grant of up to £5000.

Decision

- 1) To award grants as follows –
 - a) £1,987 to Morningside Community Council to purchase a new set of display boards;
 - b) £837 to the Pentland Hills Regional Park to publicise the 'Pentlands Inspirations' project;
 - c) £5,000 to the Longstone Community Education Centre Association to increase participation in the Centre's programme of activities.
 - d) £4,383 to Currie Community High School to make environmental improvements to the 'Poet's Glen' area in Currie.
 - e) £1,455 to Fairmilehead Community Council towards the cost of making improvements to Camus Park.
 - f) £5,000 to Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre as a contribution to the 'Oxfangs Community Regeneration Development Strategy'.
 - g) £1,050 to the Artists Unlimited group to support a ten-week spring programme to attract new members.
 - h) £3,362 to the Snapcorp Photography Group to support a twelve-week training course to prepare experienced amateur photographers to become photo journalists.

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- i) £1,629 to the Community One Stop Shop to provide a computer which will be used as an information resource for workers.
 - j) £1,257 to the Senior Action Group Edinburgh towards the cost of compiling a pack of useful information about staff, facilities and activity programmes in the care home.
 - k) £4,461 to Longstone Community Council to install handrails in Redhall Park to facilitate access by older people to both the park and the nearby Water of Leith Walkway.
- 2) Not to award grant to Young People Speak Out or to the Arty Party for the reasons outlined in the report.
- 3) To continue consideration of applications from the West Edinburgh Canal Society, Pentland View Shopping Centre and Altogether in the Park for further detailed consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

(Reference - report by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10 Public Question Time

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

11 Date of Next Meeting

17 March 2004 at Broomhouse Primary School

APPENDIX

(Item 10 refers - Public Questions and Answers)

Question One

Keith Bell, Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council asked a question about the assessment of the Capital budget and the programme of works outlined by City Development.

Answer - Tom Clark, City Development, confirmed that the Capital budget was assessed on a city-wide basis as there was a need to consider the whole of the city's road infrastructure when prioritising works. It was agreed that a written answer would be sent to Mr Bell concerning the other points raised in his question.

Question Two

Keith Bell, Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council asked a question about the arrangement of meeting dates for the West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership.

Answer - Steve McGavin confirmed that the meeting dates for WECPP had been formalised after consultation with the Convener and other members.

Question Three

Martin Elliot, Currie High School asked a question about the Frogston Sports Trust proposal.

Answer - It was agreed that a written reply would be given.

Question Four

Norman Tinlin, Fairmilehead Community Council asked a question about information on the Council's website.

Answer - It was agreed that a written reply would be given.

Question Five

Norman Tinlin, Fairmilehead Community Council asked a question about the rationale and legality behind building bus stops into the middle of some roads.

Answer - Tom Clark confirmed that it was Council policy to promote more environmentally-friendly methods of travel and that using bus boarders was

part of the drive towards making public transport quicker and therefore more attractive to the public. It was also felt that bus boarders improved access for disabled people.

Question Six

George Lighthouse, Firrhill Community Council asked a question about the re-organisation of the Social Work Department.

Answer - The Convener indicated that no decision had yet been taken at Council on this matter.

Question Seven

Graham Dane, Currie Community Council asked a question about speed bumps/traffic calming in Currie.

Answer - It was agreed that a written answer would be given.

Question Eight

Rab Byfield asked a question about the consultation on Baberton Footbridge.

Answer - It was confirmed that the consultation exercise was complete and that 48% of survey forms had been returned. Of these 87% were in favour of closing the footbridge. It was agreed that a report on the issue would be submitted to the next Pentlands Local Development Committee.