



## Committee Minutes

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### South West Neighbourhood Partnership

Edinburgh, 17 January 2008

**Present:-** Councillors Wilson (Convener), Buchan, Burns and Lowrie; Irene Mackay (Hutchison/Chesser Community Council), John Lawrie (Stenhouse Community Council), Fiona McLean (Gorgie Dalry Community Council), Alan Dickson (Craiglockhart Community Council), Hellen McDonough (Longstone Community Council), Keith Bell (Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council), Anne Denholm (Wester Hailes Representative Council), Inspector Sandy Boyd (Lothian and Borders Police), Carol Cawood (Voluntary Sector) and Craig Beveridge (Lothian Health).

#### 1 Nominated Membership

The Neighbourhood Manager reported that membership of the Neighbourhood Partnerships was subject to an ongoing review and updates would be given as it continued.

#### 2 Minute of Meeting of 8 November 2007

##### Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership of 8 November 2007 as a correct record with the amendments that:
  - a) Lyn Bryan (Wester Hailes Representative Council) and David Gardner (Voluntary Sector) were present;
  - b) item 1, Nominated Membership, Wester Hailes Representative Council and Tollcross Community Council had been invited to appoint representatives and substitutes to the Neighbourhood Partnership; and,

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- c) item 8, Craiglockhart Parish Church Youth Project, part one of the decision was to award an interim grant of £2,000 on the submission of the appropriate forms.
- 2) **State of Communal Refuse Bins in the Wider Area** - To note that a draft review would be undertaken which would include task actions such as spot walkabouts. A report would come back through the Neighbourhood Partnerships on the whole issue of waste management. The first draft would be out for consultation in six weeks.
- 3) **Community Regeneration Fund** - To write to the Minister of Communities to ask for confirmation in writing that transitional funding would be made available to those existing voluntary organisations currently in receipt of Community Regeneration Fund grants.
- 4) **Community Grants Fund - timely receipt of report on grant applications** - To note the reply from the Director of Services for Communities and welcome the timely receipt of the Community Grants Fund report for this meeting.
- 5) **Make up of Neighbourhood Partnerships and Registered Tenants Organisations** - To note the written response from the Director of Services for Communities to a public question asked regarding the make up of the Neighbourhood Partnership and the role of Registered Tenants Organisations (attached as Appendix 1).
- 6) **Bus Service** - To note the written response from the Director of City Development to a public question asked regarding bus services (attached as Appendix 2) and to note a leaflet on bus services over the festive season had been circulated, for information, with the papers for this meeting.
- 7) **Contrary Planning Decisions** - To note the written response from the Director of City Development to a public question asked regarding contrary planning decisions.

### 3 Community Grants Fund

a) **Publicity and Review of Criteria**

A report on the draft new criteria for the fund would soon be circulated for comments from all the Neighbourhood Partnerships. Once the final draft was agreed, a report would be presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee for approval of the new arrangements across the city. The new revised criteria and procedures would be implemented from 1 April 2008.

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**Decision**

To note the position.

b) **Grant Applications**

Details were given of applications made to the Neighbourhood Partnerships Community Grants Fund. The budget amounted to £69,362 in 2007/08. Awards made to date totalled £36,423, including £2,802 for an urgent award for a Christmas project made under delegated authority in December 2007. This left £32,939 for allocation.

**Decision**

- 1) To award a grant of £5,000 to the Broomhouse Centre to enhance the café service offered for centre users.
- 2) To award a conditional grant of £5,000 to the Craiglockhart Wood Group towards the £23,869 cost of modernising access paths. The grant would be awarded on the condition that a funding package was in place prior to the payment of the grant as the group had various other funding applications pending.
- 3) To request that future reports contain an explanation paragraph of grants awarded under delegated powers, including an explanation of the urgency of the grant award.
- 4) To request the Director of Services for Communities report on how the grant allocation could be more evenly spread over the four quarters of the year to avoid the fund becoming depleted too early in the year.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

**4 Neighbourhood Partnership Development**

A South West Transport Group had been established covering some parts of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership and part of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership area. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership had been invited to appoint a representative to the group. The group aimed to be as inclusive as possible, working together with a number of interested partners, such as Lothian Buses and Lothian Community Transport Services.

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Rather than set up another Transport Group for those areas not covered, it was suggested that it would be preferable to extend the South West Transport Group to cover all the wards included in the South West Neighbourhood Partnership.

**Decision**

- 1) To note that a South West Transport Group had been established covering some areas of the Partnership.
- 2) To extend the new Transport Group to cover all areas of the Partnership.
- 3) To include copies of the Transport Group's minutes in futures South West Neighbourhood Partnership meeting papers.
- 4) To note the next meeting of the South West Transport Group would be 6 February 2008.

## **5 Neighbourhood Partnership and Planning Protocol**

David Leslie, Planning and Strategy, outlined a report which had been submitted to the Planning Committee on 4 October 2007. The Planning Committee had approved a protocol on the relationship between Neighbourhood Partnerships and the planning process, subject to a review of its operation in spring 2008. This followed the general approach to community engagement approved by the Planning Committee in June 2007.

It was explained that it was hoped that the Neighbourhood Partnerships would act as forums where planners and developers would raise initial proposals and hear of any issues members of the local community may have. This would be particularly useful in terms of proposals for developments which might span two or more Community Council boundaries. Otherwise, the Community Councils would retain the powers they currently have regarding the planning consultation process.

Following the expression of various views, it was agreed to continue the item for further discussion. In the meantime, it was felt that training for members would be useful to raise awareness of planning procedures and the protocol.

**Decision**

- 1) To continue this item for further discussion.

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- 2) To note that training would be provided for Neighbourhood Partnership members which would include raising awareness of planning procedures and the protocol.

(Reference – Planning Committee, 4 October 2007 (minute item 12), submitted.)

## **6 Neighbourhood Improvement Projects**

Graham Kitching, Neighbourhood Manager, outlined five neighbourhood improvement projects which had been approved under delegated authority as matters of urgency. Three of the projects were in the Hutchison/Chesser area and two were in the Gorgie Dalry area. The projects included upgrading footpaths, creating a community garden and replacing fencing, at costs ranging from £3,500 to £60,000.

Concern was expressed at what seemed an excessive cost of £60,000 to replace fencing.

### **Decision**

- 1) To request a further report on the Balgreen Road Fencing Project (project number 33) proposal to install fencing at a possible cost of £60,000.
- 2) To note the other projects approved under delegated authority.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, South West Area Office.)

## **7 Public Question Time**

### **a) Traffic Congestion and Illegal Parking**

A question was raised regarding traffic congestion at Ashley Drive and Ashley Gardens. It was thought this was being caused by people parking illegally due to controlled parking zones in the surrounding area.

It was suggested that it may be useful to hold a public meeting to hear the concerns of local residents.

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**b) Tabled Papers**

It was asked if papers tabled at the meeting would be available online.

**Decision**

- 1) To write to the Director of City Development and the Transport Services manager to investigate the issue that had been raised regarding serious traffic congestion and illegal parking at Ashley Drive, Ashley Gardens and the surrounding area.
- 2) To note that all tabled papers would be available to view online as appendices to the minute.

**8 Date of Next Meeting and Schedule of Meetings**

**Decision**

To note the next meeting of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership would be held on 20 March 2008 in Sighthill Community Centre (1a Sighthill Wynd) and the following meeting would be held on 8 May 2008 at Wester Hailes Library (1 Westside Plaza).

◆ EDINBURGH ◆  
 THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL  
 SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES

Performance and Community Engagement

Christine Doherty  
 Partnership and Information Manager  
 South West Neighbourhood Office  
 10 West Side Plaza  
 Edinburgh  
 EH14 2FT

Date 23 November 2007

Your ref

Our ref

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM LINDA CUNNINGHAM FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2007

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM SWNP MEETING – 8 NOVEMBER 2007

The community representation on Neighbourhood Partnerships is fulfilled by Community Councils. Currently the boundaries for Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Councils aren't the same. This means that some Community Councils' area of operation falls entirely within the NP area and some of them only partially. We recognised that where community councils whose area of operation didn't fall entirely within the NP area would want to have some involvement and in a number of cases were given 'a watching brief'. This means that they would be issued with papers to ensure that they were aware of issues / information which might impact on their area.

Within the constitutional framework of the Neighbourhood Partnership Scheme Neighbourhood Partnerships may consider co-opting additional members, a representative of a community or an interest or an agency or organisation with knowledge of or interest in the area, provided that the partnership ensures that the overall number of board members is manageable. This is an issue which needs to be considered carefully, as the balance between community and elected member representatives may affect the longer term status of the NP as a decision-making, rather than an advisory forum.

Within the South West Partnership the board have decided to extend their membership with these Community Council representatives. However, this, along with other aspects of the Neighbourhood Partnership scheme, including the level of participation and representation on the new partnerships, will be the subject of the Council's agreed six month review in March 2008. Any decision regarding additional Neighbourhood Partnership membership agreed prior to this date will be subject to the terms and findings of this review.

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 COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGER  
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As for the Registered Tenants Organisation's - the intention is to incorporate the Area Housing Boards into the Neighbourhood Partnership by the end of March 2008.

Regards

Linda Cunningham  
Community Planning Manager

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**Morag Stevenson**

**From:** Roger Hargreaves  
**Sent:** 19 December 2007 16:52  
**To:** keithjbell@blueyonder.co.uk  
**Cc:** Morag Stevenson; Andrew Holmes; Ewan Kennedy; Jim Grieve; Ewan Horne; Phil Wheeler  
**Subject:** FW: South West Neighbourhood Partnership - Question Regarding Bus Services  
**Importance:** High

Mr Bell

At the last meeting of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership, on 8 November 2007, I understand that you raised a question regarding bus services, as follows:

"Bus Services. Can Lothian Buses please outline their services over the Christmas and New Year period and also the Council's proposals for supported services where LB are not providing services which meet the local communities requirements?"

This request has only just arrived with me today so apologies for the lateness of the response. I am not sure whether Lothian Buses have been asked to respond directly about their commercial services. Just in case they weren't asked or you don't otherwise have this information :

Lothian buses have produced a leaflet for their services from the period from 23 December 2007 to 4 January 2008. Normal Lothian day time services will run as a Saturday or Sunday service but on Christmas day, Boxing day and New Years day a restricted service is provided. There are changes to the Airlink service, the Park and Ride services and Night bus service and with no service operating on some of the main holiday days. On Hogmanay the Council is funding a free night bus service. The full information is in the leaflet which is available from their travel shops but also can also be accessed via the Lothian Buses' website [www.lothianbuses.com](http://www.lothianbuses.com)

The Council also provides funding support for First to enable the Service 43 to Queensferry to operate on the four main holiday days. On Hogmanay the Council funds a free night service (43N) which also connects to Kirliston and Ratho. Further information can be found on the First website at [www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/scotland/sescot/christmas/edlothians\\_borders\\_xmas\\_](http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/scotland/sescot/christmas/edlothians_borders_xmas_)

I hope this was the information you were seeking. Once again apologies for the lateness of the response.

Regards  
Roger Hargreaves  
Acting Public Transport Manager  
Tel. 0131 469 3624