

Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership

2.00 pm, Monday, 03 December 2012

Neighbourhood Partnership Better & Safer Communities Group Activity Report

Item number	5.2	
Report number	1	
Wards	Ward 16	Liberton Gilmerton

Links

Coalition pledges	P32 , P33 , P44 , P48
Council outcomes	23
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

Sarah Burns

South Neighbourhood Manager

Contact: Scott Donkin, Partnership Development Officer

E-mail: scott.donkin@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 7029

Executive summary

Neighbourhood Partnership – Better & Safer Communities Group Activity Report

Summary

This report is intended to provide members of the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership with a detailed activity report on the work of its Better & Safer Communities Group.

Recommendations

To note the contents of the report

Measures of success

Neighbourhood Partnerships aim to improve the quality of people's lives through the delivery of more effective, joined up and appropriate services. The Liberton Gilmerton Local Community Plan identifies the specific outcomes, actions and performance measures for the four key priorities that local people identified as being of concern to them. The Better & Safer Communities Group takes forward one of those key priorities 'Create better and safer communities'.

Key measures of the overall success of the actions undertaken by partners in the Better & Safer Communities Group include:

- **Satisfaction with parks and green spaces**
- **Satisfaction with the way anti social behaviour is dealt with**
- **Satisfaction with the way dog fouling is dealt with**

Financial impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities impact

The Priority Groups of the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership are aware of the Equalities Act 2010 and any changes to service provision arising from these groups would be subject to consideration of an Equalities Impact Assessment

Sustainability impact

The work of the Priority Groups seeks to improve the physical, social and health environment for all of its residents and visitors.

Consultation and engagement

The Priority Groups comprise representatives from a range of representatives from throughout the Partnership area including local residents with an interest and/or expertise in specific areas or work. They also include representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors as appropriate. Community members report to their membership on the work of the Priority Groups. The Priority Groups, when required, consult with the wider community using a variety of methods of engagement.

Community engagement is widely supported throughout the LGNP area and a range of methods are used to support communication of outcomes and activities.

Background reading / external references

Minutes of Priority Group meetings in Services for Communities files on the Neighbourhood Partnership web site. <http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/liberton-and-gilmerton>

Neighbourhood Partnership – Better & Safer Communities Group Activity Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership on the development and activity related to the Better and Safer Communities Group.
- 1.2 It is intended to provide greater detail from each of the sub groups as a means of ensuring the Partnership is aware of the work at sub group level and in taking forward the actions associated with the Local Community Plan.

2. Main report

- 2.1 The Better & Safer Communities Group (BASC) was established in February 2010 in response to ensuring that related issues associated with the Community Plan could be developed in accordance with partnership approaches and to allow for community engagement.
- 2.2 Since the 2011 – 2014 Local Community Plan was developed, the BASC Group has had responsibility for taking forward the key priority 'Better and Safer Communities'. In effect, the meetings are structured around the themes of the associated action plan as follows:
 - Housing & Regeneration;
 - Environment;
 - Community Safety.
- 2.3 The BASC Group also acts as a priority agreement group linked with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team activities and discusses other associated local issues under the terms of 'Better and Safer Communities'
- 2.4 Alongside the agreed actions, other issues are raised from time to time and these are then followed up by different partners with reports provided in terms of progress.
- 2.5 A total of 9 agreed actions are progressed through the BASC and the following represents where progress has been made:

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
To undertake a green space audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial desk based research has been carried out linking known activity in terms of CEC land ownership and potential linked to Housing and or recreation. It is planned to engage with community groups to identify any potential areas of land not identified through this process; • Added to this are the known private development sites locally, many with outline or detailed planning permissions in place. Some action has been taken locally to address issues associated with upkeep of some sites which effectively remain untouched as a result of the economic downturn. The site formerly the Gordons Pub has been cleaned up and made safer and the Kaimes Crossroads site has been made more secure to prevent dumping and better maintenance. There has also been action taken at Burdiehouse Terrace to secure vacant properties; • The next phase will be to link the current desk research to the Edinburgh Plan and to include other large scale developments. It is intended that by maintaining a local database the wider community will be more aware of opportunities. The completed database will be available on the LGNP website;
Description	
To identify land ownership with a view to ensuring partner clarity over land ownership and the potential for Community based development	

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Improve quality of lowest scoring parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following additional activity, all 3 of the lowest scoring parks have now met the Parks Quality Assessment for their individual category. The minimum standard is 45%
Description	
<p>In recent years there has been significant investment made in local parks with Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park receiving a Green Flag award. It is recognised that more support/investment is required in the lowest Parks Quality Assessment scoring parks - Mortonhall Park, Moredun Park and Gracemount Community Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mortonhall Park (Community Park) Standard: Good 52% ▪ Moredun Park (Community Park) Standard: Good 50% ▪ Gracemount Park (Community Park) Standard: Good 51% • The Liberton Gilmerton area has 6 'Good' parks, 1 'Good +', 3 'Very Good' and 1 Excellent (7 Acre at Alnwickhill) • The Ferniehill Community Park is next to be put forward for the Green Flag status and this will be in 2013. • Discussions are underway with funders and Friends Groups in respect of the development of Green Gyms in some of the key parks locally. • From 11 local parks, there is significant community engagement in 7 parks including volunteering, Friends Groups and local sports/football management.

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
To undertake an Environment themed event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event was held over 3 days in June this year and focussed on engaging primary school children in redeveloping key locations based on environment activity. This involved developing small sites in Moredun, Gilmerton and Gracemount, each in the vicinity of the respective schools; • A wide range of services helped to develop and participate in the event itself using a local Hub allowing members of the public to engage with the event and to find out about other services including Parks, Waste Management, Roads and Partnership and Information • The areas redeveloped have made a positive impact in each of the respective communities.
Description	
Develop an event that can involve the community and in particular local children.	

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Identify and introduce better mechanisms for providing information and feedback linked to ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South Community Safety team were a key focus in editions of The E-Link and Outlook in an attempt to better promote the team and their work. • Environmental Wardens have also been involved in developing Social Media locally and carried out live 'Tweet on the Beat' as a means of engaging about the work they do. • There has also been an increased presence from the team at local community meetings and members of the team have been available in local community centres as a means of a drop in service. • A wide range of initiatives are carried out each month including visits to all of the area's community parks to prevent ASB, visible patrols in and around the neighbourhood. • In October, Environmental Wardens responded to 64 separate issues and have from time to time reported through social media the outcomes of their engagement. A total of 539 separate activities were undertaken in the same period e.g. patrols, visiting households etc
Description	
It is essential that the wider community are aware of the type of services available linked to tackling anti social behaviour and for these agencies to better report where activities and issues tackled have taken place	

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Undertake a minimum of 1 educational activity per year involving young people and ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Environmental Wardens have teamed up with L&B Police and are involved in an anti litter project with Liberton High School. This follows community concerns in and around the area at school peak times. The result of the project to date is a dramatic decrease in littering amongst young people and a reduction in complaints; 4 pupils were reported for littering and as a result carried out a 20 minute payback after school on a Friday afternoon with the parents permissions.
Description	
Young people need to be better informed of what constitutes anti social behaviour and the consequences of being involved in it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'TOAST' – an educational based drama was commissioned for both local high schools and warns of the dangers and risks involved with fireworks and bonfires. The South Community Safety Team including the Environmental Wardens will participate in a school based Market Place. This will involve all services provided locally by the Council and Partner agencies and the voluntary sector. The format will be a 'Market' of information and services which will be in the high schools for an afternoon or morning. The activity is aimed at young people about to or considering leaving school to make them aware of the services available locally to support them. To date Gracemount HS has agreed to progress.

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Undertake a minimum of 1 week of action per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with known issues, a month of action was held in the Gracemount area in August and focussed activity in and around Gracemount Drive, Priesthill Street and the new development off Lasswade Road.
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process involved a number of key agencies and partners working together including Community Safety, Environmental Wardens, Police, Roads Team, L&B Fire, WEACTION (Employability), SWITCH (Youth Agency), Healthy Living Project and local school children.
Week of action (or similar) provides an opportunity to target a wide range of resources to specific areas of concern relating to ASB. This involves coordinating services to achieve positive outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 850 leaflets were distributed to households in the area and this was followed up with joint visits to 108 properties. 36 people discussed issues associated with known ASB. • Since the action, the area has been removed as a Safer Neighbourhood Team Priority as there have been a range of positive improvements. • Discussions are underway with a range of partners to take forward a week of action in the neighbourhood sometime in March 2013. Whilst local data will determine the most suitable location, it is likely this will be in either the Inch, Southhouse or Burdiehouse.

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Undertake a minimum of 4 targeted dog fouling initiatives per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions are underway with PRIDE, a project linked to Keep Scotland Beautiful which could see innovative processes for managing some of the issues associated with dog fouling. There is potential for new bins to be sited, each with dog waste bags and clear messages about picking up after your dog and consequences etc. Discussions are ongoing at present.
Description	
This issue has been identified as one of the key issues affecting the quality of life for many residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great deal of focussed work is underway where a large number of patrols are taking place around the Fernieside Community Park. A clear partnership approach is in place as this park is earmarked to be entered for a Green Flag award. • The Environmental Wardens are providing twice weekly early shifts in and around the area as a means of deterring early morning offenders; • The Community Safety team assist to map the area and identify hot spots and areas where there is known activity from irresponsible dog owners; • A joined up initiative is about to get underway involving Community Safety, Environmental Wardens and the Moredun High Flats Concierge where CCTV will be used to identify offenders and appropriate action taken.

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Identify methods to improve communication/ signage and improve reporting mechanisms linked with Dog Fouling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to better informing people and getting a message across, anti dog fouling stencils have been placed on pavements across the neighbourhood. These are supported by the community and appear to have a positive impact. • New metal signs have been installed on Ellens Glen Path following local concerns. Each sign costs £30 and include the LGNP logo. More signs will be placed where specific hotspots are identified. • Postcards outlining anti dog fouling and the potential sanctions have been handed out to veterinary practices and in local supermarkets.
Description	
Residents have raised concerns that there is insufficient signage and information available to allow for better reporting of offenders and the consequences associated with irresponsible dog fouling	

ACTION	Progress / Planned Activity
Undertake an initiative linked with the National Dog Fouling Campaign Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst there was no specific action in 2012, the Environmental Wardens have been involved in identifying the Green Dog Walker scheme which supports more local residents to promote responsible dog walking etc and this has gone to the Health & Social Care Committee with a view to the scheme being rolled out across the city. • The Environmental Wardens are currently planning a week of activity and action to support the national campaign in 2013.
Description	
The National Dog Fouling campaign week takes place in May each year and takes forward a range of initiatives	

- 2.6 The BASC is also recognised as the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Priority Setting Group. Over the course of 2012, this has seen priorities ranging from issues in and around the Burdiehouse Burn, ASB in Gracemount Drive, off road motorbikes, irresponsible parking in and around local primary schools, bogus workers, concerns at Ochiltree Gardens and underage drinking.
- 2.7 The SNT also report the proposed priorities through the Partnership's Youth Issues Group prior to the BASC with a view to identifying specific actions associated with youth related incidents.
- 2.8 From time to time, other issues or actions are referred to the sub groups and the BASC is no exception. In 2011, the issue around the Inch Park and flooding was brought to the attention of the Partnership and was subsequently managed through the BASC Group. As the issue was raised at the Partnership it is appropriate to provide an update.
- 2.9 The ongoing issues in the Inch Park can be broken down into four key components:
- The Flood Prevention area at the north east corner of the Park;
 - Ongoing flooding at the woodland area at North West corner of the park;
 - Flooding at the front of the Inch House to Glenallan Drive
 - Flooding and ongoing water issues at the South East corner of the park
- 2.10 **The Flood Prevention area at the north east corner of the Park.**
- 2.10.1 During earlier discussions it was agreed that catalyst to the flow of water along the Braid Burn is the assurance that the grid which leads to the culverts must be regularly cleaned with all debris being removed.
- 2.10.2 There appeared to be a build up of sediment and this may be adding to the pressure on the two way gate which allows water to flow into the Inch Park.
- 2.10.3 Following a further meeting with the Flood Prevention team, Inch Park Community Sports Club (IPCSC) have undertaken to ensure that the grid is kept clear and this has provided an element of resolve since then.
- 2.10.4 We still await the full report from Flood prevention relating to the other ongoing issues.

2.11 Ongoing flooding at the woodland area at North West corner of the park.

2.11.1 Although some timing issues prolonged the repair to the 4" water main, this has now been completed and the running water into the park on the sports field side is no longer happening.

2.12 Flooding at the front of the Inch House to Glenallan Drive and / Flooding and ongoing water issues at the South East corner of the park.

2.12.1 Great progress has been made in relation to the outfall drain that runs along Glenallan Drive and across the nursery to the South East corner in front of the cottages.

2.12.2 The drain has now been cleaned out of high levels of silt and the pipe has had CCTV footage taken to highlight any failure in the pipe work.

2.12.3 Excavation works have now been undertaken and levels taken to assess whether we can connect a new drain to the area that continually floods in front of the Inch House.

2.12.4 Initial findings show that this is possible and works have been discussed with our contractor to start this work as quickly as possible. No date at present has been set but it is anticipated that we should have this started within the next two week period.

2.13 Whilst overall progress has been slow, it is felt that we are now in a better position to resolve the issues for the long term and not just do a short term fix.

2.14 It is hoped to be in a position to complete works in advance of any potential severe weather that may come this way and hope that what is being done improves the quality of the park in the longer term for all users.

2.15 Overall, the BASC Group discusses and manages a wide and varied agenda of activity and all involved are fully committed to ensuring that positive progress is made against each of the actions as described above.

Next meeting scheduled for 21 February 2013.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To note the content of this report

Sarah Burns

South Neighbourhood Manager

4. Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P32 - Develop and strengthen local community links with the police</p> <p>P33 - Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used</p> <p>P44 – Maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Edinburgh</p> <p>P48 – Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our green space</p>
Council outcomes	<p>CO19 - Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards</p> <p>CO21 - Safe – Residents, visitors and businesses feel that Edinburgh is a safe city</p> <p>CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric</p>

BETTER & SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Bill Cook	City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor NA Hart	City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Nick Cook	City of Edinburgh Council
Madge Bold	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Lorraine Pritchard	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Lynne Tait	Southhouse & Burdiehouse Residents Organisation
Sgt Stephen Hagart	Lothian & Borders Police
Sgt James Sinclair	Lothian & Borders Police
Alan Merriman	Inch Community Association
Scott Donkin	SfC Partnership & Information
Paul Swan	SfC Housing & Regeneration (Chair)
David Doig	SfC Environment Manager
Rory Gardner	SfC Property Services
Kathy Evans	SfC Community Safety Manager
Angus Murdoch	SfC Waste Strategy Officer
Gilbert Clark	Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum
Margaret Mclver	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum
Stuart Gash	Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
Stewart Laird	SfC Partnership Support Worker
Emily Hodson	HOME Scotland Dunedin Canmore
Ann Burn	Moredun Community Centre/Neighbourhood Forum
Anita Cuthbertson	South East Crime Prevention Panel
Ruth Stuart	South East Crime Prevention Panel