

# Minutes

## South Central Neighbourhood Partnership

Monday, 28 January 2013

### PRESENT

#### Partnership Members

Cllr Cameron Rose	CEC (Convener)
Cllr Steve Burgess	CEC
Cllr Jim Orr	CEC
Cllr Ian Perry	CEC
Cllr Melanie Main	CEC
Cllr Paul Godzik	CEC
Insp Andrew McLean	Lothian & Borders Police
Alastair Philp	Marchmont/Sciennes Community Council
Bridget Stevens	Merchiston Community Council
Ann Wigglesworth	Tollcross Community Council
Lynne Barty	Morningside Community Council
Sue Tritton	Grange/Prestonfield Community Council
George Pitcher	Southside Association

#### Supporting Officers

Sarah Burns	CEC Services for Communities
Evelyn Kilmurry	CEC Services for Communities
Margaret Campbell	CEC Services for Communities

#### Apologies

Cllr Sandy Howat	CEC
Cllr Mark McInnes	CEC
Colin Briggs	NHS Lothian
James McAsh	EUSA

## 1. Convener

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In the absence of the Convener who had been unavoidably detained, Cllr Steve Burgess opened the meeting. Cllr Rose assumed the Chair after the first presentation. It should be noted that to accommodate individuals with time constraints the presentations were taken first. However, the minutes are recorded in the sequential order of the agenda.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

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None

## 3. Deputations

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None

## 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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- 4.1 Item 5.2: Noted that abstentions had not been recorded in respect of motion to remove recommendation for increased barbeque provision.
- 4.2 George Pitcher intimated that the minutes do not reflect full discussion. Noted that minutes follow Council Committee style with an emphasis on decisions rather than discussion.
- 4.3 Matters Arising – request made for matters arising to be placed on agenda. Convener agreed to consider whether to include matters arising on future agendas.

### Decision

To approve the minute of meeting of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership of 26 November 2012 taking into account the above amendment.

To consider the inclusion of Matters Arising on agendas at future meetings.

### Progress Updates

- Tollcross Pavements. Ann Wigglesworth intimated that she was still awaiting a response on the position with regard to the pavements. Sarah Burns confirmed that she had responded by email some time ago and would forward a copy to Ann.

- Item 5.2.8: Barbecue Sites – Ann Wigglesworth concerned that the minute is not specific about where the proposed increase in barbecue sites would be located and expressed a concern that they should not encroach on sports areas. Noted that precise details will be agreed in consultation with MABLAG as annotated in Para 8.12 of the report to the Neighbourhood Partnership on 24 September 2012.

## 5. Neighbourhood Partnership Business

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### 5.1 Dumbiedykes Quality of Life Priority Group Update (Presentation from Liz Mulligan and Marian Bradley)

The Neighbourhood Partnership agreed to receive presentations on the progress of the respective Priority Groups. Dumbiedykes Quality of Life Priority Group (QofL) was the first to present. Liz Mulligan and Marian Bradley, local residents, gave a presentation on the improvements to the area as a result of the work of the group.

- 5.1.1 They reported that as a result of joint working the quality of life within the area has improved considerably. The residents value the close relationship they have with Council staff and the police both of which have resulted in quick action and the resolution of problems. An example cited was that of severe issues of anti social behaviour during the first phase of the external renovation programme. Before the commencement of phase 2, the QofL group met with Council staff, contractor and the police. Actions were put in place which resulted in there being no calls to the police or problems for residents during phase 2 which is about to be completed.
- 5.1.2 The group covers a range of subjects including drugs & alcohol programmes, rough sleeping, environmental improvements, young people's diversionary activities, employability and anti social behaviour.
- 5.1.3 Bus: An issue currently high on the agenda of the group is that Dumbiedykes continues to suffer from the lack of a proper bus service. Residents cannot access essential facilities eg doctor, without walking up a steep hill; particularly difficult for elderly residents. The alternative is a bus into town and another back out. The QofL Group is working on this issue and local representatives presented to the Petitions Committee the previous week. Liz and Marian requested support from the Neighbourhood Partnership for their continued campaign to secure an appropriate bus route for the area.
- 5.1.4 The Convener thanked Ms Mulligan and Ms Bradley for taking the time to attend the meeting and making their presentation.

## **Decision**

5.1.5 To note the presentation.

5.1.6 Receive presentations from a further two priority groups at the next meeting.

## **5.2 Local Transport Strategy** (Report Circulated) – Presentation from Phil Noble, Senior Professional Officer, Transport

5.2.1 Phil Noble informed the Neighbourhood Partnership that the Council is currently developing a new Transport Strategy which it is anticipated will be presented to the Council in late 2013 for approval.

5.2.2 The Council will be seeking the views of the public on 10 identified issues as noted below:

- Integrated Transport
- Supported Bus Service
- Speed Limits – 20 MPH
- Speed Limits – 30 MPH and above
- School streets
- City Centre Parking
- Sunday Parking
- Residents Parking/Controlled Parking Zone
- Air Quality
- Travel Planning

5.2.3 This consultation process will include discussions with the Edinburgh Partnership, Transport Forum and interest groups, Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Councils; South East Scotland Transport Partnership and neighbouring Councils along with the general public. Focus groups, letters to Community Councils and other stakeholders, electronic/paper surveys will all form part of the process. A public drop-in has been organised for Wednesday, 6 March in the Central Library. A further public display will take place in the St James Centre (date yet to be arranged) and information will be available on the Council's website.

5.2.4 The following questions/comments were raised:

- (a) It was suggested that the public are often unaware of consultations and that the Council should take advantage of Community newsletters when advertising as they reach a large number of households throughout the city. Phil agreed to note this suggestion and to provide Community Councils with posters.
- (b) Parent Councils to be added to list of interest groups for the consultation, along with Pupil Councils.

- (c) Transferable tram/bus tickets in line with other European cities under consideration but noted there were legislative issues regarding such tickets.
- (d) A question was raised about how individuals/Community Councils will be consulted on specific proposals eg replacement crossings. Noted that specific proposals regarding such consultation are yet to be considered.
- (e) Suggested that changes within the city centre should not be done in isolation and should take cognisance of how such changes might impact on the flow of traffic in and out of the city. Noted that Edinburgh is a historic city with constrained road networks. Any proposed changes have to work within these constraints.

## **Decision**

5.2.5 To note the report and presentation.

### **5.3 Roads & Transport Review – Service Provision –** Presentation from Tony Lear, Business Performance Manager

- 5.3.1 Tony Lear reported that as a result of services merging under one Head of Service within Services for Communities (SfC), namely Transport and Roads the opportunity had arisen to look at how best these services can be delivered. A review is underway with the aim of providing a service which is fit for purpose and tailored to meet the needs of the customers and stakeholders.
- 5.3.2 As part of the review, views are being sought on the current service and how it can be improved. This will be done by means of a web survey, focus groups, etc.
- 5.3.3 The following questions/comments were raised:
  - (a) Bus Trackers: Currently only at busy bus stops but a view was expressed that they should be installed at more isolated stops. It was noted that Trackers cost c.£10,000 per unit. The Council is looking at other ways of conveying bus information eg through mobile phone apps. Acknowledged that not everyone uses a mobile phone. A view expressed that the on-line bus tracker not user friendly. Bridget Stevens to contact Tony Lear with suggestions as to how it could be improved. Requests for bus trackers should be channelled through Ewan Kennedy, Transport, Policy & Planning Dept.
  - (b) Road repair reinstatement: Noted that once a road had been re-laid no company, including the Council, can re-open it within a 12 month period (except in emergency). Utility companies are required to reinstate properly. These are inspected and if they fail within two years must be rectified by the contractor at their own cost.

- (c) View expressed that when reporting pot holes the caller needs to be very specific as to the number of potholes, not just their location otherwise it is alleged only one specific pothole is repaired, ignoring others within close proximity.
- (d) View expressed that when reporting blocked gullies, call centre operators ask for the house number closest to the gully. This is not always possible, making it difficult to report.
- (e) Concern expressed that roads maintenance appears to the public to be a reactive process not necessarily addressing the worst problems. Noted that there is a citywide priority list of streets in respect of large scale improvements.
- (f) Changes in policy need to take cognisance of equalities legislation. Requested that black pole build outs be edged with reflective paint making them more visible to pedestrians and drivers.
- (g) A member of the public requested an example of where public consultation affects policy – Tony advised that the Winter Weather consultation in 2011 was considered as being very successful. Winter weather plans were produced taking account of and implementing many suggestions made by the public.

5.3.4 Tony agreed to take note of all the issues and points raised. Anyone wishing to submit suggestions and/or comments outwith the meeting is invited to email Tony Lear at [tony.lear@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:tony.lear@edinburgh.gov.uk)

### **Decision**

5.3.5 To note the presentation.

## **5.4 Themed Event – Community Safety (Report Circulated)**

5.4.1 Neighbourhood Partnership noted it had previously agreed to host two themed events per year over the coming two years. Themed events recognised as a good method of reaching the wider community. The City of Edinburgh Council is due to launch its revised strategy for Anti Social Behaviour. In addition, Lothian & Borders Police is about to launch its Edinburgh and Local Ward Policing Plan 2014. Recommended this would be an opportune time to run a themed event based around community safety. Anticipated this would take place in May 2013.

5.4.2 This proposal was welcomed by the Partnership.

### **Decision**

5.4.3 Note the report.

- 5.4.4 Approve community safety as the theme for the next Neighbourhood Partnership Event.
- 5.4.5 Remit organisational responsibility for this event to the Community Safety Priority Group, including date(s), duration and format.
- 5.4.6 Acknowledge invitation to members of the Neighbourhood Partnership to participate in organisation of event.
- 5.4.7 Acknowledge invitation to members of the Neighbourhood Partnership to identify key areas of action that they consider would be advantageous to include.

**5.5 City Centre Posters – Electricity Sub Station, Meadows**  
(Presentation by David Doig, Local Environment Manager)

- 5.5.1 David Doig reported that over the years two areas within the Meadows have suffered badly from graffiti and tagging, namely the wall near the toilet area at Middle Meadow Walk (Quartermile) and the electricity Sub Station at the confluence of Middle and North Meadow Walk. Removal of graffiti is costly and time consuming. Scottish Power is now refusing to over-paint the graffiti on the sub station as it is often back within 48 hours. As the Council do not own the building this will result in it being left in a very unsightly condition.
- 5.5.2 Discussions have taken place with Capital City Posters (CCP) to install advertising frames on both sites which would be of high quality and designed in keeping with the surrounding environment. These proposals have been put forward to the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group (MABLAG)
- 5.5.3 At both sites CCP would carry out regular clean down zones within 50m either side of the posters at no cost to the Council.
- 5.5.4 Space to be reserved for the exclusive use of the community for which CCP would provide artwork, if required.
- 5.5.5 A number of questions/comments were forthcoming which were responded to as follows:
  - (a) CCP worked with the Council on a number of projects, in particular the Festival Poster system which has worked well.
  - (b) CCP is a commercial company which would sell advertising space. Materials would be scrutinised for sensitivity.

- (c) Noted that it had been suggested at recent MABLAG meeting that other alternatives such as planting could be considered. Suggested that planting at toilet area may raise issues around safety and also would result in on-going maintenance costs. Sub Station – as noted above the building belongs to Scottish Power and their permission would be required.
- (d) Suggested that there may be an opportunity to have input from local art students. Noted that permission would need to be sought from Scottish Power and there would be ongoing cost implications but there may be an opportunity to collaborate on the background artwork.
- (e) Precise percentage of space available for community use unknown. David Doig to investigate and circulate figure.

### **Decision**

5.5.6 Note the presentation.

5.5.7 Refer to MABLAG for further discussion.

5.5.8 Receive a report on proposals at next meeting.

## **5.6 Meadows & Bruntsfield Links – Public Urination** (Briefing Paper Circulated)

5.6.1 Sarah Burns reported that a site visit had been carried out by herself, the Community Safety Manager, Insp MacLean and a Sergeant from St Leonards. A number of actions were agreed as noted in the report. These include:

- Improved signage
- Notices at known problem areas advising public urination an offence.
- Joint working with the City Centre and Leith Neighbourhoods to develop a citywide campaign against public urination.
- Develop communications plan
- Undertake deep clean of problem areas
- Increase Police and Environmental Warden patrols at appropriate times.
- Carry out street lighting review.

5.6.2 A number of issues were raised/comments made, namely:

- (a) Kathy Evans, Community Safety Manager has responsibility for this issue and will report to the Community Safety Priority Group.

- (b) Pissiors and/or public convenience beside the pavilion – professional input regarding water supply, drainage and costs is now required to examine feasibility of taking this forward.
- (c) Officers aware of the need to be vigilant at specific times. Schools to be targeted as school children urinating in their lunch break had been raised during public consultation. Acknowledged that different times require a different response.
- (d) Noted that Comfort Partnerships had been explored by the city a few years ago but not taken forward as the response had been less than positive. Recently, officers from the South Team had visited local businesses to discuss any issues they were experiencing with park users making use of their public toilets. There was a mixed response, with some saying it was a problem for them and other saying they were prepared to allow their facilities to be used.

### **Decision**

5.6.3 Note the Briefing Paper.

## **5.7 Community Grant Fund Applications** (Report Circulated)

- 5.7.1 Financial Implications (para 4.1). Noted that the balance available was the £6,000 ring-fenced for allocation at the Students in the Community Event on 30 October 2012. In the event, only the winning proposal had submitted an application for grant. Therefore a further application from Prestonfield Community Gardening Project had been accepted for consideration. Details of both applications had been circulated to the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 5.7.2 It was reported that an application from Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links had been submitted in December 2012. The group are looking for £3,570 third party funding as part of a larger funding application to WREN. It was noted that they had been informed that there was insufficient funds available to consider the application at this time but it will be presented to the April meeting.

### **Decision**

- 5.7.3 **People & Planet Society – University of Edinburgh:** Project seeks start-up costs of £4,332 in order to facilitate the formalisation of a Freeshop Initiative which enables the organisations to redistribute a considerable volume of domestic items discarded by students when they vacate their accommodation. Application for £4,332 approved.

5.7.4 **Prestonfield Community Gardening Group:** Project seeking £931 to continue to develop the enhancement of Prestonfield with floral displays and general maintenance. Application for £931 approved.

5.7.5 Noted that the small balance of £737 remaining would be approved by the Convener and Neighbourhood Manager under the delegated authority of Committee Terms of Reference A3.1.

## **5.8 South Neighbourhood Parks Repairs Budget**

5.8.1 The following questions were raised by Mr James Robertson at the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 26 November 2012 under "Public Questions". It had been agreed to include this as a main agenda item at the meeting on 28 January 2013.

- Does the SCNP Committee consider the annual budget figure of £25,000 to be a derisory sum to have to cover all emergency repair work necessary in the 23 parks (only £1,000 per park approx) particularly this year?
- Which Council official holds the purse strings and allocates the annual budget?
- What representations will the local Councillors in SCNP make to the City Council to have this vital area of budget expenditure increased to a more realistic level to preserve all of these 23 parks for the future?

5.8.2 Neighbourhood Community Parks Officer prioritises spend to address the most urgent repairs and deliver improvements within the £50k that has been allocated to the Neighbourhood each year in recent years.

5.8.3 Overall budget recommendations are made by the relevant director and presented to Council for approval; in this case, Mark Turley, Director of Services for Communities

5.8.4 Meadows & Bruntsfield Links are the largest parks and are generally allocated a significant percentage of this budget on an annual basis.

5.8.5 In addition, capital investment work which meets the relevant criteria may be able to be funded from the capital budget.

5.8.6 Normally the repairs/development budget has been adequate but over the past few years the particularly wet weather has put it under pressure.

- 5.8.7 James Robertson, Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Club wished to record his thanks for all the efforts and work done in respect of the golf course. He remained of the opinion that the budget was derisory in terms of the number of parks in the South Neighbourhood.
- 5.8.8 Ann Wigglesworth expressed a view that the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links were premier parks and as such should be allocated a specific budget. She requested this subject be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.
- 5.8.9 Cllr Paul Godzik intimated that Councillors recognised that it was difficult to maintain standards within current budget constraints. He could not comment on the forthcoming budget but this would be made public on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Cllr Jim Orr intimated that he hoped that demonstrating sporting provision could be a method of attracting funds from other sources.

### **Decision**

- 5.8.10 Note the discussion and await the announcement from the Council's budget on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

## **5.9 Public Questions**

- 5.9.1 None

## **6. Dates of Future Meetings**

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Monday, 22 April 2013 @ 6.00 pm Business Centre, City Chambers  
Monday, 2 September 2013 @ 6.00 pm Business Centre, City Chambers  
Monday, 25 November 2013 @ 6.00 pm Business Centre, City Chambers