

Minutes

South Central Neighbourhood Partnership

Monday, 02 September 2013

PRESENT

Partnership Members

Cllr Sandy Howat	CEC (Convener)
Cllr Ian Perry	CEC
Cllr Jim Orr	CEC
Cllr Steve Burgess	CEC
Milind Kolhatkar	EVOC
Alastair Philp	Marchmont/Sciennes Community Council
Bridget Stevens	Merchiston Community Council
Andy Devenport	Tollcross Community Council
Steve Gregory	Morningside Community Council
Sue Tritton	Grange/Prestonfield Community Council
George Pitcher	Southside Association
Sgt Steven Cairns	Police Scotland

Supporting Officers

Sarah Burns	CEC Services for Communities
David Doig	CEC Services for Communities
Margaret Campbell	CEC Services for Communities
Dinah Pointain	CEC Children & Families (CLD)

Apologies

Cllr Cameron Rose	CEC
Cllr Mark McInnes	CEC
Cllr Paul Godzik	CEC
Cllr Melanie Main	CEC
Ann Wigglesworth	Tollcross Community Council
Hugh Murdoch	EUSA

1. Order of Business

No notices of motion or urgent issues.

2. Declarations of Interest

As members of the respective groups the undernoted declared a non pecuniary interest in the following community grant applications which are noted at item 5.3 of the minutes.

Andy Devenport:	FOMBL & Tollcross Community Council
Alastair Philp	FOMBL
Sue Tritton	Eric Liddell Centre
Bridget Stevens	Eric Liddell Centre

3. Deputations

None

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4.1 Para 5.1.2 - Barbecues: Correction - second sentence – remove the word “at”.

Decision

Taking cognisance of the above amendment; to approve the minute of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership meeting of 22 April 2013.

Progress Updates

- Parks Repairs Budget Sarah Burns confirmed that none of the city’s seven “premier parks” has its own allocated budget.
- Roads & Transport Review - Bridget Stevens reported she had still not received a response from Tony Lear on the subject of Bus Trackers. Sarah Burns to chase this up.
- Item 5.2 – Edinburgh People Survey: Sarah Burns confirmed locations for this year’s survey not yet finalised but the team had taken a note of Ann Wigglesworth’s suggestions for Tollcross. Milind Kolhatkar requested a briefing on Priority Group discussions on the results of the Peoples Survey.

Decision: To note the progress updates and receive an update at the next meeting on Priority Group discussions on the Edinburgh People Survey results.

5. Neighbourhood Partnership Business

5.1 South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Review (Paper circulated)

- 5.1.1 Sarah Burns reminded members of the ongoing review of Neighbourhood Partnerships as part of the Council's Governance Review. The issues highlighted throughout the consultation period have been summarised in a list of options and each Neighbourhood Partnership been asked to express a view on the options and to provide feedback that can be incorporated into a further report to the Communities & Neighbourhoods Committee in December.
- 5.1.2 Using an electronic voting system, members were asked to identify whether they considered each option to be of high, medium or low priority. Those considered high to be reported back to the Community Planning Team as being the preferred options of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 5.1.3 Throughout the voting process there was considerable discussion on the options. Ultimately 22 options were selected as having a high priority with a further three with an equal vote of medium/high. These are noted below.

Accountability & Governance

1.2: Explore the potential to incorporate information on NPs/community planning as part of Council wide and partner staff induction programmes.

1.3: Agree and implement the interim charter for NPs to provide a level of operational consistency across the city.

Community Engagement

2.3: Promote the upcoming community council elections widely across the city.

2.4: Explore the feasibility of introducing e-voting for the community council elections based on the model adopted by Aberdeen City Council.

2.9: Strengthen the Planning Concordat with Community Councils, provide induction training in planning matters and produce refreshed guidance as part of the Scheme for Community Councils.

2.10: As part of the review of the Licensing Service, develop links to NPs and support for community councils. *(NB this question repeated. Only voted for once – its "High" ranking applies across all categories)*

2.12: Develop NP community engagement plans.

2.14: Explore opportunities for further developing the role of the Libraries Service in supporting NPs.

2.15: Develop the use of e-engagement.

2.16: Work with Children & Families to develop effective links between the Children's Services Management Groups, Children's Partnership and Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership. *(NB this question repeated. Only voted for once – Its "High" ranking applies across all categories)*

2.17: As part of the Roads & Transport Service Review, develop a sustainable relationship to NPs and their communities.

Partner Involvement

3.1: In partnership with EVOC and the Third Sector Strategy Group develop options for reviewing the approach to involving the third sector in NPs.

3.5: Work with the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh to develop NP role in the promotion and development of local volunteering.

Influence

4.1: Refresh the Planning Protocol with NPs

4.4: Identify opportunities for strengthening links from NPs to other strategic partnerships in the City.

4.5: Identify future opportunities for increasing budgetary influence as part of service reviews eg Roads and Transport Services.

4.6: Explore the scope to increase influence/potential devolution of specific budgets eg Parks capital budget.

4.7: Increase influence of NPs in commissioning and procurement processes in terms of definition of targeted elements of service specific specifications and community benefit clauses.

4.8: Increase the role of NPs in influencing budget decisions in relation to the former Fairer Scotland Funds now managed through the strategic partnerships.

4.10: Increase the role of NPs in the Council budget setting engagement process and thereafter the potential influencing role on mainstream budgets particularly in relation to preventative spend.

4.11: Include the role of NPs within the scope of the review of the future operation of the third party grants process.

Good Practice

5.5: Promote and support the roll out of participatory budgeting approaches across the NPs.

5.1.4 The undernoted options were judged to be joint medium/high priority:

1.1: Develop an induction programme for NP members.

2.2: Continue to work with Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and Edinburgh Tenants' Federation and explore further joint working opportunities.

2.8: Further develop the community council annual joint meeting format to promote networking and sharing of good practice.

5.1.5 The overall electronic results can be made available on request to the South Neighbourhood at southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 5151.

5.1.6 Alastair Philp requested information as to how success will be measured. It was suggested that this would be expected to form part of the report to the Communities & Neighbourhood Committee.

Decision

5.1.7 To note the discussions and report the results to the Community Planning Team.

5.2 Priority Progress Report (Circulated)

5.2.1 Environment & Town Centre Priority Group: Update from David Doig, Local Environment Manager

5.2.2 David updated the Neighbourhood Partnership on progress made in respect of the two main actions as agreed by the Priority Group in 2011, namely:

- *Improve the use of recycling facilities within South Central.* The Community representatives felt it was extremely important that the Partnership work towards improving recycling facilities within the area and encourage households to increase their recycling thereby helping to reduce Edinburgh's landfill. David outlined the achievements to date and work still to be completed.
- *Work with Friends of Parks and local residents to improve and develop the parks within the area.* Local people take a keen interest in their parks and green spaces with the many friends groups constantly working towards ensuring existing green spaces well maintained. David again outlined the achievements to date and work still to be carried out.

5.2.3 Alistair Philp asked if David's summary could be circulated.
Action: David Doig to circulate note to NP members.

- 5.2.4 Andy Devenport reported that food waste bins are beginning to smell and need cleaning. David to report to Waste Services. David also confirmed that as part of the recycling programme glass boxes were being delivered throughout the area. Cllr Perry reported that a number of the communal bins were in a state of disrepair. Noted that Waste Services did routinely replace damaged communal bins so these should be reported.
- 5.2.5 Reported that re-development of St Patrick Square likely to commence in the New Year. Work intended to bring the square up to improve accessibility to comply with legal requirements. Will include footway through the garden; improved grass area; railings put back onto their original position on the walls; installation of a bench and planters. Concerns raised regarding the bench as it may attract antisocial behaviour, based on past experience in Nicolson Square. Noted that this would be monitored and bench removed if necessary, but that there is still one bench in Nicolson Square and the situation is manageable .
- 5.2.6 At this point the subject of community policing was raised and representatives of the Community Councils intimated how much they had appreciated the work of Lothian & Borders Community Policing approach. In their view it had been extremely successful and Community Councils were concerned that this service may be lost and the balance skewed towards response.
- 5.2.7 Sgt Steven Cairns reported that Lothian & Borders had been at the forefront of community policing and that due primarily to successful lobbying by elected members it is now expected that this will continue in some form under Police Scotland.
- 5.2.8 Sgt Cairns informed the meeting that a review was underway and indicated that by the November Neighbourhood Partnership meeting the Police would be in a better position to report on the shape of the new community policing structure.
- 5.2.9 The Partnership expressed its gratification that community policing would remain in some form. Bridget Stevens asked how Community Councils could express their appreciation and concerns. Cllr Perry confirmed that they should write to their Councillors.

Decision

- 5.2.10 To note the update from David Doig and circulate the written summary.

5.3 Community Grants Fund Applications (Applications and Report Circulated)

- 5.3.1 Financial Impact (para 6.1) Two applications circulated plus one tabled application (circulated Friday, 30th August) presented for consideration. Opening balance at 2nd September being £33,748.

- 5.3.2 Noted that through the summer, two grant applications had been approved using the Council's delegated authority but before doing so, the respective applications had been circulated to the members. Sue Tritton intimated that in her view the system had worked well.

Decision

- 5.3.3 **Merchiston Community Council:** Noted award of £1,698 approved by delegated authority under Committee Terms of Reference A3.1. Grant to enable refurbishment of Battle of Flodden Borestone Plaque on Morningside Road in time for 500th anniversary commemoration events in September.
- 5.3.4 **Eric Liddell Centre:** Noted award of £1,080 approved by delegated authority under Committee Terms of Reference A3.1. Grant to fund a Young People & Families Story Telling Festival on 21 September.
- 5.3.5 **Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links (FOMBL):** Project seeks funding to enable them to produce artistically designed mural on the façade of the Scottish Power building on the Meadows. Maintenance issues have been raised. The Partnership was assured that FOMBL volunteers will endeavour to keep the building clean and will discuss with Scottish Power how any damage will be dealt with. Noted that graffiti resistant paint being used and boards attached to the building in such a manner as would make their removal very difficult. Application approved to a maximum of £4,308. Offer of grant to be withheld pending results of "Getting it Sorted Together" £500 application. If the latter approved then Community Grant to be reduced accordingly.
- 5.3.6 **Friends of Hermitage of Braid & Blackford Hill:** The Friends Group seeking funding to cover half the cost of purchasing a new all metal picnic table for use in the grassed area in front of Hermitage House. Application for £386 approved.
- 5.3.7 **Tollcross Community Council:** Late application accepted by the Partnership. Copy of application circulated to members on Friday, 30 August. Tollcross CC requesting funding to cover the costs associated with hosting their Christmas Lights Switch-on ceremony on 3rd December. Maximum grant of £580 approved. Offer of grant to be withheld pending results of private sponsorship appeals. Community Grant to be reduced accordingly or withdrawn commensurate with sponsorship.
- 5.3.8 **Students in the Community Event:** The Neighbourhood Partnership approved formally an allocation of £6,000 be ring-fenced for distribution on the evening of the Students in the Community Event Participatory Budgeting event at the end of October 2013 (Date yet to be announced).

- 5.3.9 **Edinburgh Council for Voluntary Organisations (EVOC):** Milind Kolhatkar reported that EVOC is running a form of participatory budgeting project entitled "[Canny wi Cash](#)". The project uses Edinburgh Change Fund funding to disburse grants of up to £1,500 for schemes involving older people. More information can be found on [EVOC's website](#).

5.4 Public Questions

- 5.4.1 None.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

Monday, 25 November 2013 @ 6.00 pm Business Centre, City Chambers