

# Minutes

## South West Neighbourhood Partnership

7 pm, Tuesday, 1 October 2013

### Present

Cllr. Cathy Fullerton	CEC (Convener)
Cllr. Gavin Corbett	CEC
Cllr. Dennis Dixon	CEC
Cllr. Andrew Burns	CEC
Fiona McLean	Gorgie and Dalry Community Council
Ann Denholm	Wester Hailes Community Council
Alan Dickson	Craiglockhart Community Council
Jim Scott	Longstone Community Council
Keith Bell	Sighthill, Parkhead & Broomhouse Community Council
Marie Anderson	Voluntary Sector Forum
Steven Dolan	Police Scotland

### Supporting Officers

Mike Avery	South West Neighbourhood Manager
Christine Doherty	Partnership and Information Manager
Heather Kirkland	SfC Project Manager
Selby Richardson	Urban Design Futures
David White	NHS Lothian
Scott Neill	Partnership Development Officer

## 1. Order of Business

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Order of business remained as per the set agenda, no notices of motions or any other items of business were received.

Mike Avery, Neighbourhood Manager presided over the selection of the partnership convener's position. This is a process open to multi ward councillors only, as the partnership is an advisory body to the full council and as such has to have an elected member as its convener.

Mike Avery confirmed that Councillor Fullerton had been returned as the Convener of the South West Partnership for its 2013/ 14 session.

The Convenor thanked both fellow officials for their continued support and the management team at Wester Hailes Education Centre for use of the Community

Hall for the purposes of the partnership business, before outlining the agenda for the public meeting.

## 2. Declaration of Interests

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**No notes of interest were received**

## 3. Deputations

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**None**

## 4. Minutes

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### **Decision**

The Convener advised Board members that they had received the last set of minutes from both the Business (2 April 2013) and meeting in public (21 May 2013) of the partnership. Future partnership meetings will be held in public to meet the new council governance procedures of transparency and openness.

Both minutes were approved as a correct record.

## 5. Neighbourhood Partnership Business

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**5.1 Appointment of Convener** - Confirmation of Cllr Fullerton as South West Neighbourhood Partnership Convener, see item 1.

**5.2 South West Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting schedule for 2013/14** - Christine Doherty set out this item out for members and relates to the paper showing the partnership and sub group meeting schedule for 2013/14.

### **Decision**

1. Meeting schedule approved with one amendment to reduce partnership meetings from four to three.
2. Board members to note agenda items to be submitted one month prior to a scheduled partnership or sub group meeting as per attached meeting schedule.

**5.3 Neighbourhood Partnership Review:** Review of NP sub groups and membership.

(See attached NP Review of Neighbourhood Partnerships, Communities and Neighbourhood Committee 07/05/2013 and Review of Neighbourhood Partnerships Report 07/05/2013)

In response to the NP review the SWNP will undertake a review of its activity and its links to the community over the next few months. The initial response to the NP review in terms of improving transparency of decision making has been taken already by agreeing to merge the business

meetings with the meetings in public to ensure that the public can see how the partnership makes its decisions.

The need to enhance the participation of local people in community planning and the need to be even more innovative and creative was touched on. The involvement of people of all backgrounds and circumstances was considered important, with a range of methods needed to enable them to share their experiences and contribute their ideas. Engagement is not restricted to just meetings but also providing different ways community can interact with the partnership to express their views.

The south west has been a driving force in the use of social media, helping to engage a wider and broadly different audience across the community. The use of social media has allowed dialogue to be set up with local people who wish to comment on issues but do not necessarily wish to or are able to attend meetings.

The sub group structure has helped to take forward community issues and challenge service providers to improve local delivery and to be responsive to local issues.

Over the next year it is the intention of the SWNP to review the sub group activities, in particular as the new community plan is being consulted upon, to review the membership of groups and their core activity. With the new community plan the sub groups will be asked to reflect the new community priorities.

NOTE: The scope of the review of NPs identified a number of strands of work under the three key themes of:

Enhancing community participation.

Developing and strengthening current practice.

Strengthening the strategic influence of NPs.

### **Decision**

1. Approve recommendation of Partnership team:
  - To review membership and roles of partnership sub groups

## **5.4 Community Engagement: Consultation for the new Community Plan 2014 to 2017**

As part of the development of the new community plan 2014 to 2017 the SWNP will produce an engagement plan to outline the time frame and the key partners to assist with the community plan development consultation.

Police, Voluntary Sector and NHS, will be invited to participate and lead on certain areas of engagement with the local community and their

service users to gauge views and thoughts on local issues and priorities as well as their ideas on how to reach the wider community.

Community groups including community councils, residents and tenants groups, youth groups, older people groups and minority ethnic groups will be engaged and invited to both participate in events to gauge views and thoughts on local issues as well as asked to help reach the wider community of local people who do not necessarily participate in local groups but who still have views on a number of issues.

An engagement plan will be produced by early November 2013 which will be discussed at sub group level in the first instance. Further discussion will take place with partners and community representatives and a schedule of activity will be produced outlining the work of the team over the next 9 months.

This is a partial response to the NP review and to the challenge of engaging the wider community.

### **Decision**

1. Approve recommendation of Partnership team:
  - Prepare Local Community Plan timeline for engagement activities and events
  - Sub groups to help formulate the type of issues which continue to be of interest and to determine the areas of interest they think could be raised by the local community to help formulate and structure engagement tools.
  - Strengthen role of all partners in developing/ identifying local needs and actions to deliver solutions.

## **5.5 Calder's Environmental Improvements – Phase One**

Board members received a presentation from Selby Richardson, Urban Design Futures. The presentation shows the first phase of the project and features many of the ideas generated through local consultation.

Members were interested in the regeneration at the shops & high flats and raised questions over the creation of spaces in which people could congregate to drink and the consequential anti-social behaviour. Selby Richardson and Heather Kirkland, SfC Project Manager noted the public view point and reassured that design looked at all the possibilities. This is indeed a first phase and there is still plenty of time for the public to alter future phases

In addition, both Council staff and Police officers present advised that this scenario could happen in any location old or new and that there existed powers to deal with this under current legislation.

In the same vein there was concern that there are no surface crossings on the neighbouring A71 road, forcing the local population to use underpasses or be confined to the estate. Mike Avery noted the question relating to the surface crossings and stated to the meeting that these types of crossings cost between £150K and £200K and at present there is no capital funding available to realistically address this matter.

Questions were raised about the creation of private gardens surrounding owners.

With regards the land sell off, Heather Kirkland advised the meeting that as the land was on the council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) there would have to be a report submitted to the appropriate committee via the Scottish Government to obtain permission for this proposal to take place possibly under the Cashback initiative.

The Convener noted that this project was welcomed by the local people and complimented a number of other investments in and around the Calder's area. These include the social enterprise initiative highlighted by Bridge 8 kayak and canoe club. Who have developed (organically) the first Canal based activities and projects, bringing together Scottish Canals & Waterways, the council, local high schools and other partners. Representatives from the newly formed Calder's tenants and residents association were in attendance and expressed their support for the planned Environmental work and their appreciation for all of the regeneration work being undertaken in the area.

Mike Avery reported that there is more than physical regeneration happening in the area. One notable investment was the set up of the Scottish Canal College which uses the canal as a focus to provide training for young people on a variety of skills/trades which will serve to give people a chance to work locally, developing skills to preserve the canal whilst providing training which can assist young people to gain employment.

On another project he noted that there was confirmed funding to redevelop St Stephen's Court which was previously a care facility into a number of single bedroom properties for mainstream use. The projects presented to Board Members are exactly what the neighbourhood partnership is all about, identifying needs and working together with the local community and other partners to find solutions.

## **5.6 Sub Group Chair's feedback:**

Transport & Environment – Cllr Corbett

- This issue raised by Keith Bell regarding provision for pedestrians when temporary Road work were taking place has been progressed, with agreement to provide new technical equipment.

- Canal Towpath Code of conduct – Share a great Space, monthly campaigns planned to highlight key areas of environment, ice, dog fouling, cycle speed limit, litter etc.

#### Community Safety – Cllr Dixon

1. Community Priorities agreed Ward 7
  - ASB in Murrayburn and Westside Plaza (op Richmond)
  - Dog Fouling Dalry/Gorgie
  - Dog Fouling Dumbryden
2. Community Priorities agreed Ward 9
  - Graffiti
  - Domestic Waste issues
  - ASB and Noise in Fountainbridge

From the issues raised the following were agreed as priorities. There were also other issues that were agreed to be taken as actions. These were:

- Student parking in Sighthill
- Issues around Sighthill Medical Practice
- Westfield Avenue ASB
- Domestic Abuse in general

#### Health & Inequalities – David White

- The New Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre now open, service teams have moved in. Important to clarify that this is a community facility and not just for health related issues.
- Ground breaking work relating to domestic abuse was the theatre production that highlighted this problems that has so many forms. The production offered workshops to raise partner awareness of this issue.

#### **Decision**

1. Neighbourhood officials will continue to lobby for transport issues to be finally resolved, which have been ongoing for two years.
2. South West Neighbourhood Partnership to send letter to Chief Constable supporting increased Police power when dealing with perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Partnership Board feel this decisive move would offer improved protection to victims when officers feel it is required.

#### Funding Panel – Scott Neill on behalf of Ian Doig

1. Panel members held meeting in August. First part of meeting was a training session to review funding criteria and members interpretation
2. Second part of the meeting considered three applications which were approved and one was deferred subject to further investigation. Funding report will be prepared for the next partnership meeting.

### **5.7 Public Questions**

1. Written question was supplied by Alan Dickson, Craiglockhart Community Council.
2. Betty Middleton requested a public notice board to be sited in area.
3. Fiona Mclead asked if the whole building was being sold at Springwell House?

#### **Decision**

1. Written answer will be provided in due course to Alan Dickson.
2. Community Council to complete Community Grant Application to process this request.
3. Yes, the building was unfit for purpose and costs to refurbish were prohibitive. Restructuring of NHS & H&SC assets prompted this sale.

## **6. Date of Future meetings**

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List of Partnership and sub group meeting issues for noting. There will be an amendment as per the decision taken in 5.2 reducing partnership meetings from four to three