

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 26 February 2023, 18:00 –20:00
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Donald McDonald, Mrinal Singh (Edinburgh University), Cate Jennings (Edinburgh University), Lu Liu Savage (Edinburgh University), Carolyn Samson, PC Sarah Hall, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Maureen Nelson, Ida Maspero, Rod Shearer, David Ewing (WBRA), Suzanne Ebel (Minutes).

Online: Lorna Forsyth, Logan Rutherford

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked the three visitors from University of Edinburgh to introduce themselves and explain why they were here. They are undertaking climate research in Granton and Pilton.

2. Apologies

These were received from Jill Talēyarkhan, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, Cllr Cammy Day, Deidre Brock MP, Bill Rodger (Trinity Community Council)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising. The Minutes were moved by Carolyn and seconded by Donald.

4. Police Report

January Crime Statistics

- a. Vehicle crime: in Hesperus area and cars were scratched in Boswall. There was a stolen vehicle in East Pilton Farm.
- b. Granton Primary – drivers are ignoring the planters and driving up the road. They have been looking at safer parking around the local schools. The Parking Pals will be used at the schools after Easter.
- c. Drop-Ins have been held at Granton Library. The next ones will be Monday afternoon, 4 March and Wednesday evening on 27 March. The Saturday drop-in at Morrisons Ferry Road was successful so will be repeated at some point.
- d. PC Hall reiterated that pavement parking is enforced by CEC and not the police.
- e. PC Hall had no further updates on the Hogmanay shooting.

Questions and comments

- Donald asked where the guns were coming from. PC Hall replied that some are just reused by criminals for crimes.
- Carolyn checked that the police were going to respond to the event for Marc Webley. PC Hall said they were aware.
- Maureen advised that drivers are ignoring the diversion notice and driving through the barriers on Pilton Drive North.
- Carolyn reported that outside Wardie Primary there is parking on the zigzags, pavement parking, going along the one-way system the wrong way.
- Suzanne asked if there were any plans to run a speed check on Granton Road as the traffic speed was noticeably faster recently.

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dobbin

- a. Cllr Dobbin said that he will follow-up the service 9 bus stop request.
- b. The pavement parking ban has gone relatively smoothly but there are clearly some safety issues. Donald said that Wardie Crescent isn't wide enough for buses and people if cars don't park on the pavement. Carolyn added that she had witnessed issues for a fire engine and ambulance in Granton Medway. David added that Lower Granton Road is better as the traffic must slow down now that cars are parked fully on the road. Carolyn mentioned Fraser Avenue and Boswall Green as the wide pavements are causing an issue. Cllr Dobbin said that the Scottish Government could grant an exemption where this occurs, but they are not currently minded to grant exemptions.
- c. George advised Cllr Dobbin that there was a good pilot in York where they staggered the parking bays to create space for cars. Cllr Dobbin said he would look at this.

Housing Committee

- a. There is regular reporting on the progress in clearing the voids. There are approx. 1200 flats available but only 1000 are suitable for letting.
- b. Dampness cases – it was hoped that the dedicated dampness team might have made more progress than to date. The committee has asked for reporting from the team every two months to monitor progress.

Questions and comments

- Maureen reported that there were empty flats in Granton Crescent, and nobody is very sure why they have remained empty for so long. Cllr Dobbin replied that there might be a range of reasons why this is the case. For example, there is only one key available for the trades who need to renovate or repair empty flats.
- Donald asked what is going to happen to the Crewe Toll fire station when the tram is brought up to Granton. Cllr Dobbin responded that there are two potential routes, one of which already has permission from the original tram plan. The alternative route is along Orchard Brae but the hill is an issue and that it comes out on the Dean Bridge.

6. Secretary's Report

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

- George has circulated all relevant information by email prior to the meeting.
- There is a proposal that community council office bearers will need to rotate or stand down after three years. This could potentially cause issues for very small CCs. It is being discussed at the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils at the 1 March meeting.
- The discussions about the boundary changes are ongoing so have not been approved yet. However, some of the proposed changes would restore parts of the area back to GDCC.
- There is still no active West Granton/West Pilton CC.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer advised that the current balance is £2791.27. There are no outstanding invoices.

8. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

- The North West Local Community Planning Partnership (NW LCPP) met Friday 23rd February. A letter has gone from the chairs of the localities asking why locality chairs have not been included in activities of the Edinburgh Partnership to Cllr Cammy Day and has been signed off by all four locality chairs.
- The NW Locality is still looking at the Local Improvement Plan (LIP) and what should be the priorities in that plan.
- Minutes of both groups will be distributed to members once received.

9. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

- George has been engaging with Sat Patel on the issues raised following their presentation in November. Some environmental corridors have been removed – there is a need to look at the greenspace and how to keep a diversity of fauna and flora.
- Car parking – there is a welcome reduction in spaces, but this must not affect disabled parking availability.
- Boswall Green dormer window – GDCC and eight others objected to this planning application two years ago. As the houses are of historical cultural significance previous applications were refused but this application was approved despite assurances that any front facing dormers would not be approved and alter the street scape. David Givan and the then chair of the Development Management Sub Committee, Neil Gardiner along with various officers met in this area amongst others to look at how over development would affect the area and reassurances were given. The community council were disappointed that these assurances have not been honoured. George will write to raise our concerns.
- Boswall Drive Park ‘consultation’ – GDCC undertook a full consultation with the community around here a few years ago and collected useful ideas and approaches from the local residents. The consultation event held in Wardie Bowling Club on 11 February 2024, at very short notice, offered a plan that does not reflect what people want. None of the ten CEC officers involved have discussed their plan with GDCC prior to the public meeting despite GDCC pursuing this for at least a year. David Delargy did ask people at the event how they heard about it and the majority of replies was ‘through the EH5 Community Support Facebook group’. If Carolyn hadn’t seen a flyer, there would have been few people there. Only two people said they had seen one of the distributed flyers.

George added that a Steering Group will need to be established, representing all parties. The Book Swap cabinet can be installed fairly quickly into the existing park.

Comments

Ida said the consultation itself was good but the way it was done was not efficient and the timing was bad. It seemed like an afterthought.

Councillor Dobbin agreed that the lack of notice wasn’t great and thought it could have been better structured on the day. It was a shame this happened as the community had expected more. There is a feedback report due from the event and this should be circulated soon. He will ensure that GDCC sees it.

10. AOCB

- a. David Ewing said that he has requested an additional stop for the service 9 bus on Granton Road and that the pavements could be built out to narrow the road and slow the traffic. There was discussion about where a crossing point could be placed on or near Granton Square to slow the traffic down as it comes from Granton Road – cars sometimes fail to stop. Councillor Dobbin is to take up the issue with David.

- b. The caravan in Pilton Avenue blocks access to it so the resident is just driving over the pavement to the house and there is a large amount of rubbish in front of it too.
- c. Ida said it was good to see that there was now a communications officer and asked when the Minutes etc will be available. George responded that Logan himself and Lloyd Langley, (who is a member of the community council as an interest party group representative for the Harbour Green Residents' Association) will be updating and populating the website. Lloyd developed the website and George admitted that he was unable to understand how to do the necessary updates. This will be discussed and Lloyd will assist in getting the new website running initially. He acknowledged that the website could not be updated or altered outside the membership of the community council, as we are not able to employ outside contractors or individuals due to GDPR, as the community council is a data controller. It has to be utilised and worked within the membership. This will be a gradual process of learning for the new communications officer.
- d. There were three issues that were raised from the EH5 Community Support Facebook group: bins not being emptied so blocking the pavements; the potholes in so many well-used roads and the worsening dog poo situation. George responded that he had written to the council about the bins and that this is an enforcement issue that is not being carried out. Carolyn said that the EH5 Community Support admins do provide all the relevant information for people to complain and encourage them to complain so that the CEC can see the extent of the issues.
- e. Donald asked why there were two classrooms in Granton Primary School which don't switch off at night. Fred suggested they might be on faulty time switches, and he will ask about this.
- f. There is a tree planting event in Granton Crescent Park on 6 March.
- g. A number of the tree guards around the trees in Wardie Playing Fields were missing but it appears that Lothian Green Space Trust have replaced some of them and also laid some bark chips.
- h. Rod Asked if there were still planning issues with the lanes behind Wardie Crescent. George replied that CEC had looked at this, but the issue was more that residents were closing off the wildlife corridors than a planning breach as lanes exist all over the Boswall, Fraser, and Grierson areas which were originally access points to the housing and a number of garages still exist but are not accessible.
- i. Maureen said the parking at the Spartans vs Hearts match had been done well. There was a short discussion about the parking situation going forward. She also enquired about a new fence that has appeared at Spartans that runs right up to the footpath.
- j. Rod asked what is going to happen to Crewe Toll fire station as RAAC had been found.

11. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 25 March 2024, 18:30 at RWCC and online.