

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 25 February 2025, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Carolyn Samson, Maureen Nelson, David Jamieson, PC Sarah Hall, Ida Maspero, Rod Shearer, Michelle Fraser (CEC), Sat Patel (CEC + Waterfront Team), David Delargy (CEC + Atkins Realis team online), Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting. He added that this was the final meeting of the Community Council in its current form due to the forthcoming community council elections.

2. Apologies

These were received from Jill Talēyarkhan, Donald McDonald.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes. They were moved by Lorna and seconded by Carolyn.

4. Police Report

Calls 241

Crime Reports 84

Crimes

No housebreakings

Theft of pedal cycle from near to Crewe Medical Practice

Theft from insecure motor vehicle

Vandalisms x5 (2 to motor vehicles)

Attempt robbery – youths identified and charged

Motor vehicle window smashed and vehicle searched

Community Sergeant

New Community Sgt is Laura Blamire

Drop Ins

Granton Library

Tomorrow (Wed 26th Feb) 6pm to 7pm

Monday 17th March, 2pm to 3pm

Morrisons, Pilton Drive

Saturday 8th March and Saturday 12th April – 1030 to 1230

5. Presentation – Boswall Crescent Park report (Atkins Realis team and David Delargy)

There were technical issues which meant that it was almost impossible to communicate properly with the online team and David had to relay both their comments to us and our

questions and comments to them. It would have been preferable to have had the team there for a proper discussion.

The process leading to the production of the report was explained along with an explanation of the concept overview of the elements included in the proposal.

Comments

Carolyn said that, as the person who had been co-ordinating the proposal, she was disappointed at the proposed park. They wanted swings and slides but the consultants appeared to have listened to the 'naysayers' rather than the residents. She had received 400 messages from residents expressing their dissatisfaction at the proposals.

DAVID DELARGY SAID THAT THEY HAD TRIED TO DELIVER A BALANCE.

Suzanne asked how big the area designated as a play space was and also in relation to the whole park space.

THE TEAM WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

Ida reiterated that people had also told her that they wanted more of a playspace.

David said that he thought it looked like a great space and that it was good that the council wanted to spend money on this.

George added that the consultation that had originally been done by the CC had not brought these themes forward. People wanted space for children to play and space to walk their dogs.

Fred asked how much of the plan could be changed.

DAVID DELARGY SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT CHANGES COULD STILL BE MADE AT THIS STAGE.

Carolyn commented that a 'Friends of Group' *could* work and put in the additional extras like community growing if there was demand but people have asked for a fenced-in play area and they have not been offered this.

Fred asked the team to consider what had been said and to return in a few months with a final design that reflected what the majority of the local residents and community had asked for.

6. Presentation – Waterfront Development update

Sat and Michelle came to report on progress since the planning application had been made.

Western Villages: council housing and mid-rent housing now being handed over.

Silverlea: 143 social and 53 mid-market rent housing was next to be handed over. As part of their community benefit the builders are building a new pavilion for Craigroyston FC, which they hope to hand over in the autumn.

Granton Station View: handing over properties currently.

Gasholder number one: now open. The official opening will be on 4 and 5 April when there will be a family fun day.

Responses to points raised by GDCC

Mobility hub and neighbourhood hub – there are two potential sites on Waterfront Avenue and at Granton Square. The car hub would have five cars and a van available as well as bike hire; EV charging; a taxi rank. The cycle hub would be secure and have covered space for repairs (including a vending machine for spare parts) and a cafe. CEC has been in talks with Brompton

Bike Hire. Dr Bike will offer led walks and led cycle trips and they are working with the R2 NEAT group too.

DAVID SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS NO POINT BUILDING THE CYCLING HUB UNTIL THERE IS A GOOD NETWORK OF CYCLE ROUTES TO CONNECT AREAS.

Sat said this would come towards the end of the project.

School

A site has been earmarked but there is no final design. Pirniehall and Granton Primaries will feed into Craigroyston High School. Planning is for 420 pupils, rising to 630 pupils in the new primary school. Craigroyston HS will need to be expanded to hold approximately 1200 pupils and they are looking at the options for this now. The new primary school will open in August 2028 depending on various factors.

NHS services

A new GP surgery is needed and something might be able to be built on the north side. However, the way the NHS is funded is proving to be an issue in discussions.

District Heat Network Solution

CEC is working on this with Cruden. A site has been identified and they will use the sewer waste to generate the heat. The build is a concession agreement – CEC will have control over tariffs and get a share of the profits.

Traffic management plan

There will be six years of construction traffic. Cruden are trying to contain things as much as possible. For example, having pop-up timber depots and so on.

GEORGE ASKED CRUDEN TO KEEP THE HEAVY TRAFFIC OFF LOWER GRANTON ROAD AND DIRECT IT TO USE FERRY ROAD AND THEN DOWN. IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SAT NAVS WILL NOT NECESSARILY OFFER THIS ROUTE BUT DRIVERS MUST BE AWARE.

DAVID ASKED IF THERE WILL BE A REPORTING SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT USE THE CORRECT ROADS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT ONLY RESPONSIBLE SUPPLIERS WILL BE SELECTED.

SAT ADVISED THAT THE TMP WILL BE REVIEWED REGULARLY. THE CRUDEN REPRESENTATIVE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE VEHICLES HAVE A LOT OF USEFUL TECH THAT CAN HELP TO IDENTIFY WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN AND WHERE THEY ARE GOING.

Apprentices and work opportunities

Michelle agreed with Carolyn that a scheme like the Currie/Kier model could work well and they are engaging with headteachers on this. There may also be some opportunities through Cruden's community wealth-building and community benefits obligations.

General

Carolyn reminded the team that truly accessible play spaces and disabled parking spaces should be properly considered.

7. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dijkstra-Downie said that she had been dealing with complaints about the various recent fire-raising incidents at the waste ground beside the wireworks and also advertised the Gasholder open day in April.

8. Secretary's Report

- a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

9. Treasurer's Report

- a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £2985.90

10. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

The Locality Chairs meeting was on Wednesday 26th February with Andrew Field.

A Neighbourhood Network meeting was held on 5 March 2025.

11. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

Nothing here this month.

12. AOCB

Ida said that there were many residents who were unaware that the Medway space was going to be cleared as they had not received any notice or information.

DAVID DELARGY RESPONDED THAT ALL AFFECTED RESIDENTS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE. WHEN THEY BEGAN TO CLEAR THE SPACE THEY REALISED QUITE QUICKLY THAT IT WAS A MUCH BIGGER JOB THAN ANTICIPATED. IT WAS FULL OF RUBBISH AND DENSE VEGETATION WHICH MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE THE SURVEY CAN BE DONE. IT IS ACTUALLY TWO PROJECTS: THE ORCHARD AND THE PARK AREA.

13. Date and time of next meeting

TBC following Community Council Elections – likely to be Monday, 31 March 2025, 18:30, RWCC and on MsTeams.