

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 27 January 2025, 18:30 – 19:50
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Jill Talēyarkhan, Rod Shearer, David Jamieson (WBRA), Maureen Nelson, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth, Logan Rutherford, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from PC Tony Lawrence and PC Sarah Hall (rest day)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes and they were proposed by Suzanne and seconded by George.

4. Police Report

A written report was provided by PC Lawrence.

70 Recorded Crimes for December.

Vehicle Crime

29/12 Car window smashed and money stolen from a vehicle parked on Pilton Drive.

Housebreaking

7/12 a property in Granton Place was entered when the rear door was forced and items stolen from within.

8/12 a property in Boswall Place was entered via an insecure rear door and items stolen.
(a reminder to keep doors locked at all times and double check at night before bed).

Our drop in dates are as follows:

Granton Library Drop-Ins

Drop In at Granton Library, Wardieburn Terrace

Next dates Monday 3rd Feb from 2 to 3pm and Wednesday 26th Feb from 6 to 7pm

Morrisons Drop-Ins

Drop In at Morrisons, Ferry Road between 1030 and 1230

Next date is Saturday 8th February

We had a very busy day on Friday with the Storm and hope that things are getting back to normality in the community.

Questions and comments

George queries that the report says 70 crimes reported but only a couple of minor ones in the report. Why the discrepancy?

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Stuart Dobbin

Cllr Dobbin has been doing casework, mostly around housing issues and work on supporting the parents and carers of additional support needs children.

The 'tourist tax' has now been passed and agreed at 5%, which is less than charged in other European cities.

The growing number of Air BnB properties in Edinburgh is having a detrimental effect on housing. The SNP group would like a significant proportion of the tax raised to be put into building housing for workers but the other parties weren't as keen on this idea.

It is budget-setting time again

Questions and comments

David asked if any of the money will be spent in the ward. Cllr Dobbin responded that the legislation doesn't allow for this and there is no defined programme of spend as such. The start date for the tax is October 2025 (relevant hotels, properties and campsites must be ready by then) and 24 July 2026 is when it will be implemented.

Cllr Dijkstra-Downie added that some of the spending has been clarified. There will be £100k assigned to participatory budgeting (similar to Leith Chooses) across the city. The remainder will be spent 55% infrastructure; 35% heritage; 10% visitor management and this will be done on a ward boundary basis.

David asked what happened to the idea of having an extra service 9 bus stop on Granton Road (before Granton Square) as LRT were still keen on this. Cllr Dobbin said he will look into it again. The preferred option is to have a pair of stops (opposite sides of road).

Jill reported that her development had done a litter pick of the bank leading to the cycle path on Crewe Road North but there was still a lot of rubbish that they were unable to tackle. She asked Cllr Dobbin to investigate.

Jill asked about the razor wire at Leonardo. It is permitted development

Cllr Dijkstra-Downie

Cllr Dijkstra-Downie advised that any dangerous storm damage is being prioritised and the rest will be attended to in due course.

The bus stop outside Granton Primary has become a smoking shelter and the Parent Council is trying to get it moved or turned around so children are a little more protected from the smoke.

The new gasholder park is open and Cllr Dijkstra-Downie urged everyone to go and see it if they haven't already.

Cllr Dijkstra-Downie attended a low-cost heating event with Fred and they saw some options for this that are coming on stream.

6. Secretary's Report

George sent out a number of communications highlighting consultations and communications received. He has spent a lot of time in relation to setting up the community councils' elections including ordering leaflets for distribution and posters for public display to encourage applications. The EACC also had extreme misgivings as to the way this election is being conducted as a lot of the local connections are being removed, such as returning officers checking credentials and numbers of suitable applications which means that somebody that does not even understand the new boundaries and potential conflicts of interest will be

scrutinising the applications. Once the forms are available for application, they will be forwarded to potential candidates as everybody has to link through the credential's website. In fact, there is an issue with the heavy reliance on technology across the city as not everyone is confident or comfortable with using technology.

George is discussing with Logan how best to put all the relevant information on our website.

Comments

Rod pointed out that most of the sessions to tell people about the forthcoming elections and the work of community councils are being held in the south side of the city. The one even in the north, at Muirhouse Library, was cancelled and in fact staff knew nothing about it.

Consultations and guidance

Edinburgh Design Guidance

[Planning Guidance - Edinburgh Design Guidance - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)

Planning Guidance – Householders

[Planning Guidance - Householders - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)

Planning Design Guidance

[Give us your views on our Planning Design Guidance - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

There has been no change to the bank account however Lorna sought permission to renew the Cockburn Association subscription and has two invoices to pay for the meeting room let.

8. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

The next funding panel meeting will take place on 11th February which will be the last prior to the forming of a new community council. Four applications for consideration have been received to date which will leave more funds for the new panel to consider in April. There is no date for the next Neighbourhood Network meeting itself, that should be coming shortly.

Fred commented that the approach of the Community Engagement Team asking smaller groups to apply for funding has been successful and is a strategy for preventing large groups regularly applying for money.

CPP

There is a Chairs' meeting on 26th February to discuss the paper that was taken to Culture and Communities Committee and the Edinburgh Partnership. Ironically, the Chairs were excluded from participation, so there will be further feedback in relation to this just prior to the dissolution of the community council. Despite continued objection from the Chairs group, Andrew Field and Michele Mulvaney have ploughed on regardless and despite the community events feedback, we are unsure of the future of this forum. It was also felt the timeframe is extremely unhelpful given the community council elections. We have endeavoured to retain the community voices and that of the community council, but it appears to have fallen on deaf ears. It should also be noted that the police, health, and IJB were all in support of its retention.

9. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

There have been no major planning applications since my last report and I have forwarded copies of the consultation in relation to planning guidance and City Plan which I would encourage you to participate in as it also affects household applications which I still have my own concerns about despite commitments from head of planning, David Givan and the then Chair of the planning committee, Neil Gardiner. They continue to approve large scale development including dormers and extensions that are slowly changing the nature of our more historic areas and estates and leading to the destruction of any form of streetscape which is a planning consideration. This is more notable in the Boswall and Grierson areas and despite reasonable objections in respect of scale and design, it is rarely heeded.

10. AOCB

1. George asked who would like to go to the civic reception celebrating 50 years of community councils. Fred will be representing GDCC but there are four places available.
2. There was a brief discussion about the draft report on the Boswall Crescent Park proposals. George asked if we would like to speak to the various parties involved and will invite them to the next meeting.
3. George asked if people would be happy for him to raise the issue of cash machines with elected members again. There is a growing concern within the community in relation to banking services, which discriminate against our pensioners. We have always advised that there was an inadequacy of cash lines other than the post office which could be relied on. George encountered the same issue that is being reported and discussed by others which Scotmid's ATMs only working sporadically. Both Morrison's -- Ferry Road and Granton were out of cash, so he was forced to go outwith the area to obtain money as the Boswall Drive Post Office had lengthy queues due to the cash machines being non-functional. It turned out later that the one on Granton Road Scotmid **was** functioning, but it was reported that there was a queue. Also, when depositing cheques through the Post Office it takes a further three days for clearance, so effectively this means there is no real banking or adequate banking services in our area or indeed West Granton/West Pilton area.

The community council lobbied hard as did George as a councillor to TSB and Bank of Scotland when they closed the branches as we anticipated these types of issues, which was supported by MPs and MSPs at the time, so it begs the question why we pay service charges when there is a lack of services. He was eventually able to access the ATMs at the Western General and the Bank of Scotland on Raeburn Place, but only because he could drive easily to these machines.

11. Date and time of next meeting

TUESDAY, 25 February 2025 in the Café area at RWCC (ground floor), 18:30. Also on MsTeams.