

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 30 March 2026, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Carolyn Samson, David Jamieson, Jill Talēyarkhan, Rod Shearer, PC Sarah Hall, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, James Ewan, Brent Quinn, Tamsin Grainger, Juliette ?, Jamie Talēyarkhan, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Susan Allan, Ida Maspero, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising and the Minutes were moved by George and seconded by Jill.

4. Police Report

There were 226 reported incidents for the ward in February.

- 8 miscellaneous road traffic offences

- 2 vehicle vandalism reports

- 6 shop-lifting incidents

- 2 stolen bicycles

- 2 motor vehicle break-ins – tools stolen from one and cash stolen from the other.

The new Chief Inspector is Ran McDonald.

There are the usual April drop-ins.

Questions

Someone asked why the police did not evict the travellers when the last warrant was in effect. PC Hall reiterated that this was not a police matter and that they can't act unless a crime is committed. (And they have been to the encampment for this reason.)

David asked if anything can be done about the fires. PC Hall responded that the Scottish Fire Service have been down there and given advice. The police distributed a letter to the whole encampment about fire safety around Christmas time. It appears that the fires are being set to extract base metals so that is why they are so toxic.

In relation to the travellers, at the last meeting it emerged that the travellers have successfully obtained legal aid to fight their case. Six or seven of the families want accommodation here as their children are settled in Granton Primary. It was noted that one or two of these families have arrived since the eviction order was granted. Also, it appears that three static caravans have arrived at the site and this has legal implications for their removal and for clearance of the site. The hearing is slated for 15 July 2026.

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dobbin said his report is summed up in three words: damp, stair, trees.

1. There has been progress on dampness partly due to the special preservation team that was convened but it is still a significant issue.
2. Stair-cleaning – Cllr Dobbin together with another councillor has asked for a report about the situation. It is not just an issue in north Edinburgh although it seems worse here. Cllr Dobbin has been collecting addresses for investigation and evidence. It is a real issue in the refurbished blocks, which will now need thorough steam-cleaning. The company is called Perfect Clean and is based in Bathgate.
3. Trees on Waterfront Boulevard –every second (more or less) tree has a white cross on it indicating that it will be removed to allow the trees to grow properly. They are also non-native trees. Where the derelict shops are next to the Morrisons garage, there was a mass clearance. The two things are not related and there is a requirement to replant trees and hedges in the Waterfront masterplan.

The lack of communication re the intent to clear is very disappointing. Both Councillor Dobbin and Councillor Dijkstra-Downie have written to the appropriate officers to say that they need to do better.

Questions and comments

Tamsin reported that the trees at Caroline Park were illegally felled and this is the subject of a formal complaint to CEC. It is unlikely that the destroyed habitat will be returned to its previous state.

David responded that there is a high-quality plan for the landscaping in the Waterfront; whether they can actually afford to do this remains to be seen.

George added that Sat Patel from the Waterfront Project has offered to come and do an update at the next meeting and people can ask questions about what has happened and what will happen in future. George also pointed out that there were in fact no TPOs on the mature trees.

6. Presentation – 1 West Granton Road

Brent Quinn and James Ewen, Cockburn Consultants and Inver Property Group, came along to talk about their plans for this plot, which has been empty for some time now. (For context GDCC has objected to previous iterations of the planned proposal.) Brent began by saying that they had been considering the feedback that they had received. Also that they weren't familiar with the way that the council encourages communication with residents which is why they had not spoken or communicated as widely as would be expected.

They know that the site is not conducive to family homes so they intend to build more one-bed, with a few two-bed, homes to make them more affordable and of community benefit. They have removed the ground floor parking – the development is now car-free – and intend to put something commercial instead. They asked for ideas. Thirty-five per cent of the development is affordable homes.

Brent provided a handout that summarises why they are considering this change and is arguing that their revised proposal 'is a direct, positive response to the Granton Masterplan vision – filling a gap site with the density, active frontage and community benefit the area needs.

They began to dig out the site recently to explore the geology etc.

Questions and comments

George observed that there are two- and three-bed homes in the area already that don't all have private gardens. Also a GP surgery or dentist wouldn't be permissible as there is public

parking or spaces for staff. There are three gyms within the vicinity so that is perhaps not a good idea either. A café is a possibility and should be explored.

The new proposed height will overshadow surrounding buildings despite company's assertion that there is no impact on listed buildings or the Granton Square setting.

The statement that there are no objections is misleading. People did not receive neighbourhood notifications nor were the lamppost postings done so people were unaware of the possible development. There have been a number of demonstrations on the site and the police have been called to some of them.

David observed that 45 Neighbourhood Notifications were sent out, which appears to be a lot but most were sent to the development directly across the road and only a few to the sheltered housing complex behind. David said he was pleased to see that there have been design changes because the old proposal was unattractive. Mixed materials are now unpopular because of the maintenance required. He suggested they consider the single material housing in much of Leith now.

Carolyn expressed concerns about site safety. Granton Square is a bit of a racetrack at the best of times. Where will workers be parking their cars. Finally, how can they guarantee that it will be a car free development? Brent said that the site safety plan was not in place yet but everything will be considered when the time comes.

Tamsin said the state of the road and pavement was dangerous and was damaged when the site was used to sell Christmas trees. She added that the site was at least twenty minutes from the local schools and medical centres.

George asked Brent to make sure that the contractors use the approved route to the site – not Lower Granton Road or Granton Road. George also made a plea that they do not sell to just one person who will likely use the flats as short-term lets.

Jill asked Brent to consider going for high spec design and materials so that the building will still be in good order many years down the line. Brent responded that they must follow the standards for glazing and insulation. He accepts the point that white finishes stain badly.

Fred said that there is a lot of development in the area. How are they going to heat these flats? There will be a mix of solar, air source heat pumps and electric.

Brent concluded by saying that they will supply the revised plans when available for GDCC to discuss and feed back.

7. Secretary's Report

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

George has sent all relevant material to the members but accepts and apologises that he has inadvertently missed some people from the mailing list. He will correct this for future meetings.

8. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

A cheque for £25 has been given to Lloyd for the annual domain name charge. A cheque for £18 has been issued for the room rent.

9. Engagement and Inclusion Officer's Report

Urban Forestry Challenge Fund:

In follow-up to our discussions about this at previous meetings, I made contact with Fiona Underhill at the Council, as suggested by Tamsin Grainger. It transpires that the [Canopy Community Project](#) led by the Council in partnership with Granton Community Gardeners, is

funded by the Urban Forestry Challenge Fund. So there is no point embarking on an application as it will overlap with/duplicate the existing project.

Instead, Fiona has asked that we assist in engaging the community and encouraging local people to become 'Canopy Custodians' who help care for newly planted trees. Once I'm back in Edinburgh, I'll arrange to meet Fiona and discuss.

Social media & website:

Audience engagement on our Facebook page and our posts on the local group continues to grow steadily. It's proving a useful way to update residents on our meetings, council consultations, police drop-ins etc. In the coming months I'll set us up on Instagram too to help further grow our reach. Feel free to pass on any info you'd like posted to our social media.

The website homepage has had a mini makeover to make it a little more visually engaging. I'll continue to work with Lloyd on small incremental improvements. Content (such as meeting minutes) is now being updated regularly. Again, please let me know of any news updates we should add.

As a result of greater awareness of our activities, the engagement inbox has received emails about a couple of issues residents are concerned about

Issue raised:

Extensive tree felling as part of Granton Waterfront Development

This was also a hot topic on local social media groups (EH5, Granton Station). Widespread concern from local residents is reflected in the email from local artist Natalie Taylor, which highlights both the extent of tree removal (mostly naturally seeded but some former plantings) as well as the total lack of any communication from CEC and the contractors.

Both Cllrs Dijkstra-Downie and Dobbin have provided replies - I have forwarded the whole thread for your information.

Issue raised:

Recent sale of Granton Square property (inc. HMS Claverhouse) to K&S Mir

This was brought to my attention via WhatsApp by local resident Karen Bates. Definitely something to be aware about and keep an eye open for planning applications.

Questions and comments

Rod asked if there is any scope to revisit the rezoning of the area to conservation status. George replied that considerable efforts had been made to have the Griersons and Boswalls and Wardie Steps included in the Trinity Conservation area and this had been unsuccessful.

Fred asked Cllr Dobbin if he knew about the saplings that are appearing in the area. These are part of the Canopy Community Project that is Granton Community Gardeners is facilitating.

10. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

There is nothing to report on the NW Locality. The officers in the Neighbourhood Networks have just completed their annual training. This training is the same every year and makes no distinction between new members and longstanding members. Community Councils are still being marginalised and the council is not really interested in hearing directly from people so no advantage is being gained from local knowledge.

11. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

There were no planning applications but it has been noted that the Granton Harbour developer is selling off various plots in the harbour.

Questions and queries

George asked Cllr Dobbin if he can check that all the S75 contributions have been made. Cllr Dobbin responded that as far as he was aware, they are being transferred to the new owners.

12. AOCB

Jill said that despite many promises the Crewe Road North pavements from Boswall Parkway to Crewe Toll have still not been done and we are now at the end of another financial year. Slurry cannot be used as the pavements are so badly damaged that a 'proper' repair will need to be done. The east side is very bad but the west side is not quite as bad.

George remarked that people are not taking their bins in so pavements are narrowed and made dangerous for pedestrians.

Jill asked Cllr Dobbin to pass on that the litter/fly-tipping situation around the bridge on Crewe Road North was much improved and the residents were very pleased. Cllr Dobbin said that the young offenders had taken this on as their community payback and he hoped it would continue.

13. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 27 April 2026, 18:00, RWCC and online