

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 25 May 2026, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Jill Talēyarkhan, David Jamieson, Susan Allan, Tamsin Grainger, PC Sarah Hall, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Waterfront Development Team: Sat Patel, Michelle Fraser, Cameron Baillie (Transport), Kevin Haggart (Cruden Homes), David Mowat, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth; Public: David Middleton, G. Cline, Alastair Brockie, Mark Harti

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Ida Maspero, Carolyn Samson, MSP/Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Minutes were approved online, and this will be reaffirmed at the June meeting.

4. Police Report

There were 77 crimes reported for April.

Vehicle crime

A car door was forced but nothing was stolen.

A van door was forced but no entry was gained.

A car was broken into and a purse stolen.

There was one reported housebreaking; two bike thefts and a 36yo male was charged with cannabis offences.

Walkway patrols

Extra patrols have been made on the walkways and in Victoria Park following incidents with cyclists and pedestrians. Four youths have been charged with recent offences.

Drop-in

The next drop-in is in Granton Library on 1 June.

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dobbin reported that three subjects still fill his inbox: damp, weeds and stair-cleaning. Despite the set-up of the response team, the response to damp issues seems to be getting worse. The situation with Perfect Clean has not progressed and there has been a poor response from the council to fixing the issues. Trying to find a suitable solution to the spring weeds remains a challenge and Cllr Dobbin has not had proper answers to his questions about the number of small sweepers, which could help address this issue.

Questions and comments

- i. Tamsin commented that someone had been in the Granton orchard doing some cleaning up and what are the plans for this space. Cllr Dobbin responded that it was being cleared (again) by the council to bring it back to a usable state.
- ii. Susan said that the newly laid Granton Crescent pavements were a mess with uneven patches, footprints and spilt slurry where it shouldn't be.
- iii. Suzanne said that she had heard from an apprentice that the damp and general repair work was not being scheduled properly so the trades were not sent to jobs in the correct order. Cllr Dobbin noted this.

Presentation – Granton Waterfront development Phase 1

Michelle began by talking about the Heritage spaces included in this phase:

- Granton Station and the completion of this with the planting of the platforms;
- Madelvic House refurbishment;
- Granton Castle Walled Garden repairs;
- Granton Lighthouse, which will be a new education and culture hub, for completion in 2028.

As a reminder, Phase 1 is 847 homes, construction from 2026—2032. Forty-five per cent of these will be affordable housing. As the ground was previously industrial, it must be prepared for building. It is contaminated and must be treated before levelling etc. This is why the trees and hedges were removed before nesting season and work on moved drains and cables will commence over the next few months.

Questions and comments

- i. Brian Hannah submitted a question asking whether the Granton Waterfront team plans to run another public update event anytime soon. Michelle and Sat said this should be possible mid to end of June, likely in the Granton Station building and these will be widely advertised. There should also be some updates for the information boards and a newsletter is due soon.
- ii. Tamsin commented that there was a lot of ill-feeling about the removal of the trees, hedges etc especially about the lack of communication about this. Better communication going forward would help restore some community goodwill. Sat advised that the four trees which weren't cut down due to nesting birds will now be reassessed and cut down. There is an ecologist advising the team about this.
- iii. As a side note, the trees marked with a white cross on Waterfront Drive will also be removed soon as they were planted incorrectly spaced.
- iv. Sat admitted that during the commercial negotiations they lost sight of what needed to be communicated, and he apologised for this.

Cruden Homes

- i. Kevin advised that the materials will be coming from the west. This is an issue because the lorries cannot turn left at the Crewe Toll roundabout as there is not enough room. A solution will need to be found because articulated lorries cannot go down Crewe Road North. They are also looking at various options for site traffic management most likely a one-way system. There is some provision for parking for operatives in light vehicles.

- ii. **Community benefit** – there are apprenticeship target for Cruden Homes and there will be some community wealth-building provision. They are working with Craigroyston High to provide work experience for the trades for school leavers.
- iii. Now that the project is in contract there will be a ‘meet the buyer’ event for local trades and businesses so that they can bid for work.
- iv. **NPF4 Biodiversity guidelines** – there will be a wide range of replanting and restoration when the green spaces are added. This includes trees, rain gardens, understorey planting in the woodland, meadows, planting beds and 3km of hedging.
- v. **School** – a planning application will be submitted in Q3/Q4 2026 with a site start of 2027 and opening in 2028 (tbc).
- vi. **Forthquarter Park** (Granton Burn) trash gate – SEPA requested a redesign to cover a 1 in 250-year event. This took longer than expected to design and achieve SEPA sign-off but should happen over the next 6-8 months.
- vii. **Waterfront CPZ** – boundary and phasing are tbc. Approximately 10% of the bays will be disabled spaces. There will be 4 spaces for rapid charging EVs. There was a discussion about public transport, parking and how to discourage car owners. The mobility hubs are supposed to provide a ‘one-stop shop’ as there will be Car Club cars, bike rental, EV charging etc in convenient places on the development.

6. Secretary’s Report

a. Matters Arising from Secretary’s Report

All relevant correspondence has been sent out prior to the meeting, the main item was the opening of the Community Grants Fund. After a reasonable debate on the issue of licencing, George is still chasing up correspondence.

7. Treasurer’s Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer’s Report

- i. Lorna is looking for suggestions for a new auditor. Any suggestions are welcome.
- ii. The room rent will now be paid annually to Royston Wardie Community Centre to save on bank charges; an invoice for £180 was issued and has been paid.
- iii. A cheque for around £628 has been issued to Lloyd for charges due, related to the website work, for new apps etc.

8. Engagement and Inclusion Officer’s Report (submitted by email)

We now have full control of the Instagram account and cross posting all social media posts there and on the Facebook page.

Lloyd has installed Google Analytics on the website, so we now have access to website traffic data. We’ve had 138 visitors to the site in the last 28 days, with clear spikes in traffic whenever we post on our social media. The Meetings and Minutes page is the most popular. We’ll need at least another month to build up comparative data, like growth in traffic.

Suzanne and I went along to Harbour Homes’ Granton Tenant Meeting on 29th April at Heart of Newhaven. It was rather poorly attended by residents. We were given the opportunity to talk briefly about what the Community Council is about and how folks can get involved. There was discussion about issues including roads adoption in Granton Harbour.

I met with Fiona Underhill, Canopy Communities Development Officer, as discussed at the previous meeting. We agreed that we’d promote the project via our social media etc to help

recruit local Canopy Custodians (members of the local community willing to help care for newly planted trees) and get local residents' thoughts on suitable locations for new plantings.

9. North-West Locality

On the Neighbourhood Network and Community Planning Partnership, there is nothing to report other than the launching of the Community Grants Fund which is managed by the NN.

10. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

There were no relevant planning applications this month.

11. AOCB

i. George proposed that Tamsin Grainger is co-opted on to the community council as a local residential member and this will bring a lot of experience in relation to community engagement, and we all look forward to working with her. George has already been in touch with Gavin King and the Governance Team at CEC and once Tamsin's appointment is Minuted, the formalised process will take over including necessary paperwork etc. George proposed that the Minute is formally proposed via email so that we can move that process on.

NOTE: Vote to approve Tamsin as a community councillor was unanimous.

ii. There is a blocked gully on the corner of Boswall Green and Fraser Crescent. It's been blocked for months and causes a substantial pool of water whenever there is a lot of rain. Ida has reported it at least three times over the last few months but it's still not been unblocked. Lorna has also experienced years of reporting the gully without response as it gets so bad that it floods the adjacent gardens.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 29 June 2026, 18:00, RWCC and on MS Teams.