

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council



Notes for Meeting 11 January 2018

MATTERS ARISING

1. Community Grants: Further applications have been received by the Neighbourhood Partnership and a meeting on 16 January should come to conclusions which fully allocate the funds available.
2. Meeting other CCs in Locality: several of the 7 community councils in the Locality attended a briefing meeting on 6 December about the Local Development Plan. Although many matters of common interest were under discussion, there was no enthusiasm for meeting independently.
3. EACC: held its AGM on 25 November, with little change.

AGENDA ITEMS

Treverlen Park

4. A planning application was made at the beginning of November for the new park on the site of the current St John's Primary School. The new St John's building is on track to be occupied by the school in June 2018. The deal for the construction of a new Portobello High School on Portobello Park involved replacing the public land lost with a new park at the St John's site. Considerable consultation has taken place on new St John's and the Park and the plans reflect the comments made.
5. The Community Council announced the park planning application on Facebook, boosted for a week, but no comments were received. Local people around the Park were given an opportunity to see large prints of the plans (provided by the CC). The Community Council was invited to comment as a statutory consultee and the resulting letter was agreed by the whole CC in correspondence. It was submitted to the Council on 10 December. It now comes for formal approval and minuting.

Cycling

6. The Cycling sub-group met Martin Gray of Historic Environment Scotland Ranger Service on 12 December to discuss routes through Holyrood Park.

Application for Grant from Local Event Fund 2017-2018

7. The City Council made available grants to inspire audiences and artists who might otherwise not have the chance to participate in cultural ventures to take up the artistic challenge. An approach was received from the community interest company being set up by Rowan Flowers to help with making an application to the fund. It seemed easier for the CC to form a partnership with Rowan Flowers and be the vehicle for the grant. Following the theme of the Memories events, the application seeks £2,500 to bring together isolated individuals and communities, working with flowers. It proposes to add £500 of CC funds to ensure wide contact with our community. The application covers the area of Craigentenny

and Meadowbank Community Council as well, as this is an area specially referenced in the Locality Improvement Plan.

8. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - Activity should take place within the Locality
 - Activity which demonstrates creative and diverse use of spaces – indoor or outdoor
 - Activity which reflects the aims as set out in the Locality Improvement Plans
 - Fund can be used to support either a one off event or a programme of activity
 - The strength of concept and ideas and the quality of project management
9. A grant decision is due later in January.

The NP Environment Forum

10. This is an open forum, previously convened by a sprawling email list. It is intended to draw attention to transport and environment issues and can direct a budget for projects agreed by the Forum. It ceased to meet while the Council transformation was underway. Although the future of the neighbourhood partnerships is yet to be settled, the budget remains. Money can be deployed to improve Council assets but grants are not made.

11. A meeting was convened on 13 December but only 2 Councillors, the NP Transport and Environment Manager and the Secretary attended. An informal discussion agreed that a clear view of the capital budget and a comprehensive list of possible projects were needed. A core group of attendees was identified and a more inclusive process of publicity would be used when the Forum was next convened.

12. Funds are also available to the Area Board and a Community Safety Forum existed which might be re-instated.

Participatory Budgeting

“The City of Edinburgh Council has been given Scottish Government funding to deliver a Participatory Budgeting Champions Programme and is inviting expressions of interest from people who would be interested in learning more about PB and then sharing that knowledge with others. Through this training, you will develop your understanding of PB; learn about delivering events and their evaluation, and build your skills, confidence and CV. You can come from any walk of life, what's more important is your time, commitment and enthusiasm. You'll be working as part of a team, with the support of experienced mentors and other PB champions. There will be a degree of financial support to cover out of pocket expenses.

To qualify for this free training, you will need:

- time to attend two full day and one half day training sessions between 20 February and 14 March 2018;
- a willingness to respond to requests for support from others in Edinburgh;
- a passion for sharing good practice, and
- your employer's consent to take on this role.”