



MEETING: 19:00, Thursday 16 July 2015 Northfield Community Centre

AGENDA

1.	Chairman's Welcome	
2.	Apologies for absence	
3.	Minutes of Meeting of 18 June 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters arising 	End time: 19:15
4.	Finance Report	
5.	The New Park on the site of the current St John's Primary School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the Edinburgh and Lothians Green Space Trust 	End time: 20.00
6.	Craigentinny and Telferton Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the interests of N&W people 	End time: 20.15
7.	Baronscourt Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Report 	End time: 20.25
8.	Any Other Competent Business	
9.	Next meeting 17 September	End time: 20:30

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BACKGROUND NOTES FOR AGENDA OF 16 JULY

The New Park

1. Over the next 2 ½ years, the old Portobello High School and St John's Primary School will be demolished. A new St John's will be built on the site of the old High School. As part of the Parliamentary agreement for building the new Portobello High School on Portobello Park an equivalent area of public open space is to be provided: 2.1ha on the former schools' sites. The consultation of and planning for the new Park has been given to the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust by the Craigentiny and Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership, who have asked for nearby areas, such as Portobello and Craigmillar, to be consulted. The consultation is to run until the end of the year.

2. James Hunter, Acting East Neighbourhood Manager, provided the following:

"I confirm that following a meeting of the Craigentiny & Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership Board last night we are still on track to begin consultation on the creation of the new park in late June / early July.

We have been keen to secure a separate budget allocation to help fund the consultation activities to allow the £1m to be invested in the design and delivery of the new park in 2017. I am pleased that following discussion with my colleague Billy McIntyre (Children & Families) separate funding has been allocated to support and facilitate the consultation across both Neighbourhood Partnership areas. It is vital that adequate resources are provided to undertake the consultation activities and it has been concluded that this can be better achieved using our partners in this field, Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust (ELGT). Our current Partnership & Development Officer (Faye Gray) is about to retire, however arrangements are underway to assign another staff member to this role.

Further communications on next steps are being developed with ELGT which will confirm that the consultation period is expect to run between the end of June and December of this year. Input from ELGT will help provide an essential resource for the management team, ensure an element of independence during the consultation period, and allow us to use their expertise and knowledge on engagement, branding and design development, and seek opportunities to secure match funding. The work of ELGT will be supported/supplemented by additional local consultation events in local libraries, via parks staff, other local service options, via the Neighbourhood Partnerships and its Environment Fora, Children & Families sub-groups, Community Councils and feedback from other groups such as Friends of Parks etc. At the request of the Craigentiny & Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership the consultation will include a door-to-door survey for all homes surrounding the new park. The approach will facilitate the production of an 'outline design' based on the consultation findings by spring 2016. This complements the timeline for key elements of the new school(s) project and may provide options to link elements of the design into work on the school site and ensure 'best value'.



I hope this provides a useful summary and confirm that I will be pleased to ensure that you are included in further communications outlining the next steps and the forward programme of consultation which will include proposals for meeting with Community Councils.”

3. See possible plan on next page.



A Possible Shape for the Park





Craigentenny and Telferton Allotments

4. This group of 60+ allotments lying between Portobello Road and the Telferton Industrial estate is owned by Avant Homes – they are not “official allotments, despite having been in use for over 90 years. Avant is conducting a pre-planning application to build 48 houses and flats and provide 38 replacement allotments, with comments to be in by 31 July. This is the third attempt to build on this site. The allotment holders hope to buy the site to put an end to the risk of development.

5. The area is on the boundary of Northfield and Willowbrae and Portobello Community Councils and many of the allotment holders are residents of these areas. Allotments are in short supply across the city. The new Community Empowerment Act will receive Royal Assent in September and offers provisions on urban community buy-outs and a duty to provide allotments. However, the coming into force of the relevant sections has not yet been decided and will require Parliamentary order. It is likely that the planning application will be submitted in advance of the new powers being available.

6. Once a planning application is made, Craigentenny and Meadowbank will be the community council which has the statutory consultee status, but anyone can make comments at the pre-planning stage and on the application itself.

7. In light of the N&W community interest, the Community Council may wish to offer comments or support to our neighbouring community council.

Baronscourt Park

8. Morrisons have agreed we may make public their imminent appointment of an architect to work with the City Council to design a new access between the Portobello Road store and the Baronscourt Park. The Neighbourhood Partnership has approved proposals by the Environment Forum to contribute to the costs of the path within the Park. Morrisons believe the path should be lit through the Park.

9. In addition, Morrisons are interested in creating a community garden along the main pedestrian access and have agreed, in principle, to siting one of the CC community notice boards on their land, facing onto Portobello Road.

10. The partnership discussions with Morrisons are supported at the company’s Board level.