

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 25 May 7.30pm, Northfield Community Centre

Agenda

1. Chair's Welcome
2. The Annual Report for 2016-17
3. The Accounts for 2016-17
4. Election of Office Bearers

Special Business

Approval of letters convey comment on planning applications:

- 235 Willowbrae Road
- 4 Piersfield Terrace (Morrisons)

The Constitution provides:

11. Meetings of the Community Council

(b) Once in each year in the month of May or June the COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall convene an annual general meeting for the purpose of receiving and considering the annual report of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, the appointment of office bearers, and the submission of the independently examined annual statement of accounts.

Open Forum

A general discussion amongst all present including the newly elected Councillors for Craigentenny & Duddingston and Portobello & Craigmillar about the work of the community council, including ideas for improving Northfield and Willowbrae for all residents.

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

1. The Community Council came into being at a meeting convened on 3 November by the Returning Officer, Councillor Alex Lunn, at which 13 members were appointed. Office bearers were elected:

Lorraine Simpson, Chair
John Nisbet, Vice Chair
Nick Weech, Treasurer
Geoff Pearson, Secretary

2. Full meetings were held on 2 February and 23 March.

Planning

3. The Community Council has been asked by the City Council twice for comment on planning applications for student accommodation at 235 Willowbrae Road. We held a public meeting and used Facebook to collect views on the first application. This was withdrawn and a second made on 26 April. Facebook and comments received direct revalidated the comment made on the first application.

4. The Community Council welcomed the completion of the path from Morrisons store through the Baronscourt Park, funded in part by the Neighbourhood Partnership Environment Forum. The Community Council has been working with Morrisons on various improvements and we welcome Morrisons support.

Engagement

5. We have given careful thought to our duty to understand the views of the community and recognise that social media and other digital methods provide the greatest reach. Our Facebook page regularly attracts views of several thousands, particularly for events like the demolition of Portobello High School. Three members now manage the Facebook content.

6. We have established working groups on cycling and inclusion.

Neighbourhood Partnership and Locality

7. Substantial changes in staffing around the Neighbourhood Partnership have delayed progress in the Environment and Community Safety Forums. With boundary changes and new City Councillors there remain concerns about the pace of resuming normal business for the coming year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

8. The return of funds, held by the City Council from the previous Community Council, took place on 14 March amounting to £3735.50. One payment of £15 has been made for the hire of the Community Centre.