



Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

Minutes of Community Council Meeting

Date: 11/05/2021

Time: 19:00

Location: Remote, Microsoft Teams

Present: Gordon McDonald (Chair), Nick Marshall (minutes), Nick Marshall, Dave Armstrong, Ian Murray, Charlie Wood, Cllr Ethan Young, Cllr John McLellan, Cllr Alex Staniforth

Apologies: Fiona Clark, Cllr Joan Griffiths, Community Police Officer Anna Morrison

Other: No member(s) of the public were present

1. Welcome

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting (22nd Mar 2021) and Matters Arising

These were approved as circulated. Proposed by Nick, Seconded by Dave.

All matters arising would be covered under agenda items.

3. Treasurer's report

The current bank balance was unavailable because the treasurer was not present, but there was only a minor change since last meeting. John has reimbursed Geoff Pearson for website hosting fees. Dave has finally received invoices from Facebook for boosting posts and will claim reimbursement (about £5). The annual accounts are under way, and hopefully will be ready to be approved at the next meeting.

4. Police report

Although not present, CPO Anna Morrison had emailed a report.

"Please find below some statistics for Northfield area in terms of most notable, from the community point of view, incidents and how Police is trying to address them.

Between 01/04/2021 and 07/05/2021 there have been:

- 13 incidents of Antisocial Behaviour. These are mainly linked to youth disorder and the main hot spots are Baronscourt and the surrounding streets, as well as Mountcastle area.

Police Action Taken - This type of criminality is under constant scrutiny. We have seen a considerable rise in Antisocial behaviour in the recent months and identified a correlating increase in alcohol consumption among underage individuals. As a result, I am now working with the Community Alcohol Partnership, a national organisation which aims to reduce underage drinking. This project involves working with local schools, parents, off licence premises, supermarkets, youth clubs and many other institutions to prevent underage drinking, proxy alcohol purchasing and address many other issues which stem from underage alcohol consumption.

I have also submitted to the council an Environmental Review of Baronscourt park which I conducted with our Prevention and Interventions Officer. Our progress with the council has slowed down at the moment due to the elections, however once that settles, I will be meeting a council employee from Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries department within the Council to discuss how the park could be improved to make it less attractive to those intent on Antisocial Behaviour.

Furthermore, A local charity, Street Work, which focuses on reaching to young individuals within locations where they mostly congregate has been asked to carry out their projects in Northfield area .

Finally, we have increased foot patrols in the area and introduced unmarked vehicle patrols to increase chances of identifying and stopping potential offenders.

- 4 drug related incidents - 3 of these to the same common stair in Piersfield Terrace.
Police Action Taken- I have managed to identify and trace the perpetrator. The issue is now resolved.

- 8 incidents of theft, 6 of which were shop liftings, no bike thefts

- No incidents of House breaking

- There have also been issues identified surrounding Duddingston Primary school as well as St. Johns Primary school in terms of parents parking on double yellow lines when dropping off/collecting their children. There have been incidents of children being at risk of getting struck by vehicles pulling away or reversing outside schools.

Police Action Taken - Parking on double yellow lines has been decriminalised and Police are no longer able to issue tickets for this offence however increased patrols and police presence was introduced at key times, in the mornings and afternoons, as often as possible to educate parents. There are ongoing discussions with the council as to how to resolve this issue.”

Dave asked what environmental improvements in Baronscourt Park are being discussed. Given our long involvement with BP, we should maintain a watching brief and help if appropriate.

5. Northfield Centenary

Edinburgh Reporter has carried a 2-page spread on Northfield, including interviews with Fiona, Dave, Joan Griffiths, David Robb (Historic Scotland) and resident Wendy Barratt. Dave to discuss with Fiona Menzies and Lorna Frost re possible display as part of centenary celebrations later in the year. All to suggest other celebration activities. Dave to find out when NW Comm Centre plans to open. We might contribute to costs of laminating etc. NW Comm Centre has display boards.

6. Traffic:

Spaces for People (Duddingston Road)

No further developments. SfP works on Duddingston Road West have now also been implemented. All schemes will be reviewed for improvements after they have been in place for some time. Dave mentioned that turning right from Willowbrae Road on to Ulster Drive was potentially dangerous. Cars have been parking regularly on the cycle lane outside Morrisons. There is still a gap between the end of the cycle lane and Fishwives Causeway which needs better signage and possibly other improvements.

South East Scotland Regional Transport Plan (SESTRAN)

Nick circulate a paper describing the consultation process (we have missed the initial

consultation). There is likely to be a massive increase in commuter traffic due to the large-scale house building East of Edinburgh, which will mean more traffic on roads through N&W and more pressure on parking. Need for more Park and Ride, railway stations, trains and buses, including the South Suburban Line. There needs to be a major change in infrastructure and resources – expanding public transport and reducing priority given to private cars. It was noted that there are air quality monitoring stations at Jocks Lodge and Seafield Road. We could prepare for the next stage of consultation.

7. Planning:

Meadowbank Village redevelopment

There have been no meetings or other developments since the last meeting.

8. Community Engagement

Nick circulated a paper outlining the potential for Participatory Public Engagement and Local Place Plans. Funding is available to carry these out. Public engagement would be a necessary part of producing an LPP. Ethan mentioned the work that was being done through the Restalrig Hub, led by the Ripple Project. It was felt that there are projects that aren't being addressed quickly enough by the council (eg Northfield Grove, Figgate Park) and that it would be useful to have an overall view of local priorities and get them funded without delay. Dave and Nick were tasked with looking at this in more depth and reporting back to the next meeting.

9. Any other competent business & Public Forum

None

10. Date of next meeting and AGM

It was decided that the next meeting should be the AGM (if the annual report is ready). All to bring suggestions for more trustees.