

DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 8/11/11

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair) Lauren Amazeen, Jenny Boyd, Jane Clarke, Janette Cochrane, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Anne McKenna, Jenny Mulholland, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright, (Council Members), Councillors Jennifer Dunn and Alison Thewliss
Police Community Liaisons Johnny Dalziel
Members of the public: Clare Darlaston, Vicky Melvin, Amanda MacMillan

Apologies: Mary McCabe, Helen McCarthy, Councillors Frank Docherty and Elaine McDougall

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. POLICE REPORT: a) There have been 1529 incidents reported in Dennistoun between September 13th and November 8th, leading to 936 crime reports. The reason for the significant increase over the past months is that Dennistoun Community Council is now being supplied with figures for the entire area rather than just North Dennistoun as in previous months. There has also been a significant increase in crimes being reported in some areas when previously these incidents would go unrecorded. The largest contributor to the figures is Haghill with over 500 calls, predominantly regarding drug supply and cultivation or disorder. Drugs are also a problem in South Dennistoun (south of Duke Street) where car break-ins are increasing, and there has been a rise in both car and home break-ins in North Dennistoun. Also of concern are three street robberies in recent weeks. These are being targeted by frequent high visibility patrols in the area. ,
2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13/9/11 & A.G.M. on 11/10/11: Both sets of meeting minutes were approved pending minor corrections.
3. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: a) Surprisingly few questionnaires were returned at the A.G.M, with the vacant land in Circus Drive a concern mentioned on several. b) It was felt the public meeting about bus services went well, but there was irritation at the dismissive attitude of First Bus when invited to participate, and their lack of presence. Since being contacted by MSP Paul Martin they have provided a full apology and agreed to cover costs for a follow-up meeting. The Whitehill lecture theatre has been booked for 7pm on November 23rd, and First will be sending along four directors. Kenny Hogg from SPT has been contacted, and Frank will provide First with a list of the problems identified before and during the meeting last month in order that they can provide answers. Ruth will re-work the poster and Frank will distribute to Dennistoun bus shelters, and he'll list the subject on DennistounOnline forum. It was decided that rather than asking First Bus to cover any costs it would be better to establish good relations for possible future sponsorship. c) Stephen has been attending the factoring group on behalf of DCC. The proposed legislation has now entered the consultation stage which runs to sometime in December. Stephen will circulate information to enable DCC to participate. d) Stephen, Janette and Lauren identified a selection of local groups DCC could approach regarding Associate Membership. A discussion ended with a decision to approach Milnbank and Reidvale Housing Associations, Dennistoun New Church, Dennistoun Diggers and the Market Gallery. It was felt that between them these organisations covered all aspects of DCC's current action plan.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen has worked with Helen McCarthy to update DCC accounts to the end of September to bring them into line with the October to September period applied by Glasgow City Council as per the new Community Council constitutions. The account currently stands at approximately £2500. Members are encouraged to research funding opportunities for particular projects.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: a) Planning Applications. There were several minor landscaping applications over the past two months, but the only item of concern remains the possible conversion of the former church at 235 Alexandra Parade into hotel accommodation. A letter has been sent by DCC asking that all legal requirements for such conversions are stringently applied, but as yet there has been no response, nor any further news. b) Licensing Applications. Tibo have applied to extend their alcohol licence to 11pm every night, to open for breakfast from 7am, for a performance licence during licensing hours, for recorded music to be played outwith licensing hours and for the alcohol licence to extend to the paving area outside the premises. Most issues will be covered by licensing regulations, but it was felt that tables on Duke Street would reduce the already limited space available, whereas there was enough space on Hillfoot Street. There have been applications for renewal of multiple occupancy licences for premises at 102 Bellgrove Street and 270 Duke Street. As these are renewals DCC will raise no objections. c) The Land and Environmental Services action team has requested an opportunity to address community councils. DCC welcomes involvement and will contact them for a suitable date for a presentation, possibly as part of a wider themed meeting. d) Glasgow Open Space Audit has been presented for consultation until December 12th. Copies are available for viewing at Dennistoun Library and at the council office at 229 George Street. d) Website contact. Issues identified via the website include the revisions to bulk uplift (see below) and notification of a knitting and crochet group meeting every Wednesday night between 6 and 7.30 pm at the Seven Grams café on Hillfoot Street. Wesley provided a statistical breakdown of our web page viewers, concluding it averages 10 viewers a day. The Facebook page has 60 followers and news items can reach 200 + hits a week, while the Twitter account has 89 followers.
6. EAST CENTRE AREA COMMITTEE: There is no meeting next week, and Anne was unable to attend the previous meeting. Jennifer Dunn noted that the Committee had rejected an application for £4000 of funding for a Halloween Night event at the Necropolis on the basis that such a large amount of the budget could not be justified. The funding was later supplied by Tennents.
7. COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP: A new Community Support Worker has been appointed on a short-term contract until April. The meetings have been sparsely attended, and in future they will be held in the evening in the hope of increasing attendance.
8. CRIME PREVENTION PANEL: a) Louise wasn't present to provide an update, and other members are encouraged to attend. As it's held at a venue largely inaccessible with public transport, DCC funds are available, and Jennifer Dunn also offered to give DCC members a lift from Dennistoun. b) The group wish to extend the No Cold Callers zone to an area of Dennistoun. Giving out information packs in parts of Riddrie and Carntyne has proved a success in raising awareness. Help is needed in Dennistoun to identify which areas are best served, and in distribution the information packs. Companies undertaking door to door sales in the area are expected to contact the local police beforehand, and when Sky failed to do so last month it caused problems. c) The police have announced a bike marking scheme for local residents in the face of greatly increased thefts throughout Glasgow. This is run via local schools. DCC will promote the scheme, suggesting January as the best time.
9. ELECTED MEMBERS: There was a reminder asking elected members to submit written updates in future in order to minimise time taken at meetings. a) Jennifer Dunn noted that a notorious flytipping site on Alexandra Parade has been cleared, and prominent warning notices are now displayed there. b) Alison Thewliss has followed up on problems identified at the public meeting. The delay in the crossing at Millerston Street was traced to a damaged loop under the road, and this will be repaired. The reason for no electronic timetable on Duke Street by Whitevale Street is

that the bus shelter has not been hooked up to the electric grid. Discussions are ongoing with Scottish Power.

10. ACTION PLAN: This is now up on the DCC website, and it's planned to update it on a monthly basis noting what has been achieved.
11. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: In response to the Scottish Executive's request that all local authorities produce a local development plan, Glasgow City Council have issued a booklet of comment postcards identifying a quantity of issues. The deadline for responses is December 12th, and Brian, Frank, Stephen and Wesley have agreed to participate in a working group to formulate a response.
12. A.O.B: a) Stephen is attending the Tomorrow's Leaders training programme on behalf of DCC. This will involve around 10 days of training over the next six months and is planned as an annual programme. b) DCC is to engage with the Commonwealth Games Legacy Programme. c) Janette has identified the printer that best suits her needs as Secretary. It costs £80, which isn't the cheapest, but has been identified as providing savings via ink refills over its life. Cost was approved. d) Clare Darlaston is very unhappy about the change to bulk uplift procedures recently implemented. They affect her personally by requiring her to take her bulk uplift down an extra floor to where there is very little space in the bin areas. She pointed out this duplicates work compared with bulk uplift being left on the street, and is extremely concerned about the cost involved in a more time-consuming procedure. Other downsides are removing the option of community recycling and what happens to minor items that could be added to bulk uplift, but are too large for bin bags. A debate has been started on the Dennistoun Online forum, and opinion is currently split. DCC is supposed to represent the opinion of the community, but as things stand there is no definitive consensus. This would be taken up, though, if there was a volume of concern. Alison Thewliss noted there was little consultation with councillors about the change, but suggested the new scheme be given a couple of months to see how it works. It was suggested that Land Services be called to a meeting to talk with the Community Council about the topic. d) Amanda MacMillan introduced herself as the editor for the Glasgow East End section of the STV local community information service. This has been rolled out for other areas of Scotland, and will soon be going live for Glasgow. Community organisations are encouraged to contribute.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be at Whitehill on at 7pm on Tuesday December 13th.