

DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL
13/12/11

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair) Lauren Amazeen, Jane Clarke, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright, (Council Members), Councillor Elaine McDougall
Police Community Liaisons Johnny Dalziel and Johnny Black
Members of the public: Carol Cooke, Clare Darlaston, Matty Sutton

Apologies: Jenny Boyd, Mary McCabe, Helen McCarthy, Anne McKenna, Jenny Mulholland, Louise Williams, Councillors Frank Docherty, Jennifer Dunn and Ruth Simpson, MSP Paul Martin

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. POLICE REPORT: a) In beat 19 there have been concerns about youth crime, particularly vandalism to headstones in the Necropolis. Plain clothes police have identified five offenders, but another nine still need to be determined. b) There have been concerns about a spate of break-ins and muggings in areas just north of Duke Street, but police have arrested the people they consider responsible. c) There is an issue in Haghill connected with an ongoing court case. Preventative measures are in place, and one particular resident has moved away. The police are aware of the situation and offered to put Councillor McDougall in touch with the officer in charge. d) Regarding break-ins, these are occurring largely in the drives, and police believe simply closing the curtains at night to prevent passers by seeing into houses is a good preventative measure as burglars are aware that most people occupying the premises are working during the day. e) The police would be willing to assist in a bike marking initiative for January by providing posters and leaflets.
2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8/22/11: The minutes were approved via Brian Johnson, and Jane Clarke seconding.
3. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: a) After contact from MSP Paul Martin First Bus attended a second meeting regarding bus services in the area on November 23rd. SPT were also present, although it was less well attended by the public. Frank noted that while the answers provided might not have been what people wanted to hear, at least people finally heard reasons for decisions. First Bus stressed their current financial situation and the extensive loss of customers over recent years restricting their ability to subsidise loss making routes. Elaine McDougall noted that a decision has been made to continue the 59 service, which was to be withdrawn, via extra funding from SPT. One positive change was that following comments from the first meeting regarding all new buses being allocated to services in the West and South, the 89/90 is to be upgraded in January. b) Stephen applied for Commonwealth Games legacy funding on behalf of DCC, but the bid was rejected. It will be kept on file for further review in February. Stephen apologised for informing after the fact, and will provide a copy of the bid if requested. c) Clare Darlaston's comments regarding the change to bulk refuse arrangements have drawn considerable comment online, with differing viewpoints. As the housing associations provide their own service, this is a problem restricted to the drives. It was decided to collate the current comments and information and to solicit more ahead of contacting the cleansing department. Stephen will liaise with Clare before the next meeting. d) Stephen has approached Dennistoun Diggers, Market Gallery and Reidvale Housing regarding associate membership and all have accepted, indicating representatives will attend meetings from the new year. Contact still to be made with Dennistoun New Church and Milnbank Housing.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: We no longer have a treasurer and no-one is currently keen on taking the role on. Stephen offered to resign as chair and do so instead if no-one else comes forward, and noted that the Community Council Resource Centre is willing to provide training. The accounts have diminished by approximately £20 to cover the cost of lamination pouches for the public meetings, and tea, coffee milk and biscuits for those meetings.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: a) Planning Applications. Brian reported that over the past month there has been nothing contentious, and his full report can be seen on the DCC website. The vet on Annfield Place will be expanding into the adjacent property, and modifications include knocking down the rear mews buildings to supply car parking space. Plans have been seen for the proposed conversion of the former church at 235 Alexandra Parade into hotel accommodation. Among dubious proposals is a reception area amounting to a hatch, but as this has drawn over three complaints it needs to be discussed in committee. b) Licensing Applications. No new items. c) Elaine McDougall announced that she has been informed that from next April local gala days will require licensing. It was uncertain if this was due to new arrangements within Glasgow City Council or national legislation. d) Dennistoun Community Council has been contacted by Planning Aid for Scotland regarding a school participation programme. None of the schools within the Dennistoun area are taking part, the nearest being Smithycroft, and Brian will consider whether or not to represent DCC as part of this initiative. d) Website contact. A survey from Voluntary Sector East Glasgow Group was submitted and completed by Stephen. Following the closure of the Seven Grams café the knitting and crochet group will now meet every Tuesday night between 6.30 and 8.30 pm at Tibo. There will be a Police and Community meeting at Milnbank Housing Association at 7pm on December 20th. Frank will attend and report back.
6. EAST CENTRE AREA COMMITTEE: Ann was not present, and there was no feedback.
7. COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP: Janette was not present, and there was no feedback.
8. CRIME PREVENTION PANEL: a) Louise wasn't present to provide an update, but Stephen has been in contact with Frank Whitaker and the CPP will support the bike marking scheme and extension of the bogus callers initiative.
9. ELECTED MEMBERS: a) Elaine McDougall reported that the Winter Fest at the weekend was a success with over 1000 people turning up. b) Anyone over 80 and in receipt of pension credits can apply for a payment of £100 warm dividend this winter. c) There will be a follow-up meeting tomorrow night regarding problems with factoring. Apparently residents of Bellway flats on the Parade and Firpark Street are being charged £80 for the provision of grit bins. c) Frank Docherty updated Stephen over the phone, saying the changes to Whitehill Pool are due to be completed in January at a cost of £650,000. The gym will now be located in the former youth wing, and the changing rooms will be under the school. Discussions have taken place with the GFT and Glasgow Youth Arts regarding use of the cinema equipment in the Whitehill lecture theatre, and something should be starting in the new year. Frank is also involved in Dell's community project to provide food parcels for vulnerable individuals over the festive season. Ruth has also been contacted about this. e) It was mentioned that someone is charging parties of up to 30 people £10 a time for guided tours of the Necropolis at night. This is without licence or contributing back. This is promoted via Groupon, and has involved people climbing over walls when the Necropolis has been closed.
10. ACTION PLAN: This online version needs updated with regard to ongoing achievement, and a financial column should be added indicating spending.

11. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Brian, Stephen and Wesley submitted a full point by point response from Dennistoun Community Council in time for yesterday's deadline. The full document is available on the DCC website, but the major issues included identifying land for alternative use via an audit of spaces, the possibility of the new high speed rail link using Bellegrave rather than High Street as a terminus for the high speed rail link with London and a general point that investment in the area should be seen as a catalyst for improvement. All investment currently appears to be in the West and Southern areas of the city. Elaine McDougall pointed out that in relation to the affordable housing plan, successful bids to the innovation fund all appear to be from national rather than community based associations. The city's housing budget was reinstated to 2010 levels after negotiation reversed a substantial cut, but this is only guaranteed for a year.
12. A.O.B: a) There have been considerable concerns about the development of Onslow Square. Stephen explained that he and Brian attended a meeting with Thomas Patterson from Clean Glasgow and Laura DeSoto from Keystone regarding applying to the GHA fund for area improvement with regard to Onslow Square. Although the contact had been as representatives of Dennistoun Conservation Society, Stephen said he also attended the meeting with his DCC chair hat on. Thomas had previously consulted with residents of properties overlooking the square and there was a positive reaction to the possibility. There was some talk of upgrading via railings and landscaping, but it was the understanding of both Stephen and Brian that the next step would be a wider consultation. Instead work began without consultation causing considerable friction. Frank and Brian attended a meeting on November 29th when it was suggested that a rapid official explanation within the next week would do much to diffuse tension, but this has yet to occur. GHA has now been confirmed as owning the square, and Elaine McDougall reported that they have applied for retroactive planning permission. This is still without consultation, and there has been no notification in the weekly planning listings for Dennistoun. DCC would be very much against any further development without community consultation. Elaine also pointed out that however well intentioned renovation projects are, there is still the question of responsibility for subsequent maintenance, Lauren pointed out the differences between the squares separating Craigpark and Westercraigs and Onslow Square, and Frank noted that with several Conservation Society members also on DCC the perception of any joint agenda on this issue must be avoided. b) Janette has resigned as DCC secretary, so we will also need someone to fill that post. c) Carol Cooke attended the meeting representing Scrumptious Productions who have a Glasgow wide project tying in with the Commonwealth Games. It's hoped to film 2014 Glaswegians answering the question of what they want to be in 2014. All going well this should be tied in with a clean-up of the old abattoir location which could be used as a community and arts hub during the Commonwealth Games. d) DCC hoped to commission Christmas cards from Dennistoun based artist Stuart Murray, but this hasn't worked out for 2011. Lauren, Ruth and Wesley to form a sub-committee to look at 2012. In the meantime it was approved that DCC purchase the Conservation society cards with views of Dennistoun for sending to partners and associates to thank them for their help and interest.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be at Whitehill School at 7pm on Tuesday January 10th.