



Dennistoun Community Council

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DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 14/5/13

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Lauren Amazeen, John Bones, Andrew Campbell, Jane Clarke, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Helen McCarthy, Anne McKenna, Vicky Melvin, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members), Police officer Gary Aitken, MSP John Mason and Councillor Jennifer Dunn

Apologies: Naila Akram and Jenny Mullholland, Councillors Frank Docherty and Alison Thewliss, MSPs Hanzala Malik, Paul Martin and Drew Smith

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. Helen passed on apologies from Jenny Mullholland regarding absence, and the message that she was resigning from the community council.
2. **POLICE REPORT:** a) Crime figures for the various beats associated with Dennistoun were provided in advance, covering April 9th to May 13th. The continuing traffic initiative has resulted in multiple charges for use of mobile phone and lack of seat belts, and one significant drugs charge. There has been considerable success in identifying and charging those supplying and cultivating illegal substances, and local information is valuable in the latter. Signs of cultivation include excess heat, extra wiring from properties, blacked-out windows, flumes and pigeons permanently perched on a window sill taking advantage of the heat. As yet there has been no arrest for a robbery or house break-ins. b) Problems mentioned by community councillors on which action was promised were continuing drinking in the Necropolis and an attack on a gardener, lead stolen from the church roof, and vehicles, particularly taxis, ignoring the single direction signs at Ballindalloch Street. In one incident a taxi only just avoided a group of children crossing the road. c) This month's reason for not providing the community council with a map identifying the Dennistoun police beats was that all printers in the police station are offline. The maps were once again promised for next month.
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9/4/13:** The minutes were proposed as accurate by Ruth and seconded by Anne.
4. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) In response to the dog fouling in the area Helen reported that Councillor Frank Docherty was to raise the issue with Environmental Services. Local authority initiatives appear to result in a minor and temporary decrease, but provide no long-term solution. A more recent problem has been commercial dog walking services, currently unlicensed and reluctant to be so. The council are looking at this. We have been approached by John Quinn from East Cleansing Depot regarding talking with the community council about issues, and he may have relevant input. It was agreed that we would also ask Barbara Fernside, Locality Development Officer, to address the community council on this and other matters. We should submit questions in advance. Stephen noted she would be able to provide statistics from the previous dog fouling initiative in Dennistoun. Officer Gary Aitken arrived mid-discussion and reported arrests for dog fouling in Haghill

last month, and it's a matter over which the police and GCSS regularly liaise. b) Stephen stressed positive opportunities for involvement with the new Community Council Liaison Group for improving relationships between community councils, partners and the city council. The last meeting discussed training, resources and the revised Scheme of Establishment for community councils to which DCC responded. There has been no feedback since. Among other issues noted was the requirement for community councils to provide full and extensive engagement with local residents with an administrative budget as low as £2 per week. There will be monthly meetings for the next six months. The Community Council Discussion Forum will next meet on May 18th between 9.30 and 1pm. Brian will attend the planning application briefing, and Stephen the entire meeting.

c) Councillor Jennifer Dunn has received a fuller response regarding the significant removal of trees by Wellpark Brewery. The removal was due to a combination of disease and the area being used as a drinking den, but no documentation is available. It's likely that the only protected trees on Dennistoun's public land are in the park and within the conservation area. Jennifer will request an audit of protected trees, and consideration can then be given to asking for further protected status. John Mason noted the problem of trees blocking light and encroaching on buildings, but this was considered a maintenance rather than removal issue. It was agreed to write to Land Services regarding consultation if trees in the area are to be removed, and the reasons for doing this. Frank has made a personal Freedom of Information request regarding any discussion about use of the Wellpark land for other purposes and will pass on any information received.

5. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Factoring. Wesley will pass Vicky's contact details to Maxine Anderson, and they'll try to meet with Frank and Councillor Frank Docherty regarding factoring. An information leaflet for distribution at the Alexandra Park event in July would be a positive outcome. There is concern about a factor demanding floats wrongly citing legislation, and having lost track of floats already provided that should have been carried over with mergers. John Mason mentioned title deeds differ from property to property and there is no universal application regarding factoring charges. b) Duke Street. It was felt Duke Street could present a better impression as Dennistoun's major thoroughfare. It lacks retail balance, and the area is poorly lit at night when most shops are shuttered. This could indicate the area being undesirable. Different types of shutters may make a difference, or they could be incorporated into an art project. Some businesses survive without, although John Mason noted that it was likely retail insurance terms would stipulate shutters. Govan's Linthouse area was noted as an inspiration and the Hieleman's corridor and areas of Parkhead also incorporate a uniform design. It was agreed that the sub-group provide a draft proposal for approval at the June meeting. c) Dennistoun Mapping. Andrew updated that a revised funding application for £2000 has been submitted to the East Centre Area Partnership with modified terms of community engagement. The total cost is estimated at £8800 for 5000 folded leaflets and an accompanying ap. £4500 will be requested from the Glasgow City Heritage Trust, DCC will provide £300 specifically for community engagement issues, which can occur at July's Alexandra Park event, and the remainder will be requested from Awards for All and the Co-Op Community Fund. A deadline of Doors Open day in September is still the ideal, and it is proposed to involve local schools with design elements, and possibly offer work experience opportunities. Andrew noted that his practice has submitted an estimate for work, but other estimates are being solicited. It's hoped to have a launch event, there needs to be discussion with local retailers about stocking and distributing the map, and online feedback can monitor success. d) Big Lunch. As yet there has been no planning for the Big Lunch, but the resources funded last year are available. Rather than rushing planning to tie in with the official event in two weeks time it was decided to hold A Dennistoun Big Lunch after the community clean-up on Saturday August 3rd. This would permit promotion at the Alexandra Park festival the

previous week. Resources would be committed to a single location, Buffalo Bill Square, and it is hoped Edsel Factoring could again sponsor the event.

6. **FINANCE UPDATE.** Jane and Wesley have re-provided the information lost by RBS and it is hoped they will soon be added as account signatories. Helen has remained as an account signatory, so we'll have four people authorised to sign cheques. Investigations into alternative banks have come to nothing with the Co-Op now not taking over the Lloyds branch on Duke Street, and the local credit union not providing a cheque account. The account balance currently stands at £1928.71 with Stephen holding approximately £25 in petty cash. All hall bookings have been confirmed for the remainder of the year and verified accounts have been submitted to the Community Council Resource office, but not yet approved. This should release 2013's administrative funding.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. The only planning application for the past month concerned roller shutters for a Duke Street premises. There was a discussion about pre-empting the approval of any policy on Duke Street by lodging an objection, but this did not pass a vote. b) There have been no licensing applications. c) Wesley's correspondence list is appended to the minutes. It came as a surprise that Friends of the Necropolis had not been consulted by Glasgow City Council who now plan licenced tours and paranormal testing in the Necropolis. Shoddy service at Boots on Duke Street was raised. Helen has personal knowledge of other cases, but this is best initially raised with Boots. There are to be Life Science Lectures about the human body in action at Caledonian University next year, and discussions about format will begin later this year. We would like to be kept informed. Wesley will also put in a complaint about DCC being given very little notice of April's executive committee meeting in Easterhouse and request we are informed sooner in future. There are to be meetings about the Community Payback Orders in June. Stephen and Frank will liaise about attending on behalf of DCC.
8. **REPORTS:** There were no speakers at the East Area Committee meeting, and the paperwork from the meeting was supplied to Stephen via Anne from Elaine McDougall. There are six spaces for Community Councils to influence policy and funding in the new East Area Partnership. Their method of engaging will differ from the old committees and Stephen is keen for DCC to have a greater involvement.
9. **ELECTED MEMBERS:** a) Councillor Jennifer Dunn had to leave at 8pm, but had supplied Wesley with information regarding Commonwealth Games tickets. b) John Mason MSP responded to a question about the lead being stolen from church roofs noting that current legislation is being amended to prevent cash transactions for scrap metal in future. In reference to the earlier discussion about Duke Street shop fronts he noted that Duke Street is included within the city plan, and limiting certain types of business could be achieved via this. Current parliamentary business includes enabling those aged between 16 and 18 to vote in the independence referendum, a replacement for stamp duty, and same sex marriages. As an MSP he's involved in the campaign to prevent Royal Bank of Scotland closing their Shettleston branch. John also provided copies of his constituency leaflet highlighting concerns about the proliferation of betting shops in Glasgow's East End.

There was no time for the remaining agenda items.

NEXT MEETING: At 7pm Tuesday June 11th at Whitehill School. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.