



# Dennistoun Community Council

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## DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 8/10/13

**Present:** Stephen Birrell (chair), John Bones, Jane Clarke, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Anne McKenna, Vicky Melvin, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members),  
Councillor Jennifer Dunn  
Craig Donaldson, Karen Donaldson, Bernard Elliott, Joe Scott from Milnbank Housing, Minister Yenka Ogunnoiki, PC ?

**Apologies:** Naila Akram, Lauren Amazeen, Andrew Campbell, Helen McCarthy and Louise Williams, MSPs Hanzala Malik, Anne McTaggart and Humza Yousaf, Councillors Elaine McDougall, Russell Robertson, Alison Thewliss

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

- POLICE REPORT:** a) There was no police attendance last month so figures cover the six weeks to today, during which there were 217 calls to the police, the majority relating to public nuisance, primarily youth disorder, and disputes with neighbours, with several recurring addresses. There were 7 break-ins, resulting in three subsequent car thefts. Forensic evidence has been taken, but reports are still awaited. b) Patrol re-organisation has been well received, with foot and electric bike patrols greatly increased providing greater face to face contact and community engagement. c) Milnbank Housing Association financing extra patrols within Dennistoun (undertaken by police who would otherwise be off duty) has begun and is regarded as successful to date by both police and Joe Scott. Police have been provided with phones that access CCTV cameras, enabling them to identify problems and individuals before arriving on the scene, and it's hoped this will have a wider roll-out after a trial run. Milnbank anticipate a significant reduction in costs associated with disorder and vandalism, and there has already been an improvement in known trouble spots in Ballindalloch Drive and by Ladbrokees on Alexandra Parade. Chief Inspector David Pettigrew and his deputy Paul Cameron are keen to work with community organisations and happy to meet the Community Council. d) Milnbank also have other socially responsible programmes including a food bank, a subsidised nursery, and senior citizens visits. They hope to take over the redistribution of unclaimed stolen cycles, refurbishing them and passing them on to identified worthy recipients. e) It's hoped in future that a nominated police officer will attend all DCC meetings (emergencies permitting), but this will require altering shift patterns so won't occur immediately.
- PUBLIC INPUT:** a) Bernard Elliott's concerns regarding a drinking den and anti-social behaviour in the park were passed on, but no action has been taken. A hole in the fence has been cut for easier access. The attending PC took note and will have colleagues investigate, and Councillor Dunn will speak to the parks department regarding cutting back foliage. It was suggested the level of stagnant water in the park fountain posed a possible danger to children, but draining it previously resulted in use as a drinking den. Stephen will mention

the topic to colleagues in Community Safety Glasgow. b) Yenka Ogunnoiki introduced herself as Minister of the Everlasting Arms church on Whitehill Street. The church have begun a food bank on the first Saturday of each month, which they hope to increase to weekly frequency. They've established a need, and want help in promoting to those who need the service. c) Joe Scott will mention the food bank and the Community Council in the Milnbank Housing newsletter and include us in the circulation. He committed to himself or another representative attending our meetings regularly.

3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10/9/13:** The minutes were proposed as accurate by Brian and seconded by Jane.
4. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) Walkabout. This occurred on Wednesday Sept 18th and the information recorded has been forwarded for action to Barbara Fearnside at Community Safety Glasgow with a commitment that it will be passed to the relevant departments. She also recommended that any initial walkabout be considered a trial run and take place without elected officials and council officers, so Stephen took this advice. We will monitor action taken and update via agenda and website. b) Alcohol Policy statement. In line with policy, every three years there is a new licencing statement, with a consultation deadline at the end of this month. Stephen will provide a draft response and circulate to everyone for comment. c) Potholes. Frank was told by Land Services that large scale repairs promised by the end of August will now be dealt with by the end of the financial year. A follow-up letter asking why and for greater precision elicited the comment that works are constantly re-prioritised. At our July meeting councillor Docherty was keen to see progress and offered help. He is currently following-up, although had not responded to a request for an update for this meeting. d) Wellpark Trees. Land Services rejected a request to reconsider their decision refusing us information about trees due for cutting down in Dennistoun and the reasons for this. Frank responded noting the UK signing the Aarhus Convention, compelling authorities to provide environmental information to the public before decision are made and involve them in environmental decisions. As yet there has been no response. Frank will follow-up on behalf of DCC.
5. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Day Out In Dennistoun. Andy was absent. Stephen repeated developments to date. b) Duke Street. No briefing has yet been prepared, but the sub-group will meet before the next DCC meeting.
6. **PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DCC MEMBERSHIP.** Stephen repeated developments to date. Helen has tendered her resignation, leaving us two members under maximum, and it was agreed to increase the membership to 17 overall, specifically targetting areas from which we have no members in order to ensure the best possible representation in Dennistoun.
7. **FINANCE.** The opening of a new Co-Op bank account is progressing. Flowers have still not been sent to Jenny Mullholland in thanks for her service, and she will soon be away. Jane will keep abreast of her return and ensure the flowers are sent.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. There will be no new restaurants on Garfield Street and 486 Duke Street, rejected on the basis of extra traffic, and enviromental health problems with smells. There has been no further news about the conditional permission given to convert the former church opposite WASPS on the Parade into a hotel. Brain will follow up. There has been no planning application for the new chicken premises on the Parade, but while refurbished it has yet to open and may be subject to historical planning consent for food. In the current month there has been application to convert the former nursery at 2

Craigpark into a house, and for the conversion of the closed Mills Bar on Duke Street into a restaurant. There has been no planning permission for the massive illuminated sign on 285 Duke Street and DCC will join the Conservation Society in lodging an objection. b)

Licensing No notifications

c) Wesley highlighted significant correspondence. i) He's been invited to address the Community Council Discussion Forum about community council websites, but cannot make the date. He's open to appearing at a later stage. ii) The revised Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils was supplied, then withdrawn, and Wesley said most queried items remained. Stephen noted conflict at the Community Council Discussion Forum on the matter. iii) Drew Smith MSP has invited responses to a consultation about his proposed Protection from Eviction (Bedroom Tax) (Scotland) bill. Stephen will formulate a response for circulation to DCC members. iv) Stephen and Wesley attended the party for the one year anniversary of the Emirates Arena opening after offering the tickets to other DCC members.

9. **REPORTS:** East Area Partnership Ruth attended the September meeting. a) The police announced a new post of Alcohol Officer, and they are recruiting for the test purchase of alcohol in areas suspected of selling to under 16s. As part of a 10 year plan all breakfast licences are to be challenged, and off sales will be closed if selling to the under-aged. b) The cafe at Platform Theatre will be open for Sunday Socials from September 15th to December 1st for assorted social meetings. c) A neighbourhood management framework is to be established, working with community councils and targeting 16-24 year olds regarding education and family support for parents of children aged two and under.. d) Refugees and asylum seekers are now being dispersed throughout Glasgow rather than concentrated, which is seen as better while providing greater logistical problems. e) As part of a wider city policy Whitehill School will now have parent and toddler, mental health and tobacco education groups. f) A local plan feeding into the North East Sector Implementation Plan is to be presented during November.
10. **ELECTED MEMBERS:** Councillor Dunn had left by this point, and no-one else had provided a report.
11. **A.O.B.** The Conservation Society has been approached by Century Films who're following up on a series made for the BBC last year where long-term residents of various London streets provided the backdrop to changes in their district. Duke Street is being considered, and Ruth has provided information and contacts from her Dennistoun oral history project.

**NEXT MEETING:** At 7pm Tuesday November 12th at Whitehill School. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.