



Dennistoun Community Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT GINGERBREAD HALL 10/6/14

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Naila Akram, Lauren Amazeen, John Bones, Jane Clarke, Ruth Jackson, Brian Johnson, Jennifer McGlone, Ally Meek, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members)
Bernard Elliott, Shaik Sharif, David Reilly, Scottish Community Development Centre, Pcs Gary Aitken and Julie Orr

Apologies: Andy Campbell, Ruth Johnson, Anne McKenna, Vicky Melvin, and Christine Quinn, MSPs Paul Martin, Humza Yusaf and Drew Smith, Councillors Frank Docherty and Jennifer Dunn

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. **NEW MEMBERS:** Four people responded to our appeal for new members, and we have four vacancies so Ruth Jackson, Jennifer McGlone, Ally Meek and Christine Quinn were elected unopposed. Stephen later noted the quorum has now risen to six and the entire community council is due for re-election in October.
2. **POLICE REPORT:** The police delivered crime prevention advice, noting even a poster in the close acts as a deterrent. Tenement back doors should be locked, although it was noted bin men often disregard this, and it's unsafe to padlock bicycles in hallways. During the summer youths gathering in closes is a frequent problem, and residents are urged to report before trouble starts. Police awareness of who's out and their clothing can help with possible later problems. This has been a particular concern in Dennistoun Village so the community liaison officer met security personnel and the property management company, considering both diligent and concerned. Another current problem is robberies from cars parked for hospital visits in Firpark St and Wishart St. Owners should not have anything on display, and hiding items under seats is no protection. The police can provide both home and business crime prevention surveys, and noted different problems for differently located flats. It's always advisable to ensure passers-by can't see in through windows, but conversely high hedges also provide cover when the police are acting on crime reports.
3. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None
4. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13/5/14:** Pending noting Ruth's handing over a list of incidents in the Necropolis during March, the minutes were otherwise proposed as accurate by Wesley and seconded by John.
5. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) Potholes John Quinn has been allocated to liaise with DCC over street repair problems. A meeting has been arranged for June 16th. Stephen and Frank will attend. b) East End Social. Considered a great success, positive for the area, and evaluation sheets were distributed. The more that can be returned the better the chances of DCC having input to future events. Wesley noted that perhaps the current form was as successful as it could have been, as any more people would have exceeded capacity. c) Big Lunch. This was far better attended than in 2012. Although fewer

people brought food, we had enough to feed everyone. Lack of promotion was noted on Dennistoun Forum, but distributing leaflets to every address rather defeats the purpose of encouraging community contact. Those attending filled in 20 Day Out in Dennistoun forms, completed 40 Duke Street audit forms and supplied 15 e-mail addresses, so community engagement was also successful. Stephen will add e-mails to our list and Frank will update sponsors Edzell Property Management. It was agreed to run the event again in 2015 on the final weekend in May or the first weekend in June.

d) Area Grant Forms. Frank learned that Glasgow Council are already assessing the suitability of their grant application forms, so at this stage a petition is un-necessary. Frank will draft a letter to Richard Kelly outlining DCC's thoughts to be taken into consideration.

e) Alexandra Park Festival June 21st. This has been brought forward from July, possibly to coincide with the Commonwealth Games activities timetable. It runs from 11.30 to 4pm with a reggae theme, and DCC have booked a table. Ally, Frank, Jane, John, Stephen and Wesley are available to help out, and we will also distribute material from Friends of the Necropolis and the Dennistoun Conservation Society. There should be time to have Day Out in Dennistoun information circulated. We can again provide fruit and any other suggestions should be submitted via e-mail.

f) Dog Fouling. Martin Lundy the Ward Manager from Environmental Services will attend July's meeting.

g) Communication with North-East Community Councils. Of Glasgow's three geographical groupings the largest number of inactive community councils are in the North-East, currently 23%. Many others don't operate via e-mail, which increases the problems of liaising. Camlachie are keen to set up a community council and may visit DCC. Wesley noted that our website provides details on how to construct a community council website.

6. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Day Out In Dennistoun. The content is still on target for Doors Open Weekend on September 20/21st, but additional funding is required to cover printing costs. Stephen felt there are still gaps on the map to be closed and Andrew will circulate another draft. He has supplied a simplified form to schools.
- b) Duke Street. Stephen said the report is almost ready and will be circulated this week. A community engagement is planned for later in the summer, and the new City Development Plan confirms Duke Street as a town centre. The aspirational status is therefore a vibrant, multifunctional area offering good access to a wide range of services. The reality is at odds with the aspiration.
- c) City Development Plan. It was commented that this was nigh impenetrable, but Stephen and Brian have created a bullet point list of proposed responses for circulation later this week. There is an imbalance of investment in the East of Glasgow beyond the Commonwealth Games areas, and it was felt investment should be led by need not finance. The old abattoir site is allocated for housing, and permission had not been granted for a temporary park. It was reiterated that responses DCC provided in 2012 were not fully represented. The sustainability of neighbourhoods and placemaking are key City Development Plan aspirations and with regard to Dennistoun the policy is at odds with the action.
- d) Training. Following the previous meeting an opportunity arose to apply for help from the Scottish Community Development Centre, with the deadline before this meeting. There was a positive response via e-mail, and we have been allocated services. David Reilly explained the group is government funded to support community groups with focussed training. This usually takes the form of an initial session identifying skills and assets, followed by evaluation and planning, often then linking with other groups who have relevant experience. The process is two-way, with the SCDC feeding the problems experienced by community groups back to the Scottish government. Stephen suggested community engagement as an area where DCC could improve, and it was agreed to take up SCDC training. On average each group requires five days of involvement, but there is flexibility.
- e) Action Plan 2014/15. The Action Plan hasn't been updated since 2012, and Stephen noted it would be a good idea if with everyone being due for re-election in October we could present a

specific set of aims by that time.

7. **FINANCE:** a) The Big Lunch cost £153.30, leaving £46.70 as raised funding unconstricted by admin grant regulations. The current account balance is £2647.06, after hall hire and petty cash withdrawal, but £1000 is ring fenced for the Day Out In Dennistoun project. Petty cash stands at £147.96.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. i) It's apparent the old Masonic Lodge on Alexandra Parade is not being developed as the hotel for which planning permission was granted. DCC has no objection to a backpackers hostel, but not objecting to the principle sets a precedent with possible later repercussions, while there is a slight possibility that the hostel's use will devolve. Wesley will write to planning with the aim of having their input for our July meeting. ii) We've missed the deadline for written objections to an application for extended opening hours for Marmaris at 285 Duke Street. Opening until 2am in a residential block is inappropriate. We can object in person when the planning meeting is held provided written notice has been given. Stephen will check whether the specific writer representing a group must attend. Wesley specified that as he's currently working for Land Services on a contract basis it's inappropriate for him to be sending DCC letters to people he works with, and wants to keep the two separate. b) Licensing Outwith our area one pharmacy application for the Forge has been rejected and new application submitted. c) Correspondence A full list was circulated to be appended to the minutes, but Wesley highlighted procession notices now coming through. Brian and Stephen requested they be forwarded. There's also a consultation on altering electoral boundaries and increasing the number of Glasgow Councillors from 79 to 85. The response deadline is August 21st.

9. **REPORTS:** a) East Centre Area Partnership Neither Ruth nor Stephen could attend the last meeting, but the minutes note concerns raised about funding being distributed to Council and arms-length organisations rather than community groups. There was a Community Safety report about the impact of alcohol in the community, and there will be free evening transport to local hospitals. b) No elected member reports.

10. **A.O.B:** a) We have been allocated £400 for Big Gig funding. DCC member Jennifer McGlone is fund manager and also part of a music collective active in Dennistoun. There are 12 funded and three unfunded projects for Saturday July 12th. Stephen has ascertained Reidvale Hall is free that day, and Naila hopes to help with organisation. b) Frank attended a Network Rail community consultation where the primary focus appeared to be promoting the refurbishment of Queen Street station along with the extension of Buchanan Galleries, to be completed by 2018. There are no longer plans to close Duke Street station as the Scottish government has blocked station closures. John pointed out this was unlikely anyway as use has greatly increased since the line has been extended from Springburn to Cumbernauld. For future reference, Frank was told that when Network Rail disrupt communities with work they now have a policy of aiding the community in other ways when possible. c) There has been no news in the nine months since DCC responded to MSP Iain Gray's consultation on bus services. Frank has enquired about progress.

NEXT MEETING: At 7pm Tuesday July 8th at the Gingerbread Hall, Armadale Street. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.