



## Dennistoun Community Council

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### DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT MARKET GALLERY 10/3/15

**Present:** Stephen Birrell (chair), Lauren Amazeen, Jane Clarke, Ruth Jackson, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Ally Meek, Michael Melvin, Angela Mills, Frank Plowright, Caitlin Quinn, Christine Quinn, Elena Trimarchi, Wesley Wright (Council Members), Associate members Justyna Ataman and Claire McKechnie-Mason, Councillor Russell Robertson David Houston, Clem Sandiston  
Police officers Stuart Cassidy, Nicola McAdam, Davey McNair

**Apologies:** John Bones, MSP John Mason, Louise Thompson

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

- POLICE REPORT:** Stuart Cassidy addressed ongoing problems with police attendance and consistency of reports. Meeting notification should be e-mailed to a group address rather than an individual, and he was told problems dating back several years. Communications are an ongoing matter for improvement. We'd like to be advised of significant trends, of incident outcomes, and to be consulted over local initiatives. We'd like the information supplied to us to be relevant, credible, and meaningful. Statistics were supplied from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>. Detection rate south of Duke Street is 78%, mainly drug, drinking and disorder offences, while the 16 undetected crimes are assault and disorder. 38 crimes remain undetected north of Duke Street, including common assault and theft, but a major incident in Milnbank has resulted in arrests. Specific blocks targeted include 49 and 66 Hillfoot Street, the former for youths drinking and vandalism, the latter for excessive noise. Youths are drinking in the old Golhill primary school building, taking garden furnishings from the adjacent nursing home. Police were informed about ongoing problems with youths at 158 Garthland and 102 Roslea. It was stressed again that residents should call frequently as police have to prioritise limited resources and can't always attend, but calls lodge a pattern prompting action\*. Ruth noted needles and broken bottles frequently discovered during Dennistoun Conservation Society's monthly clean-ups, and the police could accompany one to discover locations. The police intend to have a Day of Action in Dennistoun on bogus callers on March 27<sup>th</sup>. We weren't consulted. It involves an increased presence targeting cold callers and vans. Stephen questioned if highly visible police would achieve much. It's also planned to inform groups of elderly residents. Stuart Cassidy committed to Dennistoun Action Plans specific to community needs that we can promote, noted community feedback as an untapped resource, and said much valuable information comes from remaining at meetings and talking to people afterwards as burning questions are frequently not raised during meetings.
- PUBLIC INPUT:** a) Clem Sandison is involved in a funded project to plant community orchards and bio-diversity improvements, and enquired about Friends of Alexandra Park, as it's an area that could be targeted. She's unable to make the consultation there on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, and asked how Land Services support community groups. Councillor Robertson committed to attending the meeting and passing on contact details.
- MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10/2/15:** Pending correction of a few typos the minutes were submitted as accurate by Brian and seconded by Lauren.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:** a) Washing Line Project: Information has been uploaded to our website. b) SCDC training: Not enough members could make LEAP training, and interest was small. We can reschedule. It was agreed more sessions would be valuable, and Frank again suggested conflict resolution as a topic. Stephen wanted David Reilly's e-mailed comments after the December SCDC sessions minuted: "You are a really impressive group of people and it's a pleasure to work with you! I don't know many other Community Councils to be honest but I'd be surprised if many have the energy and range of people who are in DCC". Communications are an ongoing matter for improvement. c) Nursery places. Louise Thompson was unable to attend, but it's clear the problem hasn't been resolved, and we can defer to April. Stephen mentioned a newspaper article reporting on disagreement between the Glasgow Council and government regarding nurseries.
5. **DCC MEMBERSHIP:** a) Possible new members: No response as yet from Laurence O'Neill. Two people have indicated interest. Councillor Robertson said he'd chase up. b) GHA Associate membership. There has been no response, but the letter sent is on file. Wesley asked for contacts that may move matters forward. c) Claire McKechnie-Mason updated on the Representing Communities project noting three main streams, interviews, activities and future. i) Interviews included churches, the food bank, Haghill College, the Library, Milnbank and Reidvale Housing Associations, Platform, Glasgow Life, Schools via Impact Arts and Glasgow Life, MSP Paul Martin, the Washing Line Project and 15 people representing a broad section of the community with diverse perspectives. Old themes identified include violence, gang culture, general poor health, a divided community, industriousness, friendliness, modern and beautiful city. Main new themes are empowerment and change, with others being pride, loneliness and social mobility. This has been mapped, but no decision taken about using the information. ii) Activities were light touch such as the beach hut at events asking people to place pebbles in a jar according to their feeling about the area. The friendly jar was full, the modern jar empty. Children attended a Narnia event at the library, hanging gift tags on a wish tree. More sun and community spirit were noted, and, oddly, a swimming pool. Claire noted the support of Jackie and Maggie at the library. There was a storytelling event at Coia attended by 35 people and 6 coached storytellers. Mitch Miller illustrated. iii) Future events will include a lottery funded exhibition at WASPS on April 6<sup>th</sup> where an artist will work with children to visualise their feelings of Dennistoun. A film maker will present three films. The beach hut will return on Duke Street, and an application has been made for arts and humanities research council funding. It's been difficult to reach older people, so there's a project to forge new groups. Librarians will recruit, and there will be interaction with Milnbank Housing who have facilities. Councillor Robertson was present at a meeting also attended by Joe Scott from Milnbank Housing and Alan Benson to ensure Haghill was represented, and he said Glasgow Life will support at the Alexandra Park Festival. This will be in June, but a date has not yet been set. Further information can be found on [representingcommunities.co.uk](http://representingcommunities.co.uk).
6. **ACTION PLAN.** a) The Action Plan was adopted with 23 topics as a long-term project. It was agreed that Arts, Environmental and Events groups set up at January's SCDC meeting would serve as focus groups rather than over-arching control groups. This leaves DCC with existing Billboard, Communications, Day Out in Dennistoun and Duke St groups, with more to follow. Each will agree remit and timescale, but report back to DCC meetings. Individual events and arts projects aren't all group matters, and focus groups would discuss the best way forward. b) The Environment group has met and Angela ran through progress. Some items weren't discussed as those who'd noted primary interest couldn't attend. It was decided to ask for the traffic management study documentation, mentioned by Councillor Docherty, then to audit concerns in addition. Reidvale Youth and Action have consulted re the disused Basketball court and the next step would be to contact them. The footbridge across the

- railway line comes under the neighbouring community council area, so elected members for that area will be contacted. This also applies to the old abattoir site and there was discussion about current plans for it, but no certainty. It was felt a quarterly walkabout was a good idea, identifying issues and inviting councillors and local officials. c) Frank hadn't gathered an events group in the light of discussion at February's meeting. He felt events were largely individually led and an over-arching group not needed, particularly as 11 names featured against events on the action plan. It was agreed this would serve as a focus group, and Caitlin will run a similar arts focus group, both to be arranged by e-mail. d) Days out in Dennistoun. Andy supplied a draft version to Wes. Stephen still to supply outstanding text, estimated at 50 words, and pass written confirmation to Andy of print funding from Reidvale and Milnbank Housing. There was uncertainty about online version, and Wes will link with Andy. Stephen confirmed there will be no issue with the East Area funding grant as this has been paid to Dress for the Weather, but he needs to provide feedback by the end of March. Stephen displayed a Future Glasgow brochure that uses the map created for the Days Out project. e) Billboard Project. Funding applications have been made to Creative Scotland, and other sources, including extra funding for workshops. ScotRail initially claimed they weren't responsible for the billboard wall, but are now unhappy about permitting the required access. A Hugh McDonald is considering the situation. Stephen was hopeful the project will run for 12 months from October if the funding is sourced.
7. **FINANCE:** Jane submitted a report that our current balance is £2689.30, £1000 of which is reserved for the Day Out In Dennistoun project. Petty cash is £2.15. Jane won't be at the April meeting, so needs any expenditure receipts. Glasgow Council claim they've not received our verified accounts, sent on December 14<sup>th</sup> for a deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup>. These will now need to be re-submitted, and Barbara Quigley was suggested as a replacement verifier.
  8. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. There is an application for premises on 523 and 527 Duke St to exchange location. Councillor Robertson mentioned planning committee approving the housing development on the current BP site in principle with a view to further consultation. He confirmed there will be no building access via Lloyd Street and all trees will remain in place. b) Licensing An HMO application for 9 Firpark Court to which we objected has been granted. c) Correspondence i) We have been contacted by a group in Workington to compare notes on Big Lunch preparations. ii) There was an enquiry about accumulating rubbish and moves to address the problem. Wes replied that we have an active dialogue with Land Services. iii) We were contacted about organising a pre-election hustings, but as Dennistoun New Church was also approached it was decided to leave it to them rather than take the lead. The remainder are appended to the minutes.
  9. **REPORTS:** a) East Centre Area Partnership Notes appended to minutes. Elements directly impacting on Dennistoun were a £200 grant to Dennistoun New Church Keep Fit Club to cover a day trip, and the East Centre Neighbourhood Management Action Plan agreed to include improving Alexandra Park. b) Elected Members: None present by this point.
  10. **A.O.B:** a) Michael circulated his designed leaflet for handing out to the public about DCC. Any suggested changes should be forwarded to Michael. Wesley circulated a revised DCC poster with the venue removed. b) DCC's application was shortlisted for the Evening Times Community Champion Awards. Friends of the Necropolis has also been shortlisted, are organising a bio-blitz at the end of May, and a World War I oral history project at St Mungo's on March 28<sup>th</sup> from noon c) Dennistoun Diggers event at Redmonds about the living wage and the rise of food banks was well attended. Future events will be Love Food, Hate Waste and a focus on recycling. d) Frank and John attended a Scottish Office organised public meeting about devolved powers. No direct relevance to Dennistoun,

but if anyone's interested Frank has memory stick and notes from the presentation. e)  
Frank investigated venues for meetings. Of six halls sourced only the Salvation Army was available on the second Tuesday each month, costing £25 per hour, a large increase. It was felt the venue needs to be central, religious and licensed premises are best avoided. Frank will follow up with Michele at Reidvale Housing re a place in Thomson Street.

**NEXT MEETING:** 7pm Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at venue to be confirmed. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.

\* Inspector Webb from London Road police station requested the following clarification be made: “The point about residents continuing to report matters where their previous experience has been that police did not turn up in time to trace those responsible is to encourage them to continue to contact police about problems as this helps to build a picture of frequency, time of occurrence etc and also to reinforce the message to residents that if they are experiencing an issue, particularly around anti social behaviour, they should continue to advise police to give us the opportunity to respond in each instance. I don’t necessarily think it is right to say residents should call frequently it is more that they should contact police if and when they have an issue and not simply accept anti social behaviour in their community because police never responded in time on a previous occasion.”