



## Dennistoun Community Council

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### DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT HAGHILL SCHOOL 13/8/13

**Present:** Stephen Birrell (chair), John Bones, Andrew Campbell, Jane Clarke, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Anne McKenna, Vicky Melvin, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members), Police officers Sharon McPeake and James Rove, Councillors Frank Docherty and Jennifer Dunn, Joe Scott from Milnbank Housing Association and Andrea Akosi from Bridgeton and Dalmarnock Community Council.

**Apologies:** Naila Ackram, Lauren Amazeen and Helen McCarthy, MSPs Drew Smith and Humza Yusaf

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

- POLICE REPORT:** a) Milnbank Housing Association plan to fund additional policing throughout the Dennistoun area. This will be overtime, not removing resources from elsewhere, and consist of flexible extra beat patrols targeting specific concerns. Dog fouling was mentioned as an example, preventative policing would be a priority and police would be provided with hand held equipment linking to CCTV cameras. Glasgow Community Safety are working on an analysis of problems, but public input is welcome, and it's hoped the new patrols will start in September. Reidvale Housing Association have a similar operation in place. b) 147 crimes were reported in the period covering July 9<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>, of which 94 have been dealt with. The more serious issues with culprits in custody were an attempted murder by fire raising in the Reidvale area and another in Meadowpark St.. Suspects have yet to be apprehended for robberies in Roslea Drive and Finlay Drive. Increasing vandalism in the Necropolis is a concern, as are 50 reported crimes in the Haghill area, although 38 were solved. There is largely opportunist housebreaking, and people should take care when leaving windows and storm doors open. Bicycle theft is increasing, and leaving a cycle in the close is inadequate protection as not enough people check who they're buzzing into a close. Milnbank Housing now have lockable bike sheds, and are taking police advice on the installation of secure by design windows and doors. The officers reiterated that calls regarding suspicions about people hanging around are always welcome and treated as high priority. c) There is a new Chief Inspector at London Road police station, and operational changes mean more high visibility foot patrols and fewer car patrols. d) The police have a stock of ultra-violet pens to mark goods and bicycles targeted by thieves. e) Wesley followed up on the provision of personal alarm bells to be activated in threatening circumstances, but none remained after the Alexandra Park Festival. The police hope to provide some by the October meeting.
- PUBLIC INPUT:** There was none.
- MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9/7/13:** The minutes were proposed as accurate by Vicky and seconded by Anne.
- MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) Community Council Liaison Group. There will be two further meetings before the group provides a report addressing topics such as

whether Community Councils are really valued by local authorities. They've already been instrumental in ensuring an updated version of the Scheme of Establishment circulated last year.

b) Parkhead Hospital consultation. A letter has been sent, but there has been no response as yet. c) Big Lunch. Due to lack of volunteers, the planned Big Lunch will not go ahead this year. Stephen stressed this required commitment to continue, and it's hoped this can be revived next year.

d) Alexandra Park Festival. The DCC presence was seen as positive, and the festival itself well attended. DCC's success can be measured via a steady increase in people following the DCC Facebook and Twitter accounts and increased traffic on our website. The notice about the event was the most viewed page on our Facebook page to date. £28 was spent on fruit distributed, research for the Day Out In Dennistoun project was positive, and the mapping of comments regarding the area was evenly split between positive and negative. Councillor Frank Docherty noted increased attendance has promoted the Alexandra Park Festival to major event category, ensuring it won't be affected by a review of such events throughout Glasgow.

e) New Variety Bar. Stephen organised a meeting to discuss long-term problems for residents in the vicinity of the Variety Bar. The owners agreed to a more responsible social policy, ranging from the timing of bottle disposal to a more stringent monitoring of anti-social behaviour. Councillor Frank Docherty is part of the council Licensing Committee who are aware of problems. He's confident of improved standards, and corrected a statement in previous minutes, explaining the pub wasn't closed by the licensing department, but voluntary by the owners. Residents who attended the March meeting passed on thanks via Anne, and are delighted that after years of problems, all has been well over the past four weeks.

f) Potholes. The bigger areas of road requiring repair still haven't been seen to, but the promised deadline was the end of August. There has been little action on potholes reported via the DCC log-in to the council RALF system, and Frank will monitor this. Wesley will map outstanding repairs on the DCC website, and councillor Docherty offered his help should deadlines not be met, suggesting the department responsible address the community council. It was explained that we'd decided not to solicit such addresses due to time constraints at meetings.

g) Cleansing & Dog Fouling. i) There was a local authority dog fouling initiative in July, but no figures are yet available. It is hoped there will be an officer dedicated to this recurring area problem in the future, and help in targeting recurring problem areas is welcome. ii) It was suggested that the bigger picture is addressed by DCC members accompanying elected officials in two hour walk around of the area spotting problems. iii) There is concern about recent racist graffiti in Dennistoun, swastikas on Market Gallery shutters being an example. In such cases Clean Glasgow should be contacted on 0800 027 7207 and this should be removed within 24 hours. Several long term residents of Dennistoun on the community council noted a vast improvement over the years.

h) Trees at Wellpark. Frank's previous meeting report hadn't clarified that Land Services' refusal to supply information to residents was a direct response to the request that the Community Council is informed of trees due to be removed in Dennistoun. Frank will request this is reconsidered. Councillor Docherty supplied more information regarding the trees cleared at Wellpark clearance and the fewer planned replacements. There was evidence of prostitution occurring in the thickets, and after tarmacing the path it's planned to extend the family area.

i) Bus legislation. Frank will provide a first draft response and circulate to Andrew, John and Stephen for amendment. The response deadline is prior to the next meeting, so it was agreed that named members could submit an appropriate response on DCC's behalf.

5. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Day Out In Dennistoun. The logistics of funding mean completion by Doors Open day in September isn't feasible, and Easter 2014 is a better target. This permits more community engagement. Initial funding has covered between a quarter and a third of overall cost, allowing for Andrew's map to be circulated for suggested inclusions. Some have already been returned. As several officially calculated Dennistoun boundaries differ the

project will incorporate the general area to maximise potential items of interest, but could mark the differing boundaries. It was again agreed that the working group could take decisions on behalf of DCC. b) Duke Street. There has been no further progress on auditing the value of Duke Street and what people would like to see, but the working group will report back to the next meeting. This could also occupy October's A.G.M.

6. **PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DCC MEMBERSHIP.** Residents to DCC members ratio permits a further five members, with a pro-rata quorum. Jenny's resignation creates another vacancy. Stephen noted some areas of Dennistoun aren't represented at all, so actively soliciting new members from those areas would make us more accountable. There have been contacts from Haghill, but no-one has attended meetings. Wesley wondered if we're achieving full value from current associate members, none of whom attend. Milnbank Housing operate area focus groups that may identify possible new members, and will raise the matter. Increasing the membership must be approved, but should be a formality. Stephen requested we consider this prior to a vote at the next meeting.
7. **FINANCE.** RBS have taken over a year to process new account signatories and have now twice lost the documentation, so Jane has raised a formal complaint. Our current balance is £1826.95, but Wesley is owed for July hall hire, and we still have to provide Jenny with flowers in recognition of her community council service. The £28 spent on fruit for the Alexandra Park stall was from petty cash. Council support is requested for the preparation of accounts for October's A.G.M. after they raised questions about the format of 2012 accounts.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. There were no planning applications for Dennistoun up to August 4th. b) There have been no licensing applications. c) Wesley's correspondence list is appended to the minutes. i) The sender of the anonymous diatribe was invited to attend our meeting, but hasn't. ii) We've been supplied with the consultation report from the Factoring Commission, with a late September response date. As a commission member Frank felt it inappropriate to contribute to a DCC response, but is happy to clarify and explain if required.
9. **REPORTS:** Ruth was elected DCC representative to the East Area Partnership, and Stephen as deputy. He believes it differs from the old East Area Committee via a voting position and an area management role. It's thought meetings remain six weekly with a 10am start.
10. **ELECTED MEMBERS:** a) Councillor Jennifer Dunn had to leave at 8pm, but donated two tickets to the World Pipe Band event, picked up by Brian. b) Councillor Frank Docherty announced the standard grade results at Whitehill as the best ever, and that Duke Street would be completely upgraded as far as Bellgrove St. Improvement of the chicanes in Dennistoun is currently under discussion, and Frank is concerned about the rising crimes in Haghill. He'll discuss these with police. Wheelchair rugby will be introduced on the all-weather pitch, but not restricted to those requiring wheelchairs. There are also discussions about setting up traditional wrestling classes. Dennistoun Amateurs with a new manager and several new decent quality players now play on a Saturday morning and it's hoped this will attract more spectators. Tollcross pool's upgrade has not significantly affected attendance at Whitehill pool and gym, and all Commonwealth Games venues are now complete and open to the public. Subsidence at John Knox St and Duke Street has been addressed, and it's hoped the spot will host art or sculpture signifying arrival in Dennistoun. St Anne's Church is now being used by the Polish community, and local schools have adopted Duke Street station and will maintain the plants. There was incredulity at Bellgrove having won a bronze award for Best Station. Discussions are taking place about having wi-fi available throughout Glasgow.

11. **A.O.B.** Ruth announced that the Friends of the Necropolis have applied for funding to operate a World War I heritage trail.

**NEXT MEETING:** At 7pm Tuesday September 10th at Whitehill School. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.