



Dennistoun Community Council

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DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 10/9/13

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Naila Akram, John Bones, Jane Clarke, Brian Johnston, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members), William Bishop, Bernard Elliott, Helen McNally, Betty O' Brien, Betty Rodger and Jean Wright

Apologies: Lauren Amazeen, Andrew Campbell, Ruth Johnston, and Helen McCarthy, MSPs John Mason and Humza Yousaf, Councillors Frank Docherty and Yvonne Küçük

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. **POLICE REPORT:** No police attended the meeting and no report was provided. The police hope to provide some by the October meeting.
2. **PUBLIC INPUT:** a) There was concern about a drinking den near a corner of the Haghill School football pitches. People have encountered hostile behaviour and it's possible dogs owned by the drinkers have killed foxes. A request to cut back growth will be made to Land Services, and police will be informed. b) Overgrown hedges in Finlay Drive are blocking the pavement and have forced people to walk in the road. These can be reported to Environmental Health officials, but trees in back courts blocking light are a matter for residents. It was suggested neighbours are consulted, and a housing association's factoring service can provide a benchmark quote for trimming trees. We will inform the facilities manager of low branches overhanging the fences at City Park. c) Dog fouling remains an issue, and it was suggested people provide information to Environmental Health officers. This can be for dogs soiling inside tenements and outside. d) Later in the meeting problems with Houses of Multiple Occupation was raised. The only effective solution is to call the police's non-emergency number (101) to report problems and request help.
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14/8/13:** The minutes were proposed as accurate by Wesley and seconded by John.
4. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) Community Council Liaison Group. The Council are happy with progress and an amended the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils takes on board consultation feedback. All our comments have resulted in retraction or modification and the new Scheme will be circulated in October. It has also been highlighted that a £500 annual grant doesn't cover the level of engagement suggested for Community Councils, there should be improved sharing of information, and access to training. Dennistoun has been highlighted as how a Community Council should operate. The CCLG will continue for a further six months. b) Wellpark Trees. As yet there has been no response to a repeated request to Land Services that we be informed of trees to be cut down in Dennistoun, and the reasons for this. Frank is confident that this is environmental information legislatively required to be provided on request. c) Bus Consultation. Andrew, Frank, John and Stephen responded to the consultation on bus services undertaken by MSP Iain Grey in preparation for a proposed bill. The response was informed by our

public meeting on the topic in 2011. It was requested that we ask First Bus improve services between Duke Street and Alexandra Parade, but based on their comments about provision of new services in Dennistoun in 2011 this was deemed unlikely. Free shuttle buses will be provided for Commonwealth Games venues next year, but this will be short term, and largely via Gallowgate and London Road. d) A.G.M. There is no longer a requirement for Community Councils to hold an annual public meeting, but it was felt this was a decent principle, and there was a value to theming. Duke Street will be addressed in October, consulting on improvements required. e) Potholes. Frank has enquired why longer stretches of road needing repair had not been seen to by the end of August as promised. No response as yet, but Frank will follow-up. New potholes and faulty paving were noted, and Frank will lodge these on the Road and Lighting Faults website. f) Walk around. All elected officials and Council managers responsible for dealing with problems will be invited to walk around the area. Later in the meeting it was decided this will be between noon and 2pm on either Tuesday 17th or Wednesday 18th. Jane suggested a further walk after dark to highlight different problems.

5. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Day Out In Dennistoun. Andy was absent. b) Duke Street. A briefing will be prepared for the A.G.M., enabling all to comment, featuring an audit of shops for comparison. Linthouse and Whiteinch mentioned as viable comparison sites. The matter of shutters was again divisive, and it was noted that Parkhead Cross shop fronts have been refurbished via Commonwealth Games grants. A local development plan has replaced City Plan 2. Duke Street has lost its status as a town centre desirable for re-development funding on the basis that the abattoir site was to be redeveloped, which would have a knock-on effect. This has not occurred, and we should ensure Dennistoun receives refurbishment grants. Possible topics relating to Duke Street are recommending a policy for betting shops similar to the over-provision benchmark for licenced premises, DCC having a shopfront, environmental work, green spaces, Christmas decorations, bins, and signage.
6. **PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DCC MEMBERSHIP.** a) No progress as yet, but more members may require larger premises, or certainly adapting what we have. We can increase the membership based on the ratio of members to Dennistoun's population. A vote was postponed for a briefing and more members attending. b) On an associated matter Wesley asked if we could confirm all dates and venues for 2014 meetings to enable a poster to be circulated early in the new year providing all the information.
7. **FINANCE.** RBS have still not processed the new account signatories and there has been no response to a complaint submitted 28 days ago. It was agreed to switch the DCC account to the Co-Op. Prospective signatories Jane, Stephen and Wesley all bank there and this should ease the formalities of a new account. A fourth signatory will be added when the account is open. Community Councils' accounting year now runs from September to August. The 2012 accounts are not signed off as we've not been invoiced for hiring Bridgeton Community Learning Centre. The balance remains £1826.95 with Wesley owed for July hall hire.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. An application has been submitted to construct a three storey block of flats in an Aberfoyle Street area designed as an air gap, and seemingly too small for reasonable construction. Furthermore the application specifies a white building in a red sandstone area, and out of scale with adjacent properties. It was agreed to lodge an objection. Brian will investigate a property in Duke Street advertised as already approved for fast food, and the Fish and Chicken shop opening on the Parade, although a planning application for this area had been submitted. He will also check if an application for a cafe in Garfield Street was rejected due to over-provision in the area. b) Licensing No

notifications c) Wesley's correspondence received list is appended . i) We will respond to the Local Development Plan consultation, available in the library and online. Litter Free Scotland consultation closes on 27 September. There is to be a Ladies Swishing Party in aid of Cancer Research UK on October 5th and Dennistoun Diggers are holding a craft fair on November 23rd, both events in Dennistoun New Church Hall on Armadale Street. Stephen is organising an event to tie in with the Licensing Consultation, deadline October 1st, and will circulate information. Wesley noted surprise that many suggestions in the consultation document could seemingly be negated by the the inclusion of several broad caveats.

9. **REPORTS:** East Area Partnership Ruth attended on August 23rd and Stephen was supplied with minutes. An area partnership profile is planned, to assist with priorities and feed into the North-East Area implementation plan. The next meeting will be in Mid-October.

10. **ELECTED MEMBERS:** None present and no reports provided.

11. **A.O.B.** a) Christmas cards prompted several suggestions including a school competition, commissioning a different locally based artist every year, and local photographer Michael Gallagher. Stephen will circulate Stuart Murray's second design, supplied too late for last year. b) Stephen received an e-mail today about an arts festival seeking to engage with a community group about a Commonwealth Games project. There are no specific details, and Wesley mentioned that anyone wanting our input would acquire greater credibility by attending a meeting to provide information. c) Councillor Elaine McDougall is involved with an area management group, and there was some surprise that the Community Council has not been considered for input. d) Stephen is to liaise with Community Safety officers regarding an assessment of July's dog fouling initiative in Dennistoun, asking them to provide information to Wesley.

NEXT MEETING: At 7pm Tuesday October 8th at Whitehill School. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.