



Dennistoun Community Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT GINGERBREAD HALL 9/9/14

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Lauren Amazeen, John Bones, Jane Clarke, Ruth Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jennifer McGlone, Ally Meek, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members), Associate members Claire McKechnie from GCPH, Joe Scott from Milnbank Housing.
Bernadette Brandia, Bernard Elliott, Louise Johnson, Cathy McGinty, Jennifer Reynolds, Elena Trimarchi, David Reilly from Scottish Community Development Centre, police officers Ashley Gemmill and Iain McWilliam, MSP John Mason

Apologies: MSP Drew Smith, Councillor Frank Docherty and Market Gallery

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. **POLICE REPORT:** The police officers apologised for being late after attending a call. Break-ins continue throughout Glasgow, but in Dennistoun they've decreased, largely due to two known faces being remanded. Break-ins occur during daylight and are targeted by noting who's absent, often by people in slow moving vans obviously observing. People should report such vans. The criminals are primarily stealing cars, so keys should be kept out of sight. Some have been stolen via fishing rod and magnet poked through letter boxes. Unknown people in closes should be challenged and closes should be kept closed front and back. Land Services are aware of this and police have liaised directly with bin men in the area. Specific figures on these crimes would be useful, and Geoff Smith at London Road ought to have them. Joe Scott mentioned that due to extra patrols it's estimated 200 fewer people have been affected by crime in the area in the three months from April 1st. He also noted that frequent patrols through Alexandra Park have turned up no instances of anti-social behaviour, and believes fear of crime in the park fuels rumour.
2. **PUBLIC INPUT:** Louise Johnson addressed the shortage of nursery places in Dennistoun. Every three year old has a statutory right to three hours and ten minutes of nursery education a day at a suitable venue a reasonable buggy's journey away from home. There are currently 140 places with 110 on a waiting list, leading to professional advice that unless parents are somehow disadvantaged it's not worth applying. Despite Glasgow Council's insistence that places are available, phone calls to 12 nurseries in the Dennistoun area revealed either no vacancies or that they're not approved partners of Glasgow Council. Joe Scott mentioned the difficulties of Milnbank's nursery achieving partnership status. They have places, but cannot access the funding. John Mason believes there is no need for an official partnership status as long as nurseries can attain set standards and the funding should follow the child. The topic was mentioned as a possible priority for the revised DCC action plan and someone from Education Services should be invited to a meeting to address the issue.
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12/8/14:** Pending some minor amendments, the minutes were otherwise proposed as accurate by Brian and seconded by John.
4. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) LES & CSG There has been no further communication, although Stephen expected John Quinn would attend tonight's meeting. He

did report that six missing bins have been reinstated. Stephen suggested cleansing is a matter that could be raised via the East Area Committee.

b) City Plan Our responses have been precised and circulated. Stephen attended a meeting on August 25th concerning a health impact assessment of the City Plan, and believes he was the only community representative present. He asked about timescales for feeding information back.

c) Scottish Community Development. David Reilly summarised DCC's August 27th session and has e-mailed a draft summary. A more complete version is available. A choice of possibilities with timed steps to outcomes was included, but not exhaustive. It was felt any further action should be after next month's community council elections. One item noted was an induction plan for new community councillors, and Wesley referenced the detailed constitution and code of conduct documents available online, although these are city wide and don't cover all our specific aims such as promoting art. Cathy McGinty commented she wasn't aware of the community council's exact purpose, so Frank will circulate a draft summary document for comments, with the intention of having it available for members of the public at meetings. It was assumed the community council support centre could copy these on our behalf.

d) Free Furniture distribution. Milnbank Housing Association are among the organisations selected to distribute furniture from the Commonwealth Games Athlete's Village. There are 90,000 items in total, available free with delivery to those who meet need criteria, and stock is being constantly replenished.

e) Wesley has not yet contacted the City Bike scheme regarding extension to Dennistoun, but Stephen noted a city council motion regarding the success of the scheme prompting further development and suggested we add our input.

5. **ACTION PLAN.** a) Day Out in Dennistoun. Funding has now been secured, with Milnbank and Reidvale Housing offering to split printing costs. While completion to tie in with Doors Open Day remains technically feasible, there will be no events in Dennistoun, and Stephen suggested a better launch target would be Open Studios weekend at WASPS on October 5/6th. It's estimated 600 people attend and we have been given a table. Dennistoun library are also keen to do something. b) Duke Street. The report has been circulated and awaits feedback with recommendations. A public consultation is due at the Healthy Impact assessment event in November. c) Action Plan 2014/15. A template has been circulated and a two weeks timescale for responses is required to produce a draft for the A.G.M. Frank suggested this be jargon-free for maximum reach, but blotted his copybook by mistaking the draft City Plan and using it an example of poor communication. Claire McKechnie's work interviewing Dennistoun residents may tie-in, although not for October.
6. **FINANCE:** Our current balance is £2500.36, £1000 of which can only be applied to the Day Out In Dennistoun project. The petty cash balance is £31.43. All receipts for money due need to be handed in by the end of our financial year on September 30th so accounts can be prepared for the A.G. M.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. There has been an application in principle to demolish the BP petrol station on Alexandra Parade and build a four storey 32 flat block with 42 car parking spaces. Cathy McGinty voiced the concerns of local residents regarding access of construction vehicles and later parking via Lloyd Street, and was worried about the fate of the mature trees. This isn't yet an official application, more in the nature of an enquiry, and adjoining properties will be served with information notices if an application proceeds. b) Licensing As per DCC policy Wesley has submitted an objection to a new HMO licence for 9 Oakley Terrace. We were notified that a licence has been granted for the tanning studio at 336 Duke Street. c) Correspondence A full list was circulated to be appended to the minutes, but there was nothing of note not already raised.

8. **REPORTS:** a) East Area Partnership Ruth noted that meetings often fall a day after DCC meetings, which is the case this month. She has concerns that community consultation is too often directed to housing associations, with others left unable to contribute. A reason for so many grants being awarded to local authority departments or their arms-length organisations is a lack of other applications. The offputting application form will change next year, but in the meantime, Kirsteen Shearlaw at GCC is very happy to advise on whether criteria are met and with completing the form. Ruth has applied for a grant on behalf of Friends of the Necropolis. There are concerns of NHS and local authority care services not working efficiently together, but a free dial-up bus service has been arranged for night hospital visits. The governance of the Area Partnerships is to change next year. b) Elected Member updates. Only John Mason was present and he reported Commonwealth Games housing has now been marketed, it's too late to register for all but emergency proxy votes for the referendum, and delivered the surprising news that there's no regulatory requirement to have qualified first aid at schools and nurseries. This a matter he'll bring to the notice of the Scottish parliament in addition to raising the nursery place concerns noted earlier in the meeting. John asked for suggestions for a new home for a plaque once of Dennistoun Baths commemorating the fallen of the area during World War one. Police reports are consistently provided in other wards, and John was puzzled that this doesn't occur in Dennistoun, and he noted councils and the NHS are now required to work together in Scotland, and Glasgow is often given as the worst example.
9. **A.O.B:** a) Frank and Lauren accepted an invitation from Pollockshields Community Council to hear Land Services and Clean Glasgow address litter and dumping problems. Frank commented that the gap between claims of service and reality appeared similar to our experience with dog fouling, although the local depot was able to provide a three page breakdown of services and results. Frank suggested we should expect the same. The meeting revealed that 97 fixed penalty notices over a variety of offences were issued in Dennistoun between April 2012 and January 2013. While considerably higher than the 28 served in the similarly populated Polloskshields, it still lagged well behind several districts in the low to mid-hundreds. The policy in Pollockshields is to empty main street bins daily and side street bins weekly, and the other issue discussed came via an address from MSP Patrick Harvie who believes that following the referendum the next big issue in Scottish politics will be the devolving of local power. Bill Fraser, Pollockshields chair will provide a full report, and wants to maintain contacts and Frank circulated a more detailed report via e-mail. b) Wesley will happily divest the social media aspects of the current Secretary's duties, suggesting a newly created Social Media Secretary post. He feels someone else may be able to engage more fully.

NEXT MEETING: A.G.M. at 7pm Tuesday October 14th at the Gingerbread Hall, Armadale Street, or if an election is required, 5.30pm. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.