

Stockbridge & Inverleith community council

January 2018 Draft minutes

Of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2018
at Stockbridge Parish Church, 7b Saxe Coburg Street, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Gregan Crawford (Chairperson); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Nigel Clark (minutes) John Cowie; Tannis Dodd (Secretary); Andrew Morrison

Members of the Community: Nigel Bagshaw; Angela Bell; Sarah Boyack; Evy Horton; Robert Horton; Alex Johnson; Peter M. ; Jacqui Spencer;

Ward Councillors: Cllr Hal Osler; Cllr Max Mitchell

Police:

PC Holly Matheson;

Apologies for absence: Pam Barnes (Planning Officer); Cllr Gavin Barrie; Joan Beattie (Rep on Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership); Deidre Brock M.P. ; Jerry Ozaniec (Environment); Clive Preston (Vice Chair); Penny Richardson (Licensing Officer)

1. Minutes of previous meeting 15 November 2017 and Matters Arising: There were no pertinent matters relating to the previous meeting or the minutes taken.

2. Reports:

Chairperson: Gregan Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made; PC Holly Matheson from **Police Scotland** was welcomed and invited to address the CC: PC Matheson provided an explanation of the system (STORM) which provides statistics and figures such as that of housebreaking occurrences but that it was important that context was provided for CCs to find the information meaningful. Members of the CC requested that such context would inform on the following: initiatives on new signing arrangements such as on the cycle tracks with updates and progress; parking congestion addressed during market days; local trends in information and; any increase in crime if at all linked to increase in Airbnb occupancy in the area.

a. **Chairperson** report; Gregan read out an email from a resident about rubbish accumulating around NW Circus Place by India Street steps especially now that the Health Club was now closed. It was stated the Stockbridge Pharmacy has ownership of this space and they should be alerted to the issue.

c. **Secretary:** Tannis Dodd reminded everybody of the Council's initiative to get rid of intrusive A boards and;

- asked for volunteers to write up notes from CC decisions for the **Inverleith Society Newsletter**. Andrew Morrison said he was willing to do this. Deadline for this is by end of February.

- Tannis reminded us of Alex Johnson's project involvement with pupils from Stockbridge Primary School on the formation of a 'Bee corridor' which might consist of shopkeepers allowing for or tending 'Eco-friendly items' to attract the bees.

d. **Treasurer:** David Chamberlain reported that there was £2,850 in account and we should consider any expenditure to be made by the end of March; e.g. do any noticeboards need repair?

One suggestion was raised and a proposal made that the CC make a contribution to buy a (roving) mic to enhance the PA system held by the church where it could be used where public debates were

convened; e.g. like the one recently organised on Airbnb issues. David suggested there could be match funding offered rather than outright payment. Gregan proposed the CC offer £200. As this evening's CC was inquorate a decision could not be taken. Gregan said he would circulate proposal to members through email and text.

e. **Environment and Transport:** written report provided by Jerry was read aloud by Gregan. The main item that attracted comment was on the **flooding in Inverleith Park**. Hal Osler added that the flooding is caused through a broken drain and acknowledged the number of festivals held at the park put pressure on the drainage system. Andrew Morrison added that there has been a persistent problem here since before the likes of the Moonwalk being staged in the park.

Comment was also made on the length of time being taken to repair the **Water of Leith walkway** affected by the Landslide five years ago. Subject to a legal dispute (a private property is also affected) Cllr Hal Osler added that the previous administration had assured her that once the issue was resolved a budget was available to effect reparations. She added that the newly elected administration said this money was no longer available. The CC was reminded that the Water of Leith was a strategic walk that the Council was publicly committed to maintaining. Gregan said he would write to the Convenor Lesley McInnes requesting urgent action to reopen the path. Nigel Bagshaw said he would write and urged others to do the same.

f. **Licensing and Planning:** Penny Richardson wasn't here but Gregan updated the CC about the prospective changes of ownership to Beild and our concern for the residents of the home at Haugh Place. Penny had emailed Susan Napier Beild, manager, who had previously appraised the CC of progress but had received no response. John Cowie had spoken to residents who informed him that the property was now bought by a company called Manor who have an existing Nursery Home: Eildon House at 23 Eildon Street in Edinburgh. It was hoped they would meet the best of care for residents in the future.

Penny had previously circulated a draft Review Policy Statement to be sent to the Board responding to the consultation by the Edinburgh Licensing Board to go to the Licensing Board for 22 December. Key areas are: Preventing Crime and Disorder; Securing Public Safety; Preventing Public Nuisance; Protecting public health; Protecting children from harm. The CC thanked Penny for her report.

Gregan noted that Pam Barnes had sent comments and a formal objection to Planning regarding the proposed development on the former RBS site bounded by Fettes Row, Dundas Street, Eyre Place and George V Park.

h. **Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnerships:** Joan Beattie who attends on behalf of the CC was not on hand to give an account of the last meeting and Nigel Clark apologised for not being able to recall pertinent items for CC benefit.

Planning Application for extension at Edinburgh Academy Senior School

A number of residents from Perth Street and Henderson Row attended and raised some issues arising from the School's extension plans. They had reservations, particularly in the light of the recent erection of a decking within the grounds that apparently contravened planning regulations. This was raised by residents who believe that due process was not fully followed and now a precedent has been set. Additionally they feel the scale and mass of the project plans so close to the boundary wall is wholly unreasonable.

Cllr Max Mitchell said he would make contact with the school in the spirit of good neighbours. Andrew Morrison asked what role the CC had in supporting residents. Gregan clarified what we knew of the planning timescale: Plans would be submitted to the Planning Committee at the end of January and; that once we saw the plans we could respond at that time. Residents expressed their appreciation for comments made during the evening. It was stated that since both councillors in attendance at this evening's meeting were members of the Planning Committee, they could not comment but that the two

other ward councillors (Cllr Barrie and Cllr Whyte) should be contacted. It was reasonable that we should invite the Academy to a future CC meeting to help with future discussion on the Academy's plans.

AoB

Tabled items:

Alex Johnson asked for suggestions for the **Bee corridor** and for anyone interested to help get in touch with him and the school.

Alex also updated the CC on progress he is making with developing a Youth Community Council by contacting interested pupils through the local schools. He is to meet with Broughton High School shortly and asked if there were any contacts he could make through Fettes College. It was suggested that Cllr Barrie could help here since he was on the board of governors.

Andrew Morrison queried the role of the youth CC for it was always open for the CC to co-opt pupils to the full CC when appropriate. Gregan explained this was a separate initiative from the S&ICC and that S&ICC members and Councillors expressed a desire to be involved with this: Cllr Hal Osler, Cllr Max Mitchell, Gregan and Andrew.

Comment was made at the meeting about the **erection of a security gate** at premises at 35 Inverleith Row; it was suggested that this was out of keeping with surrounding properties in this conservation area. A retrospective planning application has been submitted by the owner.

Date and time of next meeting: 7pm on Wednesday 21 February 2018