

# Stockbridge & Inverleith

community council

## March 2018 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 March 2018  
at St Vincent Chapel, St Stephens Street, Edinburgh

**Present, S&ICC:** Gregan Crawford (Chair); Nigel Bagshaw; Pam Barnes (Planning Officer); Joan Beattie (Rep on Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Nigel Clark (minutes); John Cowie; Andrew Morrison; Penny Richardson (Licensing Officer)

**Members of the Community, including:** Nick Evans (Save Stockbridge); Maggie Dawson (Saxe-Coburg Residents Association); Alex Johnson; PC Holly Matheson (Police); PC Neville Richardson (Police); Caro Tulloch (Stockbridge Colonies association); Keith Simpson; Stefano Amurri; Laura Nardo; Katy Dimmock; Barnaby Milne (St. Vincent Chapel)

**Ward Councillors:** Cllrs Gavin Barrie; Max Mitchell; Hal Osler; Iain Whyte

**Apologies for absence:** Deidre Brock M.P.; Tannis Dodd (Secretary); Jerry Ozaniec (Environment and Transport); Clive Preston (Vice Chair)

CC Chair Gregan Crawford opened the meeting and thanked Barnaby Milne for welcoming the CC to St Vincent Chapel

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting** 21 February 2018 and Matters Arising:

Gregan announced that a change of date for the Water of Leith clean-up had been proposed: 27 May instead of the original 6 May. No objections were raised so Gregan asked Joan Beattie to write to confirm this change. The CC has in the past organised and advertised this (on Facebook page). Jerry had been asked at the previous CC meeting to coordinate efforts to this end for this year and to liaise with Joan Beattie to this effect.

Penny said she had not heard any more from Beild Housing with regard to the changeover to the Mansfield Care Group. Penny agreed to contact them and keep the CC up to date.

The Minutes of 21 February were approved.

### **2. Reports:** *(report numbering as per the agenda but minuted in the order reports taken)*

- iv. **Police Scotland:** PC Matheson and PC Richardson were welcomed and invited to address the CC:

PC Matheson outlined aspects of local police work for the past month which included:

- Foot patrols on the cycle paths and foot patrols in general in the Stockbridge area including the sundial garden in the Inverleith Park.
- They carried out Licensing checks on two Stockbridge premises which were all positive;
- Banking protocols with the banks about possible scams;
- Speeding checks on the local roads;
- School talks with the assistance of Officer Ian Collins's link at Broughton High School.

It was noted that a person had been detained in connection with the attempted break-in at Herbies shop in Raeburn Place.

They had made contact at Costcutters in response to the owner's concerns of rowdy behaviour from some pupils. They had followed this up by being present at Waitrose and Scotmid as well as Costcutters during the pupils' lunchbreak. The Secretary to the CC had made contact with the Broughton High School's Liaison Officer Catherine Frew to raise the issue of pupil's behaviour during the lunch hour.

In response to a query from a representative of the Saxe-Coburg residents asking about attempted break-ins whether there was a pattern emerging – PC Matheson said that there was nothing to suggest there was a pattern here.

- i. **Chair:** Gregan said that **Raeburn Place Foundation (RPF)** had been invited to this evening's meeting to give the CC an update of their plans but were not able to attend due to a clash of engagements. The RPF had sent a report to the S&ICC which had been distributed by email and Gregan read out some of the main points:
  - The Foundation had expressed an expectation that they would begin work on the site this summer;
  - M&S Simply Food are to occupy units 6,7 and 8; deals are being concluded with five of the six remaining units;
  - There is an agreement in principle that Lacrosse Scotland be based there;
  - A partnership is in the offing with Street Fit Scotland and they are working with Alzheimers Scotland to ensure that the new building is dementia-friendly;
  - Seating for pedestrians will be provided along Comely Bank Road.

Nick Evans (Save Stockbridge) referred to the so called "ransom strip" (6' of land to the edge of the site previously occupied by the stone wall) and an Evening News report which said this had been purchased by Douglas Lowe, previously of the Grange Trust, for £12,000 but in estimation worth far more; it was suggested that failure to reach a deal resulting in the sale of this strip to the RPF might jeopardise the project.

Many residents present felt disappointed that a Raeburn Place Foundation representative was unable to attend the CC. Concerns surfaced during the meeting that no-one was in a position to clarify details of the plans. Although Cllr Whyte made the point that the Foundation would not wish to discuss some commercial and legal matters, a number of aspects of the future development could be reasonably explained by someone from the RPF, had they attended.

CC Chair was asked to write to the Chair of the RPF, David Newlands, c/o the Foundation's solicitors offering to convene a special meeting of the CC at a time to suit the Foundation. Such a meeting would enable the CC to arrange to collate questions in advance to set out an agenda for such a meeting. The S&ICC meets regularly on the third Wednesday of most months but would be prepared to hold a special meeting outside these dates if that would help the RPF.

- ii. **Secretary:** Tannis Dodd was absent; no report was submitted. As reported above, Gregan said Tannis had written to Broughton High School with regard to rowdiness at one of the Raeburn Place shops as reported to last CC meeting in February.
- iii. **Treasurer:** David Chamberlain reported that there was £2,130 in the account that will "close" in the next few days as the end of the financial year is 31<sup>st</sup> March. John Cowie confirmed the purchase of a microphone (see February minutes) and that this and the system were effective in the recent meeting held to discuss the planned developments at the Edinburgh Academy site. David confirmed payment had been made to Joan Beattie for printing notices for insertion in the public noticeboards. David explained that with money paid out by the CC this year, the CC was maintaining a balance ratio of 2.2 times the annual grant the CC and was thus conforming to recognised good practice.

- v. **Environment and (vi.) Transport:** In Jerry's absence no report was presented. Traffic reports can be accessed directly from the Edinburgh Council Website.

Environment – Cllr Osler read out a Council statement with regard to the continued Water-of-Leith path closure west of the Dean Village due to court action at this time. Cllr Wright added that legal action was on-going and so the details could not be commented on at this time. Cllr Osler also added that the gates erected at both ends of the landslip were there for public safety so it was not advisable to circumvent them. She would copy the Secretary to the CC in the note.

Nigel B, Joan and Gregan attended an ad hoc NW Community Councils meeting on 13 March in which a range of topics were discussed common to the community councils: Public Transport; Active travel; Congestion; Pollution and; large scale new housing with transport implications. Nigel B spoke of common challenges between the communities including air pollution and school links from development of the periphery of the town. Nigel B and Emma Phillips (chair of Craighleith CC) to get together and draw up a questionnaire to distribute to the CCs asking people what concerns they have. They would circulate a draft to other CCs and then set up a further meeting in due course.

- vii. **Licensing and Planning:**

#### **Licensing**

Penny brought to the CC's attention progress that has been made with the Licensing Board Council's review of the Forum's constitution for community reps. She felt that selection criteria are vague and unfair. The Government under its best value regime have tasked them to be more open in the way this is carried out. Penny said that the new statement of **licensing policy** requires further consultations.

Scottish Government consultation on **Update of Regulations:** Penny explained this is about what information is released in the public domain and whereabouts this information is posted; for example where public notices are displayed. (even down to which side of the street signs are required to be shown) Penny is meeting with other reps and will provide an update for next CC on 18 April.

#### **Planning**

Pam talked through some of the changes to **planning procedures** and acknowledged information on this from Cllr Osler for sending her the planning report and changes to procedure. Pam highlighted some of the aspects of the changes that she said may inhibit ability of residents to challenge developments: for example sending emails will not be allowed in the future. Emphasis is now on contacting the Council via the Planning Portal preferably or; sending in comments and objections (minimum now 20 objections) by letter. Pam said the new Planning Bill makes it more difficult for people to object; the system more skewed towards the developers.

Cllr Osler said changes to planning to come before decision in July or August.

Pam also raised concerns resulting from a property in Inverleith Place gaining permission to erect an extension platform. With this agreement might not more properties in the vicinity be encouraged to apply for extensions which will alter the character of the neighbourhood.

Four applications are in from Edinburgh Academy for their development of their eastern side of the school site backing on to Perth Street. (as raised at CC February meeting). Such development seems overly intensive for this site and Pam asked at this CC meeting to raise objection. Permission was given and Gregan asked that the CC be kept informed of the progress of this application.

viii. **Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership**

Joan reported that a number of grants had been given to local projects including The Yard and Stockbridge Primary School. Friends of Inverleith Park had also benefitted from a grant for two outdoor table tennis tables, which will be installed through the Richie Fraser the Works Manager at the Park.

Joan asked whether money had been put in to upgrade the “Snakey” by the Colonies. Cllr Osler said she would find out whether money has been put aside for improvements’ to be made.

**3. Youth Council**

Alex Johnson gave an update on the progress of the Youth Council and its plans to meet once a month. No-one from Edinburgh Academy was able to attend because of conflict of dates but meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday (or another day to be agreed with all parties) in May. Next proposed meeting date: 8 May 2018 (there will be no meeting in April due to Easter holidays).

**4. AoB**

A resident asked on behalf of the **Stockbridge Colonies** Association about improvement work which was scheduled to be done on the pavements and cobbles in the colonies as the state of the surfaces had deteriorated markedly. Cllr Whyte gave a reply that there was a backlog to the works and so this may be delayed by a few months. Cllr Osler thought this specific work wasn’t on the rota of work to be carried out and asked that the Association email her to remind her to chase this up.

Other issues were raised included the need to clarify **road crossings** to and from the Botanics and from the park to Broughton High School. Looking at road safety need to change road markings but Cllr Mitchell added that consultations on this had been delayed indefinitely.

Penny Richardson raised the issue of the need to have more carers to help and **support people in long stay in hospital**, particularly at the Western General. There was an opportunity to influence things through the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board to recognise and provide for people trapped in hospital. What can the City Council do about it? Cllrs responded to these questions indicating practicalities and difficulty in organising this in addition to the Council being strapped for funding. Penny asked them to bring something back to the next meeting. Cllr Whyte referred to the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board and said he would get somebody to come along and talk to the CC about this.

The Venetian artist Stefano Amurri was invited to talk about some ideas as to how he can go about getting planning permission to paint some Murals on the gable ends of the Saunders Street flats. Cllr Osler advised for him to run it by the Planning Department before he goes any further.

A resident of Comely Bank Road asked about how the history of the area could be told in stories on the temporary grey boards above the newly built walls in front of the Accies site. This seemed to fit with Raeburn Place Foundation involvement with Alzheimer’s groups and it was suggested she contact Louise Hodgson at the Raeburn Place Foundation.

**5. Date and time of next meeting:** 7pm on 18 April 2018 at Stockbridge Parish Church