



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
BETTER & SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2011  
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH, EH17 8RG.**

**PRESENT**

Madge Bold	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Maxine Mullen	Dunedin Canmore
Stewart Laird	CEC SFC Partnership & Information
Michelle Fraser	CEC – Housing & Regeneration
Insp Simon Broadhurst	Lothian & Borders Police
Sgt Adam Smith	Lothian & Borders Police
Jenny Hargreaves	CEC – Countryside Ranger Service
Claire MacGillivray	Edinburgh Tenants Federation
Mark Borthwick	CEC – Housing & Regeneration
Sam Reeves	CEC
Betty Stevenson	Edinburgh Tenants Federation
Natalie Ronaldson	Home Scotland
John McDonald	CEC - SENO
David Hurst	Liberton & District Community Council/LGNP
Lorraine Pritchard	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Jane McMillan	Moredun Community Centre/Neighbourhood Forum
Margaret Mclver	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum (Part meeting)
Scott Donkin	CEC SFC – Partnership & Information
Paul Swan	CEC SFC – Housing & Regeneration (Chair)
Shaun McGrath	CEC – SFC South Neighbourhood Environment

**APOLOGIES**

Liz Neilson	Gracemount Residents Association
Genna Laing	Gracemount Residents Association
Gilbert Clark	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum (Part meeting)
Ann Burn	Moredun Community Centre/Neighbourhood Forum
Alan Merriman	Inch Community Association
Lynne Tait	Southhouse & Burdiehouse Residents Organisation (SABRO)

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Burdiehouse Terrace:** Paul informed the group that following the concerns raised at the previous BASC meeting, a multi agency meeting involving various departments and representatives of the owners and developers of the disused properties had taken place.
- 3.1.1 It was acknowledged by the site developers that remedial works were required to make the properties secure and this was carried out. Paul added that Environmental Health and Building Services were involved and confirmed that the properties promoted no health or structural risk.
- 3.2.1 Margaret McIver highlighted that the buildings are still being accessed and the Fire & Rescue Service are in attendance regularly. Margaret added that her primary concern is that someone becomes trapped in the middle of a fire. Also, the area is quickly becoming a dumping ground.
- 3.3.1 Paul stressed that the buildings had been deemed as having no health or structural risk and therefore the council is limited in terms of actions it can take. Items of rubbish have been removed from the area by the Task Force.
- 3.4.1 David felt that this type of issue should not be allowed to escalate and the council should use all available powers to bring the developers and owners in line and make them well aware of the concerns of the local community.
- 3.5.1 Paul agreed to forward the concerns raised to CEC Building Services.

**ACTION: PAUL SWAN**

- 3.2 **Planning – Captains Road/Burdiehouse Road:** Stewart informed the group that the planning application to establish a car wash and used car lot at the corner of Captains Road and Burdiehouse Road had been rejected.

### 4. TENANT PARTICIPATION

- 4.1 Paul introduced Sam Reeves who provided the group with information in respect of the Council's role in supporting tenant participation across the city. Registered Tenants Organisations (RTO's).
- 4.2 Sam highlighted:
- Tenants are taking part and influencing decisions;
  - Edinburgh has a long history of supporting tenant participation with a number of strong tenants groups;
  - Tenant participation is a legal requirement and the Council must maintain a register of Registered Tenants Organisations (RTO's). At present, there are 47 RTO's in Edinburgh with 670 nationally.

- The Council has a tenant participation strategy and each RTO in the city has a local contact officer in their respective neighbourhoods.
  - The Scottish Housing Regulator has acknowledged that the council has an excellent approach to consulting with RTO's and individual tenants in respect of quality of housing and any subsequent action required.
  - Overall, tenants are regularly consulted and contribute to policy which leads to improved housing and related services.
- 4.1.2 Sam introduced Betty Stevenson, Convenor of the Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF).
- 4.2.2 Betty highlighted the key role and responsibility of ETF and promoted some issues that were raised in December at a meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership Convenors.
- (a) The ETF is in itself a RTO which is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. The ETF is run by tenant volunteers and has a staff team of 4. At present there are almost 50 member associations.
  - (b) The ETF was recognised recently as the National Award Winning Tenants Organisation (Frances Nelson Award 2010)
  - (c) The organisation is funded by the Council and regularly consults its member associations and other residents to influence policy e.g. Rent Charge Review, Estate Walk Abouts, Mental Health service for vulnerable residents, Tenant led inspections, Joint working on stair cleaning.
  - (d) Betty highlighted that there are a range of issues for tenants including:
    - Tenants participation in Neighbourhood Partnerships is not consistent;
    - Scope for tenant involvement on NP subgroups is patchy;
    - RTO's are not recognised in their own right on NP boards;
    - There appears to be a loss of focus for tenants issues locally;
    - Accountability and decision making processes for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) spend;
    - Neighbourhood Boundaries may not be right for the communities they serve;
    - Neighbourhood Offices may not be accessible to all tenants
  - (e) As a way forward, Betty suggested that Tenant Participation should be recognised in Neighbourhood Structures to provide opportunities for tenants to influence decisions. This needs to be consistent across the city. There should also be better links between tenants groups and the NP's and vice versa.

- 4.3.2 Paul thanked Sam and Betty for the informative presentation and asked for questions and/or responses.
- 4.4.2 Scott suggested that issues such as boundary change and NP membership cannot be acted upon locally as these aspects link directly with Community Planning.
- 4.5.2 In terms of RTO involvement, Scott highlighted that in many ways, it depends on what is meant by involvement. Whilst unable to reflect on what happens in other neighbourhoods, Scott felt that in Liberton Gilmerton much of the work and developments take shape at sub group level with all aspects reported directly to the Neighbourhood Partnership. The HRA process locally is driven exclusively by members of the community through a sub group of the BASC group. The process and identified projects are then reported to the NP.
- 4.6.2 Madge Bold confirmed that the community are fully involved in identifying and agreeing the projects to go ahead.
- 4.7.2 David Hurst raised concerns whereby Betty had suggested that RTO's should have representation at NP Board level as some RTO's may not wish to become involved with the Community Council. David pointed out that in Liberton Gilmerton, the Community has direct involvement with the NP through the local Neighbourhood Forums and he stressed that the forums and Community Council take forward the views of all sectors of the community and not solely that of tenants.
- 4.8.2 Betty acknowledged that perhaps some neighbourhoods work better than others but it was positive to learn of an area which attempts to involve the wider community.
- 4.9.2 As the issue had been fed through the Convenors Group, Scott suggested that locally, he will produce a 'health check' in respect of engagement and report this to the Partnership at its next meeting. The Partnership can then decide if any further action is required.
- 4.10.2 This was agreed by the group.

**ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN**

- 4.11.2 Paul thanked the group for the points raised.

## **5. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM – PRIORITY SETTING**

- 5.1 Acting Inspector Simon Broadhurst talked briefly to the paper previously circulated. This provided an overview of action taken against the previous Safer Neighbourhood Priorities and preferences as agreed by the BASC at its previous meeting.

5.2 Simon then recommended the priorities and preferences to be taken forward.

<b>NOVEMBER PRIORITY</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>FUTURE ACTION</b>
Gilmerton Dykes Street	Youth ASB at Shops	Calls reduced from 60 to 5 due to inter agency working	<b>Watching Brief</b>
Southhouse Road/Shops	Youth ASB, vandalism	Zero calls to area. Possible civil works to area and recent weather has impacted	<b>Preference</b>
Priesthill Street/Gracemount Drive	Youth ASB, fire raising, mini motos, drug abuse	1 family known to have moved resulting in massive reduction of issues. However, some issues remain.	<b>RETAIN AS PRIORITY</b>
<b>NOVEMBER PREFERENCE</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>FUTURE ACTION</b>
Stanedyke Head	Graffiti	1 person caught and responsible for over 60 offences. 2 others also charged and the area has been cleaned up.	<b>Remove Item</b>
Walter Scott Avenue/Ruthven Place	Youth ASB	Area continues to remain calm. Increased patrols. Residents and shopkeepers highlight improvement.	<b>Remove Item</b>
Moredun Park Road/Library	Issues at Library. 1 or 2 known families causing problems.	Working with Library Staff and other partners.	<b>Watching Brief</b>
Burdiehouse Burn Park a.k.a The Dip	Underage drinking, ASB, fire raising and motor cycles	Early discussions have taken place to develop a multi agency approach	<b>Preference</b>
Moredun Play Maze	Vandalism		Preference
<b>FEBRUARY RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>FUTURE ACTION</b>
Gracemount Primary School (and others)	Traffic Congestion, indiscriminate parking.		<b>PRIORITY</b>
Ravenswood Avenue	Problems within 2 stairs. Ranging from Neighbour complaints to drugs		<b>PRIORITY</b>

- 5.3 In addition, Simon informed the group that a multi agency meeting is planned to discuss known issues within all of the multi storey flats at Moredun.
- 5.4 David highlighted that a planning application had been submitted for a take away at 31 Lasswade Road and that if successful, could impact on parking issues.
- 5.5 Shaun indicated that the area has recently had a significant amount of double yellow lines installed.
- 5.6 The group agreed to the recommended priorities as suggested by Simon.
- 5.7 Paul thanked Simon for his report.

## 6. NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING & REGENERATION

- 6.1 **Local Development Projects:** Michelle highlighted key points from the report previously circulated to the group.
  - 6.1.1 Progress on the site was disrupted by the winter weather however it is hoped that this will not present any significant delays.
  - 6.2.1 The timber kits will begin to be erected around May which will make the site and progress much more noticeable. The site has been connected to the water and sewage system and power.
  - 6.3.1 The first Council homes will be let in 2012.
  - 6.4.1 A community notice board has been put up on Gracemount Drive and is regularly updated with information for local residents. In addition, a newsletter is circulated to all households in the immediate area.
  - 6.5.1 **Southhouse Shops:** The project was making very good progress until the snow came. This held up the project by 5/6 weeks however, it is expected to be completed by mid February.
  - 6.6.1 Margaret asked if there were plans to do anything with the shops.
  - 6.7.1 Discussions have taken place with the shop owners and Mark indicated that this has not proved to be too successful. The difficulty is that these shops are privately owned however, discussions will continue.
  - 6.8.1 Michelle agreed that the shops in their current state are unsightly and do not tie in with the redevelopment project. There may be some opportunity to include a coat of paint but no significant funds will be used.
- 6.2 **Home Scotland:** Natalie informed the group that she has recently taken up post to replace Tina Bell and she will be better prepared for making a report at the next meeting.
- 6.3 **Dunedin Canmore:** Maxine felt that any key points had been covered previously by Michelle.

6.4 Paul thanked Michelle, Natalie and Maxine for their input.

## 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

7.1 **Winter Maintenance:** Shaun highlighted that the recent severe weather was the worst experienced in the city for 50 years. This called for unprecedented action with many staff out and about checking vulnerable residents and clearing snow wherever possible. Contractors not able to undertake their core tasks were shifted to clearance work also.

7.1.1 Shaun acknowledged that it was extremely difficult to get round the area as quickly as we would have liked however, there is a road prioritisation system in place whereby Gritting is carried out on main arterial routes (Category 1) first to maintain access and movement for vital vehicles and transport services. This is followed by Category 2 roads which include bus routes and thereafter Category 3 which are in and around the housing areas.

7.2.1 Shaun tabled a report developed by Mark Turley, Director, Services for Communities which highlights key aspects of the actions taken across the city but also recognises that perhaps there are elements which may need to be re-thought and possible changes made.

7.3.1 Shaun asked if anyone has any suggestions could they forward them to Scott as alongside city wide discussions, there will be local developments also where all suggestions will be discussed in greater detail.

7.2 **Roads:** Following the winter weather, the roads have suffered with potholes appearing on almost every route. Two squads are operating in the South area (Liberton Gilmerton & South Central Neighbourhoods) carrying out patching work and larger scale projects are also underway such as resurfacing Burdiehouse Road. Again, category 1 routes will be the priority.

7.1.2 In respect of the Roads Projects, there is one outstanding project from 2008/9 on the Old Dalkeith Road to install a new footway. This will be completed by the end of March.

7.2.2 All 2009/10 projects are complete with 3 projects outstanding for 2010/11: Old Dalkeith Road/Craigmillar Castle Road (improve footway/crossing), Moredunvale Estate (resurface internal footpaths) and Southhouse Shops (redevelopment of footways).

7.3.2 Work is underway to develop the 2011/12 Portfolio. The provisional date for the selection process is 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Portfolios will be sent out 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

7.3 **Parks:** Work is continuing to develop and enhance our green space. Projects have been completed or are underway in three parks at present: St Katherine's, Inch Park and Seven Acre.

7.4 **Neighbourhood Environment Projects:** John MacDonald tabled a report which detailed progress made in respect of the 2010/11 projects. John also informed the group that the South has received a further c. £130,000 to undertake more projects before April. This will mean that 29-30 projects will be completed this year including 3 large scale projects in Gracemount, Gilmerton Dykes and Moredun.

7.1.4 Planning for 2011/12 will begin later this month and an article in the recent edition of the Link has been very positive with a number of suggested projects put forward by members of the community.

7.2.4 John thanked all of the community representatives involved in the process to date and hoped to see them involved in the development of the 2011/12 portfolio and project selection process.

7.3.4 Paul thanked Shaun and John for their informative updates.

## **8. IMPROVING HOMES & SERVICES REPORT**

8.1 The report was noted by the group.

## **9. AOCB**

9.1 No further business was discussed.

## **10. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh EH17 8RG  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh, EH17 8RG