



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
BETTER & SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th MAY 2011
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH, EH17 8RG.**

PRESENT

Madge Bold	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Maxine Mullen	Dunedin Canmore
Liz Neilson	Gracemount Residents Association
Genna Laing	Gracemount Residents Association
Alan Merriman	Inch Community Association
Jonny Green	Dunedin Canmore
Sgt Simon Broadhurst	Lothian & Borders Police
PC Jamie Toal	Lothian & Borders Police
Cammy MacKenzie	Gilmerton Church
Martin MacAulay	CEC SFC Housing & Regeneration
David Hurst	Liberton & District Community Council/LGNP
Lorraine Pritchard	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Margaret McIver	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum (Part meeting)
David Lovie	CEC – SFC South Neighbourhood Environment
Scott Donkin	CEC SFC – Partnership & Information
Paul Swan	CEC SFC – Housing & Regeneration (Chair)

APOLOGIES

Jenny Hargreaves	CEC – Countryside Ranger Service
John McDonald	CEC - SENO
Stewart Laird	CEC SFC Partnership & Information
Gilbert Clark	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum (Part meeting)
Ann Burn	Moredun Community Centre/Neighbourhood Forum
Lynne Tait	Southhouse & Burdiehouse Residents Organisation (SABRO)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting dated 3rd February 2011 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Burdiehouse Terrace:** Paul informed the group that a further meeting had been held in respect of making the site safe involving various CEC departments and the police. Advice is being sought at present from legal services to look into a possible Compulsory Purchase Order. This is in effect a last resort and other legal channels are also being pursued.
- 3.2 Paul agreed to keep the group informed of progress.

4. CITY HOUSING STRATEGY

- 4.1 Paul introduced Martin MacAuley who provided the group with information in respect of developing the council's new City Housing Strategy.
- 4.2 Martin presented the key aspects of the strategy which included:
 - (a) Consultation process will involve a wide range of stakeholders including tenants, residents, housing associations, and other agencies;
 - (b) Process is to be completed by July 2011.
 - (c) Different themes including Supply and Access, quality and management and independent living;
- 4.3 It was acknowledged that each of the themes were in themselves complex and the time allocated at the BASC group would not be sufficient to discuss one aspect let alone the overall strategy.
- 4.4 It was suggested that a special seminar be held locally to involve as many people as possible as the strategy will impact on every citizen at some stage.
- 4.5 This was agreed and Scott, Paul and Martin agreed to reconvene to discuss how best to take this forward.
- 4.6 Alan Merriman welcomed the opportunity to hold a special seminar as he highlighted also that there needs to be sufficient opportunity for anyone that wishes to engage in the process.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN/PAUL SWAN/MARTIN MACAULEY

- 4.7 Paul thanked Martin for his presentation and input.

5. TENANT PARTICIPATION – HEALTH CHECK

- 5.1 Scott reminded the group that at the previous meeting, a presentation was received from the Edinburgh Tenants Federation where some concerns were raised about the involvement of tenants and residents groups in the work of the Neighbourhood partnership.
- 5.2 The report circulated is a copy of that presented to the Neighbourhood Partnership as requested by the BASC Group. It highlights the Partnership's position of engagement with tenants and residents groups and individual representatives.
- 5.3 On the whole, as outlined at the previous meeting, the report suggests that Liberton Gilmerton has a very healthy relationship with the respective groups and that there are no major aspects which require further development.
- 5.4 The Group noted the report previously circulated.

6. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM – PRIORITY SETTING

- 6.1 Sgt Simon Broadhurst talked to the paper 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.
- 6.2 In addition, it was noted that since the start of the SNT in April 2010, crime has reduced by 4%, solvency is up 5%, youth related calls have reduced by 32% equating to 520 fewer calls in the same year period.
- 6.3 Simon then recommended the priorities and preferences to be taken forward.

FEBRUARY PRIORITY	ISSUE	PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTION
Gracemount Primary School	Youth ASB at Shops	Great deal of education carried out with parents about dangerous parking. Other departments and partners involved. Possible displacement of issue.	REVERT TO PREFERENCE – New Title: Parking at Schools
Ravenswood Avenue	ASB, vandalism	2 Stairs causing most concern. High levels of ASB involving 2 families. Big impact on other community members.	Remain as Priority
Priesthill Street/Gracemount Drive	Youth ASB, fire raising, mini motos, drug abuse	Great deal of work ongoing with small number of families. Area has quietened down considerably.	Revert to Preference
FEBRUARY PREFERENCE	ISSUE	PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTION
Gilmerton Dykes Street	Youth ASB at shops	High volume of calls to the area as a result of ASB. Some shops helping by improving CCTV but problem persists. Other partners involved also.	Revert to Priority
Southhouse Road / Shops	Youth ASB at shops	Considerable decrease in issues in recent weeks. Likelihood that many involved have	Revert to Preference

		displaced to nearby Burdiehouse Burn.	
Moredun Park Road/Library	Issues at Library. 1 or 2 known families causing problems.	Problem may have been displaced as there are issues around Goodtrees area.	Remain as preference
Burdiehouse Burn Park a.k.a The Dip	Underage drinking, ASB, fire raising and motor cycles	Problem appears to have increased as the better weather appears. Known hotspots and known young people involved. May continue to escalate.	Revert to Priority
Moredun Play Maze	Vandalism	Problem has all but gone. Very quiet in recent weeks.	Remove from list
AGREED MAY 2011 PRIORITIES	ISSUE	PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTION
Burdiehouse Burn Park a.k.a The Dip			PRIORITY
Gilmerton Dykes Street			PRIORITY
Ravenswood Avenue			PRIORITY

6.4 The priorities for the SNT were endorsed by the group.

6.5 A comment was made in reference to potential drug taking and or dealing at the squiggly.

6.6 Simon suggested that they were aware of issues and it would be added to the known issues in the area. Increased patrols etc will be made.

6.7 Paul thanked Simon for his update and the group acknowledged the progress made to date.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING & REGENERATION

7.1 **Local Development Projects:** The report prepared by Michelle Fraser was noted by the group.

7.2 **Home Scotland:** No Attendance

7.3 **Dunedin Canmore:** Maxine informed the group that she is taking up a new post and will no longer attend the BASC Group. She is to be replaced by Jonny Green.

- 7.1.3 The Hyvots development is shaping up really well and is on track. Only 3 voids remain for the new sheltered housing accommodation and it is expected this will be filled soon.
- 7.2.3 A series of open days have been held and these have gone well also.
- 7.3.3 The group wished Maxine well in her new post.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

- 8.1 **Neighbourhood Environment Projects:** In John McDonald's absence, Alan Merriman spoke on behalf of the sub group and highlighted that the process is working very well from start to finish and there is no reason to alter this.
- 8.2 The portfolio has been cut down to around 20 projects as it is felt this provides more flexibility to complete more projects later if funds become available etc.
- 8.3 The bus tour is without doubt one of the key aspects to make the process work well as it allows all involved to capture the issue first hand allowing for clearer judgement when ranking the projects.
- 8.4 **Roads/Environment:** David Lovie informed the group that he was acting Environment Manager to replace Shaun McGrath who has returned to Australia. Shaun was acting up to allow David Doig to undertake other tasks associated with modernising Council services.
- 8.5 David circulated a series of images highlighting where the majority of road repair operations have taken place particularly since the severe weather earlier.
- 8.6 Much of the local focus has been to try to reach a level of normality following the weather and getting maintenance back on track. This is linked with the neighbourhood CIMS (Cleanliness Index Monitoring System) Scores where independent sources examine a number of factors for the area relating to cleanliness etc.
- 8.7 New working arrangements are being introduced where better links will be made with Environmental Wardens to bring the area back up to standard. Some problem areas have been identified and these are being focussed on at present.
- 8.8 Concerns were raised in respect of the level of dog fouling around the Moredun Multi's and the rear of Goodtrees.
- 8.9 David agreed to investigate this further.

ACTION: DAVID LOVIE

- 8.10 In respect of winter weather, David Hurst suggested that bin emptying could be carried out on alternate sides of the streets with no parking on the respective days. This will allow for improved gully cleaning as by his estimation only a fraction of gullies can be cleaned between parked cars. People will soon get into the habit and if there is further severe weather, one side of the street will always be clear to allow for better snow clearance.

- 8.11 David suggested that this could take considerable time to influence change however, in terms of tackling this locally it may have more resonance with the winter weather aspect which is likely to make some service change recommendations and David was encouraged to log the suggestion on the Winter Weather Working Together website.
- 8.12 It was commented that there appeared to be no garden refuse notices distributed in Gracemount.
- 8.13 Paul agreed to feed this back and seek delivery.

ACTION: PAUL SWAN

- 8.14 Paul thanked both David and Alan for their updates.

9. THEMATIC ENVIRONMENT EVENT

- 9.1 Scott informed the group that the Neighbourhood Partnership develops themed events to encourage participation from the wider community. In the past this has taken on the form of Youth Engagement and an Older People's event.
- 9.2 The Neighbourhood Partnership is keen to see the development of an event which involves the wider environment.
- 9.3 It was agreed that this should be developed through the BASC Group and to form a small short life working group to develop it further.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN/DAVID LOVIE

10. WINTER WEATHER – WORKING TOGETHER

- 10.1 Following a presentation at the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership, it was agreed to hold 2 seminars locally to gather the views of residents in terms of how things could improve should we witness a similar winter in the future.
- 10.2 The report circulated highlighted the responses and these will be taken forward for consideration to a more strategic report to be submitted to the council's Policy and Strategy committee in September.
- 10.3 The group wished to have sight of this report in time for the next BASC meeting.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

11. AOCB

- 11.1 No further business was discussed.

12. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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