



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
BETTER & SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4th AUGUST 2011
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH, EH17 8RG.**

PRESENT

Madge Bold	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Genna Laing	Gracemount Residents Association
Jonny Green	Dunedin Canmore
PC Jamie Toal	Lothian & Borders Police
Jenny Hargreaves	CEC – Countryside Ranger Service
John McDonald	CEC – SENO
Alex Mitchell	CEC – Environmental Wardens
Stewart Laird	CEC SFC Partnership & Information
Natalie Ronaldson	HOME Scotland
Claire Treyger	HOME Scotland
Lorraine Pritchard	Top Blocks Residents Group (Craigour)
Scott Donkin	CEC SFC – Partnership & Information
Paul Swan	CEC SFC – Housing & Regeneration (Chair)

APOLOGIES

David Hurst	Liberton & District Community Council/LGNP
Liz Neilson	Gracemount Residents Association
Alan Merriman	Inch Community Association
Cammy MacKenzie	Gilmerton Church
Sgt Simon Broadhurst	Lothian & Borders Police
Insp Alan Bowie	Lothian & Borders Police
Cllr Snowden	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Norma Hart	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Bill Cook	City of Edinburgh Council
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 12th May 2011 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Neighbourhood Thematic Event:** Scott informed the group that a meeting had taken place involving the Local Environment Manager who suggested that it would be more appropriate to plan an Environment themed event around spring time as we have missed a number of opportunities. David Doig suggested that the spring offers greater opportunity to engage young people through schools and can link in with other activities such as National Spring Clean week etc.
- 3.1.1 The group agreed to hold off with planning the event until later in the year and Scott will provide further details to the group as and when it becomes available.
- 3.2 **Burdiehouse Terrace:** Paul informed the group that since the series of incidents linked to the vacant properties at Burdiehouse Terrace, good headway has been made with the owner and the buildings have been made more secure.
- 3.1.2 One of the houses has been damaged by fire and it is hoped to get this demolished in the near future.
- 3.3 **City Housing Strategy:** Paul highlighted that since the presentation at the previous meeting, a local consultation event was held and has provided some useful information to be considered for the Strategy.
- 3.4 **Garden Refuse Calendar:** At the previous meeting it was noted that some properties had not received the calendar outlining refuse collection. Paul suggested that if anyone knew of neighbours etc possibly needing the calendar to let the Neighbourhood Office know and they will be more than happy to circulate it. Paul apologised to those that may have not received it originally.
- 3.5 **Winter Weather – Working Together:** Similar to the Housing Strategy, two local focus groups were held to inform the Winter Weather process which has provided a wide range of useful suggestions. A full report will be discussed at the next BASC meeting.

4. LIBERTON GILMERTON DOG FOULING INITIATIVE

- 4.1 Paul introduced Alex Mitchell, Environmental Warden and in the process of developing a new initiative locally.
- 4.1.1 Wardens have been patrolling in and around the area in the last couple of weeks based on the fact that 95% of complaints received are linked with dog fouling. The local initiative has included Mobile CCTV around the flats at Craigour and Moredun, increased patrols by the Wardens, linking in with colleagues from Community safety and joint patrols with the Police Safer Neighbourhoods team.
- 4.2.1 6 fixed penalties were handed out and awareness of the issue was discussed with a number of dog owners. In addition, a display outlining the need to pick up after your dog was in Morrisons.

- 4.3.1 Whilst the Wardens and other colleagues clearly have a role to play and will continue doing so, Alex was keen to explore the introduction of a new initiative developed by Falkirk Council which involves local people taking a role in helping to combat the issue.
- 4.4.1 The process involves local volunteers wearing armbands who will interact positively and in a non confrontational manner with anyone they see not picking up after their dog. The volunteers will have dog poo bags and will ask the dog owners to pick up after their dog and provide a leaflet with further information.
- 4.5.1 Alex highlighted that Falkirk Council had in fact copyrighted all materials etc associated with it. To develop this aspect, a fee of £500 is required.
- 4.6.1 The group were encouraged by the suggested activity and felt that any action taken to alleviate the issue is a good thing.
- 4.7.1 Paul thanked Alex and wished him well with the project.

5. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM – PRIORITY SETTING

- 5.1 Jamie Toal 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.
- 5.2 In addition, it was noted that for the period May – July, there were 827 recorded crimes in the Liberton Gilmerton ward. This is a reduction of 30% from the previous year where there were 1,188 crimes.
- 5.3 There were 260 youth related calls during the period compared to the same period last year where there were 321.
- 5.4 Jamie then presented the priorities and preferences.

	Location	Issue	Date Identified to BASC	Priority
1	Burdiehouse Burn Park a.k.a The Dip	Youths drinking, ASB Fire raising and Motor Cycles.	05/08/10	Y
2	Gilmerton Dykes Street	Youths causing problems at Shops / Drug misuse	04/11/10	Y
3	Priesthill Street / Gracemount Drive	Youths causing residents problems, fire raising, ASB, mini Motos drug abuse.	05/08/10	Y
4	Moredun Park Road	Problems in Library, ASB in Street, violence and noise complaints	05/08/10	N
5	Burdiehouse Square / Electric Sub-station	Incidents of off-road motorbikes, with possible linked damage to sub-station.	04/08/11	N

6	Liberton and St Catherine's Primary School	Parking issues	03/02/11	N
7	Southhouse Road / Shops/ Community Centre	Youths. ASB, stone throwing, vandalism	05/08/10	N
8	Stanedyke Head	Youth issues and ASB	12/05/11	N
9	Ashton Grove	Neighbour issues and ASB	12/05/11	N
10	Ravenswood Avenue	Stair issues at 34 and 60 and problems at 78	03/02/11	N

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

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING & REGENERATION

6.1 **Local Development Projects:** In Michelle Fraser's absence, Paul provided brief highlights from the report tabled. **21st Century Homes:** The Development Group continues to meet and will do so until the project reaches its conclusion.

6.1.1 A newsletter is planned for distribution to local residents and businesses late summer and highlights progress made on the development. The summer edition of Outlook also provided an update. There is also a community notice board and it is planned to engage local primary schools.

6.2.1 Work on the site itself is progressing well with roofs on the first block. Things are starting to take shape now and the first phase of affordable housing will be complete at the end of November and transferred to the Council in the first week in January 2012.

6.3.1 Two apprenticeship places have been funded by Harts and there is a link with Telford College with the site offering four 12 week placements for students.

6.4.1 The street names for phase 1 will be as follows: Fala Place, Soutra Road and Garvald Street. Phase 2 names will include: Philip Terrace and Linden Avenue (Linden is another name for Lime Trees and Dr Philip established the world's first tuberculosis clinic rented Gracemount Farm on this site in 1921).

6.5.1 **St Barnabus Court:** This has now been demolished. There is still no timescale as to when work will start on site and the Masterplan still needs to be agreed by all parties.

6.6.1 **Moredun Park/Hyvots:** There are still 2 tenants in the sheltered housing development in Moredun Dykes Road however, their new properties are ready for them and the full relocation should be finished very soon. Once relocated, demolition of the sheltered housing can begin.

- 6.2 **NEP Sub Group:** John McDonald spoke to his report previously circulated to the group.
- 6.1.2 It was noted that in terms of the project development, things were going well and most projects are on track for completion this year.
- 6.2.2 John highlighted that there have been some indications that the budget could be reduced by up to 50% in the next financial year and this will clearly impact on the number of projects to be delivered as a result.
- 6.3.2 Community members raised concerns at this as it is felt the NEP delivers projects which have been identified by and agreed by the local community and the overall process means a great deal to the Community.
- 6.4.2 Scott informed the group that Alan Merriman in submitting his apologies for the meeting via email, wished it to be known that 'while he understands that all budgets are having to accept cuts, he is bitterly disappointed that this budget looks like having to take such a huge hit, once again it seems the more successful a project is the more likely it is it will be cut'.
- 6.5.2 The group reiterated Alan's concerns and wished this to be made known to the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 6.6.2 Scott suggested that he would include this as part of his Sub Group Composite report to go to the Partnership on 31st August.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

- 6.7.2 Paul thanked John for his informative report.
- 6.3 **Home Scotland:** Natalie informed the group that Home have been working with the Building Steering Group to identify the top 3 priorities for the area. These are:
- Credit Union
 - Independent Housing Advice
 - Gardens/Greenspace
- 6.1.3 Work will begin to investigate how these priorities can be taken forward and links will be made with key partners locally.
- 6.2.3 In respect of the Gardens and Greenspace, there have been some issues with the garden spaces and complaints received from some residents in terms of upkeep and there is a possibility of bringing in a successful Midlothian project Y2K which trains young people in landscaping and gardening.
- 6.3.3 Paul thanked Natalie for her update.

- 6.4 **Dunedin Canmore:** Jonny indicated that there was not much more to add from Michelle's report previously.

7. LIBERTON GILMERTON 2011 – 2014 COMMUNITY PLAN

- 7.1 Scott Donkin presented the report previously circulated which provided information linked with the proposed priority as identified by the BASC Group.
- 7.1.1 The LGNP had at its recent meeting agreed that the priorities (4) identified by the sub structure should go forward for consultation involving the community. This process is well underway and Scott informed the group that to date, there had been overwhelming support from the community for the priority.
- 7.2.1 The next stage is to identify the indicators linked to the priority and the group were referred to appendix 1 of the report which is a 'Dictionary' of indicators for a wide range of issues.
- 7.3.1 Scott informed the group that from the consultation to date, the community has also identified anti social behaviour and dog fouling as two main concerns.
- 7.4.1 After some discussion, the group agreed to promote the following indicators to the LGNP.
- (a) Clean and Green: Parks quality assessment
 - (b) Crime and Anti Social Behaviour: Satisfaction with the way anti social behaviour is dealt with
 - (c) Clean and Green: Satisfaction with the way dog fouling is dealt with.
- 7.5.1 The group felt that these indicators will provide a good basis for measuring success linked with the priority '*Better & Safer Communities*' and it was agreed to discuss this further to identify an appropriate action plan at the next meeting.

8. AOCB

- 8.1 **Local Environment:** Jenny Hargreaves informed the group that the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park has recently retained its Green Flag following an independent inspection. It is known that following the severe weather and rainfall, there is some damage to paths and discussions are underway to get these repaired as soon as possible.
- 8.1.1 Gabiens (erosion prevention boxes) were installed in some areas during March which have now prevented further erosion of damaged banks.
- 8.2.1 There are further investigations being made in respect of developing a further wild flower meadow. Also, clean ups in the park are ongoing and Jenny suggested that it would be good for the Burdiehouse Burn Steering Group and the Ranger Service to get involved in the development of the LGNP Thematic Event next year.

8.3.1 Scott agreed to ensure both Jenny and the Steering Group are aware of future meetings etc.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

8.2 There was no further business discussed.

9. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 3rd November 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh, EH17 8RG