



## AGENDA ITEM 2

**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT GROUP (BETTER & SAFER COMMUNITIES)  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010  
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH, EH17 8RG.**

### **PRESENT**

Gill Binnie	Home Scotland
Lorraine Pritchard	Top Blocks Residents Group
Madge Bold	Top Blocks Residents Group
Margaret McIver	Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
John McDonald	CEC SFC - Housing
Euan Dollar	Dunedin Canmore
Sgt Simon Broadhurst	L&B Police – SNT
Robert Binnie	Craigour Residents/Moredun N/hood Forum
Mohammed Demnati	CEC SFC Community Safety South
David Hurst	Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership
Jenny Hargreaves	CEC – Countryside Ranger Service
Tina Bell	Home Scotland
Stewart Laird	CEC SFC Partnership & Information
Ken Brady	Energy Saving Trust
Michelle Fraser	CEC - SFC Regeneration
Shaun McGrath	CEC – SFC South Neighbourhood Environment
Liz Neilson	Gracemount Residents Association
Genna Laing	Gracemount Residents Association
Alan Merriman	Inch Community Association
Phil Watt	CEC SFC - Commissioning
Scott Donkin	CEC SFC – Partnership & Information
Paul Swan	CEC SFC – Housing & Regeneration (Chair)

### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Conor Snowden	CEC & Convenor Liberton Gilmerton NP
Stuart Gash	Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park Steering Group
Sgt Andy McLean	Lothian & Borders Police
Insp Alun Williams	Lothian & Borders Police
Kathy Evans	CEC SFC – Community Safety
Brian Martin	CEC SFC – City Development
Lynne Tait	Southhouse & Burdiehouse Residents Organisation (SABRO)
David Doig	CEC SFC - Environment
Mike Shields	CEC SFC – Community Parks
Mark Laurie	Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service

## **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2.1 The minute of the meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 were approved.

### **3. OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

3.1 As there was no attendance, it was agreed to postpone this item.

### **4. HOME INSULATION SCHEME**

4.1 Paul introduced members of the Home Insulation Scheme who presented the latest initiative to the group.

4.1.1 The Home Insulation Scheme is a pilot programme funded by the Scottish Government and is fully endorsed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

4.2.1 The programme is aimed at reducing home energy bills by improving insulation in both loft and cavity wall insulation.

4.3.1 A home inspection is free and much of the work can be free also, depending on financial circumstances etc.

4.4.1 All staff including initial door steppers and installers have been vetted and will wear identifiable clothing to ensure that safety is paramount at all times. Lothian & Borders Police have also been made aware that the representatives are operating in the area.

4.5.1 A total of 2669 properties in the pilot area will benefit with just under 2,000 in the Liberton Gilmerton area.

4.2 It was asked if any landlords with property have refused to participate in the scheme.

4.3 Under the current legislation for landlords, it will be difficult to accept any reduced assistance that will improve the property. To date, there have been no refusals from private landlords.

4.4 Alan Merriman informed the group that he had recently had his home insulated and that it had made a great difference to fuel bills etc.

4.5 Paul thanked the team for their presentation.

### **5. ST BARNUBUS - DEVELOPMENTS**

5.1 Michelle Fraser attended the meeting to inform the group of proposals for redevelopment at the vacant site of St Barnabus on Moredun Park Street.

5.2 The site, due to be demolished around June, was a former older peoples complex and there are plans from Castle Rock Edinvar to rebuild on the site with housing including more for older people.

5.3 Possible opportunity to extend the site and include another adjacent complex.

5.4 Early discussions underway to identify how best to maximise opportunities for the wider community.

- 5.5 Stakeholders include the 'wee Moredun Centre', Children & Families, South Neighbourhood Team and others on the periphery.
- 5.6 Paul thanked Michelle for her update and it was agreed to keep the group informed of any progress.

**ACTION: MICHELLE FRASER**

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING**

### **6.1 21<sup>st</sup> Century Homes**

- 6.1.1 Michelle informed the group that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Homes Project was progressing well at the former multi story site at Gracemount.
- 6.2.1 Detailed planning permission for phase 1 (99 homes) was granted on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and the preferred bidder to take this forward will be known in June this year.
- 6.3.1 Those involved in managing the project are optimistic that a site start can be achieved in July/August with the first council homes to be let early 2012.
- 6.4.1 There will be a total of 215 homes built in 2 phases. These will be a maximum of 4 storeys high with a mixture of terraced, flats and colonies.
- 6.5.1 The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will be mainly private homes for sale.
- 6.6.1 At least half of the homes will be affordable.
- 6.7.1 The Local Development Group involving local residents continues to meet and will consider a range of items in the coming months including:
- Local school safety talks on construction;
  - Street naming;
  - Playpark;
  - Art work;
  - Community noticeboard.
- 6.8.1 Michelle added that as part of the safer routes to school strategy, a new pedestrian crossing will be going in at Lasswade Road.
- 6.9.1 Paul thanked Michelle for her update.

### **6.2 Home Scotland**

- 6.1.2 Gillian Binnie informed the group that the residents group supported by Home, Southhouse Tenants and Residents, (STAR) held their AGM last month with many of the existing members staying involved for another year.

- 6.2.2 At the next meeting they will elect office bearers and discuss the estate action plan.
- 6.3.2 The group are keen to explore how they can link into the burn clean up events and discussions are underway with Jessica Morgado, CEC Countryside Ranger.
- 6.4.2 Other aspects of the estate plan include increasing visibility of the CCTV by removing foliage. David Doig has agreed to assist with this.
- 6.5.2 It has been suggested that regular updates from the Action Plan could be made to the Housing & Environment (Better & Safer Communities) Group as there will be more initiatives and issues tackled in the coming months. This was agreed.

**ACTION: GILLIAN BINNIE/SCOTT DONKIN**

- 6.6.2 Paul thanked Gillian for her update.

**6.3 Building Communities Programme**

- 6.1.3 Tina Bell highlighted that the Building Communities Programme focuses on Education, Employment and lifelong learning and is overseen by a local steering group. The group identified that money issues were a top priority for many residents and additional funding was identified to provide a money advice worker supplied through Castle Rock Edinvar. The worker will be in the area 1 day per week.
- 6.2.3 Tina felt that Partnership working had improved recently and she now attends the Partnership's Education, Training and Employment Group.
- 6.3.3 Margaret asked if the employability initiative had proved successful.
- 6.4.3 Tina suggested that some aspects were difficult to measure at this stage however; identifying associated issues such as money advice was a key aspect of the project.
- 6.5.3 Paul thanked Tina for her input.

**6.4 Dunedin Canmore**

- 6.1.4 Euan informed the group that the redevelopments at Hyvots are progressing well with the 58 unit sheltered housing complex scheduled to be completed in 2011. Residents from Moredun Dykes Road will be moved in first then these vacated properties will be demolished.
- 6.2.4 The refurbishment of the buildings remaining is continuing at pace and significant improvements have been made to the houses internally and externally and to the surrounding landscape.

- 6.3.4 Euan added that Dunedin Canmore has accessed Wider Role funding also to support money advice and have linked in with the existing service at CHAI located in the CEC Neighbourhood office. An additional post has been funded to assist residents to maintain tenancies in the longer term.
- 6.4.4 It was asked what had happened to the Playpark which was planned for the Moredun redevelopments.
- 6.5.4 Euan suggested that a park was to be located at the builders compound site however, discussions with nearby residents suggested that this was not wanted any longer.
- 6.6.4 As part of the Hyvots development, a community facility will be made available for use which links to the sheltered housing complex. Exact usage is not known.
- 6.7.4 Euan agreed to speak with a colleague in Dunedin Canmore to ascertain the planned usage of the building.

**ACTION: EUAN DOLLAR**

- 6.8.4 Paul thanked Euan for his update.

## **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1 Shaun McGrath provided an overview of recent activity in the area.
- 7.2 The Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park is in the process of seeking the Green Flag award for the park. This involves a great deal of work and has been supported greatly by Jessica Morgado, Countryside Ranger. A wide range of aspects of how the park operates, maintenance, cleanliness etc are judged by independent judges from across the country.
- 7.3 The McDonalds fast food outlet has been heavily involved in supporting the parks in the city and recently, 32 employees visited the Burdiehouse Burn Valley park to assist with a clean up. McDonalds at Straiton are considering adopting key areas of the park for future support.
- 7.4 It was suggested that the area of the park beside the Lasswade Road may be worthwhile as it is nearest to the outlet.
- 7.5 Shaun highlighted that work on the Neighbourhood Roads Capital Projects is progressing well. The Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership have committed £20k from this years funding towards the scheme being undertaken by Housing and Regeneration. This project will include redeveloping the pedestrian area around the shops at Southhouse which should help to make a positive improvement.
- 7.6 It was suggested that this project should be reported on in more detail at the next meeting.

**ACTION: DAVID DOIG/SHAUN McGRATH**

7.7 Alan Merriman suggested that he would like to see progress reports from projects that are now well behind the original planned activity time such as the new barriers at Walter Scott Avenue and Liberton Gardens which were part of the first year projects.

7.8 It is accepted that some of the projects are now a bit behind and it may be useful to provide an update to each project.

**ACTION: SHAUN MCGRATH**

7.9 Alan raised some concerns in respect of the Inch Park, in front of Inch House which is constantly flooding.

7.10 Shaun suggested that he was aware of a report from Mike Shields and that some works had been undertaken but he would look into this further.

**ACTION: SHAUN MCGRATH**

7.11 With reference to the portfolio document circulated, Bob Binnie highlighted that a project from 2008/9 referenced LG08/01 had not been completed.

7.12 Shaun agreed to enquire as to where this project is at present.

**ACTION: SHAUN MCGRATH**

7.13 Paul thanked Shaun for his update and looked forward to a progress report on the Roads Projects at the next meeting.

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS (NEP)**

8.1 John McDonald informed the group that the Neighbourhood Environment Projects Sub Group met on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to review the overall process of the programme and to reach agreement on how best to make decisions on prioritising projects for 2010/11.

8.2 The group have agreed to use the existing ranking formula which has worked well in the past.

8.3 The process will now involve each RTO/member selecting their top 20 projects from a list of approximately 46 projects. A bus tour will be arranged to provide a flavour of some projects with at least one in each geographical neighbourhood highlighted to the selection group.

8.4 The selection meeting will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> May which will then allow time for detailed drawings/plans etc to be created and the projects started shortly thereafter.

8.5 The fund is time limited therefore all projects must be completed within the fiscal year.

8.6 John was thanked for his update and it was agreed to receive regular updates in the future.

**ACTION: JOHN MCDONALD**

## **9. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM/COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 9.1 Simon advised the group that since the last meeting, SNT Officers had begun identifying key issues across the community and gathering intelligence.
- 9.2 Simon was keen to point out that alongside the prioritisation work of the SNT, work continues in respect of ongoing issues and rogue motorbikes was cited as an example where 4 bikes have been seized recently and 40 charges made, some against adults.
- 9.3 Dog fouling has been identified clearly as a major issue which whilst not high on any criminal agenda, clearly affects the quality of life for a number of residents. An officer has already been allocated the task of identifying the most problematic areas which will assist to determine how best to tackle the issue in the longer term.
- 9.4 The prioritisation process will begin in earnest in the coming months and this will be reported and developed through the Housing and Environment group.
- 9.5 In light of the next meeting of the group being the first where the prioritisation process will be undertaken, Scott suggested that the agenda reflects this and that sufficient time is allocated.
- 9.6 This was agreed

**ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN**

- 9.7 Paul thanked Simon for his update.

## **10. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING STRATEGY**

- 10.1 Scott informed the group that this item had been passed to the group from the Neighbourhood Partnership for any comment.
- 10.2 Scott advised that the area will benefit from a new pedestrian crossing as a result of the strategy and priorities being reviewed. This will be located at the junction of Gilmerton Road and Moredunvale Road. Shaun felt that Mr John Murphy (Moredun Neighbourhood Forum) will be delighted at this news as he has campaigned on behalf of the forum for some years to see some improvement at this junction.
- 10.3 The process means however that some other crossing measures previously identified in the rankings are now less likely to take place with them well down the list. This was noted by Lynn Tait who wished it known that SABRO will continue to seek a crossing at Southhouse/Janefield.
- 10.4 The group noted the content of the report and wished to make no recommendations to the Partnership.

**11. A.O.C.B.**

11.1 **Proposed Group Name Change:** In light of the group taking on the role of agreeing the priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Scott suggested that the group name should change to reflect this and it was therefore proposed that the group be known as 'The Better and Safer Communities Group'.

11.2 This was agreed by all in attendance.

**ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN**

11.3 **Proposed Housing Development:** Margaret McIver asked if there were any plans to further discuss the proposed Housing Development on the southern edge of Burdiehouse.

11.4 Stewart Laird advised that a meeting will be established soon with Neighbourhood Forum members to discuss this further.

11.5 There was no further business discussed.

**12. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh, EH17 8RG.