

Committee Minutes

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

Edinburgh, 28 September 2010
in Currie Community High School, Dolphin Avenue

Present:- Councillors Rust (Convener), Elaine Aitken, Barry, Henderson and Paisley; Ken Shade (Balerno Community Council), Norman Tinlin (Fairmilehead Community Council), Heather Levy (Firrhill Community Council), Helen Ogg (Juniper Green Community Council), Steuart Campbell (Longstone Community Council), Alex Stewart (Colinton Amenity Association), Lynda Cowie (Edinburgh Community Health Partnership), Kate Kasprowicz (EVOG), Scott Forbes (Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service - substitute) and Inspector Murray Dykes (Lothian and Borders Police).

1 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the meeting of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership of 8 June 2010 as a correct record.

2 Clerking Service

The Convener and members of the Partnership thanked Committee Services for the clerking services provided to the Partnership since 2007.

3 Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund/ Community Engagement Fund

Details were given of applications to the Community Grants Fund. The provisional budget for 2010/11 was £47,373.

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Decision

- 1) To continue consideration of applications from the following organisations:
 - (a) Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust;
 - (b) Puppet Animation Scotland; and
 - (c) Colinton Amenity Association.
- 2) To note the awards of £3,231 to the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust and £3,500 to Everybody Online made under delegated authority in terms of Standing Order 63.

(References – report by the South West Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Alex Stewart declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Colinton Amenity Association.

4 Fairer Scotland Fund

Christine Doherty (Partnership Information Manager) gave an update on proposals for the transition of the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) to mainstream funding. Information was being gathered on local priorities in accordance with the national FSF themes and evidence required to support continued funding in the Pentlands area.

Concerns were raised on the possible reduction in FSF funding, its absorption by the Council's service departments and the ability of Partnerships to influence funding decisions.

Decision

- 1) To note with concern the possible reduction of Fairer Scotland Funding and the importance of devolution of funding to take into account local needs and priorities.
- 2) To request that the Partnership be kept fully updated on developments with regard to Fairer Scotland Funding.
- 3) To ask the Council to note the Partnership's concerns.

(Reference – updated by the Partnership Information Manager.)

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5 Public Questions

Decision

- 1) To note that an answer was provided to the question on overflowing refuse bins on pavements at the top of Colinton Village.
- 2) To provide a written response within 14 days to the following questions:
 - Annual Neighbourhood Surveys – methodology
 - No 18 bus service
 - Lanark Road/Gillespie Road junction – inconsiderate parking
 - No 44 night bus Monday-Friday service
 - Curriemuirend and Sylaw Parks – offer of help.
- 3) To circulate the written answers with the next Partnership meeting papers.

(Reference – Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership 15 September 2009 (item 8))

6 Parks and Greenspace Presentation

Stewart Farquar, Local Environment Manager; Gary Law, Parks Quality Officer; Craig Dunlop, South West Parks and Greenspace Officer; and Alan McGregor, Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager, gave a presentation on the work carried out in, and future plans for, parks and greenspaces in the Pentlands Neighbourhood area.

The presentation included an overview of responsibilities, management arrangements, quality standards and assessments, the Green Flag Award scheme, facilities and recent and future developments.

In his presentation, Alan McGregor described the scale and diversity of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and the activities it supported. The Park was managed jointly by the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils, with Edinburgh as the lead managing authority, and in partnership with Scottish Water and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Regional Park team had received the Green Flag Award for the third consecutive year in recognition of meeting the national quality standard for parks and greenspaces.

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The following points were raised and discussed:

- seasonal park staff
- comparison of resources with other neighbourhood areas
- prosecution for dog fouling offences and other infractions
- maintenance of open greenspaces and amenity land in residential areas
- use of Criminal Justice Teams (community service orders) to carry out maintenance work
- environmental wardens – appreciation
- anti-social behaviour in parks
- fun fair at Colinton Mains supermarket – liquor licence
- safer neighbourhood teams – priorities
- Green Flag criteria – dog fouling, correct disposal of dog waste, siting of dog waste bins and regulations for disposal of horse manure
- disposal of dog waste – legal requirements on private walk ways and policy for disabled people
- how NPs could influence park development plans
- fly tipping and effect of special uplift charge
- use of motor cycles in parks.

The Convener thanked the officers for their presentations.

Decision

- 1) To congratulate the Pentland Hills Regional Park team for their work in attaining the Green Flag Award for the third consecutive year.
- 2) To ask the Council to congratulate the team on their achievement.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Paisley declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Decision

Tuesday 14 December 2010 at 7 pm in Colinton Primary School, Redford Place the theme to be Getting it Right for Every Child – Community Engagement and Partnership Work.