



## Committee Minutes

---

# Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

Edinburgh, 31 March 2009

in Currie Community High School, Dolphin Avenue, Currie

**Present:-** Councillors Rust (Convener), Elaine Aitken, Barry, Cairns, Henderson and Paisley; Ken Shade (Balerno Community Council), Graham Dane (Currie Community Council), Norman Tinlin (Fairmilehead Community Council), Peggy Wright (Firrhill Community Council), Steuart Campbell (Longstone Community Council), Judith Wightman (Ratho and District Community Council), Alex Stewart (Colinton Amenity Association), Anne Denholm (Wester Hailes Representative Council), Inspector Sue Wilson (Lothian and Borders Police), Laurence Aitken (Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service – substitute) and Shulah Allan (EVOC).

## 1 Minutes

### Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the meeting of the Partnership of 3 February 2009 as a correct record.
- 2) To note the answers to public questions submitted to the meeting on 3 February 2009.
- 3) To note the update by the Neighbourhood Manager on roads and pavements maintenance projects and the Balerno Main Street works.

## 2 Pentlands Annual Neighbourhood Survey Autumn 2008

Each year the Council commissioned a survey seeking the views of Edinburgh residents on quality of life and service delivery in their local neighbourhoods. The survey helped to assess improvement levels, identify where further improvements were required and enabled the Council to focus on residents' main priorities.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership  
31 March 2009

Davina Fereday, Senior Research Consultant, Services for Communities, gave a presentation on the results of the neighbourhood survey for the Pentlands NP area. This included comparisons with the Pentlands 2007 survey and the 2008 city survey. Approximately 400 people in each Neighbourhood Partnership across the city were interviewed using three methods; in-street, door-to-door or at neighbourhood offices.

A breakdown was given of the locations where the survey was undertaken, the categories of residents surveyed and the type of questions asked. The results showed that, overall, satisfaction with the Pentlands neighbourhood and Council services had remained about the same since 2007 and that the area's performance compared well relative to the city as a whole.

The top five priorities for residents in the Pentlands area were:

- activities for children/youths
- pavements, roads and drains
- action on anti-social behaviour
- street cleaning
- better shopping facilities.

Further information can be obtained from Customer Information & Research, Services for Communities; e-mail [sfc.research@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sfc.research@edinburgh.gov.uk). The full survey is available on the Council's website at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Council>.

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- interview sampling methods
- omission of Colinton area from sampling
- consideration of online survey.

### **Decision**

To note the presentation and that feedback could be made to the South West Neighbourhood Manager.

(Reference – Annual Neighbourhood and Pentlands survey presentation, submitted.)

## **3 Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Development**

An update was provided on the development of the Local Community Plan and the Partnership's substructure arrangements. Comments and feedback from consultations were being evaluated for drafting into the final Plan which would be presented to the full Partnership for ratification.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership  
31 March 2009

It was proposed to invite all Partnership members to an “away day” to discuss the Partnership’s future direction and operational/substructure arrangements.

**Decision**

- 1) To invite all members to participate in an “away day” before the next full Partnership meeting to discuss a range of issues on the Partnership’s future direction which included:
  - a) the next phase of NP development, the final NP substructure, the key roles and responsibilities of sub-groups and how they would operate within the substructure;
  - b) a schedule of business and sub-group meetings which would operate after the summer recess; and
  - c) a communication strategy to facilitate communication between the Partnership and its substructure.
- 2) To note that the Local Community Plan would be submitted to the next Partnership meeting for ratification.

(Reference – Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership 3 February 2009 (item 4))

#### **4 Neighbourhood Environment Programme**

Arrangements were recommended for the management of the top sliced Roads and Footways capital programme funding, which had been devolved to neighbourhood level, and the centralised Roads and Footways capital programme.

It was proposed to combine the budgets of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Improvement Programme (NIP) of approximately £561,000 in 2009/10 with the Roads and Footways allocation of £100,000 into a Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP). This arrangement would increase the Partnership’s flexibility to direct devolved, environmental expenditure to meet local priorities. The NEP would be administered by the South West Area Board, now a formal sub-group of the Partnership.

Concern was expressed about the proposal and that the Area Board was not fully representative of the Pentlands and South West NP areas. It was suggested that consideration of the matter be deferred until the review of the Board was completed.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership  
31 March 2009

**Decision**

- 1) To acknowledge the proposal detailed in paragraph 6 of the report to combine the NIP budget with the Road and Footways £100,000 allocation to deliver NEP projects in the Pentlands NP area and to maintain a steady programme of NEP projects in future financial years.
- 2) To note the concern expressed by members of the NP regarding the proposal.
- 3) To note that Community Councils were fully represented on the NP but not on the South West Area Board.
- 4) To note that the South West Area Board was in the process of being reviewed and that the review should be completed prior to any combination of the budgets.
- 5) Therefore, to retain responsibility for all discussions and decision making to do with the £100,000 top sliced Road and Footways budget and the centralised capital roads programme within the Neighbourhood Partnership, either at a business meeting specially convened for this purpose or at a full Partnership meeting.
- 6) To keep the position under review.

(Reference – report by the South West Neighbourhood Manager 31 March 2009, submitted.)

**5 Grounds Maintenance**

In response to a motion by Councillor Henderson, details were given of how grounds maintenance services would be delivered, evaluated and monitored in the spring and summer of 2009. Improved service performance was anticipated as a result of the award of additional resources for the 2009/10 financial year.

**Decision**

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To ask the Neighbourhood Manager to submit an update report to a future Partnership meeting.

(References – Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership 9 December 2008 (item 4); report by the South West Neighbourhood Manager 31 March 2009, submitted.)

## **6 Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund**

Details were given of applications for grants from the Community Grants Fund.

### **Decision**

- 1) To award Young at Heart £4,950 towards a pilot project on volunteer-led community transport.
- 2) To award the Green Team £600 towards a youth project in the Pentland Hills (red moss bog).
- 3) To award Clovenstone Community Centre £5,000 towards their adult activity programme.
- 4) To award Currie East Neighbourhood Watch (NW) £1,000 for new/replacement signage and information folders but to note that, should similar grant applications be received from NWs, the Partnership would consider whether the Community Grants Scheme was an appropriate source of funding.
- 5) To award CHAI £1,750 towards summer away-days for low-income and benefit-dependant families.
- 6) Not to award a grant to Ratho Quickdraw Climbing Club.

(Reference – report by the South West Neighbourhood Manager 31 March 2009, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interests**

Norman Tinlin, Fairmilehead Community Council, declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Funding Panel.

## **7 Proposed Footway from Threipmuir Reservoir Car Park to Balerno**

The possibility of establishing a footpath between Threipmuir Reservoir car park and Balerno had been raised at previous Partnership meetings. Initial investigations into the proposal had been carried out and a means of progressing the project was suggested.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership  
31 March 2009

**Decision**

To agree, in principle, to award £6,000 from the 2008/09 Community Grants Fund to Balerno Community Council for a feasibility study into establishing a safe walking route between Threipmuir Reservoir car park and Balerno.

(References – Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership 13 August 2007 (item 10) and 7 October 2008 (item 7); report by the South West Neighbourhood Manager 31 March 2009, submitted.)

**Declaration of Interests**

Ken Shade, Balerno Community Council, declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the Chair of Balerno Community Council.

**8 Edinburgh Open Space Strategy – Start of Project**

The Planning Committee had referred to the Neighbourhood Partnership details of an open space strategy for Edinburgh which set out the vision and aims for open space in the city for consultation on whether the Partnership wished to participate in the preparation of a separate action plan for its area.

**Decision**

To refer the report to the Partnership's Environment and Transport Sub-Group for consideration.

(References – Planning Committee 26 February 2009 (item 10); report by the Council Secretary 11 March 2009, submitted.)

**9 Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation Process**

The Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee had referred to the Neighbourhood Partnership details of the current prioritisation process for pedestrian crossings.

**Decision**

To refer the report to the Partnership's Environment and Transport Sub-Group for consideration.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 10 February 2009 (item 32); report by the Council Secretary 16 March 2009, submitted.)

## 10 Voluntary Sector Forum Report – March 2009

Details were given of voluntary sector activity and service delivery in the South West Neighbourhood area. The Forum supported voluntary organisations in the South West and Pentlands NP areas and was pro-active in aligning activity with local and government priorities.

Information was provided on the Forum's current priorities, including a "Time Banking" initiative, a European Social Fund bid and funding for an area forum worker.

### Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Voluntary Sector Forum Chairperson, submitted.)

## 11 Public Questions

### Decision

- 1) To ask the Neighbourhood Manager to provide a written response to the following questions:
  - Campbell Park, Spylaw Park and Redford Wood – upgrading
  - youth anti-social behaviour – underage drinking and littering in woodland areas
  - Pentlands Regional Park – funding arrangements
  - disused bunker in former quarry at Buckstone Grove
  - Colinton Village:
    - condition of pavements
    - siting of refuse/wheelie bins
- 2) To note that written responses would be circulated with the papers for the next Partnership meeting.

### 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.

## **12 Next Meeting**

### **Decision**

Tuesday 2 June 2009 at 7 pm in Pentlands Community Centre.