



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
BETTER & SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2010
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH, EH17 8RG.**

PRESENT

Madge Bold	Top Blocks Residents Group
Margaret McIver	Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
Maxine Mullen	Dunedin Canmore
Stewart Laird	CEC SFC Partnership & Information
Michelle Fraser	CEC - SFC Regeneration (Part meeting)
Liz Neilson	Gracemount Residents Association
Lynne Tait	Southhouse & Burdiehouse Residents Organisation (SABRO)
Sgt Andy McLean	Lothian & Borders Police
Cllr Bill Cook	CEC – Councillor - Liberton Gilmerton
Alan Merriman	Inch Community Association
Diana Harries	Places for People (Part meeting)
Rachel Fraser	CEC – Regeneration
Debbie Jardine	Fast Forward
Jane McMillan	Moredun Community Centre/Neighbourhood Forum
Ann Burn	Moredun Community Centre/Neighbourhood Forum
Gilbert Clark	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum (Part meeting)
Margaret McIver	BBVP/Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum (Part meeting)
Finlay Martin	CEC - Planning
Genna Laing	Gracemount Residents Association
Scott Donkin	CEC SFC – Partnership & Information
Paul Swan	CEC SFC – Housing & Regeneration (Chair)
Shaun McGrath	CEC – SFC South Neighbourhood Environment

APOLOGIES

M. Duffy	Top Blocks Residents Group
Mrs Pritchard	Top Blocks Residents Group
Cllr Norma Hart	Convenor – Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership
David Doig	CEC SFC - Environment
Tina Bell	Home Scotland
John McDonald	CEC SFC - Housing
Jenny Hargreaves	CEC – Countryside Ranger Service
Mike Shields	CEC SFC – Community Parks

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting dated 5th August 2010 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Known Developments:** At the previous meeting, there was some confusion in respect of developments proposed or taking place in the Southhouse/Burdiehouse area.
- 3.1.1 Paul highlighted that he was aware that the development at Burdiehouse Terrace is causing great concern in the area. At present, 4 houses sit adjacent to each other and are empty. These were private lets however, planning has been approved to demolish the houses to erect flats but to date, no movement has taken place and the properties have come under sustained attack from vandals. This is causing concern as there have been fires set and the area is in sharp decline as a result.
- 3.2.1 Paul informed the group that a meeting is set for tomorrow (Friday 5th November) with various parties including the police, the owners solicitors, Housing, Planning etc in an attempt to ensure that until such time that demolition or significant progress is to be made on site, the properties are made secure.
- 3.3.1 Lynne added that care must be taken to ensure that access from Burdiehouse Road is taken into account as there appears to be no gates and young people are walking into the rear of the properties.
- 3.4.1 Paul agreed to raise this also.
- ACTION: PAUL SWAN**
- 3.5.1 Paul agreed to keep the group informed of progress.
- 3.6.1 Stewart Laird added that the proposed development at the Limekilns was turned down recently. Stewart suggested that it is likely the developers will now appeal.
- 3.7.1 In respect of the development at the Kaimes Crossroads, no movement has been made in respect of redeveloping the site for housing but an application has been submitted for a car lot and car wash.
- 3.8.1 Approval has been granted for the Marmion public house to be used for class 1 retail. There is no information as yet in respect of any organisations coming forward to use the premises.
- 3.2 **Roads Projects:** Alan Merriman raised concern at the information being made available whereby he thinks that the emails provided currently by Shaun do not provide sufficient detail and it makes it difficult for the Inch Community Association to then inform other residents.
- 3.1.2 Shaun suggested that many of the projects are complex behind the scenes and in the update reports circulated to date he is trying to get a correct balance. Shaun added that he is however happy to look into how the reporting can improve.

ACTION: SHAUN McGRATH

3.3 **Inch Park Flooding:** Alan noted that works had been undertaken and asked how this is monitored as there appears to be water around at present.

3.1.3 Shaun indicated that Mike Shields will visit the area from time to time and report any failings. Shaun added that given the rain recently some ponding will be likely however, he will ask Mike to visit the area as soon as possible.

ACTION: SHAUN McGRATH

4. PLACES FOR PEOPLE

4.1 Diana Harries from Places for People provided a brief overview of proposals for the vacant St Barnabus older people's accommodation.

4.1.1 It is planned to demolish the existing St Barnabus buildings to make way for new homes. In addition to this, Castle Rock Edinvar has closed the Craigour provision also which is adjacent to St Barnabus, this provides an opportunity to extend the overall footprint to create more homes.

4.2.1 Early discussions have taken place with the Moredun community Centre Management Committee with a view to utilising some of the Community Centre ground which in turn could mean re-provisioning what is an old facility. This can only be beneficial to not only the development but also the centre and the wider community.

4.3.1 At present, agreement has been reached to demolish the existing facilities and a report will go to Council in January with information about the proposed developments however, it will be too early to highlight any proposals for re-provisioning the centre as there are a number of parties involved and lots of discussion still to be had.

4.4.1 The demolition looks like it will take place early 2011 as it is being held up at present by Scottish Power.

4.5.1 If all goes ahead, there will be 18 units on the St Barnabus site which will be 50% accommodation aimed at older people and 50% general use. The adjacent site could provide 30 units again with a 50/50 split however, 10 % would be classed as fully accessible.

4.6.1 There is still a very long way to go and further consultation will be required with the wider community. Diana agreed to keep the group informed of any progress

ACTION: DIANA HARRIES

4.7.1 Ann Burn commented that whilst the proposals appear very positive, she was in no doubt that any re-provisioning of the current community centre will require a great deal of thought and discussion. The centre is operated by volunteers and all aspects of the service delivery are fundraised for. It is important therefore that those involved can obtain what it is felt is best for both the centre and the community.

4.8.1 Paul thanked Diana for her update.

5. OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

- 5.1 In addition to the paper tabled, Finlay Martin from CEC Planning informed the group of the Open Space Strategy recently adopted by the council.
- 5.2 The strategy has been developed on the bvacck of widescale consultaions and sets out how the council intends to develop green space across the city in the coming years. Finlay added that it is well known that the council budgets are very restricted and this will undoubtedly have a knock on affect in respect of delivering the strategy.
- 5.3 Each neighbourhood has identified issues or areas where it is felt more needs to be done or parks that could be developed etc. Locally, allotments came to the fore and some sites were put forward as having potential for future allotment use including:
- Inch Park (Preferred Site)
 - Gilmerton Dykes Crescent
 - Fernieside Crescent
 - Fernieside Grove
- 5.4 Cllr Cook raised concerns at what could be perceived as the continued erosion of the Inch Park whereby community use could become more and more restricted based on the amount of developments in recent years.
- 5.5 Finlay acknowledged this however, it appeared that no objections were received from the community.
- 5.6 Alan asked that this be checked as he was aware that the Inch Community Association and some residents had objected to the development of allotments as it was felt that the overall feel for the park was diminishing as a community facility.
- 5.7 Finlay agreed to check this and report back through Scott Donkin.

ACTION: FINLAY MARTIN

- 5.8 Finlay was keen to point out that at this stage, the sites identified have not been formally agreed by anyone and that further detailed consultaion will take place. Bearing in mind the funding constraints, this could take some time.
- 5.9 Paul thanked Finlay for his update.

6. Y – STEP (Young People, Smoking, Tobacco, Education, Prevention)

- 6.1 Debbie Jardine from Fast Forward informed the group about the Y- Step Initiative currently underway in the area.
- 6.2 The overall aim of the project is to reduce the prevalence of smoking amongst young people.

- 6.3 This will be done through working with a wide range of organisations and in particular, those that are in regular contact with young people. Free training will be offered to staff and volunteers who wish to learn more about the project and its aims and who will then be in a better position to confidently engage young people and discuss the issue.
- 6.4 The project will also engage organisations to identify positive role models and to assist with identifying and implementing Staff Smoking Policies. In addition to this, smoke free homes will also be developed using pledge systems.
- 6.5 A wide range of resources will also be made available.
- 6.6 Paul thanked Debbie and wished the project every success.

7. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM – PRIORITY SETTING

- 7.1 Sgt Andy McLean provided a brief overview of the role of the SNT and reminded those present that the BASC Group has the responsibility for agreeing the SNT priorities.
- 7.2 Andy then provided the group with an update on progress made against the previously agreed priorities and the preferences previously discussed and any new proposed priorities.

AUGUST PRIORITY	PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTION
Walter Scott Avenue/Ruthven Place	Significant progress made resulting in complaint calls reducing from 77 to 10. Residents and shopkeepers feel area has improved and a feeling of safety has returned.	Suggested that this is removed from priority list but is retained as a preference with a watching brief. AGREED (Preference)
Southhouse Road/shops/community centre	Whilst progress has been made, it is felt that there is still a way to go before the community can feel that the issue has improved.	Suggested that this item is retained as a priority for future development. AGREED (Priority)
Priesthill Street/Gracemount Drive	Whilst progress has been made, it is felt that there is still a way to go before the community can feel that the issue has improved.	Suggested that this item is retained as a priority for future development. AGREED (Priority)
AUGUST PREFERENCE	PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTION
Moredun Park Road	A great deal of resource has been used to support this area as a priority. As a result, evidence suggests that the area has improved greatly and complaints have	Suggested that this is removed from priority list but is retained as a preference with a watching brief.

	reduced.	AGREED (Preference)
Lasswade Road	The area has been monitored for some time and with no specific incidents identified and the actual road speeds not in excess of 34.32 mph, no further action is required.	Suggested that this item be removed from the preference list. AGREED (Remove item)
Castleview House	Following further investigation, it is felt that the majority of issues linked with the flats are not criminal but are more linked to environmental health issues. The Council Environmental health team is dealing with this issue.	Suggested that this item be removed from the preference list. AGREED (Remove item)
Southhouse Dip (Skate park etc)	Resources have been deployed to the area however, it is suggested that a great deal of strategic work is required to tackle the issue involving a number of partners.	Suggested that a multi agency approach is investigated. AGREED (Police to Initiate multi agency group)
NOVEMBER PREFERENCES	ISSUE	FUTURE ACTION
Gilmerton Dykes Street (Suggested Priority)	The area has seen a large increase in complaints and calls relating to anti social behaviour and a fear of crime amongst residents.	Suggested that this be taken forward as a priority. AGREED (Priority)
Stanedyke Head	The area has seen an increase in anti social behaviour and in particular, a lot of grafitti.	Suggested that this area is regarded as a preference. AGREED (Preference)

- 7.3 In respect of Priesthill Street/Gracemount Drive, Cllr Cook raised concern that the area is witnessing so much anti social behaviour and that perhaps placing troublesome families in new housing sends out the wrong message to the wider community and better screening should take place to prevent this in the future.

- 7.4 Maxine Mullen highlighted that the local authority and Housing Associations are bound by legislation and no screening can take place. There are protocols in place whereby any family/proposed tenant has outstanding rent arrears or is undergoing eviction proceedings, this can be used to determine how best to house the family. Nearly all social housing landlords in Edinburgh now use the Choice system where families can bid for housing in areas they wish to live in.
- 7.5 Andy added that he is aware of those involved locally and only one individual lives in the new homes, the others have lived in the area for a number of years.
- 7.6 Cllr Cook suggested that perhaps this aspect of the legislation needs to be challenged as it is often one or two families that can blight our communities and if more care could be taken in respect of where they are housed, this could make a positive impact.
- 7.7 Paul understood the concerns raised but reiterated that legislation determines that local authorities and RSL's ensures people in housing need have fair and open access to housing lists and this was not therefore something the BASC Group could challenge.
- 7.8 Cllr Cook agreed and will discuss the issue with fellow Councillors.
- 7.9 Paul thanked Andy for his report.

8. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN 2011 - 2014

- 8.1 Scott informed the group that the review process for the current community plan is now well underway and an event will be held on Friday 19th November at 1.30 pm in the Faith Mission, Gilmerton Crossroads to celebrate the progress made to date.
- 8.2 Shaun provided a brief overview of progress in respect of the BASC Priority 'Protecting and developing our investment in green space'.
- 8.3 Scott added that work was beginning on the development of the 2011 – 2014 Community Plan and the community will be asked their views in respect of future priorities.
- 8.4 Alan Merriman proposed that the existing priority should be retained as the environment in its widest sense is integral to the positive life of the community.
- 8.5 This was agreed by the group and Scott will take this to the Officers Support Group to ensure that it is part of the consultation process.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

- 8.6 Paul thanked Scott and Shaun for their updates.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING & REGENERATION

- 9.1 The report previously circulated by Michelle Fraser was noted by the group.
- 9.2 **Dunedin Canmore:** Maxine informed the group that Dunedin Canmore Housing Association has now secured funding to deliver the latest phase of the Hyvots and Moredun Regeneration project.
- 9.1.2 60 new affordable homes will commence on site in Mid November and will be completed by spring 2012. The final phase of new build will take place at Hyvots 6 which will see 42 new affordable homes developed. The start date is subject to funding however the Association is keen to commence this phase late 2011/early 2012.
- 9.2.2 When complete Dunedin Canmore will have delivered over 400 new affordable homes at Hyvots and Moredun.
- 9.3.2 Paul thanked Maxine for her update.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS (NEP)

- 10.1 The report previously circulated by John McDonald was noted by the group.
- 10.2 Shaun suggested that in response to the earlier concerns raised by Alan Merriman, perhaps a joint report in the future highlighting progress in both the NEP and Roads projects will be more beneficial.
- 10.3 This was agreed by the group.

ACTION: SHAUN MCGRATH/JOHN MCDONALD/SCOTT DONKIN

11. AOCB

- 11.1 No further business was discussed.

12. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 3rd February 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh EH17 8RG
Thursday 5th May 2011 @ 2.00 pm in 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh EH17 8RG