

Partnership Update Feb 2010

PENTLANDS

NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP



Community connections at Oxgangs

Encouraging and engaging with the local community is priority of the libraries strategy, primarily to be more responsive to local needs. A central strand in the development of this role is the new 'TALIS Engage' community information service currently being developed. This new database process has the capacity to host local organisations, societies and groups under one banner on Edinburgh's 'Engage' website.

Whether you're looking for a contact or link to your local community council, bowling club or girl guides you will be able to search by name, subject or postcode. Currently Oxgangs Library is gathering data on local groups in the Oxgangs and Pentland area. For more information and templates for individual groups and organisations check out the Oxgangs Library web page and SW Partnership site.

If you wish to provide details of your organisation, event or activity on topics such as health, employment, community safety, and environment and transport we want to hear from you. Please contact either Carol Marr, Senior Librarian, Oxgangs Library at carol.marr@edinburgh.gov.uk or Scott Neill, Partnership Development Officer at scott.neill@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Partnership Handbook First

The South West Performance & Information Team are the first Partnership Team to develop a handbook to assist the development and working practices of the Partnership Members and sub group teams in The Pentlands & South West Partnerships.

The handbook was designed by the P&I Team assisted by the Partnership Members to provide a ready reference to partnership members and officers. Handbook Contents:

1. **Partnership Principles and Values**
2. **Roles and Responsibilities**
3. **Guidance on agenda planning**
 - i. Agenda Setting
 - ii. Contributing to the Agenda
 - iii. Emergency Motions
4. **Structure of meetings**
 - i. Business Meetings
 - ii. Thematic meetings
5. **Sub Groups**
6. **Communication**

Copies of the handbook will be distributed to Partnership Members and libraries throughout the Pentlands & South West Neighbourhoods.

Work at Colinton Mains Park

Background:- In 2009 Scottish Water gave notice of their intention to install a new drain within the park during January – March 2010. The new drain will provide sewer relief and consists of two 1.65 m pipes running west to east just to the south of the Braid Burn.

Leasing arrangements and reinstatement requirements are currently being finalised, and Scottish Water's access to the site will be arranged so that the new playing pitches are not affected.

The land affected includes the site allocated for the new play area, with the consequence that work on the construction of the play area will not commence until works are complete.

It should be noted that this is essential works and will alleviate manholes surcharging in properties on Oxgangs Road North. Scottish Water conducted their own public drop in/ information at Colinton Primary School on the evening of 15th December which and followed up with another at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on the 22nd December.

Weekly breastfeeding café at Oxgangs Library opens

A new breastfeeding café recently opened its doors to mothers and babies.

The café is run on Wednesdays between 1.30 and 2.30 pm in the Fraser Room.

The café was officially opened on 23 September 2009 by Michelle McCoy, NHS Lothian's lead for breastfeeding, at an event for mothers and their babies as well as community health care staff.

The café will provide a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for women to breastfeed their babies, increase their self-confidence and knowledge in breastfeeding.

The project is run in partnership by NHS Lothian and the Council to promote health services in well known community settings.

PENTLANDS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP



For more information about the activities of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership, go to

www.edinburghnp.org.uk

or contact the Partnership & Information team on 527 3816.

Full Antisocial Behaviour Order for South West Community Safety Team

The South West Community Safety Team is to be congratulated in obtaining a Full Antisocial Behaviour Order under the Anti Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004. The ASBO was granted in early December 2009 against a member of the public in the Pentlands area.

The ASBO recipient had been causing neighbours problems since 2007 when they first made a complaint to the South West Community Safety Team about the playing of loud music at all times of the day and night.

Two Final Written Warnings, a Written Warning Notice and a Fixed Penalty Notice were issued from the Night Time Noise Team in an attempt to persuade the person to change their behaviour. In addition, Lothian and Borders Police had also issued a Verbal Warning, however it was all to no avail.

And...

At this time of year while many of us are enjoying the Christmas period and the knock on festivities, there still seems to be some that are intent of causing disruption and bringing misery on others around them.

This was highlighted in Oxgangs where 2 young males were moved out of the area following constant trouble they caused to property and the community as a whole. The move out of Oxgangs showed that by partner agencies including: the council, police and more importantly the public, working together, results can be achieved. Results like this are an excellent example of communities working together to enhance their community resilience and embrace community spirit.

City parks are getting better and better

Park Quality Assessments 2009, thirty percent of the city's parks and green spaces have improved in the past year following an annual assessment. For the second year running the City of Edinburgh Council has used the Green Flag criteria, which is the benchmark national standard for parks and greenspaces in the UK, to assess all the parks.

In addition the Council's parks department invited 'Friends of Parks' members to assist in assessing the quality of parks and gardens giving them a valuable opportunity to input into the process.

The assessors used 26 criteria which range from Welcoming, Healthy & Safe, Litter Management and Grounds Maintenance to Conservation and Marketing amongst others. The end result is a detailed assessment of each site that will be used along with the parks and greenspace online survey to develop Park Improvement Plans.

In the South West & Pentlands Partnerships 67%, 20 sites met the new Edinburgh Quality Standard, which represented an increase of 10% up on 2008. This increase was the largest improvement over all partnerships.

AREA BOARD UPDATE

The Area Board is a joint subgroup of both the South West and Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnerships. It considers tenancy issues and makes recommendations to the Neighbourhood Improvement Fund, which pays for environmental improvements to land and buildings owned by the Council's Housing section (the Housing Revenue Account).

Neighbourhood Environmental Programme (NEP)

At its meeting on 15th December 2009 the Area Board approved the recommendations of its short term working group which reviewed the Neighbourhood Investment Programme, which has been changed to the new title above. This new system delivers a scoring and weighting system for existing and future NEP's projects.

The newly adopted scoring/ weighting system will evaluate potential projects over an eight point criteria which are:

- Addresses needs of the area
- Addresses Area Board priorities
- Meets the Council core priority 1 – Clean
- Meets the Council core priority 2 – Safe
- Meets the Council core priority 3 – Green
- Value for money
- Complimentary funding opportunities
- Historic distribution of funding

If you wish further information contact either Tommy Walker Property Team Leader on tommy.walker@edinburgh.gov.uk or Scott Neill, Partnership Development Officer on scott.neill@edinburgh.gov.uk For further information on the South West Area Board go to the following link http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/South_West_Area_Board.aspx

Currie Community High School leads the way to a green future

CURRIE Community High was the first school in Edinburgh to install a wind turbine. The eco-friendly secondary also has a thermal system as part of a ten-year campaign to reduce energy consumption.

The school uses the renewable energy to heat its swimming pool and cut its carbon emissions. Around 2,000 lights at the school have also been replaced by low energy saving designs. Windows have been sealed and doors replaced to prevent heat loss, and the boiler is also turned off for many months of the year.

Sustainable energy issues have become core to the day-to-day running of the school with staff and pupils making energy-saving pledges. Currie even has its own environmental co-ordinator who works at the school part-time.

The Scottish Government pledged more funding towards an environmentally friendly school scheme earlier this month, the Eco Schools initiative will benefit from the allocation of £425,000 between 2010 and 2011. The scheme gives schools the chance to focus more on sustainable issues, by encouraging them to look at areas such as waste reduction and recycling.

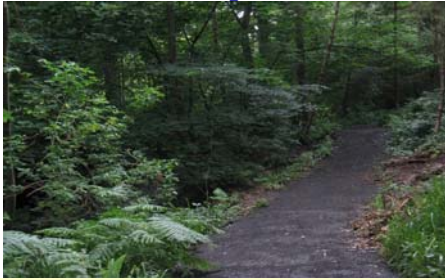
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NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP DATES AND VENUES

23 Feb 2010	Meggetland	Theme: Skills & Employment
04 May 2010	Gorgie Parish Church	Theme: End of Year Report

Community Grants Fund

Harmeny Wood



Due to the recent community grant funding the group during the next 6 months will carry out a series of community environmental events and activities, in order to re-engage with local people and give them the opportunity to get involved with the improved woodland, and to raise awareness of the wood as a wonderful local resource. The group will be working with the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace to deliver:

- **Environmental activities for the local schools** – this will be a Forest Schools ‘taster’ for local primary school children, including stream/pond dipping, woodland activities and a nature trail.
- **Community events** – we intend to arrange 4 community events, including one to raise awareness about the woodland, with possible fundraising activities to raise funds for the woods, and Guided Walks to encourage interest in the natural value of the woodland and its habitats.
- **Harmeny Woods Leaflet** - we will create a leaflet for distribution locally, to raise awareness of the woodland.

Currie Girl Guides march on!

The Girl Guiding organisation through the length and breadth of Britain has recently celebrated the one hundredth year since its founding.

What better way for the Currie branch of the Guides to mark this landmark than to refurbish the current Guides hut. The local Friends of Guiding Committee successfully received a grant from the Partnership Funding Panel to upgrade their existing facilities which are not only well used by the Guides, Rainbows, Brownies but many other local groups.

The work will upgrade plumbing and drainage services in and to the hut as well as improving existing fire apparatus. Other checks in line with Health & Safety regulations will deliver a building that is fit for purpose that will meet the needs of the Currie community for many years to come.



Want to know more about the Community Grants Fund? Go to www.edinburghnp.org.uk to download guidance notes and an application form.

Talk to Your Community!

The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Update comes out quarterly. It goes to Community Councils, elected members, service partners, schools, community groups and local libraries.

The Update tells you about the work of the Neighbourhood Partnership and other groups towards achieving the outcomes of the Local Community Plan, developed with local communities to reflect the priorities that matter to you.

If you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Partnerships, the Pentlands Local Community Plan, or the Partnership Update, please contact the South West Partnership & Information Team on 527 3816, southwestteam@edinburgh.gov.uk, or www.edinburghnp.org.uk.