

**South West Neighbourhood Business Meeting
7pm, Tuesday 20 October 2009
Stevenson College**

In Attendance

Mike Avery	SW Neighbourhood Manager
Christine Doherty	Partnership & Information Manager
Diana Potter	Partnership Development Officer
Scott Neill	Partnership Development Officer
Rachel Somerville	SW Business Assistant
Elaine Hamilton	Health & Social Care
Alan Dickson	Craiglockart Community Council
Anne Denholm	Wester Hailes Representative Council
Hellen McDonough	Longstone Community Council
Fiona McLean	Gorgie / Dalry Community Council
Andy Devenport	Tollcross Community Council
Cllr Gordon Buchan	Fountainbridge
Carol Cawood	Voluntary Sector Forum
Sam Verner	Senior Project Manager, Strategy & Investment
James Paterson	Broadway Malyan Architects
Andrew McBride	City Development Policy & Planning

Apologies

Louisa Jeffries	Stenhouse Community Council
Cllr Donald Wilson	Sighthill / Gorgie
Cllr Joanna Coleman	Sighthill / Gorgie

<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Mike Avery opened the meeting and apologies were read out as above. Mike requested that Item 7 was moved up to Item 3. This was agreed.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of previous Business Meeting / Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes were passed by Anne Denholm and seconded by Andy Devenport.</p> <p>Andy Devenport provided an update following the success of the Canal Festival - Funds left over from the Canal Festival will be used for a Christmas event, possibly in conjunction with Tollcross Primary school.</p>	
<p>3. Subgroups Report</p> <p>a) Funding Panel Report</p> <p>i) Community Grants: As noted in the last minutes, the Funding Panel contacted previous applicants to advise of a tightening up on repeat applications. This appears to have worked as only two applications were received, and these will be sent to panel rather than calling a meeting. The current balance of the Community Grants Fund is £22,000.63 with £3,689 pending. The applications for approval are Health All Round (£3,049) and Evergreen Living Memories (£630).</p>	

<p>ii) Fairer Scotland Fund: A draft tender has been produced on behalf of all partnerships. The South West will purchase part of a package provided by Capital City Partnership to deliver a time-bound youth project in Gorgie / Dalry. The figures and targets will be finalised and presented to the funding panel, with the scheme in place by Jan/Feb 2010.</p> <p>A full report on the draft FSF guidelines will be presented to the funding panel. Alan Howie will be invited to attend the funding panel to provide further training to the panel on FSF.</p> <p>b) Transport Forum</p> <p>i) Route change for No.2 bus: The Number 20 bus has been reinstated however it does not serve either Health Centre on its route. Cllr Gordon McKenzie wrote to Lothian Buses to request the Number 2 bus pass these sites, as suggested by Stenhouse, and Broomhouse, Sighthill and Parkhead Community Councils. Lothian Buses have declined, stating that it is not commercially viable as the Number 2 barely makes a profit. Even rerouting every second bus would require an extra bus and driver. As this route is not subsidised by the Council, the best option now is lobbying for a change in route of Number 20 which does receive a contribution from CEC.</p> <p>ii) Newmarket Road & Corn Exchange: Double yellow lines have been painted on New Market road, alleviating some of the congestion. Asda were also written to and they confirm that their staff are now allowed to park within the supermarket car park, and car boot sale attendees are able to use their parking facilities. The Corn Exchange are now working with Gavin Brown on future parking provision during events.</p> <p>iii) Discharge Traffic Calming Motion: It was deemed unnecessary for a full report. The South West Roads Team should be contacted with regards to any traffic calming measures which are felt to be inappropriate and they will investigate.</p> <p>iv) STV coverage of Emergency Vehicles Initiative: STV went out with Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service Sighthill Station to look at the difficulties caused by carelessly parked vehicles on 9 October, and was broadcast on the news on the same evening.</p> <p>v) Meggetland Crossing: The Transport Committee received the paper on 22nd September and have decided that a full redesign is not required.</p> <p>vi) Fiona McLean reported that during the Gorgie/ Dalry Week of Action there were to be High Visibility patrols to prevent cars turning into left into Gorgie Road. FMc saw no sign of these patrols throughout the week. She has also almost been knocked down twice on a green man on that particular crossing. Gordon Drysdale (Roads Manager) is investigating.</p> <p>vii) Andy Devenport queried whether there would be any consultation on the plan to change the roundabout at Gardeners Crescent and Fountainbridge to traffic lights. Andrew McBride (City Development)</p>	<p>Transport Forum</p>
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<p>reported that the design has been carried out and there will be extra pavement width outside Cargo bar/restaurant). The changes to layout were planned for early next year but have now been pushed back to beyond Summer 2010. (Updated: Public consultation on the above signalisation is programmed for early November. This will include attendance at SWNP or Tollcross CC as appropriate.)</p> <p>viii) Andy Devenport noted that the Canal Development Group is separate from the Partnership and would like to see them link in future.</p> <p>ix) Councillor Buchan also commented that the bus stop on Craiglockart Avenue requires boxing in, and requested this was looked at.</p> <p>x) Alan Dickson queried how the removal of a Greenway was arranged / requested. The small section at Craiglockart Avenue and Allen Park Road seems to be there for continuity rather than purpose and becomes dangerous. Traffic waiting to turn right backs up and causes congestion and prevents buses reaching the Greenway.</p> <p>c) The Area Board The Area Board Steering Group worked hard over the summer and proposals on the Area Board meeting agenda, project selection process and its scoring system were devised and accepted by the Area Board on 13th October. The mechanics of the scoring system should be ready by mid-December. The new system should clarify the merits of each project and provide value for money.</p> <p>d) Community Safety</p> <p>iii) Calders Underpass Update: Napier will be looking at a surface crossing as part of their redevelopment. A feasibility study looking at providing a surface crossing at the Parkhead shops should be complete by 24th November. However, it is worth noting that even if the study shows a need, there is currently no budget allocation for this.</p> <p>iv) Councillor Buchan noted that there has been an increase in car crime and anti-social behaviour at Gardeners Crescent and suspects that it is being used as a rat run when local establishments empty at night. Mike Avery will look into preparing a TAC bid on this.</p> <p>e) Sighthill Development Group Sam Verner provided an update on the master planning process for the North Sighthill Gap Site.</p> <p>All residents from Weir and Hermiston Courts have been re-housed, and residents of Glenalmond Court should all be rehoused by September 2010, leaving 18% of tenants on the site remaining in the low rise buildings. Hermiston Court has been soft stripped and Weir will be soft stripped once the single remaining tenant leaves.</p> <p>Six pre-master planning workshops every 6 – 8 weeks have been well attended, with the most recent with 15-20 key stakeholders. The Sighthill</p>	<p>MA / SW Office</p> <p>SW Office</p>
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<p>Regeneration Group has been a sounding board and their local knowledge has proved invaluable. Broadway Malyan has been appointed architects, and the consultation timetable is not expected to change though it is considered fluid at this point. Promotion of consultation events will be done through newspapers and the Neighbourhood Partnership Website.</p> <p>After consulting with core and outlying areas, schools, local business, community councils and landowners, a master plan in principle will be submitted in mid-February for approval.</p> <p>Cllr Buchan queried whether a development partner is being sought. He felt that there are efficiencies to be made by bringing them in earlier, with lessons learnt from the Gracemount regeneration.</p> <p>Sam Verner explained, at the request of Carol Cawood, that the housing would be 50% affordable, and 50% for the open market, and within this, 35% for rent and 15% for sale. However, the business model is under constant review and the final mix will depend on market forces.</p> <p>Cllr Buchan asked whether the Council had considered providing the land under a long term lease to a development partner. He feels this would reduce the risk and may provide an opportunity to claim VAT back. In 60 years, the land would still be in the ownership of the council when the next regeneration was required.</p> <p>Mike Avery explained that once the three high rise blocks were empty, a triple blow down would take place. There would be a period when the properties lay vacant, and security on the site would need to be reviewed.</p> <p>Sam will undertake to respond in more detail to Cllr Buchan's queries.</p>	<p>Sam Verner</p>
<p>4. Feedback from Themed Meeting 1st September 2009</p> <p>The feedback gathered in the exit survey was very positive. Cllr Buchan commented that the format gave all board members an equal opportunity to participate.</p> <p>Feedback indicated that people would like to see a Q&A at the end of the presentation for Board Members. For future meetings, a Q&A will be introduced but with a limit of two questions per member to keep the meeting flowing.</p> <p>Fiona McLean suggested that questions that were off topic should still be captured for answering outwith the public forum. It was confirmed that the Public Query forms would still be available for the use of all attendees. Fiona McLean suggested that any query forms relating to the presentation be collected during the Q&A session for Board members and answered on the night if time allowed. This was agreed to be a good idea.</p> <p>It was agreed that public attendance needed to be further developed. Mike Avery advised that a Communication Plan was being developed to improve this.</p>	

<p>Andy Devenport praised the Criminal Justice Team and their pro-active approach. He met them at the thematic meeting and they have subsequently painted shop frontage in the Tollcross area and are keen to take on further projects.</p>	
<p>5. Handbook Development</p> <p>The aim of developing the handbook is to provide a quick reference guide to Partnership Members without being too weighty. It was decided not to include Standing Orders, as this would go against the ethos of the handbook.</p> <p>CC queried whether the convener had to be a Councillor. It was clarified that the role of convener was defined through statute and must be a Councillor.</p> <p>It was noted for amendment that the meeting dates for Stenhouse and Craigmlockart Community Councils were missing from the appendix.</p> <p>Christine Doherty asked the members for photographs of the local area to be included in the handbook.</p> <p>The handbook is a living document and will have space for meeting papers. A full review will be done after a year.</p>	
<p>6. Partnership Communications</p> <p>Communication is something that needs to be done more actively, and a buzz needs to be created around public meetings to encourage wider attendance. This requires the assistance of all members of the Board. Posters are now being sent to libraries and community councils and better use will be made of newsletters and publications.</p> <p>The Partnership needs to become better at celebrating its own success and a quarterly digest has been developed. The aim is for all partners to feed into the quarterly digest which will form the backbone of the communication strategy.</p> <p>Methods of distribution were discussed, with Mike explaining that email would be the preferred channel in PDF format to prevent plagiarism. A print run is not financially viable and so building up a contact list is essential to ensure wide distribution. While the partnership cannot request the digest's inclusion in Outlook, should they be approached for a story the information will be ready.</p> <p>Anne Denholm felt that the communication of Council activity had depleted since the loss of the West Edinburgh Times. CC reported that lottery money has been made available for a feasibility study into a sustainable local paper.</p>	

<p>Cllr Buchan suggested providing a controversial topic for discussion, and formatting the meeting so that our 'good news stories' were discussed before the main issue. MA felt that we should focus on getting the meetings running smoothly in the new format them before tackling more emotive topics.</p> <p>Cllr Buchan noted that South Queensferry had lobbied the council successfully on public spending, and suggested that SW could hold a public forum to discuss budgets. Andy Devenport queried whether SW could influence such matters, and the impact of the Community Grants Fund on the overall budget. MA stated that we were an advisory body of the council and therefore could make suggestions as appropriate.</p> <p>All were happy with the outlined communication strategy.</p> <p>FMc asked whether a press release could be issued to the Evening News. MA reported that there is discussion around purchasing space in the Evening News.</p>	
<p>7. Flyposting</p> <p>The report was noted and the recommendations agreed.</p>	
<p>8. Reports Arising from Council / other meetings</p> <p>Anne Denholm thanked Scott Neill for arranging the Area Board Projects Tour. The AB felt it was a worthwhile exercise to allow the group to see where the money was being spent.</p> <p>A meeting was held by the owners of Wester Hailes Shopping Centre at the library regarding the site of the proposed Healthy Living Centre. Only three residents attended the meeting.</p>	
<p>9. Agenda Planning</p> <p>There is an area of HRA land on Gibson Terrace which could be used as a community orchard, allotments or used by a group such as the Shandon Food Group. A brief report will be presented at the next meeting, proposing a short life working group to look at the detail.</p> <p>Janice Morrison, Home Care Service Manager, will give a presentation on the Home Based Care service.</p> <p>Andy Devenport reported that Cllr Milligan proposed that a presentation on the Union Canal and Water of Leith is given. This could tie in with the Canal Development Group. MA suggested that a joint presentation with the Pentlands could be of benefit and this will be considered for a future meeting.</p>	<p>SW Office</p>

<p>Cllr Buchan queried whether the Wester Hailes land and property trust could provide land for a community orchard. Anne Denholm reported that they have been approached for help before and have been uncooperative. They also own property but not land. MA noted that the Greenspace Trust have recently moved into the area and suggests linking in with them on the possibility of a community orchard or similar projects.</p>	<p>SW Office</p>
<p>10. AOCB</p> <p>MA congratulated Wester Hailes Community Council on their formation. Their first meeting will be held on 17th November.</p> <p>DP clarified that sub-group reports are made available through the Neighbourhood Partnership Website.</p> <p>Andy Devenport suggested that the Partnership could promote itself through the canal Christmas festival. Rather than bring along the Get On bus, some kind of smaller advertising unit was suggested.</p> <p>Gorgie / Dalry are holding a children's Christmas party on 6th December and switching on lights at McLeod Street.</p> <p>A week long Christmas festival is being held in Carrickvale.</p> <p>The Calders Community Orchard is holding an apple pressing day.</p> <p>Cllr Buchan felt that the Partnership should be trying to engage with the local small businesses as this is an under utilised partner. Fiona McLean suggested that Community Councils could run best dressed window competitions with local business.</p>	
<p>11. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Next Public Meeting – Tuesday 24th November Next Business Meeting – Tuesday 19th January 2010</p>	