Minutes

South West Neighbourhood Partnership

7 pm, Tuesday, 18 March 2014

Present

Cllr. Cathy Fullerton  CEC (Convener)
Cllr. Gavin Corbett  CEC
Cllr. Dennis Dixon  CEC
Cllr. Andrew Burns  CEC
Fiona McLean  Gorgie and Dalry Community Council
Anne Denholm  Wester Hailes Community Council
Alan Dickson  Craiglockhart Community Council
Jim Scott  Longstone Community Council
Keith Bell  Sighthill, Parkhead & Broomhouse Community Council
Andy Devenport  Tollcross Community Council
Steven Dolan  Police Scotland
David White  NHS Lothian
Elaine Hamilton  NHS Lothian

Supporting Officers/ Officials

Mike Avery  South West Neighbourhood Manager
Christine Doherty  Partnership and Information Manager
Maud Wylie  Area Board (Chair)
June Dickson  EVOC
Gordon McLean  Coordinator Children’s Services Management Group
Sean Bell  Children’s Practice Team Manager
Euan Calder  Senior Waste Management Officer
Campbell Clark  Recycling Advisory Officer
Ben Wilson  Principle Planner
Scott Neill  Partnership Development Officer
Michael Edwards  Partnership Development Officer

1. Order of Business

Order of business remained as per the set agenda. Keith Bell queried why a motion submitted by him was not considered as an emergency item. The Convenor confirmed that the submitted motion was not competent as the subject fell out with the remit of the partnership.
2. **Declaration of Interests**

No notes of interest were received

3. **Deputations**

None

4. **Minutes**

**Decision**

To approve the minutes of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership meeting held on 14th January 2014.

5. **Neighbourhood Partnership Business**

5.1 **Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre** – Update

David White delivered a presentation to the Board covering the following areas on the work and operation of the HLC since it opened. DW also introduced Sean Bell and Elaine Hamilton as colleagues also involved in the project.

The Board asked about the following,

- Access to the building at weekends and evenings, specifically the out of hours intercom connecting to a different building
- Interaction between professionals onsite, and use of the cafe as a hub
- Physical access to the building, bus services and bus stops, walking routes and the proposed underpass
- External phone numbers changing frequently
- Criminal justice clients reportedly using the same building as the vulnerable health service clients.
- Whether the Sighthill Health Centre would be receiving the upgrade it has been due.
- Whether there had been any impact on waiting times
- Why an impact study on the facility was not being conducted
In response officers offered the following,

- There was no way that vulnerable clients using the medical facilities would come into contact with criminal justice clients as there is a secure door system in operation between the relevant areas.
- They are looking at ways processes could be adapted to extend opening times, but that current hours were dependant on staff levels and demand.
- The cafe has not been as much of a success as was hoped but professional interaction was very good in the staff communal space on the first floor.
- A response from the Transport Planning team indicated a revised design for a bus stop had been established.
- A lot of money has been spent on facilities in the Sighthill area in recent years, however as facilities at the Sighthill Health Centre are deemed of a high standard upgrading them is not a priority.
- Officers could not comment on waiting times across the city however at present they had not seen any significant change. They added that there has not been any increase in staffing with the development of the HLC, but that over time they expected collocation would provide a range of efficiencies.
- Officers undertook to find out why an impact study was not being conducted and whether something similar was in development.

It was commented by a number present that the anecdotal feedback from staff was the facility was working very well. Officers were asked whether the full potential of collocation was being realised and the benefits were being captured. Officers said it was difficult to assess these kinds of benefits but that Peter Gabbitas would be involved in developing the evaluation.

The Convenor undertook to write to the appropriate officers regarding future updates.

5.2 Developments in Waste Management Services – Briefing

Euan Calder and Campbell Clark delivered a briefing to the Board covering developments of Waste Management Services. The Board indicated the presentation did not address the question asked previously regarding the Bankhead depot. Mike Avery said he would follow this up with the Waste Management Team after the meeting.
The Board asked about the following,

- The mechanism for community groups to input into the process before proposals are finalised.
- How the new bins will impact on pavement access which is difficult to manage and often dangerous in places at present.
- The difference in waste allowance between those using communal and individual bins.
- Whether plastic food packaging that is not currently taken as recycling would be in future.
- That locks on a lot of communal bins are broken and as a result are dangerous in high winds. Also that the communal bins are awkward and many of the pedal operated bins do not work properly.
- Whether waste services look to best practice from other councils.

In response officers offered the following,

- Officer email addresses would be circulated amongst partnership members for feedback.
- The Waste Management Team would be contacted as bin provision and discrepancies in allowances are being looked at city-wide.
- It is difficult to prevent people breaking the locks on refuse bins to accommodate larger bags, but the bins on order are of a more robust type
- Looking to other Councils for best practice is standard practice.

5.3 Edinburgh Local Development Plan – Presentation

Ben Wilson delivered a presentation to the Board covering changes to the Edinburgh local development plan. He confirmed that comments and objections needed to be received by the 15th May and should be made in writing by post or email, preferably using the set forms provided by the Planning Service. BW said a summary of the new plan was available as the full document is very technical, and also confirmed that after the 15th May a summary of responses to the consultation would be published.

The Board asked about the following,

- The direct and indirect effects of changes that happen in specific areas, on the rest of the city. How changes in one area of the city can often have a significant impact in neighbouring areas.
- The profile of housing types expected to be built over the life of the plan.
- Whether a holistic approach was being taken across the Council to ensure the appropriate services were being provided.
- Whether enforcement of planning decision can be prioritised in order that developers build what has been allocated in the plan.

In response officers offered the following,
- Transport impacts required sophisticated computer modelling not available at present, however access to current transport provision was considered when assessing sites, along with opportunities for active travel.
- All planning permission granted for housing developments since 2006 has been required to include 25% affordable housing. Also in future it was expected that a greater proportion of smaller accommodation would be build, however this would not necessarily be the case on greenfield sites as those developments tended to be low density.
- The Planning Team works across council services as well as with partners such as the NHS to ensure appropriate infrastructure.
- In relation to enforcement, planning documents are polices rather than law. This allows a degree of flexibility that is overall a benefit to communities.

5.4 **South West Neighbourhood Partnerships Sub-Group Chairs Feedback**

**Environment and Transport**

Cllr Corbett gave an update on the work of the Environment and Transport sub-group. The last meeting mainly focussed on the new local community plan. The group had maintained that a lot of the previous plan was still relevant, and there should be a focus on doing things ‘with’ the community, rather than ‘for’ the community.

**Community Safety**

Cllr Dixon gave an update on the work of the Community Safety sub-group. The group was focused on safety issues along the canal and curbing the use of legal highs. Legal highs were of particular importance to the sub-group, however at present there was very little the police can do. The Partnership was encouraged to submit community safety issues if members would like them raised through the group.
Area Board

Maud Wylie gave an update on the work of the Area Board. MW indicated the board has received the NEP’s projects for 2014/15, and at the next meeting they will be considering the new local community plan. MW also indicated the SW Housing service teams are to commence an information programme for residents, tenants and other partners in 2014/15.

Economic Forum

Christine Doherty gave an update on the work of the Economic Forum.

Funding Panel

Scott Neill gave an update on the work of the Funding Panel. SN indicated there had been nine applications considered, all had been awarded full or partial grants, and the 2013/14 fund had been allocated in full.

Health Inequalities Group

David White gave an update on the work of the Health & Inequalities sub-group by highlighting access programmes in physical and mental health as well as substance abuse.

5.5 Public Questions

1. Keith Bell, Sighthill, Parkhead & Broomhouse Community Council – Westside Plaza Shell Garage

KB resubmitted his rejected motion regarding the Shell garage at Westside Plaza as a public question – asking what the Partnership was doing to ensure safe decommissioning of the site.

Mike Avery responded by advising Keith that the operator of the facility has the primary responsibility for decommissioning the site and that currently the NP has no locus in this matter, however, MA did undertake to make enquiries with Shell to ensure the decommissioning process was planned/undertaken.


(KB asked the question on behalf of Betty Milton, Chair, Sighthill, Parkhead & Broomhouse Community Council).

Following on from Police Scotland’s consultation on counter closures and today’s press reports of problems with two of them, can you advise of dates and times when public counter at Wester Hailes hasn’t been available during its advertised times and can this be a regular update to future meetings?

Steven Dolan indicated there had been closures as the officer previously responsible had taken voluntary severance, however in future, excepting illness, the counter would be open at advertised times.
3. Mary Donoghue – Waste collections

Why do I have to keep complaining about the non-collection of the communal wheelie bin outside my block? It is never collected at the promised time (every Sunday), it is usually every 14 days.

This has been passed to Waste Services and they will contact MD directly.

4. Andy Devenport, Tollcross Community Council – Canal Partnership Membership

AD felt that the makeup of the group should have greater representation from councillors and community groups from across the area.

The Convenor undertook to write to Cllr Munro as chair of the partnership regarding possible expansion of its membership.

6. Date of Future meetings

The Convenor thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed the date of the next South West Partnership meeting would be 3rd June 2014 to be held at Gorgie Dalry Parish Church.