

**New Town & Broughton Community Council
Minutes of the meeting on
Monday 3rd October 2011
(Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent)**

Members Present: Ian Mowat (Chair), Audrey Cavaye (Secretary), Judy Conn, John Knight, Patrick Hutton, Gaby Holden, Richard Corral, Bill Dunlop, Alan Welsh, Anne Casson, Cllr Charles Dundas, Cllr Deidre Brock, Mike Penny

Ex officio members present: PC Derek Barbour

Members of the public present: John Ross Maclean, Alan McIntosh,

1) Apologies for absence received from: Jonathan Finn, Iain McGill, Cllr Joanna Mowat, Jo Simpson, Cllr Marco Biagi.

2) Update provided by Mike Penny – Mike Penny provided an overview of Waste Management progress. Findings:-

- Impressed with the take up of night time collections
- Mail drop unsuccessful, investigating the contracting out of services
- Lower levels of waste
- Streets cleaner
- Some areas with historic bag presentation issues have reverted back, which is likely due to return of students/HMO properties
- Environmental Wardens are in greater use.
- Day time collections continue to show existing issues
- Gull proof bags have been used well, and have shown a high take up. Downside is inappropriate use of the bags, and that some have been taken by builders, if left outside.
- Containers have been successful. Some complaints received regarding the locations of them, but in general these have encouraged recycling.
- Visual impact analysis to be undertaken
- Cumberland Street – remained on normal black bags and has proved to be a continuing issue. After consultation, containers were selected and installed and quickly resolved the issue.

These findings are feeding into the Council report later this year and it is expected that these services be widened out to other streets, with a view to moving away from bags on the streets as much as possible. A paper is also to be written for Environmental Services – to discuss keeping the service in-house or using a contractor. Services have to be reviewed and decisions made on their future and the Council's involvement.

John Knight queried the frequency of the emptying of static bins, and Mike Penny confirmed that should be twice a week. Alan Welsh raised the issue of 'Creeping Containerisation' and the effect that could have on the Unions. Judy Conn confirmed that of the 41 responses received for Fettes Row residents, 40 had voted for the containers to remain. Regarding Royal Crescent, Judy Conn advised that evening collections had not been successful and there was now a push for containers. Asked that she be involved in discussions regarding the location of them. Also advised that the food waste trial in the area had been successful and a questionnaire had now gone to residents.

Mike Penny advised that the use of external suppliers would not progress via a tendering process. There would be 2 external bidders and staff would be embedded in his team, which would allow sufficient control. Contract would be for 7 years to begin with, and believes this will offer significant savings. Cllr Brock advised that briefings had already been held and Cllrs were keen to get local resident feedback.

3) Minutes of Meeting and matters arising

Minutes from September 2011 were approved by John Knight, and seconded by Ian Mowat.

4) Police Report

PC Barbour advised there had been 4 warehouse break-ins, 5 vandalisms and 2 bike thefts.

Rough Sleepers – Queen Street Cookery School – rough sleepers are using the fire exit meaning that can't be secured. A light is being put in and locks, which can be easily activated.

Alan Welsh raised the Water of Leith fencing issue – the fence was flimsy and being repeatedly vandalized and there were also reports of threatening behavior towards residents. **AW to send details to PC Barbour.** Richard Corral advised that the rubber kerb at Gayfield Square was at a very low level and proved a risk to vehicles and pedestrians. Cllr Dundas advised that tram reinstatement works were to be discussed at the next Transport Meeting in November, and the rubber kerb issue will be raised there.

PC Barbour then advised that police horses and motorcyclists would be seconded down to London for the Olympics, but the view remained to keep a high police profile in Edinburgh.

Ian Mowat requested that the side streets around Broughton Street receive some Police focus, and PC Barbour confirmed that should already be the case. Also suggested that this be raised as a possible target for the Safer Edinburgh Group.

5) Planning

John Knight presented his report (which is available separately if required). In addition to his report:

Howe Street – John Knight is to write to the Planning Department with objections. Ian Mowat also provided a letter from the Council about this development. Air conditioning noise was highlighted. John Knight to take details from that letter and include in his to Planning.

Alan Welsh suggested that traffic on Young Street be reversed to stop illegal short cutters. John Knight advised that the Planning Sub-Committee would be scheduled around end October to discuss WHMAP.

Anne Casson raised 11 Waterloo Place – application to turn the building into a café. Concern around waste bins and tables/chairs on the street. This is currently a location where tourist buses unload. John Knight asked that Anne handle this within the residents group. Concern also raised regarding 'A' Boards.

6) Environment

Judy Conn advised that there were free Edinburgh World Heritage seminars scheduled for 15th, 16th and 22nd October on energy efficiency DIY activities.

Anne Casson raised the concern of housing having to be sited on green belt land, as there was a plan to build housing on the bio-mass site.

Ian Mowat discussed the feedback from the CC to Mike Penny on waste management. Agreed that this should advise that the project has been well handled, should continue as is, information around food waste should be improved. CC should also write to Gavin King, cc'ing Mike Penny, and Cllrs Mowat and Dundas - **Ian Mowat and Judy Conn to draft.**

7) Transport

Advised that Andrew Conway is to attend the November meeting. There is to be a presentation by Network Rail on 2nd November. Also advised of a public presentation scheduled for 10th October at 7.00pm in St. Augustine United Church.

8) Licensing

Hawke & Hunter – a letter had now been sent to the Council to ensure that full details were received of all calls logged.

Anne Casson advised that the Royal Terrace license application mentioned in the September minutes had been agreed on an 'as needed' basis, and they were not to receive a license covering the year.

Second hand car dealership – advised that late objections can be accepted. Cllr Brock advised that 2 objections were received regarding Macdonald Place and will be considered on 18th November. **Ian Mowat to advise Iain McGill.**

9) Neighbourhood Partnership

Audrey Cavaye advised that at the last Neighbourhood Partnership on 29th September, there was a presentation from Lindsay Grant on the Council's plans to tackle the winter weather. Findings were:

- Council will not be using the red grit going forward, but salt.
- Will ensure that the mini-tractors used to spread the salt will be positioned around the city.
- Snow dump locations to store snow cleared to the road side will be moved to pre-arranged sites
- Council has increased salt store from 7,000 tonnes in 2010/11 to 25,000 tonnes in 2011/12
- Council launching a 'Getting ready for winter' website.
- Also plan was not to purchase new equipment but to tailor existing equipment, eg. City pavement cleaners to have snow plough fitted to the front, lawn mowers also with plough part fitted to front, to enable the swifter clearing of pavements, etc. They have been looking at a number of adaptable items.

Also advised that Mike Penny had provided an overview of his draft Local Community Plan, which showed how CC's activities fed into the larger Council's targets.

10) Chair's Report

Ian Mowat advised that on 14th October there would be a presentation in George IV Park, and this would tie in with the last day of work experience. Also that Inverleith NP would be held 11th October. Cllr Brock also advised that the Leith NP were to hold cleanliness and waste discussions.

11) Treasurer's Report

Ian Mowat covered this report, providing details from email received from Jon Finn. The Community Council grant of £816 from the City of Edinburgh Council was paid into the account on 24th August, leaving us with a balance of about £1,600. After allowing for our usual expenses, accommodation, Spurtle, etc, he would expect over £500 to be left before next year's grant arrives.

Gehl Architects – Advised that Architect said he would contact the CC but did not. Also that the Church Hall was suggested as a better venue for the Autumn Event – **Ian Mowat to pursue.**

12) Activities of Local Street or Amenity Associations

Archeology Conference to be held 19th November from 9am at Queen Margaret University, with a talk on the trams to be included.

13) Any Other Business

Anne Casson raised the David Hume Mausoleum – advised that work had started. Also asked about the general lighting of monuments in the City and agreed that Anne should write to Dave Anderson.

Bill Dunlop also mentioned that CC laptop was old, and not needed by Audrey Cavaye.

14) Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th November at the Drummond Room, Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent.