

**New Town and Broughton Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012**  
**held in Broughton St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Bellevue Crescent**

**Members present:** Ian Mowat (Chair), Judy Conn, Audrey Cavaye, Anne Casson, John Knight, Jonathan Finn, Christine Ross, Patrick Hutton, Richard Corral, Gaby Holden

**Ex officio members present:** PC Derek Barbour, Chris Highcock (CEC Tram Team)

**Members of the public present:** Alan McIntosh, John Duncan, Lady Davidson.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Brock, Cllr Lesley Hinds, Alan Welsh and Henry Sutherland.
2. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:** were agreed and approved.
3. **Outstanding Actions from September:**
  - (i) Police stats for NTBCC area only
  - (ii) Police report on traffic around York Place – drivers ignoring signs and speed limits**Completed Actions from September:**
  - (i) John Knight has spoken to the Head of Planning regarding the Forsyth building.
  - (ii) Chris Highcock provided an update during the meeting of all the September meeting action points.
  - (iii) Cllr Mowat has progressed the change to collection for brown/green bins
  - (iv) Away day was followed up
4. **Police report:** PC Barbour provided the statistics. Discussion regarding the traffic around the York Place diversion with PC Barbour advising that radar checks in the area had shown that all traffic was travelling below 30mph.
5. **Presentation – Andy Neal, Chief Executive of Essential Edinburgh:**

Mr Neal discussed Business Improvement Districts, which were organised groups of businesses brought together to have a bigger impact on the area, and to put more pressure on the Council. This also enabled them to have a bigger share of money to use for improvements. They have a legal framework, with projects being voted on (working by rateable value). They charge 1% of existing business rates to these businesses and this money goes to Essential Edinburgh.

Their aim is to promote the area, bring in business and trade and improve the area for visitors and residents. Their area stretches from John Lewis, through the city centre, George Street, Rose Street and Princes Street as far as Charlotte Square, but does not include the square itself.

In Rose Street, the main focus is traffic management (following a survey of local business owners). This would also include making improvements to the entrances to the street and to make the street look like there is always something going on. This involves the use of planters, CCTV, moving tables and chairs further into the street, street signage and replacement of the street maps, with a business guide at each entrance and the use of lighting to project the street name onto a wall, all to create atmosphere. Confirmed there had been a TRO approved to allow traffic wardens to ticket parking offences in the street.

John Knight suggested that the area around the Caledonian BT Exchange Building would be a prime candidate for the positioning of market stalls. He also recommended that light projections are not projected onto cross streets, ie, Hanover Street. **Also requested that final drawings be shared with the Chair and Jonathan Finn.**
6. **Licensing.** Jonathan Finn provided a report. Also advised that a leaflet had been drawn up by a Hanover Street resident regarding Licensing and the Law. The Chair did not believe that we should be involved or put the NTBCC name on a flier such as this. Suggested it was better to put details on the NTBCC website directing people to the appropriate place on the Edinburgh City Council website. Jonathan Finn confirmed he had advised the resident of that decision.
7. **Away Day Follow up.** Anne Casson and Christine Ross provided an update and advised that a draft leaflet should be available for the next meeting. Chair and Richard Corral are to review the website to decide if any changes are required. There was also to be a trialling of the sending out of key messages to the NTBCC full distribution list. **Audrey Cavaye was also to produce a new Membership list.**

- 8. Transport** Work on the Princes Street plug should be completed by the end of November, and it then intended to redirect general traffic currently using the Albany St/ Abercromby Place/ Heriot Row diversion along North and South St David's St and Princes St. However the current diversion route will remain available and as it is as anticipated some traffic will continue to use it monitoring will be carried out before junctions are restored to their former states. . Confirmed that the average speed of traffic around the diversion was 23mph. John Knight raised a concern about the speed of traffic on Heriot Row and felt it was likely that this was outwith the radar area. Lady Davidson also highlighted the timing of the green man on Abercromby Place which she had counted as only lasting 6 seconds. **Mr Highcock agreed to raise this with Alastair Sim.**

Also confirmed that the work at the weekend on the Broughton Street junction was to install the electric cables, etc, to enable the lights to be fitted.

A tram construction meeting is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October starting at c. 7.30pm in the City Chambers, with a plan to hold them regularly thereafter. **Chair agreed to send out details.**

Lady Davidson asked about the re-instatement of parking at Heriot Row/Dundas Street as she was unsure whether a decision had been made. Mr Highcock advised that these may require to remain if drivers continue to use the diversion routes following removal of the diversion. This will be monitored. Anne Casson advised that Cllr Hinds had commented that a further review of traffic flow would be carried out one month after the plug was removed.

- 9. Planning.** John Knight provided an overview of his report. Also highlighted Baxters Place where he had now discovered that the building above the retail unit (number 4 Baxters Place) was not included in the development plan. The address should read as 1-3 + 5 Baxters Place, not 1-5. Also requested that all respond to the Survey Monkey.
- 10. Environment** – Judy Conn advised that she had requested an update from Mike Penny but none had been received so far.
- 11. Treasurer's Report** – Chair asked for the accounts to be approved and sent to Eileen Hewitt.
- 12. Activities of Local Street or Amenity Associations.** None
- 13. Any other business.** None
- 11. Date of Next Meeting** - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in Broughton St Mary's Church Hall, Bellevue Crescent.