

### **Present**

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Colin Proctor, Bill Alexander, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), Sarah Stone, PC Graeme Howie, Cllr Elaine Aitken & 7 members of the public.

### **Apologies**

Alastair Murray, Catherine Lang, Cllr Jason Rust, Joanna Cherry QC MP, PC Vinnie Blair (MoD).

### **Welcome by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Sarah Stone who was co-opted at the previous meeting. The Secretary declared an interest in the EACC item in AOCB.

### **Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Proposed: MS, Seconded: TM. These were approved.

### **Matters arising:**

The Secretary commented that the MOD had submitted an application to replace the perimeter fence along Colinton Mains Drive/Oxgangs Road North/Colinton Road from Tesco Store to Balaclava House. Enquired are being made with Defence Estates about improvements to the main section along Colinton Road but no response has been received. This would be followed up. **ACTION: Secretary**

MS asked if CAA would be nominating a representative to replace Iain Gotts. The Chair said that no names had been forthcoming.

### **Police Report**

PC Howie gave a brief overview of current policing issues in the Colinton area which include Housebreaking Crimes of Violence and Hate Crimes. Property was stolen from a house in Redford Loan and there was an attempted breaking-in at the Spylaw Tavern; housebreakings in Redford Road and Redford Drive where the subject of ongoing investigations; there were no assaults but one Hate Crime, which was a homophobic attack in a public place.

Concerns over defence housing security were raised by Sarah Stone citing reports to MOD Police which weren't being passed to Police Scotland. It was stated that there had been four attempted break-ins which turned out to be "only trying door handles". PC Howie indicated that while these should rightly be reported to Police Scotland there may not actually have been a break-in and consequently not a recorded incident by Police Scotland.

These items were also mentioned in the MOD Police Report read by the Secretary.

The local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NW) was discussed. This had become ineffective due to discontinuation of local Newsletters containing current issues. PC Howie suggested that a more active community was important to make NW work. Cllr Aitken said that she would take

up the matter. The Secretary mentioned that he had been NW co-ordinator for the East Redford area and could look into this with SS.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

In response to a public question about arrest rates, PC Howie said that there had been success in arrests and as a consequence there was a reduction in crime and that ongoing police operations are helping to reduce crime further.

Sarah Stone, newly co-opted member to the community council. Sarah mentioned a number of Army related events and activities coming up.

Sarah will be discussing liaison between the military and civilian communities with the commander Lt. Col. Doug Mackay.

### **6 - 8 Bridge Road**

TM explained that the planning application had been appealed to Scottish Ministers on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and that it would be examined by a Scottish Government Reporter. TM outlined the process of appeal and pointed out that the Developer (Kilpatrick Property Group / Graham & Sibbald) are allowed to appeal the designs and the project as it was in the original application and have that re-examined. The Developer can raise new matters or comment on the decision making process. Interested parties who previously commented on the application may only raise new material issues as all previous responses will have been supplied to the Reporter.

Any further matters to be raised both by the Community Council and others have to be made by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Because it is a re-trying of the case there will be an opportunity to re-examine matters the CC think the Council didn't fully cover, such as traffic issues. The papers that were brought to the Planning Committee both by the appellants and others will already have been supplied. The appellants' documentation includes the website link to the Planning Committee meeting. Additional material from the Community Council will include notes used in the presentation at the hearing as well as the PowerPoint presentation and comments on any new material submitted by the applicants.

TM asked that in view of the limited time available and because the response has to be submitted before the next meeting of the Community Council, he would be asking for delegated powers to allow him and DH to work on the submission.

There were several questions from members asking how the appeal would be handled, which is by written submission and perhaps a site visit. This would be a decision made by the Reporter.

TM explained that the objections already submitted would be passed to the Reporter, but if anything new had arisen since the decision, that should also be submitted and it would be up to the Reporter to decide if the new evidence was relevant.

LO asked whether as time has passed and opinion might have changed, we know that our position is still representative of the community view? It was suggested that it probably was.

Cllr Aitken asked if the site visit would be accompanied or unaccompanied. She pointed out that of recent appeals one site visit was accompanied and one unaccompanied.

The discussion moved on to look at what might happen in a change of circumstances. It was mentioned that a communication had been received from the Developer. They reaffirmed their position that the size of the building was non-negotiable to suit the prospective tenant and that discussions could only be around presentation. It was also mentioned that the projected date for the appeal determination is January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 and although they may consider a revised application that is unlikely until the appeal is determined. Also within Kilpatrick's communication it is stated that if the Colinton CC were to lend support to a revised proposal, there would be an opportunity to discuss elevational treatments and finishes to rear and side elevations and other minor benefits.

Further questions from members followed. Grounds for appeal were discussed as well as another recent decision in a nearby community.

A question from the public asked whether the Community Council had a preferred outcome. The Chair stated that the Community Council was constrained by its duty to the community and it would not be right to form an opinion other than this application should be refused. If another application was forthcoming the CC would have an opportunity to seek the community's view on it.

**Decision 1:** It was proposed that Chair & Vice-chair compose and submit a further submission on behalf of the Community Council to the appeal Reporter. This was agreed.

**Decision 2:** TM suggested that only guarded conversation should take place with the Developer if the Developer made contact with the Community Council. This was agreed.

The Secretary clarified the situation with regards to the status of Colinton Community Council as a Statutory Consultee by stating that this was automatically granted for developments of 50 houses or more. For individual applications a Community Council must apply to the Planning Officer to be a consultee within seven days of the application appearing in the Weekly List.

There was a discussion on how the Community Council might deal with an amended re-application. CP suggested that we should not be seen to be encouraging the Developer to re-apply. MS suggested we give no indication other than refusal until the outcome of the appeal. TM suggested that since we have contact with the Developer that they might be prepared to enter further discussions with the CC before lodging a future application. There was further discussion on the possibility of a public meeting with the Developer.

### **Boundary Commission Consultation**

The Chair mentioned that the Community Council had submitted a response to the consultation and also had encouraged many others to do likewise. A decision on the boundary changes was not expected to be reached until May 2016.

## **Action Group Reports – Matters Arising**

### **Environment**

NR updated his report covering, mentioning that the trees on the opposite side of the river to Mossy Mill, had been examined by the Forestry Division and these don't appear to be a threat to the buildings opposite. He also stated that the short sections of fencing beside the railings on the bridge over the Water of Leith at Spylaw Park had been made safe.

### **Transport Roads and Pathways (TRAPs)**

As BA had been on holiday the Chair followed up on the TRAPs report and mentioned progress on the items in the report as follows:

- a) The double yellow lines adjacent to the Rustic Cottages Bus Stop would be actioned shortly.
- b) These items would be best taken forward within the NEPs project requests next year.
- c) The issue of awkwardly placed parking spaces outside the Pharmacy and position of the Bus Stop would be the subject of a discussion with the Bus Stop Working Party.

The Chair also mentioned that extra double yellow lines have been added at Dreghorn Loan and on Woodhall Road at the traffic lights.

The Secretary made a point about the progress of the pavements works, resurfacing on Woodhall Road and the painting of the railings. The Chair commented about the need to create a safe working space for those working on the railings.

### **Communications:**

MS mentioned the proposals highlighted in his report.

- a) A photographic competition which apart from obtaining some great photographs of Colinton might allow us to add to our growing email address list.
- b) A project to place Art in the Tunnel after it has been re-lined next spring. A member of the public asked if school children might be involved. MS suggested that this was merely the start of a scoping project to identify how this might be taken forward.
- c) Support for forces families working with CC members and other local CCs was put forward.

Support to take forward each of these proposals was agreed by all.

### **Health & Welfare**

It has been suggested that Colinton might host a Health Fair sometime in 2016. The concept would be to look into hosting at the Bowling Club combining it with an introduction to Bowling, a healthy activity and one that might boost the club membership also. This was approved in principle, with a follow-up on the detail in due course.

**ACTION: H&W Sub-Group**

### **AOCB**

- a) The Chair emphasised the importance of the community responding to the City of Edinburgh Council's budget proposals. The Chair suggested he and the Treasurer would take that forward before the deadline.
- b) Membership of South West Communities Forum was discussed and a request to fund the next meeting was raised. It was agreed that Colinton CC would not contribute at this time but the Vice Chair would attend the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December in order to find out if membership of this group would be of benefit to the Colinton community.
- c) The Draft EACC constitution was approved Prop. Chair 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, and that the Secretary would be the nominated representative for Colinton on the Executive. Prop. Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> NR.

### **Public Questions**

A question about the length of lease for 8 Bridge Road was asked. This could not be answered. A question was asked about how many of the community the CC has been able to reach. The Secretary said that the whole community had been leafleted and that there were 179 on the email list. The Treasurer suggested that another leafletting be carried out before the AGM in May.

A suggestion about displaying notices in the Library and the Post Office was made.

**This had already been actioned.**

**Date of next meetings: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club**

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Reports are available on the website and in the folder in the Library.

06 Jan. 2016