

Present

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Colin Proctor, Bill Alexander, Alastair Murray, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), Cllr Elaine Aitken, Cllr Jason Rust, Keith Martin, Alistair Holman, & 13 members of the public.

Apologies: Sarah Stone, Cllr Richard Lewis, Gordon Macdonald MSP, & Joanna Cherry QC MP, & Major Alex Price(3 RIFLES).

Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and representatives from City of Edinburgh Council Waste Management department.

Declarations of Interest

Dr Houston and Lorraine O'Shea declared an interest in item 8.

Presentations:

Keith Martin and Alistair Holman from Waste Management explained the issues they were working to resolve in the collection of waste and recycling materials in the city. They had previously been furnished with a list of questions and answered some but will answer others in due course. They fully recognised the failures in recycling collection at West Colinton House, 40 Woodhall Road and said any further problems should immediately be reported. Waste Management are attempting to ensure that the same crew attends the same streets each week to familiarise themselves with any issues. Most of the recent problems have arisen from the transition from external contractor to bringing the service in-house. It was emphasised that there has been a major investment in vehicles and additional staff to cope with the substantial increase in recycling throughout the City.

Public questions included problems getting through to service staff and problems associated with the move to monthly garden waste collections in winter for some houses in Colinton with larger gardens. The meeting was told that they were working to remedy these issues. The Chair agreed that the lack of proper response to a Colinton resident from CEC's call centre would be specifically investigated by the CC.

Police Report

PC Sonia Kaiser-Ferris outlined the crime related issues for January & February. She reported the increase in house breakings in the area in the first two months of 2016, perpetrated by teenagers who were stealing high value cars and driving them around the city at high speed. If a member of the public should see one of these cars with several youngsters inside, they should immediately call the Police. It was also mentioned that householders who had been out for only a short time were still being broken into and that there must be some form of monitoring of

houses. Householders should be very careful. Suggestions on not announcing holidays to taxi drivers or on social media were made. There were to be more plain clothes as well as high visibility patrols.

Minutes of the meeting of 12th January 2016 and matters arising:

The minutes were approved. Proposed: NR, seconded: CP

Colin Proctor asked that it be recorded that in the MOD section of the Police Report at the January meeting PC Vinnie Blair had stated that the MOD would not continue financing his position beyond 31 March 2016 and that cover would be taken over by Police Scotland. PC Sonia Kaiser-Ferris confirmed that this was the situation.

Status of 8 Bridge Road:

TM stated that most people should be aware that, following their appeal and the Reporter's determination, the applicants obtained planning permission and so the premises would be extended as per the application. The applicants do need to submit further details to CEC Planning on the conditions imposed by the Reporter, and the Community Council would attempt to make sure these were stringently met. It was also stated that discussions with the applicant on betterment to the building would be sought. TM explained that there was not a lot of room for negotiation in this situation. In regard to the conditions attached to the approval of the planning application he stated that the best outcome would be pursued with CEC Planning.

Action Group Reports – Matters Arising

The Chair informed the members that he and the Secretary had been invited by Maj. Alex Price to a breakfast briefing at Dreghorn Barracks on 26th January 2016 and they had met Lt Col. Richard Smith CO of 3 RIFLES and a number of his officers.

Publicising the NEPs programme for 2016/17

BA affirmed that the 2016/17 NEPs fund had been approved and that he would be updating information for the website. The Secretary requested that he check the accuracy of the current information on the site and pass on any necessary changes.

ACTION: BA

Woodfield Park Drainage issues

At this point the Chair handed the meeting to the Vice Chair. Both the Chair and Lorraine O'Shea left the Community Council table and took no further part in this item other than to provide information. TM explained that there were two issues. Firstly, was it appropriate for the Community Council to be involved in this issue and, secondly, if so, what should its involvement be. NR went on to describe the problem with surface water drainage in Woodfield Park which he said goes back 18 – 24 months. He pointed out that there were two issues. Firstly, standing water on Woodhall Road due to blocked gullies. Last July Colinton CC had held discussions with SW Roads and a plan of action had been presented and a works order was raised. Details of the proposed works are on the Colinton CC website.

NR went onto say that CEC have a new camera system to investigate the blocked gullies and drainage and used this in Woodhall Road which led to the blocked gullies being cleared. This probably allowed increased flow into the woodland between Woodhall Road and Woodfield

Park. This increased flow had probably scoured out the water course in the woodland and washed silt and leaves into the culvert. It was apparent that the two culverts had become blocked. The culverts which start in land owned by the 79 Woodfield Park proprietors and continue under land owned by other residents east of the culvert entrance and eventually discharges into the watercourse running down beside West Mill Road.

TM asked if there was any doubt as to whose responsibility it was to clear the pipe. NR indicated that CEC have implied that they would accept some of the responsibility, but it was recognised that available public funds to rectify the problem might be difficult to find.

TM asked if the members considered it appropriate to have involvement in this matter and recommended that NR and the Secretary attend the meeting between Woodfield Park Residents Association and the SW Roads team with a “watching brief”. This was agreed.

AOCB

MS asked if there were opportunities for projects in and around Colinton to obtain improvements to through Community Payback Orders. He mentioned a link on the Colinton CC website to a consultation paper on this matter. MS said he had been involved, in a professional capacity all over Scotland. The Secretary mentioned that some of the work on Spylaw Park and the painting of the railings on the Broad Steps had been achieved through CPOs.

There was a suggestion that, after a year’s operation of Colinton Community Council, a number of matters raised by individual community councillors needed to be discussed and TM proposed business meetings be held to discuss these before bringing any appropriate proposals (e.g. change of constitution) back to a public meeting. Seconded by the Secretary & Approved.

Public Questions

There were none.

Date of next meetings: Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club

Colin Proctor gave his apologies for the next meeting in advance.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

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

24 Feb. 2016