

Present

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Catherine Lang, Bill Alexander, Ken Eyeington, Alastair Watt, Cllr Jason Rust, PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris & 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Elaine Aitken, Cllr Richard Lewis, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Lorraine O'Shea, Nigel Rudd.

Welcome by the Chair: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police Report

PC Kaiser-Ferris gave an overview of crime in the Colinton area emphasising the thefts of high value cars and the need to be vigilant and to secure car keys. The formal detailed reports are available on the website. Cllr Rust mentioned the Draft Local Policing Plan for Edinburgh Division which would be circulated. He also mentioned the retirement of Inspector Liz Duthie. There were some public questions on crime.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Rust declared a non-financial interest as Convenor of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership.

Minutes of the meeting of 13th December 2017:

These were accepted as a true record.

Prop. Tom McDonald (TM), Sec. Alastair Watt (AW).

Matters arising from the Minutes.

TM updated the meeting with regard the plans for the Co-op store. Both parties are currently finalising the deal for the Co-op with only one item yet to be agree. Apparently the Building Warrant is being held up by awaiting approval of the Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) for the layby.

The Secretary updated the meeting on his contact with Esk Properties, who had purchased the former RBS building. Final handover is imminent subject to RBS updating cabling for the ATM (Cash Machine). He also informed that he had spoken to the new occupants of the former flower shop (Amethyst) which is being refurbished as a specialist kitchen establishment, Peden & Pringle.

Bill Alexander (BA) mentioned that a member of the public had nearly been struck by a piece of the advertising boards which had been blown off in recent high winds. The Secretary agreed to contact the relevant people to have the remainder of the board removed. **ACTION: Secretary**

TM updated the meeting about the research carried out about Defibrillators and that St John's Ambulance would be able to assess the village situation and make recommendations.

Keyholders and training would be required once full agreement and suitable funding had been

identified. There followed a discussion on probable sighting, logistics and funding sources. It was suggested that the community should be consulted via the website. **ACTION: Secretary Gordon Neill (GN)** suggested there might be an initiative to raise basic First Aid awareness. It was agreed to seek a report in two cycles. **ACTION: TM & CL**

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel (CGF)

The Chair introduced the item by informing the meeting that there were two reports, one by the Secretary which states the current position and one by the Chair which was “Confidential” which examines possible options. The Chair asked whether it was felt appropriate for members to discuss applications to the CGF as the CGF Chair had agreed this was possible. The Treasurer asked for clarity on what the Chair was seeking to achieve when Colinton has done very well from the Community Grants Fund (CGF) in obtaining almost 100% success from applications. The Secretary pointed out that since 2012/13 Colinton groups had received £15750. The Chair repeated his question as to whether applications to the CGF from Colinton were of interest to members. AW and the Secretary raised concerns about the Chair’s conduct. The Vice Chair stated that these remarks were inappropriate as it was contrary to the Code of Conduct to act in this way. TM asked whether the Community Council wanted further information on how the CGF works. Catherine Lang (CL) suggested that as a funding system, it seems to be doing the job it was set up to do and asked why it was felt it needed to be changed.

BA suggested that other areas appear to operate a more open system. Cllr Rust stated that other areas of Edinburgh operate in a different way but are still governed by the same rules. TM responded that it might also be reasonable to ask why it works in a different way in other parts of the City. Cllr Rust suggested that Colinton had done very well out of the CGF. He went on to say that it was perfectly permissible for the papers to be seen and discussed by the Community Council, but in doing so, it potentially compromised the community representative on the CGF, as it might mean they would have to declare a non-financial interest and therefore not take part in the panel discussion. The Chair suggested that none of the Funding Panel’s own operating procedures, including the definitions of financial and non-financial interest, were written down and so needed to be clarified.

TM proposed Sec. BA, that there should be a continuation of investigations into the facts relating to the CGF as far as is reasonably possible, with a view to helping the community co-ordinate its efforts in this direction in future.

It was agreed by a vote of 6-0 that the CGF research be continued and that the invitation by Councillor Rust to meet with him and the Locality Manager be taken up.

Other Reports

Secretary’s Report: Taken as read.

Road & Transport Report: Further feedback was needed from the Report-It (Clarence) system as there was no indication on progress on matters reported on that system. At present anyone reporting using the Report-It system would not receive any feedback other than it would just say “Solved”. BA mentioned that some early actions have still not been completed.

The Secretary asked about progress on future Christmas lighting. BA informed that there was a plan to look at the logistics. **ACTION: BA & KE**

New Council Refuse Collection Calendar

The Secretary suggested that there could be issues with the new collection calendar. He went on to mention that for his street there were seven dates with a red star against them indicating that Food Waste, Landfill, and Garden Waste were to be put out but there was also an indication that residents would not receive all of these services on these days. He went on to say that greater clarity was needed to avoid having to leave bins out in case the service was just late. AW commented that the Council weren't currently collecting all the waste in a timely manner. There was a discussion on various related matters and it was decided that a senior manager from Waste Services be invited to speak to the Community Council. TM suggested the Council should be charged every time a collection was missed and the proceeds given to the community via the Community Council to fund worthwhile community projects. A resident raised the point that the Council no longer post out collection calendars. It was suggested this was a money-saving initiative but the calendars can be downloaded from the Council website. The Library might offer to help those who didn't have access to a computer. **ACTION: Secretary**

Review of the Constitution of Colinton Community Council

TM suggested the Community Council has a number of uncertainties in our operating procedures and processes and that there should be some guidance as to how certain issues should be dealt with. It was suggested that a small group probably the Office Bearers look at the situation and present their findings back to the members at a public meeting.

This was approved unanimously.

ACTION: Office Bearers

TM also mentioned that some issues arose in between public meetings and that an email protocol needed to be formulated. TM also suggested there was a need to look at some method of establishing the views of the members which would subsequently be ratified at a public meeting. The Secretary suggested that a positive majority email response was essential. This was agreed. A formal procedure for this is to be examined and reported in one cycle.

ACTION: Secretary/GN

Edinburgh Airport Consultation

The subject of Edinburgh Airport flight path consultation was raised and it was decided that this was not an issue for Colinton.

AOCB

- The Chair mentioned the recently published Report on the failure of some School buildings. It was agreed that it was best to await the Council's response.
- Tiphereth have indicated that they would like to present their proposal for Torphin Golf Club Clubhouse. The Secretary would liaise with Bruce Bennett of Tiphereth.

ACTION: Secretary

- The Secretary mentioned correspondence requesting replacement Cherry Trees outside Redford Barracks. As there was uncertainty over the future of the street frontage on that section of Colinton Road it was agreed to put this matter on hold.
- The Secretary also mentioned a request from the Bowling Club for the refurbishment of the pavement on the east side of Redford Road between Old Farm Avenue and the Bowling Club. This would be added to the Neighbourhood Environment Programme.
- A request from South West Communities Forum to support their objection to development in Fairmilehead was raised. The development is not in the Local Development Plan (LDP) and has been rejected by City of Edinburgh Council Planning and previously dismissed on appeal by Scottish Ministers. It was agreed that while it would not directly affect Colinton, it was agreed to write supporting objection to the development in principle.
- The Secretary asked if members were in favour of holding an election hustings. This was rejected.

Public Comments.

The posters placed in the village were considered a good way to advertise the meetings.

A suggestion that it would be useful to have defibrillator training for the public was also thought to be a good idea.

Date of next planned meeting: Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7:30pm, at Colinton Bowling Club.