

WEST END COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 8 November 2022, 1900h – 2100h

Study Room – Blackness Library, 225 Perth Road, Dundee DD2 1E

PRESENT:

Gary Langlands (GL) (Chair)	WECC	Ann Prescott (AP)	WECC
Sam Crouch (SC)	WECC	Cllr Michael Crichton	DCC Elected
Robert Evans (RE)	WECC	Cllr Nadia El-Nakla (NEN)	DCC Elected
Harrison Frame (HF)	WECC	Bailie Fraser Macpherson (FM)	DCC Elected
Hazel Lancaster (HL)	WECC	Joanne Kelly	Neighbourhood Services
Nick Marra (NJM)	WECC	Christine Rea	Neighbourhood Services
Neil McLeod (NM)	WECC		
Crawford Morton (CM)	WECC	3 members of the public	

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Gary Langlands (GL) welcomed all to the meeting, including Matthew Sinclair and Alan Blacklaws from SWECO who were presenting about Dundee Active Freeways (West End). Apologies were received from Elaine Kuwahara and Iain Iveson. Members of the public are welcome to attend however were asked to wait until the agenda item where queries/comments can be taken from the general public or from the discretion of the Chair.

2 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Crawford Morton

Seconded: Harrison Frame

3 MATTERS ARISING

None

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT (RP)

The report (below) from Russell Pepper (RP), who has stepped down as Chair, had been circulated previously.

Although no longer in position, I have been requested to provide a report covering the WECC's activities from the last AGM in October 2021 until I stepped down as chair in August this year.

During this period, we were involved in projects aiming to improve the public realm and biodiversity in the area, with WECC community councillors assisting Friends of Magdalen Green, community members in council and Eden Project initiatives to plant blubs and sowing wildflowers on the Green, as well as being involved with community wildflower planting at Seabraes. It was a joy to see these flowers bloom over the summer, their importance being highlighted to the long period of dry weather and Scotland's hottest day on record – the need for biodiversity measures in mitigating climate change has never been more pressing.

West End Community Councillors also joined Dundee City officers and local people to discuss potential projects on Perth Road, which could be funded by the District Centre Fund. A number of proposals were agreed upon, including improving the Sinderins Triangle, Pennycook Lane, Post Office Area and Millers Wynd. Draft visualisations of the Pennycook Lane and Miller's Wynd improvements have been commented upon, and I'm looking forward to seeing the outcome of this, as there is a great desire and need for improved public space along Perth Road. Importantly, we can't forget the other areas in the West End – it would be fantastic if this work can be replicated across the ward, e.g.

in the shopping area along Blackness Road, which would vastly benefit from improved public space.

We also met with Dundee City Council officers at the Sinderins to discuss road traffic management in the Perth Road. The imbalance of traffic between the Hawkhill bypass and the Perth Road, the emissions from vehicles at the Sinderins, the amount of through traffic rather than local traffic using the Perth Road and the number of buses which are routed along the Perth Road were all issues that had been raised by WECC and members of the public on a Zoom meeting last year. The council officials took away the issues raised; at the time of my stepping down no actions had been agreed, but it was nonetheless good to highlight these issues and keep them at the forefront of officers minds.

Our work within planning and licensing continued more or less as normal, with planning and licensing teams looking applications, gathering community feedback and making comment on applications as appropriate. This is an important aspect of our work, and we were very keen to ensure that the public are enabled to navigate and engage with the planning process on an individual level as well.

Overall, I really felt that community councillors elected in October 2021 came into their own, with the WECC becoming more cohesive and organised. Of course, there are issues – as there always are – with ensuring we obtain maximum reach within our community, and of knowing what the local community wish us to focus on. To that end, as I was stepping down, there were plans to feed in to the community priorities plan so that community-focussed priorities could be set for the community council going forwards. I look forward to participating in this as a member of the public and resident of the West End.

As well as all of the community councillors, I'd very much like to thank all of the elected members for their valuable contributions and tireless work in the West End, including the newly-elected Nadia El-Nakla and Michael Crichton. I'd also like to thank Richard McCready and Donald Hay for their many years serving the people of the West End. Our community officers continued to provide support and expertise in all community council matters, to the police for their support and information at meetings, and of course to all of the members of public who have engaged with us and care about the West End as much as we do.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (SC)

As my first year as WECC secretary and we transitioned out of Covid restrictions, I have been busy relearning organisational skills to ensure meetings run smoothly. The year has seen some interesting projects either initiated and/or proposed, the main aim of which are to improve facilities and the environment in the West End. Some of these projects have climate change and biodiversity at their heart. Projects have included interacting with the Eden Project (Dundee) for wildflower meadows, DCC for bulb planting at Magdalen Green and WECC putting together our own Riverside Development Plan. With respect to the latter, we have had a couple of meetings with DCC and hope in the future to take these improvements forward for the benefit of residents, tourists and wildlife. I have been involved in walkabouts and distributed/collected leaflets, the primary aims of which are to improve the environment around Perth Road e.g. Millers

Wynd, Sinderins. We produced an information leaflet which was professionally put together by Anna Day. I would like to thank Barry Millar (Harris Academy), Derrick Lang (Dundee Airport) and Caishlan Sweeney (Eden Project Dundee) who came to address questions and inform us of progress.

Administratively, I aim to get documentation out promptly and post ratified minutes on the WECC website as soon as possible so the delay in getting them out to councillors and the public is kept to the minimum. I am also trying to engage as many people as I can in the West End by setting up an email database (all confidential of course) to notify people of meetings and events, as it is all the residents of the West End who make up the community council. I am happy to put anyone on the mailing list if they contact me at WECCsecretarydundee@gmail.com. Moving forward, we will be having a change of venue from the Logie & St Johns Hall to Blackness Library. I feel, however, it is important that the community council aims to improve the whole of the West End as WECC covers a vast area of Dundee. To date, however, we have primarily focussed on Magdalen Green, Riverside and Perth Road.

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TREASURER'S REPORT (HF)

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The Treasurer's report was independently audited, and is attached.

FM stated that he has funds that need dealt with. HF stated he was standing down and the Chair thanked him for his contribution.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS (JK)

The Chair stepped down for the annual election of office bearers which was overseen by JK. No vote was necessary as only one person stepped up for two of the positions.

Chairperson: Gary Langlands, nominated by CM and seconded by HF

Secretary: Sam Crouch, nominated by NJM and seconded by RE

Vacant positions: Treasurer

Planning and Licencing (2 positions)

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Communications (including FaceBook)

NEN also suggested an Equality and Diversity Officer. These positions will be discussed again at the next meeting in December.

AOCB

- **Draft Minutes of EGM (October 2022)**

As an EGM is not imminent, the minutes of the EGM in October were ratified at this meeting. Proposed - AP Seconded - RE

- **Dundee Active Freeways (West End)**

Matthew Sinclair and Alan Blacklaws from SWECO gave a brief presentation of the active freeway, one of 6 in Dundee, that is proposed to be along Perth Road. The development of 'Active Freeways' is a recommendation of a Strategic Transport Projects Review being led by Transport Scotland which is in the Scottish Governments Programme for Government. An active freeway is a high quality, direct route designed to make walking, wheeling and cycling more attractive for everyday journeys.

The route was described as going along Perth Road, before 3 branching alternatives close to Sinderins (Perth Road, Old Hawkhill through the University, Hawkhill). The aim is to have a direct route, which was easy to use, however, there are general constraints such as the narrowness and steepness of roads. Perth Road from Sinderins is restricted and not very wide, whilst Hawkhill, although wide, has a significant gradient. Old Hawkhill through the University is cobbled but deemed by the majority of people as

the most appropriate. FM suggested it was important to liaise with the University with regard to this, as they own some of the land. Perth Road was generally thought to be inappropriate.

General discussion amongst councillors and the public raised a number of issues:

- a) A cycle way will have a significant impact on parking on Perth Road, which will lead to significant public resistance.
- b) There are significant pinch points along the proposed route (e.g. Hyndford St), which can be due to the road being narrower, parking spaces for houses which do not have a driveway, or location of bus stops which will also result in slowing of traffic. It was noted that 20 mph speed may be imposed in future, so traffic in the future may be slower.
- c) Safety of a school children along the route is paramount, as they have been seen to walk on the road around Harris Academy towards Sinderins due to constrained space. A cycle way must not contribute to a decrease in children's safety.
- d) The junction of Glamis Road with Perth Road is wide, but difficult to cross so a safety island would increase safety for walkers
- e) One way traffic could be a possibility e.g. Grosvenor Road/ Shaftesbury Avenue, although removal of parking places was raised against this.
- f) Ambulance traffic must be taken into account as this is a major route to Ninewells Hospital
- g) The roundabouts at Hilton/Argyllgait and Hunter Street are very difficult to cross so some safe mechanisms for crossing should be considered.
- h) Roads, particularly north of Perth Road, are steep and inappropriate for cycling
- i) There is current cycling infrastructure which should be considered possibly coming up Roseangle, however, this is cobbled and steep. Furthermore, shared use (walking/cycling) can be a challenge.
- j) Cycling down Windsor Street to link up to Graffiti Alley walkway at Seabraes was deemed to be too steep
- k) Cycling down Ninewells Brae is also challenging and the majority of people cycling to Ninewells go via Dunmore Drive/Hazel Drive/Glamis Drive.
- l) All cycle lanes must be safe at junctions for walkers, particularly aged walkers, who can trip. Orcas, if used, must be appropriately located.
- m) Broad and considerable consultation is key for SWECO to take people with you, however, not everyone is on social media or computer literate.
- n) WECC recently put in suggestions to Dundee City Council (DCC) re traffic management on Perth Road. It might be worth SWECO liaising with DCC.

SWECO took on board the comments and agreed that nothing is off the table and all alternatives will be looked into, which may vary depending on the location. They are aiming for safe spaces, dedicated walking spaces and cycling spaces. The plan is to have a feasibility report by the end of the year, before embarking into the design process. Community councils are first to be consulted before councils open their consultation to community groups, all of which will be backed up with face-to-face events. Any comments can be fed back to SWECO by email or via the WECC secretary. There is also an engagement website that is being set up, which WECC can advertise to get wider feedback.

GL thanked Matthew and Alan for giving us an introduction to the Active Freeways.

- **West End Christmas Fortnight** (26 November– 10 December) will again be held with a Christmas light switch on on 1st December. Some events include a Christmas market in Millers Wynd and a Christmas Concert at Dundee West Church. FM thanked AP for all her hard work, and GL thanked FM for his hard work contributing to a successful festive fortnight.

- **West End Social Evening** is being held at the Vine for community groups, residents associations, Friends' groups, schools etc. This will take place Thursday 8th December at 7pm at the Vine for representatives of all community groups. The event will include West End Community Awards and West End Business Awards, together with a short presentation by Kevin Frediani, Curator of the University of Dundee Botanic Garden.

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Date of next AGM

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Tuesday 14 November 2023, 1900h - 2100h, venue to be confirmed

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13 December 2022, 1900h – 2100h, Blackness Library.

