

**West End Community Council**  
**Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 1900h**  
**Study Room, Blackness Library, Perth Road DD2 1EJ**

**PRESENT:**

Gary Langlands (GL) (Chair)	WECC	Ann Prescott (AP)	WECC
Sam Crouch (SC)	WECC	Cllr Fraser Macpherson (FM)	DCC Elected
Rob Evans (RE)	WECC	Christine Rea	Neighbourhood Services
Elaine Kuwahara (EK)	WECC	Sgt Mark Hogg (MH)	Police Scotland
Neil McLeod (NMcl)	WECC	Sgt Stuart Paton (SP)	Police Scotland
Nick Marra (NJM)	WECC		
Crawford Morton (CM)	WECC	10 Members of the Public (MOP)	

<b>1</b>	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Gary Langlands (GL) welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Michael Crichton, Nadia El-Nakla, Harrison Frame and Iain Iveson.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>BARRACK STREET STUDENT ACCOMMODATION</b></p> <p>Representatives from Zander Planning (Neil Galloway, Alex Mitchell, Michael Robertson) gave a brief presentation on the proposed development at Barrack Street, replacing the art deco Robertsons Building. If all consultations are complete, planning application for 10 storey/427 bed-room/amenities building will be submitted in autumn. Student numbers in Dundee on increase (now 18,000) with limited supply of accommodation, hence environmentally friendly accommodation on a brown field site conveniently located and felt to be consistent with local development plan is proposed. GL raise the issue of the height of the building, however, 10 storey is equivalent to 6 storey (Robertsons was 4 storey high with high ceilings). The amount of community grounds provided will be consistent with other new builds and is determined by what the planners and market forces allow. No retail businesses are included, but a large proportion will be amenities. DCC requested active spaces on the ground floor (e.g. gym), not commercial uses. There were criticisms of the boring design, especially replacing a classic art deco building, but praise for innovative grass roof on building. Energy and sustainability is driving the building design. Each floor has shared kitchens to allow student interaction. Consultation is live at the moment (<a href="https://www.barrackstreet.co.uk">https://www.barrackstreet.co.uk</a>) and in the shopping centre. The accommodation will be securely managed using key access by the operators. Sgt Stuart Paton (SP) pointed out that there have been no issues with other secure student accommodation over 9 years. GL thanked Zander Planning for their presentation and hoped the comments from the meeting were useful.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <p>Proposed: Neil McLeod    Seconded: Crawford Morton</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p><u>Riverside Pavilion</u>: see Item 9 for update  <u>WestFest</u>: was followed up by Nadia El-Nakla  <u>Duncarse House</u>: RE in conjunction with AP and SC submitted an objection to DCC  <u>Glamis Drive and Perth Road Signage</u>: to be followed up by EK  <u>Barrack St</u>: see Item 2  <u>Dogs Trust and Art Night</u>: advertised on FB by SC  <u>Balgay Hill</u>: awaiting feedback from Jay Grant  <u>Ember Bus Depot</u>: MC to investigate status of depot, however, FM understands it will be in operation in a few months.</p>	<b>EK</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>POLICE UPDATE</b> – Sgt Stuart Paton (SP) (new local Community Officer) and Mark Hogg (MH) in attendance. Issues with youth disorder in shops, concerning for staff were discussed. Police are routinely in contact with shops, kids warned in front of parents resulting in no further issues. This is a problem across Dundee due to summer and lighter nights. SP will meet Chief Inspector to discuss youth disorder and how this will be tackled. A MOP questioned whether this was related to free bus passes. SP stated there is some issue with this, as kids are travelling and will target specific areas. SP said main bus pass issue is people are reported missing. Between 12-15 is main problem age, not necessarily criminal but anti-social. Multiple offenders will see social behaviour team who can speak to parents and link in with schools. MH said once the offenders are spoken to, they generally learn.</p> <p>NJM raised the issue of speeding which before lockdown new warning signs and pop up Jims were proposed, but nothing forthcoming. SP stated that Police will try to be more proactive, but Dundee is a large area and problems are not just confined to Perth Road. SP said increasing crossings would not control speeding and a MOP stated that research shows that the only way to</p>	

	<p>slow down traffic is chicanes and obstructions. CM felt signage needs to be clearer in Dundee. FM felt that DCC has moved very slowly on 20 mph zones with Edinburgh and Glasgow leading the way, but there is now a programme of new 20mph zones in residential areas to be implemented in 2027. NJM pointed out there was inconsistency in the current 20 mph zones in residential areas. A MOP raised the issue of roundels on Bellefield Road/Seafield Road, which are reduced in number from 7 to 1 due to resurfacing, and it is a matter of time before a child at the local nursery will be killed. FM said he will bring up the issue of 20 mph roundels. SP stated Police will aim to come to each meeting, but cannot guarantee attendance.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> FM to raise the issue of 20 mph roundels</p>	<b>FM</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>PLANNING AND LICENSING</b></p> <p>EK raised issues of Osborne House and Balgowan planning, and will share these with the group for comment. GL raised the issue of Strathmore Hotel replacement windows, but AP felt this was not much of an issue. Nothing was raised in Licensing.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> EK to share planning links with the committee for comments</p>	<b>EK</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>PENNYCOOK LANE UPGRADING</b></p> <p>Stephen Page reported a whole host of underground problems were slowing down the upgrading to Pennycook Lane. WECC were asked if we would like to choose the colour of the planters, and AP suggested red to link in with Sinderins Beacon and bandstand at Magdalen Green. AP asked if a bench rather than planters could be included as seating space at D'il Se has been lost.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>DUNDEE ACTIVE CYCLEWAYS</b></p> <p>A Zoom meeting was held with Matthew Sinclair from SWECO on 9 June 2023. SC had supplied a summary to the committee. There are considerable challenges with the proposal, such as dual function paths (cycle and pedestrians, esp involving Harris kids), protruding bus stops, removing bus lanes and introducing a signalised junction at Westport roundabout, lack of safety at Hunter Street roundabout, and introducing a crossover at top of Windsor Street controlled by traffic lights were just some of the issues that were commented upon. FM pointed out that whilst keen to support cycling, the numbers are small compared to the number of walkers, and any development will depend on Sustrans funding following consultation. RE stated this cycleway was of no use to people in the West End and not yet supported by surveys. Generally it was felt that this cycleway was not practical and would be a waste of money. A MOP felt it would be better to spend money on improving infrastructure for pedestrians. FM pointed out that all projects will compete for budgets and Lochee Road cycleway is much better.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>RIVERSIDE PAVILION DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>A public meet at the Library with an Open Day at the Pavilion was proposed to capture public opinion and other local groups. A date of mid to late August suggested. CR stated that not all community groups can go forward for asset transfer, and we need to be aware of the uphill struggle. It was felt that lots of community groups could work together. AP suggested it be used for parking as surface has been upgraded, reducing parking on Magdalen Yard Road and Riverside Drive. FM will follow this up with Catherine Conroy as her predecessor (Rod Houston) had written to Barnetts regarding their contributing to resurfacing costs with their staff being able to park there. A MOP raised the issue of councils taxing business for parking. FM stated that local authorities have been given the right to do this, but no local authority across Scotland has taken this on.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> FM to follow up with Catherine Conroy re Barnetts parking and resurfacing at Pavilion</p>	<b>FM</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><u>Tree Felling and development West of 13B Richmond Terrace:</u> RE raised the issue that anyone can put in a tree felling notification despite being in a conservation area. Forestry Officer did not inspect this site. FM stated that the council has 6 weeks to assess the application however it automatically goes ahead if the 6 weeks is breached. There are outstanding issues of workload and capacity in Environment department. A tree preservation orders (TPOs) cannot be granted by default legally. FM updated that 16 TPOs had been placed (sycamores, hazel, elm, holly, lime). A MOP pointed out that this is a long-standing controversial site, which leads to increased flooding at the adjacent allotments. Also the trees should be monitored despite having TPOs.</p> <p><u>Boundaries:</u> CR passed a paper concerning ward boundaries becoming council boundaries, which is up for consultation with the areas not previously covered by the community council. This could involve asking questions, helping with engagement, door knocking, school gates for examples. Dates around late August/early September are suggested. GL will be involved and encouraged others to be involved and provide input.</p>	

	<p><u>LCPP</u>: CR needs representation from WECC to be involved, assess applications for CRF etc. Meetings are Public, and meet quarterly. Dates to be circulated.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> CR to circulate dates of LCPP meeting.</p>	<b>CR</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><u>Green Flag Award</u>: Sandra McDowall (SMcD) (Friends of Magdalen Green) stated that management of Magdalen Green is a collaboration between DCC, FOMG and the community council. She stated there were a couple of inaccuracies in the WECC presentation submitted to Josh Lawton for the Green Flag Award 2024-25 regarding picnic table provision, however, it was pointed out that the WECC submission did not mention picnic table provision, just requesting and siting of picnic tables. It was agreed that SC would provide SMcD with the WECC submission for comment, however, SMcD is not able to provide WECC with her submission as it was embedded in the report. GL said it would be beneficial to have consistent statements and work together, perhaps having separate meetings.</p> <p>EK stated there are 4 picnic benches originally from City Square behind the Pavilion which are deteriorating. FM will contact Jay Grant for an update on these tables for siting on Magdalen Green. EK raised issues of poor public behaviour and education on disposal of BBQs.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> FM to contact Jay Grant re picnic tables</p>	<b>FM</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Tuesday 12 September 2023, Blackness Library (Study Room), 1900 - 2100h</p>	