

West End Community Council

14 December 2021 at 1900h

Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Russell Pepper (RP) (Chair)	WECC
Sam Crouch (SC)	WECC
Rob Evans (RE)	WECC
Harrison Frame (HF)	WECC
Iain Iverson (II)	WECC
Rowan Jack (RJ)	WECC
Elaine Kuwahara (EK)	WECC
Nick Marra (NJM)	WECC
Crawford Morton (CM)	WECC
Ann Prescott (AP)	WECC

Natalie Mackland (NM)	DCC Neighbourhood Services
Sarah Barham (SB)	DCC Neighbourhood Services
Baillie Fraser Macpherson (FM)	DCC
Cllr Richard McCready (RM)	DCC
Barry Millar (BM)	Harris Academy (Head Teacher)

5 members of the public

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Russell Pepper (RP) welcomed all to the meeting.
Apologies were received from Anna Day, Suzie Harrold, Donald Hay,
Lynsey Penny.

2 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Ann Prescott
Seconded: Crawford Morton

ACTION

3 HARRIS ACADEMY

RP welcomed Barry Millar (BM, Head Teacher, Harris Academy) to discuss issues of littering by school pupils. BM shared what the school was doing to patrol the areas, but Covid regulations make this more challenging. Split lunch times result in worse behaviour by junior pupils, who are not patrolled by senior pupils, and the amount of time to be monitored has doubled. BM has written to families, aiming to improve relationships, and reinforced good behaviour of children with respect to littering and mask wearing. There is an Eco group at the school, which although keen to get involved, is limited by Covid so will be future direction. BM pointed out that taking photos of offenders has often caused more problems than it solved. FM and RMcC congratulated the school on being proactive in responding to issues promptly, and littering is now focused on Perth Rd. BM pointed out this is a societal issue not just a Harris Academy problem. Pupils are subject to peer pressure and rebellious in nature, but their behaviour negatively impacts local residences. BM also pointed out that when pupils get a free bus pass in January 2022, the issue of littering might transfer from Perth Road to the centre of town. RE raised the issue of the narrowness of the footpath as students often block the path and walk on the road. It is not practical to widen the footpath, and pupils are encouraged to walk on the north side of Perth Road as this is wider, but they walk on the south side of Perth Road when returning from lunch. BM would welcome any ideas on how to approach this effectively and will ensure any issues are dealt with.

RP

Action: RP will write to BM, putting together some ideas on how to tackle this

MATTERS ARISING

4

Traffic Management (Perth Road): There is no progress to report due to a mix up in the arrangements for the meeting, however all are keen for this to progress.

Action: NJM to contact Ewan Gourlay regarding a site visit in the New Year

NJM

Light Pollution (Invercarse Hotel): RE met with Jacqueline Baird (JB) to discuss the lights at the Invercarse Hotel. JB stressed the difference between light pollution and light nuisance, and felt the lights were bad, but will consult with Jamie Landwehr on what this constitutes. JB also consulted the original planning documents and how they would mitigate light pollution. RE also pointed out that the hotel had cut down two trees without planning permission. From the plans, the rear area was to be landscaped and the boundary fence upgraded, but none of these have been done.

Derelict Buildings: FM provided an update on No. 2 Roseangle. Gillian Kane (GK) had checked ownership (Blue Fig Ltd, Glasgow), and the planning application for a restaurant has lapsed. GK has written to Blue Fig Ltd about securing the site, what plans they have for selling if the building is not being developed, and what timescale is anticipated. If the reply is not satisfactory, enforcement measures will ensue. The sale of No. 28 Roseangle has been finalised, but there is still some uncertainty about its future.

National Scenic Area: No communication has been received from the Scottish Minister.

CRF Funding:

- Mosaic – RP awaiting a response to his email re funding.
- Benches: AP reported that the cost of bench was £1100, and an application has been submitted. The design was agreed with Jay Grant, however, multiple benches might be available for the same price. SB confirmed the application has been received, and is being processed.
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- AD – alternative use of toilets? AD was not present at meeting
Action: AD to report on alternative use of toilets
- FM – broken handrail: Legal section is looking at who owns what part of the steps, either DCC or Scottish Enterprise. FM reported that John O’Neill will arrange for repairs of any dangerous parts. Also should be noted that on the fifth flight there are loose tiles, and a constituent had a slip. DCC has agreed to do mend this. Rude graffiti on bridge also will be removed by rapid response group. FM to get an update on progress on these issues.
Action: FM to get an update on status of Seabraes steps

AD

FM

5 POLICE UPDATE

Sean Petrie supplied a written report as follows:

The below information is a snapshot of the work that has been undertaken by the Lochee Community Policing Team within the West End of the City between 14/11/2021 and 13/12/2021 (inclusive).

Operation After Dark

As you may have seen in the media in recent months and may well have previous awareness of in years gone by, Operation AfterDark is an ongoing Police Scotland campaign which runs throughout the darker winter months.

The aim of this operation is to highlight crime prevention and home security advice to any property which may be seen as vulnerable to a would be thief. The Police Scotland Youth Volunteers have been out within the west end delivering relevant literature to properties identified by them.

The Community Policing Team are also out on foot in the West End throughout these months and will either speak directly to occupiers or leave relevant literature at properties providing suitable advice. The advice being provided includes (but not limited to)

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use security lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of models and serial numbers of your property.
- Create a FREE private and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobillise.com.
- Consider using video recording doorbells or a home CCTV system.

Road Safety

The following locations have again been targeted within the West End area

- Perth Road
- Blackness Road
- Blackness Avenue
- Ninewells Avenue
- Sycamore Place
- City Road

Community Officers have conducted regular static speed checks in these areas, with several drivers being warned about their manner of driving.

In particular, checks have been conducted on the Perth Road within the 20mph zones as this is an area which has been repeatedly highlighted to us. 12 drivers have been warned about their manner of driving and 1 issued with a fixed penalty notice for speeding.

Can I again ask that any specific areas of concern from any member of the public surrounding manner of driving or traffic management is fed back to me by email after the WECC meeting so that I can assist in that area and ensure we are targeting the most appropriate areas.

Housbreakings

I am aware of a recent increase in the West End regarding house-breakings and vehicle crimes. The Community Policing Team have been carrying out focussed patrols on foot in the relevant areas, our mobile CCTV van has been deployed and as stated Police Scotland Youth Volunteers have been delivering crime prevention literature to properties.

The response teams have also been carrying out focussed patrols in the relevant areas throughout their shifts. Investigations by Detective Officers in relation to the recent crimes continues to be ongoing.

Please ensure you are following the advice detailed above.

Licensed Premises

The Community Policing Team continue to carry out licensed premises visits alongside colleagues from the Divisional Licensing Unit to engage with the public and staff. We will also continue to support the Policing effort of the night time economy ensuring everyone is safe and able to enjoy themselves whilst out in the West End.

Vandalism – Victoria Park

I mentioned recent vandalisms at Victoria Park Gardens during my last update in October. I have again been made aware of ongoing issues at this location and Community Officers will continue to conduct patrols in this area.

Contact Information

Again our contact information is as follows

Please pass the following email address onto anyone who wishes contact information for the West End Community Policing Team - tay-sidewestendcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk

This address is not monitored 24/7 however any emails will be picked up when the Community Team are on duty and responded to and actioned (as appropriate).

My email address can also be passed to the Community Councillors if deemed appropriate so they can contact me directly – sean.pe-trie@scotland.pnn.police.uk

6 PLANNING AND LICENCING

RP reported on a letter which was submitted in relation to the proposed development 21/00830/FULL for the erection of two drive-thru units (Class 3), associated access, car parking, landscaping and infrastructure at land south of Riverside Avenue Dundee, which is an amendment to 20/00031/FULL which was approved at appeal by the DCC Local Review Body in 2020. The letter, which raised the issues of limited pedestrian access, congestion issues, lack of pedestrian crossings, inadequate cycle parking etc was sent to DCC.

FM and RMcC reported that the Fernbrae development was approved by DCC on 13 December 2021. Both have raised the issue of narrow access, but are assured that this will not be an issue.

A licencing application has been submitted by Queens Hotel for the adjacent newsagents. This is to supply sandwiches and craft beer between 1100h – 2200h, with space for 12 patrons. There were no objections.

FM updated on licensing at Bridgeview Café which has been extended for a year. Guidance from the Scottish Government encourages a flexible approach in relation to the use of enforcement powers, If, however, the Café wishes to seek a permanent change of use, planning permission would be required.

7 CHRISTMAS FORTNIGHT

AP thanked FM and LP for their heroic effort in getting the event off the ground. FM agreed there had been challenges due to Covid, but there were many successes such as the concert even though it was held online. FM pointed out that there is a small effective group of people involved, but it was hoped that this group could expand the numbers of helpers for 2022. Winners prize for the best dressed shop was Rosebud, with 3 worth runners up.

8 MAGDALEN GREEN – BIODIVERSITY

RE reported that DCC is legally bound by legislation to further the conservation of biodiversity. Furthermore Magdalen Green is adjacent to the Riverside Wildlife Corridor, which is a candidate Locally Important Nature Conservation Site. Increasing biodiversity of Magdalen Green would improve the Riverside Wildlife Corridor.

The document expands on the DCC document, by expanding the biodiversity area from 4% to 20%, without a huge loss in the recreational area. Ideas of how to improve the area such as leaving larger areas of uncut grass, planting hedges, bat and bird boxes etc have been proposed. There were no objections to the document being forward to Alison Anderson for discussion.

ACTION: SC to send out updated biodiversity proposals to Alison Anderson prior to meeting for discussion.

SC

9 RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NM confirmed that the area of land is owned by DCC. AP, RE, SC and SB met with Jay Grant (JG) regarding the proposal. He was generally positive about most of the suggestions, but also very realistic due to limited council budgets, lack of staff and potential future upkeep costs. He is looking into most aspects (e.g. steel benches, DCC plans for future toilets, QR

codes for nature trails, liaising with John Whyman etc) and will report back to us.

RE added that getting the Eco group at Harris Academy involved to help with signs and planting of trees/shrubs would be beneficial. RP to include this in his email to Barry Millar.

Action: RP to include the proposal that the Harris Academy Eco group get involved with the Riverside Development Proposal and/or Magdalen Green biodiversity scheme.

RP

Action: SC to follow up with JG on status of proposal

SC

10 RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME

CM reported on a meeting with other community groups regarding the consultation on a residents parking scheme for Coldside, Maryfield and the West End. The meeting was unsatisfactory, wrong stepped by an inaccurate press release and lack of consultation. Proposal to address Coldside first, reflect and gather data for 2 years before extending the schemes to other areas was seen to be very protracted. There were contradictory reports by individuals on how this will be rolled out. There was general agreement that this was not DCC's finest hour, and the process has been very protracted and not related to the pandemic.

Action: CM to get clarification from John Berry on how the parking scheme will be rolled out.

CM

10 AOCB

Airport Facilities Management Information Session: SC had a meeting with Derrick Lang (DL) regarding a new approach to facilities management across HIAL. The aim is to streamline and standardise processes to create more efficient working. Tender will go out next year, with proposed implementation in Autumn 2022.

Cycle Paths: RP has been engaging with DCC about gritting cycle paths. An interim solution will be implemented, however, it is hoped that in 2022, the route will be written into the winter maintenance plan.

11 Queries and Comments from the Public

A member of the public raised a number of issues. Planting trees on edge of Magdalen Green will block views of Fife. Alternatives such as shrubs could be planted which have benefits for wildlife.

Issue of the residents parking scheme was questioned, but given there is lack of consensus on roll out plans, further clarity is required from the council.

Airport noise was raised as an issue, which is presumably related to clearing birds. DL is very approachable and it was decided to ask DL to a future WEC meeting to discuss the rationale about airport noise control and the latest technology.

Action: SC to invite Derrick Lang to attend a WECC meeting in 2022

SC

No Minutes or Agenda items were on the WECC website. SC happy to put people on e-mailing list to receive the agenda, but unable to give out the minutes until they are ratified at the next meeting.

Action: RP to put minutes up on website

RP

Hybrid meeting (in person and live streaming) was discussed as being a best option for meetings, but experience from other councils has shown this is difficult to set up.

13 Date of next meeting

11 January 2021, 1900 – 2100, venue to be confirmed