

West End Community Council
Tuesday April 11, 2023 at 1900h
Study Room, Blackness Library, Perth Road DD2 1EJ

PRESENT:

Gary Langlands (GL) (Chair)	WECC	Hazel Lancaster (HL)	WECC	
Sam Crouch (SC)	WECC	Ann Prescott (AP)	WECC	
Rob Evans (RE)	WECC	Baillie Fraser Macpherson (FM)	DCC Elected	
Elaine Kuwahara (EK)	WECC	3 members of the Public		
Neil McLeod (NMcL)	WECC			
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES Gary Langlands (GL) welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Nadia El-Nakla (NEN), Michael Crichton (MC), Harrison Frame, Nick Marra and Crawford Morton.			
2	APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES Proposed: Ann Prescott (AP) Seconded: Neil McLeod (NMcL)			
3	MATTERS ARISING <u>Notice Board</u> : Stephen Page has found a source of funding for new notice board at Sainsburys, which will be done in summer.			
4	POLICE UPDATE No update was received. Fraser McPherson (FM) notified that Sean Petrie has moved position, with Stuart Paton starting on the 19th April. We should engage directly with him.			
5	PLANNING AND LICENSING Planning - nothing was reported for West End. FM shared an update re 2 Roseangle. He had a meeting with Planning Officers as Dundee City Council (DCC) is trying to pursue the owners. The department gave FM an assurance that it is very much on the department's radar as it shares FM's and community concerns about the length of time the building has been empty and decaying and the desire to see a positive future use for this prominent building. A member of the public (MOP) asked about DCC having powers to stop buildings such as Robertsons lying empty and then burning down. FM reiterated that it was privately owned, long term empty and DCC inspected properties regularly. MOP stated he wanted to see legislative change given the loss of significant heritage in the city. There is a desire by planning officers to tackle this; however, it is outwith the scope of WECC. <u>Face to face interviews</u> have been suspended at Dundee House, and only face to face interviews held at City Square. Although mostly online, this is not convenient for everyone. FM reiterated that the detachment of DCC from the public is not a good thing. <u>Corso/Abbotsford meeting</u> : FM and MC attended. Insulation is delayed, and will start 2026.			
6	RIVERSIDE PAVILION Meeting postponed, but another meeting should be convened in near future. The building is under Environment Services. GL has had no response from Eden Project as yet. Action : SC to attempt to arrange another meeting.			SC
7	WESTFEST 2023 Elaine Kuwahara (EK) stated that in the past a WECC stall was not generally well attended, nor served West End community, and so was abandoned. EK has repeatedly put in complaints about litter, excessive drinking which is not found in the rest of Dundee. Initially WestFest was no alcohol, just picnics in a residential area. GL stated that the majority of people are not from West End, however, FM said in previous years, he had lots of West End constituent engagement. AP think it would be good to engage with the community which WECC is currently failing at. SC suggested perhaps have a shorter session to canvas opinion from locals on projects such as Riverside Pavilion. FM stated perhaps we could piggy back on with DCC stand with Joanne Kelly (JK), although DCC are already sharing their stall. NMcL stated WECC urgently needs social media presence to get community engagement. EK asked about Food & Flower Festival, which is not going to be run this year. FM stated that the report to Neighbourhood Services Committee indicated no event in 2023 but a possible event at Slessor Gardens in 2024, although little given in the way of the details of that. Action : SC to see if we can piggy back with DCC at WestFest for a few hours			SC
8	WECC MEETINGS (Zoom + Face to Face) This links in with Item No. 10. A discussion between NEN and EK felt that Zoom would widen out the meetings and engage more people in WECC, however, there are difficulties with this.			

9	<p>GRAFFITI</p> <p>EK raised the issue with graffiti. The bridge over Magdalen Green and sub-station south of the rail line are graffitied; the latter includes offensive language. FM has reported it more than once and will send the graffiti squad a reminder. A positive project, Peddie St/Taits Lane planters for use by MOP, was highlighted by FM. DCC organised the soil. FM has asked EasyLets about providing tap access for the community planters, and for a mural to be painted on the wall next to EasyLets, however, decision is pending. Good community project. AP suggested a bin under the bridge, however, Graffiti Alley is the responsibility of Scottish Enterprise not DCC. FM has repeatedly raised that there should be cleanup of the bins more than once a week. FM asked Scottish Enterprise to ask its contractor Colliers to increase uplift of litter. EK complained about a bin at Magdalen Yard Road/Bellefield Avenue on the west side, which FM will follow up as all DCC bins have to be chained and attached to a concrete block for health and safety reasons. Private bins do not have to be chained up. MOP raised issues of HMOs at top of Taylors Lane and possible university involvement. FM said private sector managers raise issues with the landlord. There are repeated issues every new academic year with young people not looking after their waste. MOP said it should be a multi pronged attack, with everyone taking responsibility.</p> <p>Action: FM to remind graffiti squad</p>	FM
10	<p>WECC COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>GL and SC have tried to get FB and website control from Iain Iveson (II), which is essential for the WECC to communicate with the public. GL said he was prepared take on FB. SC to contact II again to transfer FB to GL.</p> <p>Action: SC to contact II re changing access to FB and contact@dundeewecc address.</p>	SC
11	<p>AOCB</p> <p><u>Mitchell St:</u> Hazel Lancaster (HL) asked about the building. FM said there is an interested party, however, as it is a very large building, a lot of money will be required to be spent on it.</p> <p><u>Balgay Hill:</u> GL and FM are meeting with Catherine Conroy and Jay Grant on 20th April which despite recent works, require for further improvement.</p> <p><u>Sainburys Perth Road Community Involvement:</u> Jordan Mudie at Sainburys are canvassing WECC as they have a budget to support charities and organisations that are trying to tackle food poverty, which could include family cooking classes or pre/post-natal food groups. GL works with Oleo and with out of date food, which is put on a website. AP suggested Victoria Gardens/YYI, Ninewells Community Gardens, Community larders, Community Fridge on Perth Road, Transitions (Lynsey Penny).</p> <p><u>SWECO:</u> FM reported on the southern cycle way. Lochee Cycleway was deliverable, but SWECO dubious about Perth Rd/Hawkhill cycleway as a segregated cycle west of Sinderins is not viable, however, east of Sinderins may be viable. Disadvantage is the incline at Hawkhill. This could link with active travel hub at Bell Street. FM and MC feel fully segregated cycling on Riverside would be preferable. There would have to be signals at Westport circle which would be an issue as there is a segregated bus lane which works well. FM said that SWECO will need to obtain evidence of likely usage as priority in terms of scheduling of works should be given to the cycle improvements that will have the most benefit to large numbers of cyclists. As a West End cyclist, Robert Evans (RE) queried this route as it would be impractical. People are coming into Dundee from new housing estates in cars not cycling as bus services are insufficient. FM said Xplore Dundee has tackled its driver staffing issues through new recruitment.</p> <p><u>Riverside Approach:</u> EK and NEN walked around West End around Riverside Approach. EK stated that NEN will contact Scottish Enterprise and Network Rail as there is an issue with a barrier with regard to children safety and there should be a crossing there. FM agreed and his requests for a crossing over a long period have been met with officer responses saying the crossing provision criteria had not been met due to insufficient pedestrian footfall. The council has recently updated the criteria used and the situation will be reviewed.</p>	
12	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 9 May 2023, Blackness Library (Study Room), 1900 - 2100h</p>	