

West End Community Council

Tuesday February 14, 2023 at 1900h

Study Room, Blackness Library, Perth Road DD2 1EJ

PRESENT:

Gary Langlands (GL) (Chair)	WECC	Crawford Morton (CM)	WECC
Sam Crouch (SC)	WECC	Innocent Oriaku	WECC
Robert Evans (RE)	WECC	Ann Prescott (AP)	WECC
Elaine Kuwahara (EK)	WECC	Cllr Michael Crichton (MC)	DCC Elected
Hazel Lancaster (HL)	WECC	Bailie Fraser Macpherson (FM)	DCC Elected
Nick Marra (NJM)	WECC	6 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, Joanne Kelly, and Harrison Frame.

2 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Crawford Morton Seconded: Nick Marra

3 MATTERS ARISING

Use of DCC Swimming Pools: Following departure of Anna Day from WECC, this will be followed up by Nadia El-Nakla (NEN).

Action: NEN to raise issue of public access to Harris Academy pool

WECC Notice Boards: Sam Crouch (SC) enquired about sources of funding. CRF funding from DCC will not be available till April, although other sources of funding may be available. Gary Langlands (GL) has a list of potential trusts, which may be suitable. GL suggested a working group to assess funding opportunities, and asked people to step forward to assist.

Action: Volunteers to put themselves forward for investigating funding opportunities.

Police Attendance: GL has had no reply from Martin Pattie. SC to pass on contact detail for Sergeant Sean Petrie to GL. Hazel Lancaster (HL) suggested Mark Veal and will supply details to GL.

Action: SC and HL to supply contact details to GL.

Balgay Park: It was pointed out that this is outwith the current WECC boundaries, however, Fraser McPherson (FM) pointed out that it would be logical for the community council boundary to cover the same area as the ward boundaries. There is currently an on going review of the boundaries. FM suggests that GL should still raise issues.

NEN

ALL

SC /
HL/GL

4 POLICE UPDATE

No update received.

5 PLANNING AND LICENSING

Nothing was raised with regard to Licensing and Planning.

6 RIVERSIDE PAVILION

WECC councilors met with representatives from DCC at Riverside Pavilion to assess it as a possible asset transfer to the community. Although historically this was used as changing rooms, a brief discussion was held on possible uses of the building and the large space at the rear e.g. youth centre, community gardens/allotment, meeting space was had. There are a number of examples of successful projects e.g. Bowling Green in Lochee Park, however, SC pointed out that any enterprise would have to be self sustaining. There are issues with parking as this is used by Barnetts. Eastern & Western Motor Group were to be approached by Rod Houston (RH) about the car parking area, and this should be followed up again. This will probably be by Catherine Conroy who will replace RH as he is retiring soon. It was suggested a working group get together to pull together a plan going forward. GL, SC, Elaine Kuwahara (EK), Rob Evans (RE), Crawford Morton (CM) and Neil McLeod (NMcl) agreed to meet with Joanne Kelly (JK) in advance of the next meeting. SC to put a Doodle Poll together to get a suitable date for a meeting.

Action: SC to put together a Doodle poll together for the working group to meet.

SC

7 LIVING CHRISTMAS TREES IN WEST END

Christine Rea (CR) asked the community council whether there was any community interest in having a living Christmas tree, rather than a cut tree. FM felt that there were issues with the proposal which need to be addressed before consultations. These include cost, insurance risk and potential locations. These should be clarified with CR before canvassing opinions more widely. Nick Marra

(NJM) welcomed greening of the city, but pointed out that tree planting should not just be restricted to parks. A member of the public (MOP) felt that rewilding the West End may result in the area being untidy. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the trees do not have to be restricted to just fir trees.

Action: SC to ask CR for further details.

NJM asked about a traffic management update following his meeting with the council last year. No reply has been received from Ewan Gourlay.

Action: FM to follow this up and provide feedback.

SC

FM

8 LITTER

EK raised the issue of rats, litter, over filled bins in the West End, which DCC should be involved with. FM pointed out that less people are employed to deal with litter, however, according to Jay Grant (JG) an extra person is being employed. FM stated that there has been some tendered cleaning at specific locations, however, the cost of this is not known. This money could be put into frontline services. FM will find out how much this costs. Part of the problems are Eurobins, as people just dump their waste. A MOP raised the issue of uplift of grey bins in Taylors Lane, which FM said he would follow up. HMOs can result in poor litter control, however, HMO licences can be removed if litter control is not adhered to. FM suggested that if individuals see any indiscretions, they take a photo and send it to the council who will deal with it. A MOP raise the issue of no dog waste bins between Harris Street and Kelso Steps, however, these can now go in general waste. JG is introducing larger bins which should alleviate some litter issues. Ann Prescott (AP) suggested a survey of gull proof litter bins e.g. at Harris Academy is required.

Action: FM to follow up on uplift of grey bins in Taylors Lane.

Action: All to report litter to DCC.

FM

ALL

9 OFFICE BEARERS

Vacancies still exist for Treasurer and Communications. GL asked for volunteers for these important positions. SC pointed out that communications includes FaceBook and contact@dundeewecc.com, which are essential for communicating and canvassing opinions to and from the public.

Action: All members of WECC to consider taking on one of these positions.

ALL

10 PERTH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Stephen Page (SP) has asked for feedback on the plans for the Sinderens, Pennycook Lane and Millers Wynd. Plans were felt to be improvements, although issues with the hedge at Millers Wynd were raised as this could hinder access to the community fridge. Feedback will be required by the end of February. Any comments to be directed to SC who will collate them and feed them back to Stephen Page at DCC.

Action: All to send comments to SC for collating and forwarding.

ALL

11 AOCB

West End Crime Rate: GL raised the issue of an increased crime rate in the West End. EK confirmed this was happening, however, there was also no police response. It was agreed that Police presence is required at WECC. GL to follow this up with the Police (see under Matters Arising).

Riverside House: NJM previously raised the issue about the units at the Technology Park. He was happy to report that the building has been restored improving the entrance to Dundee.

12 QUERIES AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bus Stop on Glamis Road at Balgay Cemetery: A MOP raised the issue of the real time bus timetables not working. Reliable buses continue to be a challenge with respect to driver recruitment. FM to follow up. FM also reported that paper timetables, which were removed during the pandemic, are now being restored at bus stops.

Action: FM to follow up with respect to the bus timetable.

FM

Dundee Technopole: A MOP asked about plans for this area, perhaps as a site for the Christmas Tree. FM reported that this area has been zoned for start up biotechnology companies as part of the Tay Cities Deal.

Abbotsford Place: HL reported that the sheltered housing owned by DCC in Abbotsford Place has front and back doors with gaps that need insulation, hence are very draughty.

Action: FM to take up with DCC repair department.

FM

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 14 March 2023, Blackness Library (Study Room), 1900 - 2100h