

DRAFT
West End Community Council - Informal meeting
09 September 2020
Online meeting

PRESENT:

Russell Pepper	WECC
Ann Prescott	WECC
Nick Marra	WECC
Iain Iveson	WECC
Lynsey Penny	WECC
Esther Carmen	WECC
Natalie Mackland	DCC Neighbourhood Services
Joanne Kelly	DCC Neighbourhood Services
Cllr Donald Hay	DCC
Cllr Richard McCready	DCC
Bailie Fraser McPherson	DCC

ACTION

1. WELCOME

Russell Pepper welcomed all to the meeting. Additional points to be discussed were added to the agenda.

2. Update on the status of the WECC

Natalie and Joanne advised that there has been no update from Roger Mennie in the DCC legal dept, but that it looks like the WECC will need to have an election due to numbers falling below the minimum required (min. = 10, WECC currently has 9 members) .

This election is likely to take place from the 5th-30th Oct, being promoted online and via print media by DCC. WECC, community councillors and local councillors will also promote, and it was agreed that printing out posters/flyers and getting them put up in local shops would be done - particularly in Blackness and areas that are often forgotten about as being part of the West End.

This can be seen as very positive for the WECC, gaining new members through a positive recruitment drive.

Office bearers can then be selected at the first meeting after elections. Iain has notice board keys and will look after them for the time being.

3.

Biodiversity Outcomes

Ann gave an update on the outcomes of the biodiversity survey and biodiversity measures implemented by DCC, saying it has overall been positive and that those who are against the idea generally don't like the appearance rather than having any particular problem with biodiversity per se.

Fraser agreed tha the majority of people "get" the biodiversity concept, and that it will take some time for a more attractive appearance to be achieved.

Natalie informed the group that DCC will be running an online consultation into the biodiversity measures city-wide. It is hoped that the consultation will also take place over the phone for those without internet access

It was noted that there has been interest from a few people to volunteer with helping to plant and achieve this, and that will help make things more positive - it is hoped that the group/WECC will be able to work with Friend of Magdalen Green on this, who have been vocal online about their dislike of the biodiversity measures.

Ann noted that upkeep of the Western Cemetery border and the tubs at the Sinderins is an ongoing voluntary project and that anyone wishing to help out is very welcome to get in touch with her to get involved.

4. Modal filter at Riverside Approach

Russell updated the group that DCC have proposed a “modal filter” (i.e. a planter/bollard to prevent motorised traffic but allow walking/wheeling/cycling) at Riverside Approach, and that 5 comm cllrs were for the idea, 1 against when a letter was sent to John Berry (Sustainable transport and parking team leader at DCC) asked for the WECCs opinion. He had contacted Mark Flynn (Convener of City Development) earlier in the day for an update on progress.

Fraser and Donald noted that they had had several complaints about the idea from constituents, and Fraser had only had 3 positive emails about the idea.

Fraser is keen for a compromise which would see a ban on HGVs and residents only access, with signage at the top of Roseangle, Windsor St and Riverside Approach.

As a group it seems the WECC is generally positive about the idea, in that it is experimental, and can be used to create positive behaviour towards more sustainable modes of transport. It was generally agreed that the small increase in journey time for drivers would be a price worth paying. Ann noted that on her walks, people had been positive about the idea.

5. Dundee Partnership funding

It was agreed that an application for a bike rack at West Port and for planters at the Western Cemetery would be progressed by Russell and Ann respectively. The application for notice boards may be progressed at a later date.

Russell would also set up a drop-box for documents etc., that would be useful for comm. Cllrs to access for future ref. This will include, e.g., the Sustrans funded work commissioned last year by the WECC.

6. Festive fund update

Fraser updated the group on the festive fund. DCC now requires any group bidding into the fund to put up 1/3 of the funds - as there is already approx. £1k in the account, this will mean a total budget of approx. £3k.

There have been good discussions about the Christmas Fortnight online, with ideas such as online community business awards, a talk about Logie, a children's craft event and a “most Christmassy window” event. They are

Russell Pepper, Ann Prescott

looking for more support and ideas, so anyone who is interested to get in touch with Fraser! Esther expressed an interest and will contact Fraser later.

Esther Carmen

8. Vandalised building at Riverside Drive/Technology Park

Nick requested an update on the state of this building; it has lain vandalised for years now despite recommendations in a DCC report. Fraser confirmed he would take this up with DCC and request action/an update. Also he will look into the house at 2 Roseangle, which is getting dangerous and is now blocking a pavement due to wall collapse.

Fraser MacPherson

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be on Tues 13th Oct - likely online again

10.

11.

Natalie M

12.

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