

West End Community Council

Minute of Meeting

7:30pm on the 7th of September 2021 on the ZOOM video platform

Present: Community Councillors Dr Gordon M Wyllie (Chair), David Duncan (Secretary), Isabel Thom (Planning), David Hewitson (Treasurer), Paul Hancock (Communications), Gordon Renton, Marta Bauer, City Cllr Joanna Mowat, local residents Fraser Stevenon, Peter Chalmers, Benoit Culioli, Darcy Black, Peter Black, James Benbow, Fiona Searle and Linda Cunningham.

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received on behalf of Ian Robertson (Vice- Chair) and Cllr Hal Osler.</p>	
<p>2. Minute of meeting held on the 6th of July 2021</p> <p>The Minute for the meeting held on the 6th of July was approved.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>Despite other suggestions, the name of the central space or street in the Morrison Street site is to be Haymarket Square</p> <p>The ongoing matter of public toilet provision will be chased up. Gordon Renton suggested submitting a Freedom of Information request (FOI). Cllr Jo Mowat offered to assist in framing the request before it is submitted.</p> <p>On the topic of developments, Isabel Thom was congratulated on her response to the consultation regarding Rosebery House</p>	
<p>4. Local Developments</p> <p>It was noted that later this month a Local Development Plan will be laid before Councillors. Thereafter a 6 week consultation will take place before it goes to a Reporter and it then returned to the Council for further consideration and action.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for the views of local residents to be better taken into account. Having regard to the recent developments, it was felt that input could be made into guidance for zones bordering heritage areas, one line of argument could be the need to protect use of energy already put into existing buildings, yet allow for development sympathetic to the classical and vernacular character (including building heights) of the areas, which at present remain unprotected.</p>	



<p>5. Hybrid Meetings</p> <p>Paul Hancock explained how the hybrid meeting worked. It was agreed to take this approach going forward.</p> <p>The Community Council agreed to delay the holding of in person meetings for now.</p>	
<p>6. Police Matters</p> <p>Paul Hancock spoke briefly to the report he had received from the Police. Their newsletter is attached.</p>	
<p>7. Councillor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Jo Mowat had already provided an update on the Local Development Plan. She advised that the Transport Committee would be meeting in the coming days, and that there was no update as of yet regarding the Communal Bin project.</p> <p>On the topic of bin hubs, the City Council decided not to hold a consultation. This development was poorly received by meeting attendees. The end goal is to improve rubbish collection so that it is more efficient and less obtrusive.</p> <p>On the topic of short term letting, it was report that the Scottish Government is to publish a white paper in the Autumn regarding licences that short term let landlords would need to apply for and be granted in order to operate legally.</p> <p>Paul Hancock reported that the slippery pavements have been sanded although this is a short term fix to what is a long term problem relating to the material used for the pavement slabs.</p> <p>With regard to pavement weeds, a group of local residents is organising a Facebook Group clean up using Council kits.</p>	
<p>8. Communications Report</p> <p>Paul Hancock produced some new ideas as for the design of the West End Community Council logo which is to be displayed on the website which is still under development. An array of designs were exhibited, with greater support given to the first two suggestions, which contain graphic homage to Edinburgh's West End.</p>	
<p>9. Finance Report</p> <p>David Hewitson was thanked for taking up the duties of Treasurer and reported briefly on the funds. He may attend some short Open University courses in development of his role within the Community Council.</p>	



<p>The balance in the Community Council's favour was £998.68.</p>	
<p>10. Traffic survey in Douglas Crescent</p> <p>Local resident Darcey Black referred to his recent meeting with the City Council, when it transpired that the average speed of vehicles in the local area was 22.8 mph with is 2mph below the cut-off point for taking any action.</p>	
<p>11. Johnny Walker Centre</p> <p>Gordon Renton voiced that in his opinion, Diageo, were an avaricious business and were selling inferior products</p> <p>Paul Hancock and David Hewitson remarked that they thought it was a good thing to see the building, cornices and clock fully restored.</p> <p>James Benbow attended a tasting at the new venue the day before and found it to be an enjoyable experience.</p>	
<p>12. Planning Report</p> <p>Isabel Thom spoke to and was thanked for her planning report. Matters of note included the following:</p> <p>Insofar as an application has been lodged to change 18 Torphichen street from office to residential, with a roof deck and extra dormer, it was agreed to uphold a general policy of opposing roof terraces.</p> <p>Two cycle signals are to be installed at Bishops Walk.</p> <p>Paul Hancock noted that there had been over 70 comments regarding summer pop up café from the public. It is understood that the café is not to be permanent.</p> <p>Support was voiced for increased development of CCTV cameras.</p> <p>It was noted with satisfaction that permission to park a burger van in the vicinity of Haymarket Station had been refused.</p> <p>Fiona Searle, reported vis à vis the Grosvenor Hilton Hotel that different plans had now been submitted, with additional soundproofing, and access to the proposed holiday apartments being via the hotel itself rather than the Palmerston Lane courtyard.</p>	
<p>13. Next Meetings</p> <p>5th October and 2nd November</p>	

There being no further business Dr Wyllie closed the meeting.

Appendix. Police Report provided to and distributed by Paul Hancock.



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**West End Community
Council Newsletter**

City Centre Community Policing Team
Issue 5 – September 2021

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September 2021

Looking Back



With August coming to a close, along with a scaled back Edinburgh Fringe Festival, we are able to look back on the month as a success in returning to normality. There were approximately 520,000 tickets sold for events in 140 venues across the city, along with many online or free events. These numbers of course welcomed a much heavier footfall within the city centre, larger than actually expected.

There were 3 shifts of 20 officers on duty to address issues linked to the Festival, working alongside partner agencies such as the City of Edinburgh Council in order to facilitate a safe and enjoyable experience for all residents and visitors.

With Covid-19 restrictions allowing the re-opening of pubs and clubs this month, 'Operation NightGuard' has returned. This is the dedicated weekend patrol of the city centre during Friday and Saturday nights to handle any issues arising from the night time economy. This is focused on the City Centre, however a large element of this detail is encouraging people to disperse promptly at the end of the night using public transport.

Whilst officers are not deployed directly to the West End area for this purpose, this undoubtedly has a positive impact on anti-social behaviour and disorder in the areas surrounding the city centre.

What We're Noticing

Throughout the last month, there have of course been a number of incidents within the city centre that have made national news. These have not occurred within the West End Community Council area, however have been widely reported. The fire at the premises on George IV Bridge required a co-ordinated response from all emergency services which in the initial stages was somewhat resource-intensive. This has now been scaled back, and whilst the roads in the vicinity remain closed to vehicles, George IV Bridge is open to pedestrians, with the Council now working hard to have the road fully reopened as soon as possible.

The increased numbers of officers deployed to the town centre and the surrounding areas for the Festival resulted in also a number of successful drug searches carried out throughout the month. These searches are carried out either as a result of officers' own observations, or as intelligence led initiatives. Drug use continues to be an issue that we seek to address through our own proactive work, and through working with partner agencies, due to the associated anti-social behaviour and criminality, as well as the welfare concerns for users.

As ever, we are only able to react to what we know what is happening, so if you have any information that may assist us in targeting dealers or helping those in crisis, please do let us know via 101, or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Looking Forward

September 10th brings us World Suicide Prevention Day whereby local officers will work in conjunction with the Edinburgh Suicide Prevention Steering Group to host events and stalls at various locations around the city. Sadly, self-harm and suicide linked to mental health concerns make up a large proportion of what we deal with these days, however with the stigma surrounding these issues becoming less prevalent, giving us the opportunity to talk frankly with people experiencing these issues to offer support and guidance. If you think you, or anyone you know would benefit from this, please feel free to come along and speak to our officers. Information of these can be found on the next slide.

Looking forward to the Autumn months, we expect football crowds to return to Tynecastle, and rugby crowds to return to Murrayfield for the Autumn Internationals. This will inevitably result in increased pedestrian traffic in the West End area, however working with our partners at City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian Buses, arrangements will be made to ensure fans can travel to and from the grounds safely, and there will be a dedicated police detail to assist the public and deal with any disorder should it occur inside or outside the ground.

Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes night are on the horizon now, each of which present unique policing challenges, however we will look to ensure that there is a sufficient detail on duty to deal with any issues these festivities should bring.

As ever, should you wish to bring anything to our attention, or have us address any particular issues, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

City Centre Community Policing Team

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Advice and Support

World Suicide Prevention Week Events

08/09/2021	1100-1400	Ocean Terminal	Community Interactive Stall	Police Scotland Chris's House Edinburgh Carers Council Trans Alliance Penumbra
08/09/2021	1200-1400	Veteran's Café, Stafford Centre, Broughton Street	Information Stall	Police Scotland Thrive Veteran's First Point
09/09/2021	1100-1400	Cameron Toll Shopping Centre	Community Interactive Stall	Police Scotland Chris's House Pauline - Lothian Veteran's Centre
10/09/2020	1100-1400	Bristo Square	Community Interactive Stall	Police Scotland Chris's House Cat - Thrive Sam / Nick Penumbra



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About Us



Local Area Commander:

Chief Inspector Clark Martin

City Centre Community Policing Team - West End Police Station:

Inspector Mark Hamilton

Sergeant Cameron Walker

Sergeant David Duthie

Plus 8 officers allocated to community issues in Edinburgh's City Centre.

Contact Us:



101 for non emergencies



contactus@Scotland.pnn.police.uk



@EdinPoISE



Edinburgh Police Division



www.scotland.police.uk

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