**Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting – Minutes**

**Date:** 19 April 2017

**Time:** 19:00-21:00

**Location:** Heritage Centre, Dower House, St. Margaret’s Park, Corstorphine

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**Attendees**

W Hope, C Stewart, S Ramsay, I Todd, D Latimer, D McCall, B Rattray, T Ni Lionnain, K Wright (DBCC), I Kirkpatrick, J Melville, E Donaldson, I Meiklejohn, S Murray, S Kerr, F Ross, T McLean, J Beck

**Apologies**

C Connachan, J Balfour (CEC), P Edie (CEC), A Cole-Hamilton (MSP), G Swann (FoCH), K Keil (CEC)

Paul Edie and Jeremy Balfour have advised hat they are both stepping down at the end of their current terms. They thank the CCC for the many years of working together. The CCC concur and wish both the best.

**Police Report –** PC Euan XXX

* Patrolling over last month focused on youth issues/behaviour; still issues to resolve.
* Housebreaking patrolling also; seems to be quite effective.

**Crime Stats**

* Carrick Knowe
  + 5 house breaking (including 1 outdoor shed and one curtlage), 4 violence, 4 anti soc, 14 vandalisms, 16 theft/dishonesty, 7 misc (traffic, etc). Of these, 13 solved (26%).
  + Noted that there were 245 more calls to police over this time last year; mostly youth anti-social related.
* Corstorphine
  + 1 house breaking, 2 violence, 2 anti solcial, 1 vandalism, 10 theft/dishonesty, 12 misc. Of these, 8 solved (27%).
  + 154 calls vs last year’s 94.

Solvency at 45% this time last year, with 25 total crimes. However, crime has stayed level/low if youth misbehavour not counted. Positive note: increase in calls means an increase in involvement/engagement by local neighbours.

Housebreaking team update: Sally Hair and Beauty victim on both on 1st and 14th April. Overall, local trend lowering.

Youth antisocial behaviour is a \*\*SIGNIFICANT ISSUE\*\* -- many kids coming over from Broomhall, Saughton, Drylaw, Leith and even Dalkeith. Believe it is due to greenspace (Corstorphine Woods).

Serious crimes happening in addition to nuisances:

* Balgreen tram lines (past golf course) Two runners harassed/assaulted by local gang. Two others, interval trainers, attacked by kids. Lone female runner was grabbed. Due to inability to drive on path, patrols have been unable to react quickly/catch offenders. Working with Oxgangs and Wester Hailes to identify youths.
* Recent mixture of vandalism of cars and homes.

Similar issues in Drumbrae and South Queenferry with sometimes gangs of up to 50+ kids.

Planning/strategy for summer: looking to work with local groups/CCs to find a way to engage these kids before further problems.

Police Scotland – Your View Counts. Members of the CCC and the Public are encourage to provide input: **http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation/your view counts**

All cops will be cycle trained in the next month.

B Rattray question – How to deal with kids on motorbikes in South Gyle park? Response: Immediately upon incident, inform CEC.

Noted that food waste being dumped near park; CEC should be advised.

Featherhall South & Featherhall Ave - Request by D Latimer to look a current parking of a local business van in neighbourhood.

Craigs Drive & Craigs Road - request by W Hope to look at current parking.

K Wright - Requested clarification on source of youth issues. Recent success in Pilton and Drylaw seems to have driven troubles here. Police rep agrees. Can joint intel between neighbourhoods be utilized to proactively deal with this movement? Response: This is slowly improving.

J Beck question - Has a case study been done for other city(ies) which may have had success resolving similar problems? Response: None to date.

I Todd - Any further development on pavement parking law? Response: No, to date. F Ross - considered a 'reserved matter' for Westminster. Have been transferred to SP powers with Scotland Act, but to come under consultation.

**ACTION (JB):** Will hold an offsite session amongst local CCs and with Police Scotland. Invitation to be sent out in coming two weeks.

**Councillor's Report** – F Ross

Pedestrian crossing at Kaimes Road – expect work to be completed this financial year; exact timing to be confirmed.

B Rattray asks if hump in middle of path that comes into David Lloyd’s Centre can be looked at, as it prevents cycles and strollers from moving forward easily. ACTION: F Ross to

I Todd asks if it is possible to have cleaning done in Maybury car wash area?  Also notes the rubbish on hill surrounding B&M. S Ramsey notes that at top of Ladywell Avenue, dog waste bags are regularly left in gutter.

All agree it is responsibility of both members of the public, local business owners and the CCC to take the lead in cleaning up such rubbish as able. Must lead by example to encourage others to take better care of community.

B Rattray has concerns regarding issue with light at Drumbrae and response from CEC. **ACTION: JB** to forward letter to F Ross for further input (**Update:** sent 23rd April).

S Kerr notes example of a Chicago initiative whereby council drop supplies and neighbourhood cleans; **ACTION** – **SK** will send details to F Ross for distributing within CEC.

K Wright - notes that Drumbrae/Clermiston have done similar projects in past, and are planning to do the same at Clermiston Pavilion in coming weeks.

W Hopes notes health/safety issue could arise if use wrong items to clean graffiti, etc.  F Ross assures that this would be considered if such an initiative were to be supported by CEC.

K Keil email read:

* Updates on/processes for business licenses – Still waiting for someone to advise; will chase imminently.
* Clermiston and Drumbrae Gala takes place on 27th & 28th May at Drumbrae Park. If anyone…would like stalls at the Gala, please email clerdrumgala@hotmail.com

**Planning Subcommittee** – W Hope

* Planning application for the Maybury site has been denied, as of today.
* Belgrade Road was recommended to be granted. Noted by F Ross that approval was passed today.
* 100 F Saughton Road North – Complaints from local residents received that the premises is operating as a fast food take away despite the original application for conversion from retail to cafe having been REFUSED on 11/05/2015. Breach of Conditions Investigation request submitted.
* EACC – Representative of Ratho raised issues for disabled transferring buses after 9pm, at Gyle shopping centre. Currently, no weather-protected seating for disabled while waiting. Feedback from owner is that nothing more can be done than current seating available. Noted that area in question is on public property.
* Planning consultation requires feedback from more members than have been given in past. Unauthorised camping by Gypsies/Travellers, land reform, and Edinburgh's world heritage status are items that require addressing. W Hope asks that members please go onto consultation sites as individuals, to save time (**ACTION – All**).

**Business Subcommittee – T Ni Lionnain/S Kerr**

S Kerr notes that Tax Accountants has agreed to act as business hub for area. However, would ask that visitors use their machines for information security purposes, versus own. It is noted by a couple of members that this requirement may not work for many local professionals. T Ni Lionnain she has meeting with owner in a couple of weeks, and will discuss the details/terms at that time.

Two Edinburgh Napier students, Rory Wilson and Dan Hunter, presented on recent Student Live survey results, ideas for marketing Corstorphine, etc. This survey done as part of the Live Project, which requires that students interact with businesses and do report for grade. Sent out questionnaire for general public in surrounding areas (looking in) and for locals. Outsiders were kinder than those who live locally.

Points discussed:

* Con: No focal point/hub for communication. Recommendation: Website important for the town, with up and coming events, school holidays, etc.
* Recommend a Corstorphine card that lists local cafes, shops, etc. Loyalty scheme card that gives points for usage. ‘We Love Leith’ has a reusable bag that, when used, local shops give discounts.
* To tie in with zoo - a discount at local cafe for zoo visitors that day suggested.
* Heritage marketing - advertising a locale based on its history. Targets both local and external (eg. Corstorphine Tower) public.
* Other feedback: ‘modern’ restaurant would be nice. Something other than charity shops. Cycling paths away from the polluted road.
* Pros: Green spaces.
* House prices were higher than expected (above £250k) which is attractive to potential new business owners. However, because rates are so expensive for local shops, recommend a farmers' market once a month, etc. All agree this would be a good idea. **DECISION: All** agree this is something to research in coming months.
* Cafes got mid-grade of 'happy with'. Schools very high grade. Restaurants given a lowest grade.

**Lesson learnt:** have one shared presence online.

K Wright notes that local shops in Borders villages sell a parking voucher for £1 to allow shoppers to pay very low amount for permitted parking. Also, recommends having something that advertises local travel times for trains, buses, etc.

S Murray noted that a lot of people visit the zoo from outside Scotland, via train. How do we get people beyond the immediate vicinity of zoo? I Kirkpatrick suggests getting zoo hotel (Holiday Inn) to work with other businesses in the area to encourage visitors to stay longer and visit local shops/cafes.

Assorted ideas and solutions discussed to help bring in visitors and businesses. All agree starts with appreciation and marketing of what is already here, with open mind to new growth and sympathetic change.

Full results to be sent out to all members with minutes of this meeting and will be posted on CCC website for the Public. – **JB/IM ACTION.**

**Environment Subcommittee** – S Murray

Next Environment working group meeting is Monday, the 24th, at S Murray’s house. **J Beck ACTION** – send out placemaking trends/themes prior to meeting so can look at potential projects.

Discussion regarding potential for dog park St Margarent’s to help cut tension between dog owners and non-dog owners. Currently a pilot dog park in another park in city. **S Kerr ACTION –** send info on this to members.

**Youth Engagement** – J Beck

Akhila (new Youth Community Rep) and Tom Rae have postponed their attendance to May.

Due to earlier raised issues with youth misbehaviour in area, it is agreed that a project led by the local CCCs and community Police reps is needed. Ideas discussed: graffiti wall and waste-recycle art contest. **ALL ACTION**: send ideas/researched case studies of successful such projects in other cities before offsite meeting to come to discuss. **JB ACTION** to schedule with Police, other CCs, local youth groups, etc.

**Non-Planning Consultations** – J Beck

Requests for CCC responses to Spatial Policy (*due 14th May*) and Parking in Scotland (*due 30th June*) surveys/consultations will be handled by **J Beck (ACTION)** on behalf of the wider CCC. J Beck has forwarded the information to members via email, if anyone wishes to provide input. **S Murray** will do the same (**ACTION**) for the consultation/survey on oil and fracking (*due 31st May*). ALL are to provide their input to JB and SM a week before each due dates for each consultation.

**Previous Meeting’s Minutes** – S Kerr

* S Murray provided this update via email, prior to tonight’s meeting:
  + Further to meeting re St Margarets Park, via Twitter, Lesley Hinds (CEC) connected CCC directly to the Parks team.
  + S Murray followed up with more detail directly with the Parks team and then subsequently arranged a meeting with 2 of the local rangers and CCC Chair, S Kerr.  The meeting was positive and hopefully will be the start of more dialogue and action in the park.
* W Hope proposes
* T Ni Lionnain seconds

**Correspondence and Social Media** – J Beck/I Mieklejohn/S Murray

* J Beck notes that correspondence updates were noted above (see **Non-Planning Consultations**).
* I Mieklejohn and S Murray note growing presence online. However, due to restricted volunteer resource, it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the growing information. Patience is appreciated.
* I Mieklejohn and S Murray ask that any social media submission be first saved as a jpeg file.

**AOB**

* T Mclean notes that Friends of Gyle Park AGM is tomorrow night (see website for details).
* Ken Swinney appreciation/New Zealand twin city event – S Kerr notes that he is still working with relevant parties on this and hopes to have confirmed dates very soon.