

Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting - Online

Date/time: Tuesday 21 September 2021, 7.00 pm

Attendees: Councillors: Cllr Claire Bridgman, Cllr Mark Brown, Cllr Frank Ross

Community Councillors and Associated Groups: Steve Kerr (Chair), Vikki Brown (Minutes), Angela Benzies, Claire Connachan (Planning), Jane Kerr (Corstorphine Trust), Ian Kirkpatrick (Corstorphine Churches Together), Margaret Mackay (Scottish Women's Institute), Tommy McLean, Jonathan Melville, Susan Murray, Nathan Readie (South Gyle Proprietors Association), Robert Stokes (Forrester Park Residents Association), David Sutherland (Corstorphine Community Centre), Keith Walker (Friends of Gyle Park).

Public: Alan Beal, Eilidh Brunton, Rosemary Faith Ryan, Karen Smith, Cynthia Taylor.

Guest Speaker: Craig Ormond, Director Mctaggart & Mickel

Apologies: Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Deborah McCall, Fiona Moug, Pam Sked.

Minutes of May Meeting: Proposed Ian Kirkpatrick/Seconded Rosemary Faith Ryan

Declarations of Interest - None.

Police Report – via email from PC Sam Davison

Community Police Officers can be contacted at EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk. The official monthly report was not available at the time of meeting but can be accessed [here](#). Margaret Mackay noted concern about a person begging outside Scotmid on Drumbrae South as she had witnessed them being dropped off and picked up and felt it could be a sign of trafficking. Having spoken to some patrolling officers she didn't feel her concerns were taken seriously. Nathan Readie advised that the best course of action would be to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and give as much detail as possible.

Susan Murray highlighted importance of the [Herbert Protocol](#) to help Police with tracking persons with dementia.

Craig Ormond, Mactaggart & Mickel re Development of 181-195 St John's Road

An overview of the development and timescales were given along with the opportunity to ask questions. Key points included:

- All existing tenant leases are due to expire June 2022.
- There will be 14,000 sqft of retail space. Planning a minimum of 4 units. Happy to discuss with current tenants but there will be an 18 month programme for demolition and build so expect existing businesses to start to find new premises. Currently 7 businesses operating and all are aware of the development.
- Planning consent obtained Jan/Feb 2020, valid for 4 years. 12 conditions attached.
- Prestart conditions include Site Investigation (partially completed – boreholes in parking area), Drainage (Scottish Water offer to connect) and Archaeological.
- Demolition warrant lodged. Comments back from Building Officer - next step is to tender.
- Responded to the Corstorphine South LTN consultation due to potential impact to Manse Road and to highlight plans that had been approved which include lining, works to lighting and pedestrian priority. Smart traffic lights which are able to acknowledge queuing traffic were also in plan. Craig Ormond stated that their Traffic Advisor could attend a future Community Council meeting if it would be of interest.
- Looking at tenure mix – consideration being given to all units being for rent and Mactaggart & Mickel will be landlord for all retail units.
- Parking under consideration. Balance to be found. Corstorphine well connected but parking is expected if units are for sale and there is a Planning overlay to take into account. St John's Road is incredibly busy with resulting pollution. If car share scheme/parking/drainage scheme is impacted by changes to plans, further planning and consultation would be required. Percentage of car ownership for rental properties is less than owner occupier. Have seen car ownership decline in sector, especially in younger demographic.
- There will be 35 properties – bike loops will be provided for all.

Councillor Reports

Cllr Ross

- Nothing over and above updates previously given.

Cllr Bridgman

- Completion certificates – if any issues being experienced, please get in touch.

Cllr Brown

- Development Management sub committee (Some planning decisions are taken by the Development Management sub committee. This happens if the proposal is significant or potentially controversial. The committee usually meets every two weeks, except during holiday periods, and is open to the public). Weekend/Farmer's Market at St Margaret's Park and an application for 213 homes at West Craigs both to be discussed at next committee.
- In response to Margaret Mackay's comment on begging, Cllr Brown noted that there are lots of agencies involved and engagement through street work is undertaken across the city. 13 people have been identified as potential victims/modern slavery. 50 have been supported in repatriation. Perhaps not seeing as many since Covid pandemic as homeless people given hotel rooms.

Questions to Councillors

- Tommy McLean noted that Westerbroom Place has new street lights but they are completely surrounded by trees which may affect lighting quality. Cllr Ross advised that he had noticed this too and has taken it as a question for officers.
- Nathan Readie advised that Top Spec/City Fibre are charged £36 for every defect not addressed and charged every 6 weeks. Gogarloch double and single yellow lines have been wrecked - they will only repair the section dug up. Believes it will be a city wide problem.

Planning

- [Planning report](#) circulated prior to meeting.
- Market at St Margaret's Park is likely to be approved at Development Management sub committee.
- Housing development – one parcel in Turnhouse development
- Vikki Brown attended Development Management sub committee to present deputation on behalf of Corstorphine Community Council regarding a new access road for Edinburgh Airport. The application was rejected but is likely to be taken to Reporter.
- Planning Application in Principle has been lodged for housing in area currently zoned as green belt – Claire Connachan inclined to submit strongly worded objection. Steve Kerr noted agreement with this stance.
- 2 South Gyle Crescent – Tesco site. Housing, retail etc but no documents associated with application as yet.
- Jane Kerr noted that Corstorphine Trust had been contacted by a resident in Featherhall Avenue to highlight an application to site a 20ft pole (ref. 21/04467/PA). Cllr Brown noted that there are a number of phone mast applications – many are permitted development. Susan Murray noted concern about potential damage to trees and also that the proposed area does flood which may be pertinent to this application. Cllr Ross noted that there had been 3 objections received to date, if 7 are received it must go to committee.
- Cllr Ross advised that the bulk of development in the [City Plan](#) is for brownfield sites, but some green. Will influence next 7-10 years so important for all to review.
- [Consultation on short term let](#) – open until 5th November. AirBnB hollowing out of city centre. When look at Corstorphine/Carrick Knowe there are more than might be expected. Would be pertinent to put in a response from Corstorphine Community Council.

Corstorphine Business

- 2 meetings have taken place to discuss challenges. Angela Benzies attends Business Champion meeting – common threads across the city. Looking at trying to get other businesses involved and forge relationships. Looking at varying meeting times to suit.
- Shop Here This Year – CEC has had good facilities and help still available. Important for local businesses to engage and supply photos.
- New campaign re match funding – could end up with £5-6k for each of the town areas.
- Vikki Brown confirmed that Corstorphine Window Wanderland would be taking place again - in plan for February 2022. Angela Benzies advised that a Christmas window dressing event was also under consideration.
- Steve Kerr advised that Parkgrove Medical are looking to change their boundary catchment. Ladywell was omitted. Will circulate when have more detail.

- Meeting held with Steve Kerr and RZSS to discuss their desire to work with the community on local inclusion. Open to ideas, working with local charities etc, use of premises for meetings. Angela Benzies noted that previous attempts to engage didn't get far however the 'pop up' shops during the winter lights festival last year had been positive and a small winter fayre or similar would be beneficial to the community. Steve Kerr suggested that he would be keen to invite them to a Community Council meeting in the not too distant future. **Action: Steve Kerr to forward email to Cllr Ross regarding RZSS willingness to engage to be flagged with Chief Executive of CEC.**

Environment

Low Emissions Zone

Steve Kerr noted his thanks to Claire Connachan for work done on LEZ response. At EACC, Council officials acknowledged that there would be an increase in emissions at the boundary of the LEZ.

Net Zero Strategy

Steve Kerr submitted a response to the Net Zero Strategy consultation on behalf of Corstorphine Community Council.

St Margaret's Park

Looking at putting together a holistic plan for St Margaret's Park – an initial rough plan has been drafted as part of looking at tree planting which could be used as discussion document. Cllr George Gordon chairs a committee which has some budget for greenspace and Steve Kerr is hoping to arrange a meeting soon with interested parties.

Community Council Approach to Climate Change

Jon Melville flagged that it would be helpful for the Community Council to consider climate change impact as well as economics when considering applications/issues. Discussion took place around Net Zero, traffic and flooding implications of market, LTN/Space for People. Claire Connachan noted that it was important not to conflate with Council policy. Steve Kerr noted that if buying into Net Zero strategy, it is essential to have communities on board.

Tommy McLean suggested that it may be prudent to review the situation with regards to the market after a given time. Cllr Ross noted that there is a licensing aspect as well as a planning aspect but added that he didn't envisage a huge number of people driving to visit the market. Jon Melville stated that we are in a position that we don't/can't know for certain but given SfP and LTN pushback to date, it doesn't seem realistic to think that people won't drive.

Susan Murray noted that previously it was the Placemaking exercise that helped to provide guidance to the Community Council. Do we use principals of the past to guide now? Steve Kerr responded that we would perhaps need to revisit and consider how to use as a reference point.

Voluntary Sector Update

Lottery – Climate Change project fund - Together for Our Planet Fund. Ideas welcome.

Margaret Mackay noted that litter from children at the 3 High Schools in the area was particularly problematic. Could the Community Council approach the schools? Steve Kerr responded that have contacted Craigmount High School in the past. Tommy Mclean felt that bins may be part of the problem as there are less bins now and that it may be worth reviewing the bin locations. Vikki Brown suggested that Hubbub may be able to help with creating an imaginative and engaging project to highlight the wider impacts of littering. Would perhaps be relevant to the lottery project fund.

AOB

Remembrance service on 14th November. Schools event on 11th November to help manage numbers. Steve Kerr will lay wreath on behalf of Corstorphine Community Council on whichever date works best for number management.

The next meeting will take place Tuesday 26th October 2021, 7.00 pm online via Zoom.

These minutes are also available online at <http://corstorphinecc.uk/minutes/>.