

Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting - Online

Date/time: Tuesday 17 November 2021, 7.00 pm

Attendees: Councillors: Cllr Mark Brown, Cllr Gillian Gloyer

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), Deborah McCall, Tommy McLean, Jonathan Melville, Susan Murray, Ania Sepol (Friends of Gyle Park), Robert Stokes (Forrester Park Residents Association), David Sutherland (Corstorphine Community Centre).

Public: 9 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Frank Ross, John Kerr, Fiona Moug, Nathan Readie, Pam Sked, Keith Walker.

Minutes of May Meeting: Proposed Ian Kirkpatrick/Seconded Tommy McLean.

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](#).

Community Council Reform and Boundary Review

There are 44 active and 2 inactive Community Councils in Edinburgh). As chair of Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC), Steve Kerr has formed a steering group with representation from across the city to look at governance issues and boundary review. The boundary review will affect Corstorphine Community Council as it is important to take account of the new developments to the west which will increase the population. Ward boundaries and population, including projections for new developments, should both be taken into account when redrawing boundaries. Next Community Council elections will take place in May 2024. Review will take approximately 9 months from start to finish so it will be complete prior to next elections.

Councillor Reports

Cllr Gloyer

- Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) went to Transport & Environment Committee. Green amendment was successful to review the boundary proposals.
- Planning permission has been granted for flats at the 'Shoppers Car Park' next to Corstorphine Police Station on Meadow Place Road. Disappointing that Tesco decided to sell site – there was nothing in the deeds to prevent sale. Cllr Gloyer has asked Planners to consider developer contribution.

Cllr Brown

- TRO has been advertised (TRO 20/20) to reduce speed limit to 30mph from 40mph. If objections don't delay, should be implemented Spring 2022.

Deborah McCall noted concern about potential increase in air pollution as new building on Meadow Place Road could cause a tunnel effect. Featherhall area has seen an increase in vehicles using Featherhall Crescent North and South to park following the closure of the shoppers car park.

Planning

- Planning report circulated prior to meeting.
- Erection of telecoms apparatus 40 metres north west of 41 Ladywell Avenue (21/04467/PA). As this comes under permitted development, it is difficult to challenge. The application has been approved.
- Decking outside The Centurion at top of Featherhall Avenue. An objection was been submitted by the Community Council following feedback from some residents. The application has now been withdrawn and will monitor for future activity.
- Application for housing in West Craigs has been granted Planning Permission in Principal.
- City Plan 2030 - huge repercussions for west Edinburgh. Significant additional housing plans over and above that proposed in Local Development Plan. Claire Connachan attended online meeting on 11th November which was quite helpful. Plan is very strategic and doesn't go into detail. Transport aspects are covered in the [City Mobility Plan](#). Susan Murray noted

concern that current rights of way will only have to be maintained if it is proved they are in use and highlighted the importance of ensuring rights of way are not lost. See www.scotways.com to find out more about rights of way. Ramblers Scotland may also be of interest www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland

- Westfield House update – David Sutherland advised that the Community Centre are still looking to undertake a Community Asset Transfer and hope to have an update soon.
- There have been a couple of planning applications submitted over the year to convert the former toilet block on St John's Road to a café. Restrictions to kitchen mean that will be limited to soup urn, microwave, panini grill.

Corstorphine Business

- Come to Corstorphine for Christmas campaign, encouraging window displays etc. Corstorphine Primary School planning an 'Elfie Hunt' which may fit well with this.
- Christmas Market being held in the outdoor space at The Torfin. Taking place 4th/5th December from 11am-3pm featuring local crafters. There will be approximately 15 stalls.
- Some traders struggling with staffing issues.
- Specsavers moving to Craighleith Retail Park.

Environment

Low Emissions Zone

Proposed boundary was city-centric and it is hoped that this will be addressed with Green amendment succeeding at Transport & Environment Committee. Expected to come back to Transport & Environment Committee in January.

COP26

Lots of enthusiasm for doing community work around COP26. Obligation on Community Councils to decide what they will do to support Net Zero target. Need to collectively decide what we want to do. A resident has been in touch to flag an opportunity to apply for support to create a Community Climate Action Plan. Would be keen to look at the potential to undertake a community heating initiative. If anyone has any other suggestions, please get in touch via admin@corstorphinecc.uk.

Placemaking

Planning to undertake placemaking exercise in April/May next year. Likely to be significant proportion of work undertaken online.

Voluntary Sector Update

Tommy McLean gave an overview of recent voluntary sector work:

- West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network Grants Workshop taking place on 23rd November. Hoping to encourage and enable new applicants.
- Corstorphine Christmas Support Project – Looking to provide food and Christmas treats to families. Donation points across Corstorphine to be announced. If anyone is aware of a family in need of support, get in touch with the Foodbank at Corstorphine Community Church or Tommy McLean.
- Next Voluntary Sector Forum takes place on 9th December 2021.

AOB

- Jon Melville noted thanks to Steve Kerr for placing a wreath on behalf of the Community Council at the Remembrance Day service at Corstorphine Old Parish church.
- All welcomed the reopening of Corstorphine Library as it is a very valued facility.
- Margaret Mackay enquired about the possibility of widening the path in the Gyle Park to create a better experience for those using mobility aids such as motorised wheelchairs. Tommy McLean advised that this has been investigated previously but there was no funding available. Currently working on raising the funds for installation of lighting.
- Winter preparation – **Action:** Ensure your local grit bin is filled or if you feel a new one is required, you can submit a request via <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/gritting-grit-bins> **Action:** Cllr Gloyer to follow up on tipped grit bin at corner of Corstorphine High Street next to Old Parish Church Hall entrance.
- Steve Kerr noted concern that there are still many blocked drains in the area.
- Next meeting adjusted due to proximity to Christmas. All agreed to bring forward by one week.

Meeting ended at 8.48pm. The next meeting will take place Tuesday 14th December 2022, 7.00 pm online via Zoom.