

## **Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting - Online**

**Date/time:** Tuesday 16 August 2021, 7.00 pm

**Attendees: Councillors:** Cllr Beal, Cllr Ross,

**Community Councillors and Associated Groups:** Steve Kerr (Chair), Vikki Brown (Minutes), Shulah Allan (Corstorphine Community Centre), Angela Benzies, Claire Connachan (Planning), Jane Kerr (Corstorphine Trust), Ian Kirkpatrick (Corstorphine Churches Together), Tommy McLean, Jonathan Melville, Nathan Readie, Robert Stokes (Forrester Park Residents Association), Keith Walker

**Public:** 5 members of the public were in attendance

**Guests:** Martyn Lings, City of Edinburgh Council

**Apologies:** Cllr Davidson, Cllr Hyslop, Cllr Thornley, Margaret Mackay (Scottish Women's Institute), Fiona Moug (Treasurer), David Sutherland (Corstorphine Community Centre), Chris Young (Low Traffic Corstorphine), PC Sam Davison

**Minutes of June Meeting:** Proposed Ian Kirkpatrick/Seconded Angela Benzies. Amended to add Margaret Mackay as attendee and version 2 issued in advance of meeting.

**Co-opting of individuals and organisations:** none.

**Declarations of Interest:** none.

### **Corstorphine Business – Angela Benzies**

- Exploring options for shared working spaces at new Community Centre on Kirk Loan for homeworkers and those looking for desk space.
- Four businesses, two of which are members of Corstorphine Business have been broken into recently. Would be helpful to have signposting for support and advice from Police. Steve Kerr noted that he had spoken with PC Sam Davison who was unable to attend August meeting at last moment because of duties but he will attend September meeting. Nathan Readie offered to put Angela Benzies in touch with the Crime Prevention Team.
- Adding to membership although still some issues with engagement. Heartening to see regular communications and attendance at meetings.

Steve Kerr noted that he had attended a number of high-level meetings over the summer and Corstorphine Business was first thing that was mentioned so word seem to be really getting out.

### **Corstorphine Connections Update – Martyn Lings, City of Edinburgh Council**

Procurement issues have caused a delay to the project. Team was given legal advice that they would need to go back out to tender. Have liaised with the developer of the St John's Road site to ensure that works are aligned especially as the new development has a Planning condition attached to improve the junction with Manse Road. Whilst waiting for the procurement process to complete, have been undertaking design work for Kirk Loan improvements to address problem parking. Baseline monitoring is being carried out including pedestrian tracking to show preferred routings, traffic volumes (traffic broadly same except for High Street which is currently lower – investigating to see if any obvious cause such as road works etc). Air quality monitoring has shown High Street has lowest air quality but it still remains within the Air Quality Strategy Standards. Attitudinal surveys for residents living within the LTN area have also been undertaken and a report will be shared in due course.

Martyn Lings will be attending Community Council meetings to provide updates throughout the Corstorphine Connections trial period.

### **Police Report – via email from PC Sam Davison**

Community Police Officers can be contacted at [EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk). The official monthly report can be accessed [here](#).

### **Councillor Reports and Q&A**

Cllr Ross

- Have asked for more parking enforcement.

- Clermiston Road resurfacing – gullies are meant to be taped and protected and cleaned afterwards – not convinced that this is happening.

#### Cllr Beal

- Gullies have been blocked for a while, will be chasing up.
- Bowling Green in St Margaret's Park – what is the history? Cllr Ross advised that it is operated by Edinburgh Leisure. Believe relatively small group of users. Cllr Ross will write to Edinburgh Leisure to see if can encourage them to advertise more. Corstorphine Bowling holds 'come and try' events twice a month. Tommy McLean noted that it would be good to have that information in the Voluntary Sector leaflet.

Nathan Readie noted that the new fencing at Gyle Park is great but that problem parking has now moved to the other side of the road or cars squeeze through gaps in the fence. It was advised that Councillors from Drumbrae/Gyle ward and Friends of Gyle Park are working on a solution.

#### **Planning – Claire Connachan**

- [Planning report](#) circulated prior to meeting.
- Housing development at Turnhouse has been granted for 267 dwellings.
- Licensing change request – change from a restaurant (Fabio's) to hot food takeaway. Still awaiting assessment.

#### **Community Engagement – Tommy McLean**

- The community engagement update can be accessed [here](#).
- Cost of living/poverty – looking for volunteers for social isolation sub group. Contact Tommy McLean direct or via [admin@corstorphinecc.uk](mailto:admin@corstorphinecc.uk) if interested.
- Looking to gauge if Community Council would be interested in supporting the Christmas food bank drive – last year approximately 50 families received parcels. The Community Church are unable to support this year so looking for group to help and provide space. **Action: Tommy McLean to bullet point detail of what would be required to support.**
- Local provision for young people. Lots happening, if anyone is keen to be involved, get in touch.
- Voluntary Sector Forum Leaflets – good response so far, word getting out. If anyone can help distribute leaflets, please get in touch with Tommy McLean.
- Health in Mind – support for unpaid carers at Drumbrae Library – held monthly.
- Friends of Gyle Park – looking at how people want to see the park develop. Walks, bench locations, opportunities for memorial benches, community orchard, wee forest and lighting.

#### **Community Centre Update – Shulah Allan**

- 8 weeks since getting keys for Westfield House.
- Some testing and preparatory work wasn't able to be undertaken due to timescales between signing lease and having access to Westfield House.
- Predominantly operating on the ground floor as no lift in building at present. Unable to install while leasing so will need to wait until the building is purchased.
- Not allowed to sub lease but people can hire rooms – have had a mix of enquiries from people who would like to use the building.
- Lots of visitors and requests to come and see the building. Currently have 10 volunteers working to greet people.
- Committee looking at how the building can be used by 'anchor' tenants along with short term users. Really exciting time and lots to be done. Committee have been amazing and have all the local councillors on the committee too.

Steve Kerr noted his congratulations and that it was great to hear about all the work that's been going on.

#### **Environment**

- Steve Kerr was invited to be a panel member for the Shared Prosperity Fund as Chair of Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. 85 projects were considered from a variety of applicants. Craigsbank Parish Church have applied for funding to run a community café to create community meeting place and address social isolation.

- Potential for money left over from Shared Prosperity Fund. Steve Kerr noted that there could be potential to ask for funding for St Margaret's Park to progress the creation of a masterplan for improvements to the park.
- Edinburgh Association of Community Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Lesley Marion Cameron will be attending to talk on the direction of the new Council administration.

#### **AOB**

- Development on St John's Road may affect Community Council noticeboard location. **Action:** Steve Kerr to ascertain if it can be retained in its current location.
- Potential opportunity for funding to create a Community Climate Action Plan via Keep Scotland Beautiful. Believe worth pursuing but resource/time constraints may be an issue.
- Expansion of 20mph across Edinburgh – consultation will take place in October.

Meeting ended at 9.00pm. The next meeting will take place Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00 pm online via Zoom.