



Gorgie Dalry Community Council Minutes

Monday 4th February 2024

Attendees

GDCC

Joan Gordon – Chair (JG), Mathew Reilly (MR), Calum Ross (CR), Rona Brown (RB)

Councillors

Ross McKenzie (RM)

Local Residents

Robert Bain – Caledonian Village (RB), Chris Magowan (CM), Barbara Roberts – GDS Church (BR), Graeme Shields (GS), Marie Stein – Caledonian Village (MS), Shona Thomson – Living Rent/Minutes (ST), Zoë Webster (ZW), Cat Young – Gorgie Farm (CY)

WELCOME

JG opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and facilitated introductions.

Quorum and Apologies

Angela Astor – GDCC, John Vincent – St Martin of Tours
The meeting was quorate.

Approval of Minute of Meeting held on 4th December 2023

Proposed by CR. Seconded by MR.

Matters Arising

JG thanked everyone who helped make the Christmas Lights Switch-on such a success: CR and BR for judging the winning shop window; GDS Church for hosting Mrs Claus and the refreshments; the Councillors for support, PA system and the Council technical support. It was well-attended with around 60 people there including the Dalry Primary School choir and their families.

CR and the attendees thanked JG for all her work in making the event happen.

MR confirmed the bank account address change is still delayed despite continuous requests being made to the bank by GDCC.

Actions: JG sending a personal cheque to Friends of Dalry Cemetery for the display case and will be reimbursed once the bank issue is resolved. MR contacting the bank to continue making every effort to resolve the issue.

MR confirmed an objection had been made to the Murrayfield Sports Bar application.

It was noted on social media that a 'Parking Notice' sticker had been stuck on the legally parked car of a homeowner in Westfield Street. RM advised this should be resolved over the summer (in Q2 of the Council's financial year).

Correspondence

MR noted there were a number of neighbour issues and upcoming consultations submitted to GDCC for response.

Action: GDCC to decide which there is capacity to respond to.

JG advised the police officer has requested to attend a meeting which would be welcomed. Date to be confirmed in Engagement and Communication agenda item.

MR confirmed there had been a GDCC newsletter update sent out to the mailing list.

Engagement and Communication

CR advised a request to attend a GDCC meeting had been received from the 20Schemes "church revitalisation" programme for Gorgie Mission Church [<https://20schemes.com>]. MR advised a request had also been received from the developers of the Caledonian Brewery site who are holding a consultation this Wednesday 7 February at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church on Slateford Road.

After discussion in the meeting, JG confirmed the following guest speakers:

March meeting (7.30pm start after AGM): Caledonian Brewery site developers, Roseburn Path tram plans

April meeting: Police report, Gert Rijdsdijk of City of Edinburgh Council (Senior Transport officer, 20 Minute Neighbourhoods), 20Schemes/Gorgie Mission Church

Actions: Individuals to be contacted and invited to attend respective meetings.

Treasurer's Report

This position is still unfilled.

The accountant is currently working on 2022/23 accounts. Their fee of £300 is to be made leaving a balance of £767.58.

Prizes for the Christmas shop window competition, a donation to GDS Church for hosting the Christmas refreshments, and a donation to the food bank will be paid from that. Then the accounts for 2023/24 will be completed for end of March 2024. The annual grant of £3000 from the Council is available for GDCC. JG advised this had not been received this year due to the issues with the bank account.

Action: GDCC to apply for the grant for the upcoming financial year.

Councillor's Report

RM updated the meeting on the following:

Waste + Cleansing:

- Richmond Terrace – has an extra bin now, better than it was but still needs more work.
- West Park Place – still overflowing as residents continue to complain that students are using the CEC bins rather than their own bin hub.
- Murieston Lane – definitely seeing an improvement and local shops are working to continue this improvement.

- Smithfield Street – RM has written to CEC waste about rubbish blowing into gardens from the big bin hub.
- Newton Street – seems to be better with the bin hub but there does appear to still be flytipping there.

Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ):

RM reported extension of the CPZ will be progressed over the summer (in Q2 of the Council's financial year). But there are concerns in the Hutcheson and Chesser areas.

Benches at Gorgie Memorial Hall:

Thanks to RM's work, these have now been repaired and returned as metal benches.

Wider City of Edinburgh Council Update:

Budget is being presented on 22 February. It's being presented as without cuts but RM believes there will be cuts (e.g. care packages and additional support for education) and predicts it will impact on-the-ground service delivery.

Tynecastle Community Wing:

In response to a question raised, re-opening community access to this facility will be discussed at the upcoming Gorgie/Dalry Forum on Wed 7 Feb. RM believe there is a fob key system option being explored.

Caledonian Village:

It was confirmed that as the road is not adopted, Caledonian Village cannot be part of the CPZ even though residents were clear they want this due to the damage being done in the streets from careless parking by non-residents. It was discussed that it would be included within the 20-minute neighbourhood plan and so can be raised with Gert Rijdsdijk at the April meeting.

JG thanked RM for his update and continued activity in the area.

Planning and Licensing

MR advised an application has been submitted for the former Tynecastle High School site for a substation. It has been confirmed that the University of Edinburgh have bought the site. RM said he's meeting with the University next week. It was noted this could be an opportunity to be more involved in planning.

Action: GDCC to invite University to a meeting in the near future.

MR advised the public consultation on the Caledonian Brewery site opens on Wed 7 Feb as a drop-in event in St Michael's Church as well as an online consultation here: <https://streets-uk.com/slateford>. This will not be student accommodation but residential with a percentage of affordable housing. It was noted this development isn't in the formal GDCC area but is in the neighbourhood

Action: GDCC to invite developers to the March meeting.

MR also highlighted there is a consultation for the student accommodation planned for 52-55 Dundee Street but GDCC has limited capacity to make a formal objection. It was noted the nearby residents are well-organised.

Actions: GDCC writes to the community council for that area with a letter of support for their position. ST asks Living Rent to see if they have capacity to offer a sample objection.

Gorgie Farm

CY provided a comprehensive update:

- The Phase 1 community consultation fundings are now available via the Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/48BfrFX>. Five key themes came through: animals and activities; facilities and spaces; payment and support; education and training; and food and gardening.
- Next stage is to explore what is viable on short-, mid-, and long-term bases and a co-design group has been set-up with JG and Rona Brown in it. This and two other groups will be a deeper dive for feasibility and ideation.
- There will be opportunities for community cuppa conversations by invite to key groups, e.g. Dad's Rock, Health All Round, St Bride's Centre.
- It has been an overwhelmingly positive response from the community so far.
- The building survey including pathways and health and safety is being undertaken.
- To move forward, a new business entity is being created chaired by a local businessman This takes three months to be set-up as a charity to then enable the group to apply for funding, though conversations are already happening with potential funders.
- Local volunteers are still being invited to help out on the site.
- It's not possible to say when the site will re-open fully to the public, it depends on the survey.
- The landscape architect is drawing up plans based on the consultation ideas.

RM noted his concern about the building located under the railway line.

Action: Gorgie Farm team to research this, potentially with Network Rail and MSPs.

JG advised that if there is no public access, keeping the public informed was important. CY confirmed the next phase would be more visible with guided walks and cuppa conversations, as well as positive relationships with the families of those who lost their jobs when the Farm closed.

Action: CY to email event posters to GDCC for circulation and putting on the GDCC noticeboard.

There was discussion around the new governance structure being set-up. CY confirmed contact had been made with the Council's Empowerment team and the steering group had looked at the various options to ensure best for fundraising. In response to the suggestion, GDCC agreed a member of the committee could be on the Gorgie Farm board.

Action: CY to ask EVOC about a GDCC committee member joining the Farm board.

Items for Discussion

a. 20-minute Neighbourhoods – MR to invite Gert Rijsdijk to the April.

b. Roseburn Path / cycle link – RM provided an update that in a report to the Transport and Environment committee, it had been strongly recommended that the proposed extension of the trams be along the Roseburn Path rather than the alternative more costly route over the Dean Bridge. RM advised he had never had a

stronger response objecting to the proposed 3m wide path alongside the two-way tramline on which cycling would be “discouraged”. A consultation in the Spring was approved so there will be more opportunities to feed back. CY expressed her strong objection to the loss of more green space when health organisations like Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership actively advocate for the benefits of green space on mental health in the city.

Actions: JG bringing big map of the area to the March meeting. RM to keep GDCC informed.

c. Recruitment of New Members

It was noted there were no minutes and agenda on Facebook in advance of the meeting. MR confirmed there is currently no communications officer and no capacity in the committee to cover this and updating the website which is also needed.

Actions: MR to update recruitment posters then email it for distribution – community Forum members, Co-op, church (JG), colleges, universities re IT/marketing students (CR), Living Rent, People Know How, student accommodation (ST), Caledonian Village (MS), GDCC social media (MR).

d. Annual General Meeting

Date agreed as Monday 4 March from 7-7.30pm before the start of the GDCC meeting at 7.30pm.

AOCB

Coffee with a Cop – Invite to meet local police officers at 10am in Four Square Park Café in Saughton Park & Gardens on 26 Feb, 18 Mar, 8 Apr, 29 Apr, 20 May.

Big Hearts

Caledonian Village – MS asked for advice on dealing with short-term lets when the deeds specifically say this isn’t allowed. It was noted the Council can’t do anything about deed issues. CR suggested independent legal advice would be most useful.

Action: RM advised reporting them to the Council by sending the addresses to him and he’ll report them to Licensing.

Public Toilets – MS asked for an update on when public toilets could be opened in the area as it remains an issue on match days. ST advised the recent Living Rent campaign has encouraged the Council to explore options but the response so far is that there are no funds for it.

Action: Dan Heap to provide an update from his work on this.

Living Rent – ST advised there is a Gorgie/Dalry Branch Meeting in St Bride’s Centre on Thu 8 Feb at 6pm, a Tourist Tax for Council Flats Strategy Day on Sat 17 Feb at 11am in St Margaret’s House, and Member Defence meetings take place every other Tuesday in The Fountain bar.

There being no other business JG thanked everyone for coming and for all their work for our community and declared the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting – Monday 4th March 2024.