

Date:	Monday 1 st May 2023, 19:00
Place:	Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Church

Attendees

GDCC: Joan Gordon (JG), Alex McKendrick (AM), Rona Brown (RB), Angela Astor (AA), Lynn Bruce (LB), Mathew Reilly (MR)

Councillors: Dan Heap (DH), Ross McKenzie (RM), Dennis Dixon (DD)

Local Residents: Graeme Shields (GS), Robert Bain – Caledonian Village (R Bain)

Apologies and Quorum

John Vincent, Aidan Collins.

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes proposed by AA and seconded by RB.

No Matters Arising

Correspondence

Notes	An email had been received from Gerry Deveney of Weatfield Community Backgreen Association providing further information about the situation residents were facing with anti-social behaviour and drug taking. DD noted the need for the police to deal with this issue. AM had contacted the Police but had received no response
Decisions	None
Action items/ next steps	To continue to raise this issue with the Police.

Engagement

Notes	Nothing arising
Decisions	None
Action items/ next steps	N/A

Treasurer's Report

Notes	In the Treasurer's absence, JG informed the meeting that £2,124 in the account.
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	To pay hall fees.

Councillors' Reports: Dennis Dixon

Notes	There had been issues with a drug dealer in the Colonies. Housing Officers were responding. Also a meeting with residents of Robertson Avenue and housing officers about anti-social behaviour.
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	N/A

Councillors' Reports: Ross McKenzie

Notes	<p>Caledonian Village parking issue is ongoing.</p> <p>Gorgie Farm: The issue of LOVE encouraging people to set up direct debits for animal feed has been raised in neighbourhood groups. Love Learning is also not a registered charity. RM felt that the FAQs on EVOC website should be more explicit. MS confirmed that GDCC had had no further communication with EVOC. RM has raised with EVOC the need for better communication with the community.</p> <p>Planning: RM is bringing a motion to Council requesting they write to the Scottish Government to request a review of the planning system with reference to unequal rights of appeal for communities and individuals. Planning Democracy and Friends of the Earth had complained to the UN because they believed this was an environmental injustice. RM will also raise the inaccessibility of the planning portal and lack of notifications. MS noted that users required expert knowledge to use the portal. Because people do not know how to correctly formulate objections, a lot of objections are disregarded. AM asked if the Council has undertaken any retrospective reviews of planning decisions. RM was not aware of this, but Planning Democracy are keen to do this, and to use Tynecastle as an example. AM and MS noted that the Council process was more democratic than the Scottish Government Reporter, which did not adequately acknowledge community feeling. R Bain noted similarities to issues raised in previous meeting about the Haymarket development.</p>
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	RM to email Council about Caledonian Village parking.

Councillors' Reports: Dan Heap

Notes	<p>Gorgie Farm: The Council had passed motion to reimburse volunteers caring for animals after the farm closed. DH was now in discussions with legal officers about taking this forward. JG noted that many businesses had raised money for the farm and may not now what to do with this money now.</p> <p>BT Phone Boxes at Co-op: DH is asking to have these removed.</p> <p>WASP: This used to be a Council building. There are a number of longstanding artists in these studios who have not been told where their new studios will be when the building is sold.</p> <p>Living Rent: They had been raising awareness about public toilets on Saturday by the phone boxes at the Co-op</p>
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	DH is going to take WASP and the public toilets to the Council.

Planning and Licencing

Notes	<p>Short-term Lets: There had been a few applications for change of use to short-term let in light of the forthcoming licencing changes. GDCC had not been consulted about these. MS asked how GDCC should respond to these. JG suggested that GDCC should object to every short-term let in a stair. AM had standard objection text which could be used for this and that it was contrary to planning policy. DD noted the need for stair residents to also object. Residents were informed via a printed notice outside the building.</p> <p>M & D Caledonian: There had been a licencing application for evening catering till 1 or 2 am. There were no further details on what this might be for but it was noted that the shop has started selling samosas.</p>
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	To ask for further details about the M & D Caledonian licencing application.

Item for Discussion: 20 minute neighbourhood

Notes	AM had received quotes for notice/welcome boards. He suggested there should be 2 at the Dalry end: one with a glass cabinet for notices that could be changed, and the other one printed with a map and history of the area. He had had a meeting with McAlpine and the Council representative for 20 minute neighbourhoods about the boards and also painting the
--------------	--

	bridge at Lidl. The meeting was positive but there was a question over maintenance. McAlpine needed to see quotes and to talk to Quartermile. DD noted that GDCC funding included money for noticeboards.
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	Representative from 20 minute neighbourhood to be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the branding of the scheme. AM to circulate the potential designs for the boards.

Item for Discussion: Roseburn to Union Canal Path

Notes	The work is progressing.
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	To apply for funding for the artwork and to talk to Garvald about this.

AOCB: Citizen Space

Notes	RB noted that Citizen Space had been a valuable project, with 2 council officers based at Tynecastle and providing advice and support in the area. AA also noted that they had provided really helpful support. However, RB felt that the project was not promoted or advertised enough and it was just a pilot. DH noted that the pilot was due to end at the end of the school year, but that if it was successful it should be extended.
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	To advertise the scheme on the Gorgie Dalry Neighbours FB Group.

AOCB: Caledonian Village

Notes	RBain noted the improved condition at the Co-op and wished to pass his thanks onto the Council and Co-op staff for this.
Decisions	N/A
Action items/ next steps	