



Gorgie Dalry Community Council Meeting Minutes Mon 5th Nov 2018

Present

Angela Astor, GDCC (AA)
Jim Park, GDCC (JP)
Nancy MacDonald, Garvald (NM)
Michael McMullin, GDS Church (MM)
Jim Hogg, Treasurer GDCC (JH)
Joan Gordon, local resident (JG)
Eilidh Troup, GDCC (ET)
Adrian Herbert, GDS Church (AH)
G J Russell, GDCC, (GR)
Rona Brown, GDCC (RB)
Sonia Squires, St Martin's Church (SS)
Cllr Ashley Graczyk, CEC, (AG)
Cllr Donald Wilson, CEC. (DW)
Louise Wylie, journalism, Napier University (LW)
Roisin Kilroy, journalism, Napier University (RK)
Maurrissa Fergusson, Head of Property, Development and Facilities, Scotmid.
(MF)
Roisin-Alana DiGiacomo, Structured House Group. (RD)
Ross Mason, Scotmid. (RM)
Ben Wilson, CEC planning. (BW)
Cllr Denis Dixon, CEC. (DD)
Matthew Reilly, GDCC. (MR)

Apologies

Police (it's bonfire night)
Laura Baird, GDCC
Yousouf Gooljary, St Martins
Iain Herbert, CE Gorgie City Farm (IH)

Scotmid presentation

The design of the coop development has changed. Ross Manson from Scotmid will present the new design at this meeting. There will be a public consultation event at GDC on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Responses to planning feedback:

Historic building line – the church that used to be there was smaller. The building is set back a bit from the street than in the first draft of the plan and the

top floor is pushed back further. A gap between the new build and neighbouring tenements has been added. The design has been changed from brick to stone. The footprint of the building has been reduced – changed from 14m to 18m distance between windows that face each other at the closest point. A tree will be kept that would have been removed for the previous design. The building will be light coloured at the back to reflect light onto the back green. The new plan reduced the number of students from 152 to 139. The bike parking has moved to be external. A roof garden has replaced the room terrace. Height: On Wheatfield Terrace, elevation is in line with other tenements, doesn't go round corner, another tree maintained. Massing: Smaller size, and mixed materials.

Aimed to be sympathetic to urban character, improved daylight, improved privacy, retention of trees, responding to historic building lines and footprint.

The store remains the same size, and the number of student rooms has been reduced.

NM – what about the small windows in the gable of the neighbouring tenement?
A. They're not protected by planning rules. There will be 3m between the new build and the tenements.

Timescale: Demolished – Jan/Feb. Students move in in June 2020.
Scotmid closed for 9-10 months (about Jan-Oct 2019)

Q: How confident are you that there will be demand from students?
Research shows that there is huge demand for student housing. This would be a purpose built alternative to multiple occupancy flats. Demand for 8000 beds in Edinburgh at the moment.

Discussion – community council generally happy with the changes to the design of the building. Better to have students in one managed building than spread out through tenements. Will free up flats for non-student accommodation. Jim welcomes scheme to revitalise area. Would be good to have students on the CC.

What will happen to Post Office? It will close for the 9 months that the coop is closed for, but Post Office will re-open afterwards.

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JP – At the last meeting we agreed to give £250 to foodbank, what did we do? RB £100 spent this month, £150 to be spent before Christmas.
JP will be performing in a play about food banks at the parliament for the MSPs, also in Edinburgh at North Edinburgh Arts Centre. Nov 23rd at 7pm and in Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow. Jim plays one of the characters who uses the foodbank. ET to put on the website.

Planning 2030

Welcome to Ben Wilson to discuss City Plan 2030. Ben is the town planner leading the development plan scheme. A lot of our time in GDCC is dealing with individual planning applications, e.g. Springwell House, new Tynecastle Stand. Very little on overall planning strategy. There is a planning policy on student accommodation for example.

There is a lot of potential change in Gorgie Dalry, but there has not been so much council planning engagement with GDCC in the past. CC is a statutory consultee in planning applications. Final decisions lie with the planning dept.

There is an Edinburgh Local Development Plan

(http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_and_building/66/edinburgh_local_development_plan). It's available in the library too. It's used to decide planning applications; where the greenbelt is; the tram network; the town centres (including Gorgie Dalry town centre), plans for new development and expansion, policies on new developments. The LDP has a 'proposals map' of where these things apply. A proposal that complies with LDP is likely to be approved by planning.

The current LDP runs from Nov 2016-2026. A new broader area plan is being written just now for the next 10 years covering the Lothians. The LDP is updated every 5 years. The next one is the City Plan 2030, which is being written now. In Feb 2019 the Main Issues Report and Proposed plan will be published, (http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20069/local_development_plan_and_guidance/1821/city_plan_2030). There will be public engagement sessions in Feb/March 2019.

Brownfield land opportunities for development are being investigated as part of the plan. Gorgie Dalry and Hutcheison Chesser areas have potential for development. There was a consultation in St Brides last month on the 2030 plan.

BW would like to hear our thoughts, and advice on how to engage with the local community. JH – it's a challenge to engage with people on something so far into the future. What do you think the city might look like? BW – specific requirement for 35000 new houses, mostly affordable. Demand for office space, retail and leisure, JH – large out of town shops have sucked business from small shops, and some have become residential. Local shops were protected, but so many exceptions were made that shops have changed use from shop to residential. 1997 plan did not protect many of the local shops that have been lost. Some discussion on which parts of Gorgie Dalry road have the shops protected as town centres. This plan regulates what will be granted planning permission (e.g. change of use).

What are the boundaries of the local town centre? Good to check with local community.

RB – Keeping local green spaces, e.g. Gorgie/Dalry community park. It is a protected site.

Cycleways, pedestrian access, don't increase traffic in the area. The number of parking spaces provided with developments is defined in the plan. The old BT telephone exchange is a potential development site, with great public transport links.

DD The LDP is the 'planning bible' this 2016 one is a good plan, well written. There may not be lots of brownfield space left in Gorgie dalry, which isn't already allocated.

MR Guidance for town centres – Gorgie Dalry supplementary guidance by an architect. Public Life Street Assessments -

<https://planningedinburgh.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/gorgie-dalry-r.pdf>

Also City Mobility Plan, Low Emissions Zone, and City Centre transformation zone – consultation closes on 12th Nov. Suggestions for improving pedestrian mobility.

BW – how can we help u engage the local area? It's a transient community, and 2030 is a long time off and a bit intangible. Some other areas have people with more time to get involved with issues.

BW could come back in Feb to our meeting then. We could publicise to get more local residents in. Could maybe like the St Brides consultation. 4th Feb – to book bigger room. Flyers for the meeting MR, JH and BW to liase on making flyers. ET to advertise on website.

October Minutes

JG proposed the minutes and SS seconded them.

ET and JB spent £93.38 on food for the Salvation Army food bank on Gorgie Road. We'll do another shop before Christmas.

Correspondence

Tynecastle pipe band, inclusive opportunity for young people. Looking to expand a pipe band at Tynecastle high school. Funded by various charities. Would like some support from the community council. RB invited them to play at the Christmas lights switch on. There is a musical event at Tynecastle High School on the 5th December.

SW neighbourhood partnership meeting is coming up soon.

Police Report

Housebreakings: October saw 6 housebreakings, 2 detections so far.

Assault: October saw a marked increase in assaults from September: 27 incidents with 6 detections so far.

Road Safety/Initiatives: 16 incidents reported, mainly failing to report an accident. 4 detections including 1 drink driver.

Theft: October saw a rise in thefts, 44 incidents. Bike thefts continue to rise, only 3 detections so far.

Hate Crime: 1 incident reported whereby a Polish family were verbally abused.

Incidents of note:

Two Police Officers were assaulted during the course of their duty, pushed and spat upon. The responsible person was arrested and put to court.

One male was found in the public street with a knife, he was arrested and put to court.

Operation Aftermath has been put in place to address drug use and supply in the SW of the city. Should anyone have any information regarding this I would suggest phoning Crime Stoppers to report this, a big intelligence picture allows the police to take action.

To date several individuals have been charged and a large quantity of drugs recovered.

October saw a total of 457 calls, 19 of which relate to public nuisance calls.

A total of 145 crime reports were raised, 41 detected so far.

Note that all of the statistics above are provisional.

Treasurer's Report

Nothing spent last month, but donation for Christmas lights came from Gorgie Dalry Business Association. The business association has donated £655.49. The association has closed down and this donation was the remaining funds.

Christmas lights

AA and RB had a site meeting with Julie Ann from community safety. Plan to plant trees. There's a fenced off area in White Park that could be a great place to have a Christmas tree. The trees in White Park will have lights on them. They discussed lights for Gorgie Road. Lights under the railway bridges would be nice. Next year lights switch on will be in White Park.

A visit to the farm has sorted out the power source for lights; a PA has been arranged. We still need a stage.

Dalry Primary School choir are looking forward to singing at the switch on.

On Sat 1st Dec MR and JG will judge the best dressed window competition. MR will do flyers for the window competition.

Poster design by the Primary Children. AA will ask for designs from Dalry Primary and Tynecastle and DD and DW will judge.

Santa will be coming to the lights switch on.

DW will MC the event.

Planning, HMOs, Licencing

Nothing to report.

DD councillor report

Tynecastle nursery is up and running. RB says it's great.

Problems with anti-social behaviour in Westfield Avenue. Have met with Dunedin Canmore. The Wheatly Group are funding a police presence in the area, the police come from Glasgow.

MS complained about water coming from a flat above Wallaces, running down building, across pavement. DD will investigate.

Walkabout last Thursday with Marie at Caledonian Village – roads that are adopted will have the parking re-aligned.

JG was on bus to Leith, but couldn't get along Dalry Road at 8.30am. Temporary lights at roadworks were jammed on red. Donald – transport and environment is responsible for keeping the roads moving.

DW report

Community gardens. Allotments are regulated, hard to identify sites that meet requirements. A more flexible approach to community gardens, than formal allotments might be easier to implement. There's a back garden initiative. A new defibrillator will be put in in front of St Brides v soon. Donald ran a marathon to raise funds for it.

Watch the news on Weds for a big announcement in Gorgie Dalry.

Events

Homeless night shelter for 80 people opening on 21st Dec at St Aidan's church Stenhouse Road. The homeless Christmas shelter run by GDS church and Bethany. They would welcome donations for Christmas decorations. There is a lot of demand from homeless people, more so than in recent years.

Garvald xmas bazaar and Art exhibition is on Saturday 1st December 2018, 10.30-2.30 Gorgie Workshops, 454/1 Gorgie Road Orwell Arts, 17 Orwell Place <http://www.garvaldedinburgh.org.uk/garvald-christmas-weekend/>

Sunday 2nd Dec, 6pm, Christmas lights switch on at Gorgie Farm.

AOCB

Thanks from Beverly (Salvation Army) for the food bank donation.

DW – Described the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision consultation and handed out a sheet to fill in for everyone and return.

DD – The council has a budget consultation underway – please respond by 7th Dec. (<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/ce/2018-19-council-budget-engagement/>)

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

3rd Dec 7pm, Gorgie Dalry Parish Church, 190 Gorgie Road, EH11 2NX.