



Gorgie Dalry Community Council Minutes Mon 1st April 2019

Present

Angela Astor, GDCC (AA)
Rona Brown, GDCC (RB)
Marie Stein, TCVOA – The Caledonian Village Owners Association, (MS)
Sharon Robertson, Gorgie Collective + local resident (Sharon R)
Stuart Robertson, local resident (Stuart R)
Drew King, local resident (DK)
Joan Gordon, GDCC (JG)
Nancy MacDonald, Garvald (NM)
Matthew Reilly, GDCC (MR)
Sam Torrance, Gorgie resident (ST)
Michael McMullin, GDS Church (MM)
PC J. Baillie, Police Scotland (PC Bailie)
Jim Hogg, GDCC (JH)
Adrian Herbert, GDS Church (AH)
Lynsey Clark (LC)
Cllr Ashley Graczyk, CEC, (AG)
Jessica Clark, CEC (JC)
Graeme Smith, local resident
Kyra Cransweli (KC)
Tobias Gardien (TG)

Apologies

Laura Baird
Jim Park
Sonia Squires
Arron Peters
Greame Russell
Dennis Dixon

March Minutes

AA proposed, JH seconded.

Welcome

Rona welcomed the new attendees.

Correspondence

From church – invite to community council and local residents this Sunday 7th april at 11am Diadem, to give thanks for Bethany Care Shelter. After the service there will be tea, coffee and a tour of the facilities. Would the community council

like to write a letter of support for the shelter? This would help with the application for making it permanent.

The shelter provides 75 beds for the homeless in a converted church. It runs from September to May. Eventually, would like to extend over the summer and to offer more support services.

Question from local residents about not being notified. MR: There is a small radius of people who should be notified of such planning developments.

One planning student is here out of interest. Some local residents are here as they are unhappy with Scotmid's development.

Police Report

Overall a good month, with 6 detected break ins from one individual.

Housebreakings

March saw 13 incidents of Housebreakings, 6 of which so far are detected.

Assault

There were 9 assaults reported all still under investigation.

Road Safety/ Initiatives

There were 3 incidents reported/ Two detections so far, an uninsured driver failed to stop for Police.

Theft

March saw 22 theft reports, 6 detections so far.

Hate Crime

One hate crime was detected however it has now been proved the accused person does not have mental capacity for her actions. This matter will now be dealt with by Social Work rather than the Courts.

ASB/ NPS/ Incidents of Note

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 us to take action.

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

March saw a total of 385 calls, 15 of which relate to public nuisance calls.

A total of 101 crime reports were raised, 26 detections so far.

Good News

There was a significant number of drug recoveries in the area: several warrants were executed whereby dealer quantities of controlled substances were recovered.

Discussion

Funding from the council is being cut, but in our area we are not losing any staff, but there will be no budget for overtime, or extra support from other parts of the city.

AA had a fast response to a neighbours break in.

Local resident: What can we do about Hutchiston Crossway junction – tailgating and very fast speeding? Also issues with the lights which have been reported to the council. Drivers have abused parents who try to stop people driving through green man. The junction also need signs up saying that you're in a bus lane. This has been reported.

PC Baillie agreed that it is a poorly designed junction.

MR tree preservation order should've been ordered.

Local resident: during the day, a few weeks ago, heard chainsaws from garden – 2 guys on roof (of Scotmid) and one in his garden. It is a well maintained garden. The men said they were hired by Scotmid to remove the trees. They took down trees and bushes from the local residents garden, but didn't clear them away. They demolished 60% of his garden. They then went into his neighbours' garden and started demolishing it. The manager of Scotmid says he had nothing to do with it. The Evening News has reported on Scotmid's tactics regarding the consultation and may be interested in the garden incident. PC J. Baillie said that this would be a grey area –more civil law than criminal. It is a communal garden, mostly privately owned and one housing association. Scotmid may have contacted housing association, and should've contacted all owners.

MR - a tree preservation order should've been obtained.

Treasurer's Report

Paid £150 to church for hall rent.

£1710.68 in kitty.

JG – Do we have to spend this by end of tax year? RB – No.

Planning, HMOs, Licencing

Mr King: his house is top floor, looks over the Scotmid. His gable end windows will lose light, but because they're gable end they're not protected. The gap between the tenements has been there for 100 years (previously a church) and to change this to build student flats will do nothing for the area. The local residents were not given notice of some consultations except one which Mr King attended. The windows are not in a box room as stated, but in his kitchen.

The letter from GDCC supporting the application only describes consultation with Scotmid, architects, and not consultation with local residents.

He does not believe that local residents were properly consulted.

Local businesses that support it will come and go. Half of the supporters are managers or employees at Scotmid. He is unhappy that the local community council sanction it.

JG: The proposal has been radically changed, and now JG broadly supports it.

MR: If you want to make an effective objection you have to make it a material objection, referencing the local development plan, and saying where it breaks the LDP guidelines.

Mr King says it will not benefit the local area to build something 5 storeys high. MR will share his objection letter with Mr King.

Another local resident says that parking is an issue, and doesn't believe that none of the students will have cars and this will put pressure on parking on the area. Doesn't believe it can be enforced. JH is opposed to shutting the Scotmid because it will be so hard for him to get shopping done without being able to go to that close by shop.

Mr King – it's not fair that local residents suffer to subsidise the Scotmid re-development.

RB – it's bad that non-locals are commenting on the application. Mr King says that the council do say that they will take this into account, but it is unfair that Scotmid employees are supporting the proposal.

Local resident – nothing given back to the community from this development. The post office will be missing from the community while development is ongoing. Apparently the PO has not been allowed to comment on the latest development.

AG has had a lot of messages from constituents against the development and is shocked to hear about the gardens. The local residents are against by 85%, they feel that they've not been consulted. AG thinks we need to consult more. RB says we did advertise, but that we need new people on GDCC. Locals feel underrepresented by the Council too. Non-locals are supporting the application. Previous proposal had 52 objections and no support. Revised proposal had 73 objections and 27 supportive (over half of which are by Scotmid staff).

RB – can they take responses from outside the area? MR thinks so. Says people should email planning department to complain.

AG will meet with someone from Scotmid about this tomorrow. AG is not going to support the development, and all that will benefit will be Scotmid's property division. There is not local support for the development.

A local resident emailed Councillor Fullerton who responded in favour of the development. Councillor Dixon says that anyone, no matter where they stay can reply. The local resident questioned whether Scotmid has broken the rules by getting their staff to respond to the consultation.

RB – maybe Planning Aid could help?

The planning department are very rules based – follow the rules on the planning website. Follow the process and object based on specific rules.

Local resident: Why does the community council support the development when the post office is going?

AG would like GDCC to know that we can withdraw our letter of support.

Local resident: Only just heard that the planning permission having been rejected, was re-submitted.

RB would like to ask people to get involved with the community council.

Why support the development? RB: They improved the plans a lot. The post office will be coming back.

JG - We didn't know about the underhand tactics, etc. Shall we revoke our support from GDCC?

RB - We would need to check guidelines and have a meeting with people who voted for it and vote again.

MR: last date for comments is Monday 8th April.

The developer is Secured Housing; Manson the architect. Local resident: assurances from developers means nothing.

It would be good for the local community council to hear about feedback from local residents.

Local resident: How will children be safe from building works lorries while the development is built?

ET: We asked that the lorries for the Hearts development wouldn't be active when the children are coming and going from school.

Local resident: What about local disabled and elderly people around building works?

Local resident: will it be the counter post office or the whole post office that's returned?

Mr King is getting advice from Planning Aid Scotland.

The mood of meeting from various community councillors was to withdraw support for the Scotmid application.

AG - There will be a meeting on Community planning - how to make effective objections and placemaking. The guest speaker will be Matthew Reilly, and there will also be a speaker from Planning Aid Scotland. 12th April 6.30pm St Martins.

MSP Andy Wightman will be talking about rent control and Airbnb at 6.30pm on 22nd May in St Martins.

Both of the above events are free but must be booked.

Mr King is getting advice from Planning Aid Scotland.

There has been another application for a student development at the end of Caledonian Crescent, on Richmond Terrace. It would have 38 bedsits and be 4 stories high. The closing date for responses is 12th April.

MR: Some works to Destiny Church. New sign on a church.

Local Lucky's bar reported to have plans to make into flats, but it didn't come up in search, possibly outside our area.

Councillor reports

AG has been involved with planning and organising the above events and holding street surgeries. Parking is the main issue that comes up, but it's more for the parliament than the council. Some anti-social behaviour reported.

Gorgie Dalry Festival – Hearts could be a venue, but the Jazz Festival coordinator (Emma) never turned up to the meeting to organise with Hearts. RB recommends speaking to Roger Spence. RB – is the fund you applied to a yearly one? AG – yes, might have to wait till next year. RB – we need to get organised early for next year's festival.

AG – trying to get funding from One City.

Parks

There is a park clean up on 8th May, 10-12. Will see if Angus from MacDonalds will get involved.

The community park outside Lidl gets messy with beer cans. We need more bins.

Events

Clean up and AG's events (see above)

AOCB

JG's friend would like to redevelop toilets at corner of Springwell House development and develop it as a café. It would be a shame to destroy this. It has already been sold to the developer.

AA – the development work has started. AA – the developer is very approachable, and she should keep trying.

RB – the Community Council is not quorate today, so cannot vote to support today.

ET – I resign from the Community Council as I am moving away.

RB – Thank you for taking the minutes, and the website and good luck.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th May at 7pm, Gorgie Dalry Parish Church, 190 Gorgie Road, EH11 2NX.