



Gorgie Dalry Community Council Minutes Wednesday 15th May 2019 - Special Public Meeting

Attendees

GDCC members:

Angela Astor – AA

Joan Gordon – JG

Mathew Reilly – MR

Graeme Russell – GR

Rona Brown – RB

James Park – JP

CEC:

Ashley Graczyk – AG

Local residents:

Moira MacKirdy – MM

Drew King – DK

Welcome

RB explained the reason for the meeting and welcomed everyone. She mentioned that the letter of support cannot be withdrawn, however she has been in contact with Chris Peggie, CEC Governance Officer, for advice on dealing with the situation regarding GDCC decision to send a letter to planning supporting Scotmid development that since doing this other details had come to our notice after local residents made contact with GDCC. Members of the public are here to observe the GDCC discussing and taking a vote on the issues which have arisen. It is not in our power to withdraw the letter of support. We can however vote to determine if the GDCC still supports that letter.

Scotmid Development

MR outlined the actions we had taken supporting the development after taking a democratic vote at GDCC meeting. A letter of support was sent to planning. We had four presentation and there was a public presentation over 2 days. GR confirmed this although the planning committee had denied getting GDCC's letter of support it was later acknowledged by them. He explained that objections to any plan had to meet certain criteria to be accepted by planning. The decision to support was given by looking at the benefits etc to the larger GD area not just the immediate area, and as we had raised many concerns at the presentations even after the letter was sent, we were happy many had been addressed. CEC planning will make the final decision, and we would be considered as 1 letter.

JP asked if we were quorate to take a vote. RB confirmed that 2/3 of CC is all that is required and that since we have had 2 definite and a possible 3rd resignation over the past 2 months we now have 10 members of CC

therefore reps tonight are adequate. CC elections are this year, and all are welcome to put their names forward. We cannot change or withdraw the previous letter, but we can let our Councillor email (see Chris Peggie email). The Councillors can report our concerns.

JP questioned sending another letter because of the first one for previous planning application going astray. Does it require another meeting possibly because of potentially underhand way Scotmid have dealt with this?

MR asked if there has been more reaction. RB – GDCC 1 letter now we have a wider picture.

MM (local resident) asked if the influx of student accommodation applications would change the character and culture of the area and if this had been taken into consideration when making the original decision. There have been so many new student builds and many more planned for future, also including the outskirts of the ward. GR explained that CC discussions had not ignored this. All seems to be concentrated in a small area.

DK – questioned that Scotmid workers were coerced into sending in letters of support for the plans. All were proven to be Scotmid employees, about 10-16 of them. Anyone from any area can support or object to any planning application. JG replied that she was happy to support the objection as a neighbour but at CC discussions his objection was not material. JP felt it was not ethical.

DH – resident objections: 1) number of student accommodations in this area, 2) architecture out of keeping with Gorgie Road and 3) block lines of sunlight with various buildings. GR – developers did take on board comments and changed or adjusted plans following GDCC feedback.

MM – 1. Local residents public consultation was not well publicised as she only saw noticeboard outside the church on the day of the event. 2. Ethics of application relying on trust that they will push through NO CAR policy – will they do this if it is not an issue? DK – will they have cars or will their visitors? RB – how will it be policed? GR – will this plus post office and car park? JP – student on NO CAR ownership on their leases and these will be terminated if they do not abide with rules. DK – Post Office staff are unaware if it will reopen on site. Pushed the 4 storey building felt that the conditions were manipulated and will do what they want once it is built. MM – asked if there is a way we can reassure in GDCC minutes. GR – planners can have NO CAR policy but managing and enforcing is another thing.

DK – extension on planning and construction objections to look and consider. Letter from Ross Manson to Sean Fullon (130 people) will not change it. GR – planning will decide if satisfactory. JG – also felt lack of publicity by developer was an issue and it's understood to be their responsibility. Spoke to Ross Manson about leaflets for meeting not being put into her home.

RB – as stated we would vote tonight: “does this CC still stand by previous letter of support?”. VOTE: for 4, against 2. Passed. We've looked at the wider picture and a lesson has been learned. AG – Councillor was disappointed but accept new information regarding process and procedures and vote was democratic coming from everyone. Media sharing of posts eg Westfield application and similar. CEC should make people more aware. AG – didn't support application but does support GDCC because difference of opinion at heart was the welfare of GD and she is very proud of GD.