



Gorgie Dalry Community Council Minutes Monday 4th November

Attendees

GDCC:

Angela Astor – AA, Rona Brown (Vice Chair) – RB, Joan Gordon (Chair) – JG, Adrian Herbert (GDS church) – AH, Alex McKendrick (Treasurer) – AM, Moira MacKirdy (Secretary) – MM

CEC:

Cllr Denis Dixon – DD, Cllr Cathy Fullarton – CF, Cllr Ashley Graczyk – AG, Jessica Clack (PA to AG) – JC, Cllr Donald Wilson – DW

Local residents:

Drew Altschul – DA, Paul Anderson – PA, Scott Bennett – SB (Dalry Primary), Alison Beresford – AB, James Bradshaw – JB, Nathan Bowerbir – NB, Rob Chiffers – RC, Eughan Clarkson – EC, Gavin Corbett – GC, Thomas Danbury – TD, Emma Dann – ED, Grey Davis – GDa, Joanna Dingley – JD, Scott Dixon – SD, Shannon Donnelly – SD, Victoria Elliott – VE, Amber Essex – AE, Steven Farmer – SF, Christina Findlay – CF, Marion Findlay – MF (Volunteer Edinburgh), Adam Forrest – AF, Charlotte Fox – CF, Emily Freeman – EF, Brian Gibb – BG, Maia Gordon – MG, Ellen Gourlay – EG, George Grinier – GG, Liz Hare – LH, Lucy Hare – LuH, Iain Herbert – IH, Martin Isaacs – MI, Jay Kirkland – JKi, Johanna Koen – JK, Maya Kuwahara – MK, Jodie Lefley – JL, Paul Masser – PMA, Nancy MacDonald – NM (Garvald), C MacGillvray – CM, D McGill – DM, Andy McGuff – AM, Kirsty McGuff – KM, Jill McGuire – JM, Keasha Milner – KMi, Paul Murray – PM, Anna Philbrick – AP, Sharon Robertson – SR, Hannah Ryan – HR, Pol Steele – PS, Mike Spring – MS, Helen Syme – HS, Stewart Syme – SS, Job Thyssen – JT, Laura Tomlinson – LT, Cecile Ngok Suong Perdu – CP, Jonathan Pranskat – JP, Gail Venker – GV, Laura Wyse – LW.

Presenters: Gavin Douglas – GD (Harrison) and Colin Smith – CS (Turley) on Westfield Student Development.

Welcome

JG opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. With GDCC permission, she added an agenda item on Gorgie City Farm to reflect the recent closure announcement.

Quorum and apologies

The meeting was quorate. Apologies were received from Susanne Muller (Gorgie Collective) and Mathew Reilly (GDCC).

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes were reviewed. Open actions are as follows:

September:

01: Airbnb to be added as future agenda item

October:

01: AG to check how soon AP can be co-opted onto CC

- 03: MM to add Gorgie Festival as an agenda item for November
- 04: Cllrs to take forward replacing light in park at back of Lidl
- 05: RB to apply for funding for bench in Dalry Community Park
- 06: Future agenda item in Spring to organise clean ups of Westfield and Dalry Community Parks
- 07: Bring Memorial garden idea to Roseburn Cycle path team
- 08: RB to book Pipe Band
- 10: SR & JG to flyer for best dressed window 30th Nov and judge on 6th/7th Dec
- 11: MR to email AH flyers for printing
- 12: RB to share timetable in Nov
- 13: RB, AA, health and safety and someone from church to meet to discuss logistics
- 14: FC to arrange donation of mince pies from Coop
- 15: RB to speak to White Park Residents Association
- 16: RB to get costs from Julie Anne for lights beyond White Park and pass to DG
- 17: AH to arrange for someone from GDS to do Winter Blessing
- 20: MM to add coffee pop up as future agenda item

Minutes were proposed and seconded as being an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Matters Arising

- 01: GD and CS to return to GDCC once operator has been appointed for Westfield to answer further questions.
- 02: MM to respond on cycle shelter consultation on behalf of GDCC.
- 03: MM to respond on bus lane consultation on behalf of GDCC.
- 04: MM to pass Tourism Strategy consultation details to JG.
- 05: MM to accept invitation to HMFC Remembrance Service for JG
- 06: AH to investigate what JG would appreciate as a thank you gift (to value of £25).
- 07: MM to request extension for comment on Murieston development and invite developers to Dec meeting
- 08: Remember to start Christmas lights switch on at 5pm next year

Correspondence

Much correspondence has been received this month:

1. Secure on street cycle parking consultation closing Fri 8th November. GDCC voted to respond not supporting this as a barrier to those with mobility requirements navigating the pavements.
2. Licensing board has two applications from the ward:
 - a. Nga Thi Nguyen for on and off sales
 - b. Gruni food and wine for off sales only
 GDCC are supportive of both.
3. Bus lane consultation at City Chambers on Thursday 21st Nov 10-12. Looking to extend times to be 7am-7pm. GDCC not in favour.

4. Local resident been in touch regarding car parking in Caledonian Village – Cllrs are dealing with it.
5. Community Night Noise Team have been in touch to introduce themselves.
6. Edinburgh tourism strategy consultation is open.
7. Local resident been in touch regarding air pollution on Russell Road on match days from coaches parked with engine on.
8. Proposal to introduce double red lines on Gorgie Road and Tynecastle Lane.
9. Invitation to HMFC Remembrance Day Service. JG to represent GDCC.
10. Checkpoint group volunteers requested.
11. Request for comment on Murieston student development proposal which was submitted earlier today.

Treasurer's Report

AM reported that he had met with outgoing treasurer and has filled out forms to be added to the bank account. The bank have confirmed that they have received the form. Money in account currently sits at £1384. We have spent £440 on hall lets. GDCC voted in favour of spending £25 to buy a gift and card for outgoing treasurer to thank him for his service. AH to investigate what JH would like.

Police Reports

No police were able to attend so no report was given.

Planning

GD and CS presented on the approved plans for the development of student accommodation at Westfield. GD explained that Harrison was a family run business since 1952, and that they currently had 5 projects in the city of Edinburgh, including the Westfield one. They currently also deliver a student accommodation scheme of 500 beds in York so are familiar with the difficulties of integration and regeneration. GD stated that the original plans had been changed following feedback to include a central courtyard and a community room space.

The property will consist of a mixture of studio rooms and shared flats, with between 6 and 9 students sharing a kitchen. All rooms will be en suite. They stated that they will be using considerate contractors scheme approved companies for the demolition and the building works. They aim to construct next year, and plan to be open for the August 2020 student intake.

JG raised a concern regarding Grant Westfield factory that is adjacent to the property and operates highly sensitive machinery on their premises. There has been concern in the local community that if the construction work adversely affects the GW machinery then they might need to move location with a possible loss of up to 180 jobs in the area. GD confirmed that they have been in touch with GW and are looking to commission a vibration consultant to advise them as to how they can build without affecting GW's factory. They are also looking at the possibility of dismantling the part of the building that is closest to the factory rather than demolishing it.

JG also raised a concern about the staffing of the property to protect the student residents. GD advised that with other student residences that they had build sometimes they had retained and managed themselves, other times they had built for other operators to manage. At present it was looking like this residence will be managed by another operator.

PS asked how the student accommodation being built would regenerate the community, and if there had been anything done to ensure there was adequate provision of local services such as buses and GP surgeries. GD stated that in their experience areas have usually experienced regeneration, with the expenditure of students within the local area and increased footfall for local shops. CS advised that there is a £200k tram fund that they will be paying towards Transport for Edinburgh which could potentially be used to increase bus frequency etc. He also stated that most students are encouraged by the universities to use the GP service on campus. JT stated that he didn't think that students would be able to use the medical facilities on campus unless as they would be outwith the post code area. LW asked how affordable the accommodation would be, as if the rooms

are too pricey then there would not be a benefit to the local businesses as the students would not have enough disposable income to regenerate the area. GD responded that the prices would be set by the operator rather than themselves, and that they are unable to comment at this time. However, they have built the accommodation with the intention of it being let at the more affordable end of the market. SR stated that there was a massive shortage of affordable accommodation in the area, yet some existing student residences are not at full capacity. She asked if they are able to guarantee that the property will be full. GD advised that he can't be certain of it, however he would expect it to be full because the other student residences that they manage are at 100% capacity all of the time. NB raised the point that as a student himself, he thought that these properties would be expected to be let at around £500 per month, which would take up almost the entirety of the maximum student loan. He also raised a concern about tenancy security as many similar residencies have 9 month contracts so the students don't even get time to properly integrate into the community, and then the properties are hired out as short term lets during the summer. MM asked GD and CS to come back to GDCC when they have appointed an operator to answer further questions then.

Gorgie City Farm

JG expressed sadness at the news of GCF's recent closure and extended sympathy to all the staff. She advised that any trustees may not be able to answer questions or speak due to the legality surrounding the insolvency situation, however it is important that we discuss options about what we can do to save the farm.

CF read out an official statement from the council advising that they had no prior knowledge of this and found out the same day as everyone else. They had no awareness of any financial difficulties at the farm. They are concerned for the affect on staff and local residents. Council leader Adam McVey is meeting the liquidators tomorrow to discuss the securing of the farm's assets and allowing things to move forward. Rumours that the land has been sold for development are completely untrue – the land is not for sale. This year the council have made 3 out of 4 payments amounting to £109k to keep the farm going, which would have included a final payment due in Jan 2020. The councillors are working closely with the liquidators and request patience from local residents to see what options are available.

JK stated that this was too big a social asset to loose, and that once it was gone we would never again have anything like this. She suggested gathering email addresses of interested parties to work together to see what can be done. JG sent round a notepad for people to sign up.

MF of Volunteer Edinburgh extended sympathy to the many volunteers affected and stated that thinking of their wellbeing she is looking for other opportunities to help them while the farm remains closed.

VE has raised a concern with OSCA as she is not convinced by the reasons given for the farm's sudden demise.

SD queried if there could be a future version of the farm where it becomes a sanctuary for animals rather than a working farm. EF, who worked at the farm, stated that education had always been it's main mission and that was why it remained a working farm.

PM thanked HR for setting up the Go Fund Me page, and praised the efforts of the community in supporting it. He asked the councillors to reassure him that the land would not be sold in future. He stated that the board of trustees needs skilled people. The 2018 accounts show a large buffer so questions need to be asked about why how and why the farm closed so suddenly. DW responded that the farm land will never be used for any other purpose and certainly not sold. The council is fighting for it.

TD asked how the councillors will keep everyone informed. DW replied that they will issue briefings and given the level of interest this will be widely reported.

AE advised that she was one of two members of staff who had been kept on by the liquidators to look after the animals so she could quash rumours of the animals being slaughtered or mistreated.

SD stated that he has recently made a promotional video for the farm and that he was happy to provide it to anyone who could use it to help save the farm. HR advised that due to insolvency, to all intents and purposes GCF does not exist any longer, so we need to be careful that everything is done in a legal sense. She advised him to send the video to local councillors.

GE suggested that interested parties meet after the GDCC meeting to discuss options for saving the farm. As well as this, there should be more staff oversight of running of farm and entire structure should be assessed.

PS advised that he had bands on standby ready to record a charity CD to sell in aid of the farm, and was willing to help with web design for any campaign to save it. He asked if any local councillors sat on the board of trustees for the farm, to which they unanimously replied that they were not.

AF (Cyrenians farm manager) was there to express solidarity with staff and offer support in any way possible.

VE stated that she had already spoken to St Martin's church with a view to using their space for any meetings to help save the farm.

HS handed out some leaflets printed by former staff to show what they wanted people to do to help.

Parking Permits Consultation

There is a current consultation to introduce parking permits across Gorgie. CF stated that she frequently received correspondence relating to double parking on Westfield Road, but also had concerns that people could not afford it. AM queried if it would reduce the number of cars on the roads as people would be more likely to use the bus services within the city. JG confirmed that the proposal is only to introduce this requirement during the day. LW confirmed that Wardlaw Place is often full of trade traffic and she is concerned about access for ambulances. Where is the money to go to? Money isn't ring fenced. DD stated that permit parking worked out at about £3 per week. Council is trying to do more with less money. AA confirmed that payments were based on the size of car as well as the zone.

Bus lane consultation

We have been included in a bus lane consultation looking to extend the bus lane operating hours to be continuous from 7am-7pm. AA stated that bus lanes are usually quiet during the day. GDCC voted to oppose the proposed extension.

HMO's

Nothing to report.

Licensing

Nothing to report.

Councillor Reports

DD: Caledonian Village parking and dog fouling issues being addressed. Murieston / Orwell pavements been done but due to come back.

KF: collecting examples of graffiti locations to collate and address

DW: Remembrance Sunday

AG: Domino's noisy van to be investigated by night noise team. Fire hazard mattress to be removed. Plans for GCF.

Events

Christmas lights. Council are organising sound system but we will need someone to work it. GDS Church to provide floodlights. Council have spent money adapting floodlights further along Gorgie for lights. Decision: approval for two prizes of £25 each, a bottle of champagne, chocolates and cards as prizes and thank you gifts. Food bank donation £250 also.

AOCB

Date and time of next meeting

7pm 2nd December at GDS Church

