



Gorgie Dalry
Community Council

Minutes

Monday 1st March 2021

Attendees

GDCC

Angela Astor(AA), Rona Brown(RB), Joan Gordon-Chair(JG), Laura Wise(LW), Alex McKendrick(AM), Matthew Reilly(MR), Susanne Muller(SM).

Councillors

Catherine Fullerton(CF). Denis Dixon(DD)

Local Residents

Euan Noble(EN), Aiden Collins(AC), Craig Smail(CS), Laura Smith(LS), Chris MacGowan(CM), David McLennan(DM), Nancy McDonald(NM), Judith Sijstermans(JS), Samantha Finlay for Cllr. Graczyk(SF)

WELCOME

JG opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and facilitating introductions.

Quorum and Apologies

There were no apologies and the meeting was quorate.

Previous Minutes

Addition to previous minute:-

SM to get the Waste Management people to be more proactive at communication and for them to come back to report. The Gorgie Collective were quite uncomfortable with some comments that JG had made on Social Media.

RB the Gorgie Forum had been formed 22 years ago, not from a community lunch. Local groups had been meeting together for 18 months and the Forum had been launched in 2009.

The minute was proposed by MR and seconded by AA

Matters Arising

The actions were reviewed and open matters arising are detailed as follows:-

1. A list of foodbanks to be drawn up for the Tynecastle Parents group.
2. Training on Social Media and Code of Conduct TBA
3. Recruitment advertisement to be drawn up.

March

1. AM to set up a page on the website for all reports that are sent. there will be a timeline on page 1
2. CF and DD to ask Housing Convenor about council houses at Tynecastle School site
3. MR and AM to work together to email the developer of the Tynecastle build.
4. DD to send Mobility Plan to our website.
5. AM to write to Council about danger to cyclists at the junctions in our area.

Correspondence

Mostly about Tynecastle plans and Controlled Parking zones.

We had been asked to comment on Spaces for People improvements.

Notification that works on the rail bridge had moved on to Phase 2 - works now on the other side of road.

Engagement and Communication

MR - we are now on Teams and close captioning is available if needed.

LW - Corstorphine CC had asked how we did Engagement and Communications as they had found ours very useful.

JG,LW and MR had joined the EACC meeting. A very interesting presentation from a CEC Officer. We spoke of our concerns and frustrations in trying to ensure that the Council heard us in Gorgie Dalry especially in Planning and Development. There was a discussion on Police Reports. Action taken by many people, especially by Cllr. Fullerton, to ensure that we get a written report as the Police don't attend meetings any more.

The SW General Newsletter has still not been sent out.

We have been sent lovely Spring photographs by locals.

Treasurer's Report

AM shared his spreadsheet of accounts which shows we have approx £1200.

Councillors Reports

JG thanked the Councillors for their reports.

CF had not been able to find hers. She was advised it was in the Latest News on the GDCC website. Hers had been the first to arrive.

DD has made enquiries about the Caledonia Crescent road surface.

Items for Discussion

Community Presentation

SM has graciously withdrawn her presentation as we have a busy agenda. There is a list of events on the Gorgie Collective website.

JG would it be put on Gorgie Dalry Neighbours page? SM would post a link in the chat. MR will share on CC page

Recruitment

LW is moving to Fife in April. She has enjoyed her time with the CC. Her post as Communications Officer has been busy but rewarding. Busy with pointing people in the right direction to get the help or information they required especially during lockdown. As well as posting pictures of lost cats!

She will list what she does as communication officer as not all CC's have one.

SM indicated that she would be stepping down after the GC had had a big discussion about social media posts directed at GC by JG and had not received a message on social media and they would like to resign their seat. They would like to see another Community Group take their seat. It has been invaluable. Our volunteer time is better served on the Gorgie Forum. We have benefitted from the social media flourishing. We have benefitted from sharing local stuff and as a local resident it is great to see the CC going from strength to strength and has raised our profile as an organisation. All the best.

JG informed the meeting that Alex Ortiz was moving out of the area.

MR reminded us that Susanne had started a table of tasks and he had forwarded it to the group. If everyone adds what they do to the list, when new people join all the tasks can be evenly divided. With losing three people it might be hard to keep up the momentum.

Tynecastle High School

JG stated that we had received a pre-planning notification.

MR stated the building is a Category B listed building, now on the Buildings at Risk Register, so Historic Environment Scotland will be keeping an eye on it.

CF pleased that the building will be developed and hoped the facade, at least, will be kept.

DD it is in a blast zone, a planning application is coming.

JS there are many concerns that the building is being developed just for the sake of it.

LS, works with students and has researched purpose built student accommodation. The buildings don't get used and after a couple of years we have a poor quality build with an application for a change of use to housing that is overpriced.

LW we should not be afraid to voice concerns about the lack of affordable houses. Better to use the building as good quality, affordable housing be it for individuals or students. What is the threshold of student/non student builds? We are not seeing plans for affordable housing.

CS there is already great pressure on transport especially to Heriot Watt

AM who owns the land?

DD the Council does. It is not profitable for developers to build homes, they would need to be subsidised. Or the Council should build. **[CLARIFICATION 12-04-2021 The land was sold in 2014]**

AM If this is a blast zone no-one should be housed there, therefore if the explosion risk is the excuse not to build homes it shouldn't be suitable for students either. Because the Council owns the land this seems to be political rather than objections about "we don't like it"

CM new housing needs to provide parking, student accommodation doesn't, so this is a loophole. When there is no need for student flats and it is changed to housing you then have lots of homes with no parking places.

DD the reason there is no parking at student halls is to deter cars.

LW this seems an odd plan to build one sort of building that is not suitable for another. A bit like Richmond Terrace where developers wanted to put a lot of student flats on an inappropriate site. As a CC we want to be welcoming to everyone who wants to come and live here.

CF the Councillors could put it to the Housing Convenor why are we not using this as a Council build? What are the reasons that no-one has come forward except for this developer?

DD something needs to be done here. it costs a great deal of money to keep it wind and water tight and secure

MR the building is of national importance. When a building gets into disrepair it is not good to approve any build application just to save it. Why was it mothballed?

CF it was not fit for purpose for teaching. There had been previous enquiries but they had all fallen through.

JS we all agree that the site should be developed and equally agree not for student housing. All at the meeting agreed to this.

LW there is a report as to the viability of the site which she will put on the CC website for all to see. We had been invited to comment. MR and AM to draft a reply to the email

1. Invite the developer to come to April meeting
2. to bring documents on what the consultation will be
3. we are not keen on student accommodation
4. will they - the developers - undertake to put notices and posters in shops and noticeboards to let everyone know?

A vote was taken and all present were agreed that we are not in favour of student housing. All of the comments coming through on social media are against the proposal.

Spaces for People Consultation

There is to be a meeting via Teams on 10th and 11th March. JG, LW and MR would like to attend.

LW the SfP team have been very poor at giving feedback about our suggestions from our neighbourhood questionnaire. It was very poor that CF had had to press them to get them to reply. The SfP space at the entrance to Dalry Primary School is to remain.

Suggestions were sent in December. We cannot complain that we are not listened to if we don't contact them with concerns raised in the community about how the scheme needs to be tweaked. It would be nice to get a reply as the scheme affected many people.

DD there will be consultation as to which of the emergency measures will remain and which will be temporary. The Lanark and Inglis Green roads have been controversial. They do take suggestions and proposals into account. Those who shout loudest get heard most. LW has been shouting loud for us.

MR has seen very opposing views from locals on the topic. We must be careful how we answer as we represent all the locals and they are very divided.

JS it is good there is a conversation but there are many layers to the argument, both for and against. We need to be more specific about questions asked. There is the principal and then what is being implemented.

LW we need to find out what happened to the last statement we sent. It is not fair on us or local residents to keep putting in views to the consultation and we don't know how much the Council is listening.

AM there is a need to make the streets nicer and safer. When it becomes permanent will the blocks and sticks be left or will the pavements be widened? The junctions are very dangerous, especially for cyclists. The one at the bottom of Henderson Terrace and Dalry and Gorgie roads as is the one at Angle Park and Henderson Terraces to the Western Approach Road are particularly bad. There are massive potholes which are very dangerous.

The safety of this must be addressed. He does not support the Council in this and feels they have not taken our concerns and comments on board.

DD these measures are temporary and put in as emergency measures do deal with Covid 19. Some may be adapted to being permanent. All this goes towards the 2030, 40 and 50 plan to become carbon neutral, getting cars off the roads and reducing the volume of traffic.

CM the cycle track stops and starts and is very dangerous.

JG asked DD if there was a plan for what is trying to be achieved? He will send the Mobility plan for us to see.

LW asked if there is anything specific for our area. No - it is city wide. She will write for more information.

DD Andy Edwards is very involved with the plan. Any problems in our specific area could be sent to DD and he will fast track them.

JS spoke of the dreadful potholes at the Victor Paris junction.

RB spoke of the problems for wheelchair and 4 wheeled walker users, also of the visually impaired as the temporary bollard system is hard to see as it is the same colour as the road. The RNIB are concerned.

AA Haymarket is a shambles with only just room for two busses to pass. Elderly people in the sheltered housing complex near her are having great difficulty negotiating the extra kerbs and bollards. Also there is the huge pothole at the Ardmillan junction.

AA and DD to meet for a walkabout to list problems to be reported.

LW it would be helpful if CC was tagged when potholes were reported then we will know that it has been reported.

Controlled Parking

DD This is to be implemented in early 2022. It was put back a year because of the pandemic. There was a consultation in 2019 and we can still put in suggestions. It is to stop people coming into our area, parking, and getting the bus into town. It pushes the problem further out. It is not very expensive - £2 per week - but after 5.30pm anyone can park and at weekends after 5.30 on Friday.

SF if people have questions they should go to Cllr. Graczyk's facebook page as she has a lot of information there,

AOCB

AC asked about how recruitment works

AM having checked with Governance, we can add 3 people without needing permission.

LW there is information on the Scottish CC's page about what people do in CC's.

AC he will check this before deciding. He has been very impressed with our meetings!

SM the email from the Future of the High Streets - is there any more information?

AM he had been in touch when they have an idea of what they are doing we will ask them to come to a meeting.

JG is the beautifying our streets with the £2.5 million the same group? No. that is research from Edinburgh Futures and Edinburgh Living Laf project and nothing more has been heard from them either.

CM Fountain Park gutter leaks make a wonderful waterfall at the entrance to the Telfer Subway when it rains! All the drains are blocked and the flood continues down to his door in

James Square. He reported it last year and DD had chased it up. Both Scottish Water and the Council say it is not their problem. This has been going on for 10 years!
DD will pass this on to the councillor for that area.

AM AMA had closed the pavement on Ardmillan at Springwell House without notice. There was no diversion for pedestrians. DD to check.

DM were the CC committed to making a charitable donation to the Bethany Trust as there had not been one at Christmas time?

JG yes we were committed but did not do it at Christmas as the treasurer had various outstanding bills to be paid. The amount of £200 was agreed. DM would send AM the details of the Bethany Trust Night Shelter at Haymarket.

The End - JG thanked everyone for their hard work and thanked all the guests for coming. Anyone with an interest in us is welcome to join and always welcome to join in as a visitor.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 5th April at 7pm on Teams

