



Gorgie Dalry Community Council Minutes Monday 7th June 2021

Attendees

GDCC:

Angela Astor - AA, Rona Brown (Vice Chair) - RB, Aidan Collins - AC, Joan Gordon (Chair) - JG,

CEC:

Denis Dixon - DD, Samantha Findlay (Assistant to Ashley Graczyk) - SF.

Local Residents:

Nancy Bryson - NB, Avril Cuthbert (Chair of GD Living Rent) - AC, Nancy MacDonald (Garvald) - NM, Chris McGowan - CM, Fiona McLean - FM, Adan Wheavil - AW.

Welcome

JG opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and facilitated introductions. The meeting is recorded for the minute and then deleted. Please raise your hand to speak. A volunteer was asked for to write the minute - JG.

Quorum and Apologies

Apologies - Alex McKendrick (Treasurer/Secretary) - AM, Mathew Reilly (Engagement and Communications), Judith Sijstermans.

The meeting was not quorate therefore the proposal and seconding of the May minute would need to be put forward to the next meeting. RB stated as the meeting was not quorate no big decisions could be made.

JG intimated that as some attendees had to leave early and we were so few she would like to rattle through the agenda to spend as much time on Tynecastle Development.

Matters Arising

All from the previous minute had been attended to.

Correspondence

none to report.

Treasurer's Report

Money had been spent on the following - a tiller for Dalry Cemetery, Public Liability Insurance, Website and Domain bills. AM to speak to Sandy to get accounts reviewed.

Planning

Nothing for the GDCC area.

Engagement and Communications

the following items had been posted on the GDCC website:-

Tynecastle consultation, Covid Restriction updates, Local Business Post requests, Fountainbridge Library to be an asymptomatic testing centre. The South West Police report and Councillor's reports.

Items for Discussion

Jakob from Dalry Cemetery had asked for CC approval to open the gate at the bottom of Henderson Terrace. There were no objections to this. JG to write to Jakob to this end.

Small Business Directory

this to be put forward to August. There were no objections

Spaces for People

Removal Group. JG proposed that as this is a city wide issue discussion should be put forward to August. There were no objections.

Discussion about safety and speeding at the Ardmillan junction

NB asked about CCTV cameras in this area. DD intimated that CCTV is very expensive to install and run. AC asked who would be the best person to write to? The Roads Department has been reshuffled and DD would let us know the best person to contact. CM suggested that a speed camera might be a better option. FM suggested that in Morningside(?) outside a private school there were rubber strips across the road to control speeds, perhaps this could be looked at. NB offered to stand in the street with a hand held monitor to record speeds - both at the Ardmillan junction and in Murieston. DD had had many contacts with the Police about this issue.

Memorial Bench

RB will contact Val Saville about a time to have a dedication event for the bench.

Tynecastle

After the presentation by the developer (minuted in great detail in the minute for May) there had been a *Public Consultation* which most felt had been most unsatisfactory. Just a chat room that was a one to one question and answer, with no facility to see what others might be asking.

The Living Rent group had had a very successful action on May 30th outside Tynecastle School to inform the public of the proposed development. They have put together an Action Paper of what locals want. They got 50 signed copies which they delivered, by hand, to the S1 office on Queen Street. S1 are a subsidiary of the Teague Group and have been involved with many developments. AC had checked their site for the cost of a 2 bedroom flat at the Ropeworks in Leith - £400,000.

Living Rents have asked for a public meeting but have had no reply.

AC reported that less than 2% of the space was to be given to community groups. Living Rent have found that 35% of students live in PBSA's with 65% in flats. Mainly due to the high cost of PBSA's.

AC invited us to look at their Facebook and Twitter pages for what they were doing. They have more specific details.

AA and RB had walked round the area to see how many student accommodation builds there are in the area and reported an overprovision. With students being temporary residents this is not adding to the community. Also, during holiday periods the student accommodation is let out to holiday makers - again not adding to the community.

Many attendees felt that the Developers were being devious - divide and conquer. They are using numbers from the last census which are 10 years old. As part of the planning application the Developer must consult with the CC. The CC had had to invite the Developers to a CC meeting by which time the Developer had spoken with many local groups - offering various community benefits they thought each group would like. The building is nearly at the point of *something has to be done* before it falls down so it's better to have student accommodation than nothing.

The Council and the Planning Application have to comply with the Health and Safety guidance re blast zones.

We are all concerned about the need to save the building and want to see it used. The CC is not against students but would like to see affordable housing to be used by both long term residents and students.

JG suggested that the CC work with Living Rents on this matter.

NB asked "Who owns the land"? If Teague owns it will they get to do what they want? DD to investigate the land ownership.

Actions - The CC must be clear what it wants.

Look at discussions when Hearts were building their new stadium and were looking at the school site for themselves.

Check with Governance re old minutes about this subject.

JG closed the discussion here and thanked everyone.

AOCB

CM some work had been done on the road surface at James Square. He was concerned with people mis-parking at the emergency exit. DD suggested calling the police.

JG suggested that there be a meeting in July for the continuation of discussions re Tynecastle. All agreed.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 5th July 2021 at 7pm.

JG thanked everybody for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.