



Gorgie Dalry  
Community Council  
Minutes  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Attendees**

**GDCC:**

Angela Astor – AA, Rona Brown – RB, Aidan Collins – AC, Joan Gordon (Chair) – JG, Alex McKendrick (Treasurer) – AM, Mathew Reilly (Engagement Officer) – MR

**CEC:**

Samantha Findlay (Assistant to Ashley Graczyk) – SF

**Local residents:**

Muireann Crowley (Gorgie Daly Living Rent) – MC, Fiona McLean – FM

**Welcome**

JG opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Quorum and apologies**

Apologies were received from Dennis Dixon, Cathy Fullerton, Aaron Peters and Judith Sijstermans. The meeting was quorate.

**Previous Minutes**

MR proposed the minutes as accurate, and AC seconded.

## **Correspondence**

AM shared that the GDCC had received two emails from members of the public who wished to join and/or help the GDCC. One emailed to say they would be happy to be co-opted and offered to take the role of minutes secretary; the other declared an interest in joining or attending meetings, although Mondays might be a difficult day to attend.

There was sad news that previous GDCC treasurer Jim Hogg had died on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.

Correspondence from Ashley Graczyk - AG had been received regarding the Tynecastle PBSA development. She requested figures from the Council for the estimated student population in the local area. AM noted that the stand-out statistics were that in Gorgie East the estimated number of students would be around 50% of the local population; wider than that, the rates still remain high (over 20%).

AA received correspondence from The City of Edinburgh Lions International requesting dates for any planned Christmas events.

There was also brief mention of reports of fly tipping and pavement blocking.

## **Matters Arising**

There was no more correspondence regarding public art since the last meeting. AA confirmed she had contact details for the Haymarket developers, Robert McAlpine, who wished to contribute funding for a local community project. AA suggested the funds could be used for a new public notice board in Dalry. MR noted that in her Councillor Report, Cathy Fullerton – CF, asked that any proposals about public art be shared with elected members before any decisions are made. It was agreed that CF would be copied into any further email correspondence on the subject.

AM reported that all actions raised last month regarding the Tynecastle development had been achieved.

MR apologised for running out of time to put in an objection to the Haymarket Yards development, but noted that the development had already received permission and was also being dealt with by the West End CC as it is outwith the GDCC boundary.

AC looked at the Tynecastle PBSA Noise Impact Assessment and added notes to the shared document but noted that the assessment was mostly concerned with noise levels that would affect the students after the development had been built, rather than the impact of noise on the surrounding local residents.

## **Engagement and Communication**

Shared engagement last month was mostly concerned with the Tynecastle PBSA (the survey, planning application, etc) or information on local COVID testing services.

## **Treasurer's Report**

AM reported that the monthly payment to MS Teams had been made, and confirmed that the GDCC treasury balance was £1,892.73, minus the Teams payment that was yet to clear.

## **Tynecastle PBSA Development**

JG confirmed she had posted survey flyers along Gorgie Dalry and requested that they now be taken down as the survey has concluded.

MR confirmed the flyer campaign had been successful in increasing awareness of the survey and that it received 116 respondents, while the planning application received 219. The survey results showed 85% of respondents objected to the PBSA development, a figure that was echoed by objection numbers on the planning portal.

AM raised the topic of when the planning application goes to committee, and that the GDCC should ask to be present. MR suggested that community groups such as Gorgie Farm or Big Hearts be offered the chance to be included in any correspondence, to ensure a diversity of views is represented.

MR also explained how the Planning Officer will take the GDCC response into consideration when writing their report, which will then be submitted to the planning committee. The committee councillors have the power to overturn the planning decision if a consensus is reached. It was agreed that a GDCC representative should be present for any meetings that allow it.

MR shared that he had received a list of 'local development plan policies of relevance' from the Planning Officer and suggested that it would be useful to reference these policies in the GDCC written response. The final date for responses is the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

MR then shared his screen with the meeting to display anonymised graph and pie chart representations of the survey results. The results were 87.1% in opposition to the development. 8.6% of respondents were in favour, with a further 4% not sure.

The survey showed that the most popular argument against the development was the excessive concentration of PBSAs in the area having a detrimental effect on the diversity and balance of the local community. The most popular argument in favour was making use of disused land.

JG raised the topic of who would be in charge of writing the letter, and it was decided that it would be a collaborative effort. AM suggested that a document from Planning

Democracy be shared on the GDCC website as it contains useful information. JG requested that a copy be sent to her. MR noted that the draft letter could first be run past the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, as they would have relevant experience dealing with such matters. AM also offered to email Planning Democracy for advice. AC and AM volunteered to summarise the survey results, while MR will write the draft letter. The final draft is to be ready by Friday, with room for any necessary tweaking over the weekend.

AM noted that there are two planning applications – one also for the listed building. A vote was taken amongst all present at the meeting and it was unanimous that the GDCC would oppose both planning applications.

### **Christmas Planning**

JG explained that a physical Christmas party would not be possible this year. The second week of December was suggested as a suitable date for the turning on of Christmas lights, and AA noted that the Council would need to be contacted to make sure they have people available for the selected dates.

JG said she would get in touch with the schools about the Christmas poster competition. In previous years the posters advertised Gorgie Dalry Christmas festivities, but as no such events will take place this year, it was decided that pupils could focus their designs on more general Christmas themes and messages. AM and AA volunteered to act as judges for the posters this year. It was decided that the deadline for the posters will be December 1<sup>st</sup>, with the judging taking place the week after.

The window dressing competition was agreed for the second week of November, with the judging taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. AC agreed to judge the entries, possibly along with Judith Sijstermans.

### **Counsellor Reports**

AM confirmed that Cathy Fullerton's report had been received, and that it would be posted to the GDCC website.

### **AOCB**

JG raised the issue of speed monitoring after a recent hit and run accident in the GDCC area. RB wrote to Denis Dixon – DD on behalf of a resident who requested a new crossing but is yet to hear a reply. The resident in question will write to the CC and also MSPs about the matter. RB agreed to forward her email to DD on to the GDCC.

After some discussion about road junctions in and around the GDCC area, MR shared that he had received an email from SF on behalf of AG that confirmed bi-annual traffic surveys are carried out by the road safety team. The road safety team have added two locations on Gorgie Road – East of McLeod Street and East of Westfield Road – to their survey.

AM confirmed that going forward he will not be taking on the role of secretary, but that he would like to take some time this month to look at traffic issues. AC reiterated that he would take on the role of treasurer.

AC asked if the GDCC had ever discussed the issue of short-term lets and houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs). AA confirmed that they have been discussed in the past, but the legislation has changed since then. MR noted that HMOs are not in the planning lists the GDCC receive. AM suggested that the subject be added to next months' agenda, as there is a proposal for designated short-term let control zones in Edinburgh, and consultations run until the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

The AGM will take place next month. AM has put out a notice about the meeting, and JG will write a meeting agenda to be published on the GDCC website.

MR confirmed the anonymised results from the Tynecastle PBSA will be published on the GDCC website, perhaps as included in the objection letter. JG asked AM to send the Gorgie Collective a copy of the final results and conclusions from the survey.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 7 PM Annual General Meeting 2021 (AGM)