

YOUR COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Grange Prestonfield Community Council

Summer 2014



OPEN SPACE in East Suffolk. This former school playing field is popular with local children and dog walkers. Some years ago, an application to use it for a housing development was turned down. However, it looks likely that there will be a re-application.

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PLANNING MATTERS

Oh No – not Planning again! Our Members are too polite to say this aloud at our monthly meetings but sometimes the thought must be there. Yet Community Councils do have a statutory role in the planning process and we look at every planning application in our area.

Mostly we take no action but we do comment if we think there could be an impact on local residents or the wider community or a conflict with the City Council's own planning guidance or development plan.

About half the GPCC built-up area has conservation area status and looking at the impact of proposals on our Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings is a significant part of what we do.

We look critically at anything affecting designated Open Spaces in or around our area. Occasionally we comment on large applications outside our borders if we think they could affect our residents or businesses.

We get asked to comment on consultation documents put out by the Scottish Government and the City Council so recently we have made submissions on: "Trees in the City"; Developer Contributions; the Grange Conservation Area Revised Character Appraisal; and the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance.

The Edinburgh Local Development Plan continues to evolve. The 2013 version had to be altered to meet strategic changes made by the Scottish Government to allocate more housing land in Edinburgh and the Second Proposed Plan to meet this requirement went to the June meeting of the CEC Planning Committee. There will be a six week period for public consultation on this plan after the summer holidays and we will put details on our website. This will be your opportunity to say how you want our City to develop up to the 2024 plan horizon.

If you have concerns about a planning application near you, email planning@gp-cc.org.uk.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTED OCTOBER 2013

Elections to the Community Council were held in 2013. Some of the previous members, including Chair John Palmer, did not stand for re-election. Those elected, either in their own right or as representatives of local interest groups, are listed below with brief address details. Office Bearers, with full contact details, were elected at the first meeting of the new Community Council in October.

CHAIR: Tony Harris chair@gp-cc.org.uk

21 Mentone Terrace 477 9968

VICE CHAIR: Mike Hunter vicechair@gp-cc.org.uk

40 Upper Gray Street 667 1767

SECRETARY: Sue Tritton secretary@gp-cc.org.uk

6 Grange Terrace 667 8027

TREASURER: Andreas Grothey treasurer@gp-cc.org.uk

29 Ross Gardens 667 5034

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS: Doreen Allerton, St Albans Road; Graham Dann, Priestfield Road; Gilly Dennis, Kirkhill Gardens; Simon Di Biase, Clearburn Road; Maureen Edwards, Dalkeith Road; Hazel Fletcher, Blacket Place; Eileen Francis, Gilmour Road; Sergey Gorobets, Blackford Avenue; Derek Howie, Rankin Drive; Barbara McNaught, East Mayfield; Graham Muir, Lady Road; Julian Newman, Peel Terrace; William Reid, Prestonfield Road; Janet Sidaway, Marchhall Crescent; Denis Stevens, Clearburn Gardens; David Stevenson, Blacket Place; Maria Ullibarri, Priestfield Road

NEWINGTON CEMETERY INTEREST GROUP



The Community Council has formed a group of volunteers interested in the past, present and future of Newington Cemetery. They will be working closely with City Council officials to improve local knowledge and appreciation of this valuable resource in the heart of the community. Initial priorities are to identify interesting graves and put up signage to alert visitors to the wildlife to be found there.

Later on, working parties will be established to clear ivy and undergrowth to make walking easier and safer. A pilot project to show how some of the fallen headstones could be securely restored is also being investigated.

The cemetery will be included in the Cockburn Society's Edinburgh Open Doors weekend on 28th September, to attract further interest in this beautiful site.

For more information please contact Janet Sidaway: janet.sidaway@gp-cc.org.uk

PUTTING SOMETHING BACK

Graham Dann is one of our new Community Councillors who joined last October. He has already taken on the role of Convenor of our Roads/Transport subgroup (email transport@gp-cc.org.uk). Graham says:

"I'd been privileged to have a full-time job in financial services for more than 30 years when early retirement came along in 2012. I've lived in Priestfield/Prestonfield for 18 years and feel I now have the opportunity to serve my local community.

"My wife and I are members of the local parish church. I have a particular interest in roads and transport issues including cycling and am a member of Spokes and the Cyclists' Touring Club.

"Our local police and elected Councillors are very supportive of the Community Council and always attend our regular monthly meetings on the third Wednesday evening of the month at Cameron House Community Education Centre.

"If you want to know more please come along to our meetings all of which are open to the public from 7pm or look at our website" – www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

RESIDENTS PRIORITY PARKING – UPDATE

Grange Prestonfield Community Council was instrumental in establishing the idea of Residents Priority Parking (RPP). Back in 2008 the City Council appeared determined to extend Controlled Parking Zones, at first South of CPZ zone S1 and eventually all the way to the city bypass. We weren't sure this was what residents wanted and held public consultation meetings in our area. The results persuaded the Council to explore something less strict, in which parking was restricted in about half the area for 90 minutes in the morning to discourage commuter parking. Residents could buy a permit if they wished to park all day in the marked areas. This area, known as "B1", became the prototype of RPP, now being rolled out city wide.

When new RPP areas are proposed, the Council will proceed only after consultation with residents. In Grange Prestonfield, two such new areas have been proposed: Priestfield and Blackford / Nether Liberton. We offered to hold public meetings to judge support but the Council declined our offer. Preliminary consultations suggested that there was little support in Blackford /Nether Liberton to the West of Mayfield Road (ie the Blackford part) and this area was removed from further proposals. So later consultations were about Nether Liberton (ie to the East of Mayfield Road) but the Council have confusingly referred to this as 'Blackford'.



The Council proposed, at a meeting of its Transport and Environment Committee on June 3rd, to approve immediate implementation of the Priestfield RPP scheme (where residents were very supportive, perhaps because GPCC and local residents encouraged this), but to delay implementation in Nether Liberton pending further consultation (the majority of responses in this area were in favour but there were fewer, perhaps because residents in this area may have thought they did not have to express support if the scheme showed what they wanted). Before the meeting we pointed out this anomaly to Councillors and local residents, who responded positively, and the Committee decided to implement both schemes now if the four Ward Councillors agreed. Confused? So were we but we tried to make a difference.

WASTE AND RECYCLING - COLLECTION CHANGES

We understand that the Council is planning to introduce changes to the Waste and Recycling services – partly to reduce costs and partly to increase the amount of material collected for recycling which is important in order to achieve European targets to reduce carbon emissions and to minimise the amount of Landfill Tax the Council has to pay.

The Council is planning to provide residents with a large recycling bin in which all paper, metal, cardboard and plastic can be placed – this will replace the current blue and red boxes. The current "green bin" for general waste will be replaced by a smaller bin – to encourage residents to recycle as much as possible. We believe that a trial period of the new bins will take place this autumn – we do not yet know where. Collection of garden waste and food waste will remain as now.

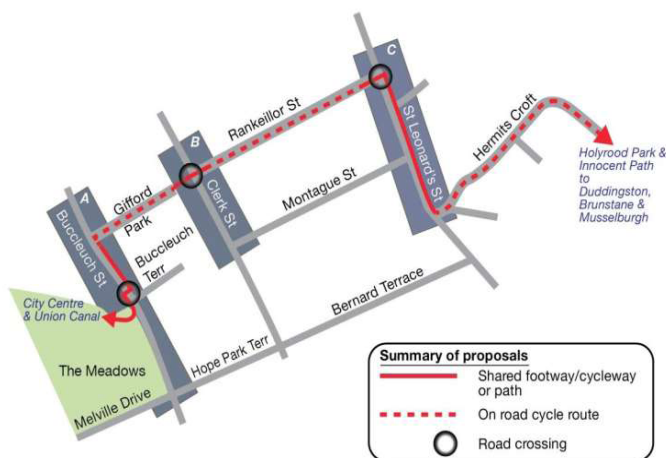
These changes may be welcomed as it will make recycling much simpler. However, it will mean an additional bin which could cause problems for those living in terrace properties with small front gardens. We are also aware that bins on the street cause problems for those using wheelchairs or buggies and those who are visually handicapped. We have asked that bins be considerably replaced by the collectors and will continue to press for improvements to the collection service and for enforcement action to be taken when appropriate.

Up to date information, including calendars, can be found on the City Council website -

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycle

CYCLE ROUTES: CONSULTATION

Paul Matthews, Professional Cycling Officer at the City Council, gave a presentation to GPCC in March 2014 to fill us in on progress.



There are five routes in the South Edinburgh area, the first three of which have passed the initial public consultation stage: Loanhead to Gilmerton; Meadows to Innocent Tunnel (illustrated); Meadows to Union Canal. There are two others on which the public have yet to be consulted: Pollock Halls to Fountainhall Road and Marchmont to Kings Buildings.

The Pollock Halls route will link with the recently implemented Quality Bike Corridor route, which runs from George IV Bridge to King's Buildings. The route would also link to a proposed 'family friendly' route to Morningside.

The Community Council will be involved in these consultations. If you would like to have your say, contact -

Graham Dann (transport@gp-cc.org.uk) or

Paul Matthews (tel: 0131 469 3700 or email paul.matthews@edinburgh.gov.uk)

RESURFACING OF EAST MAYFIELD - FUNDING SUCCESS



The Community Council has succeeded in obtaining funding for the resurfacing of East Mayfield from the Roads Capital Programme 2014/15.

This is a source of funds from South Central Neighbourhood Partnership for road improvements which would not otherwise be done in the near future.

This application was unsuccessful in previous years but the condition of the East Mayfield road surface had got worse so we applied again and were successful this time. Another application, for resurfacing of part of the East Mayfield footway, was not ranked highly enough to be funded this year. A further application, for a dropped crossing on Prestonfield Avenue, will be referred to an alternative source of possible funding.

20mph LIMITS ENFORCED AT LAST

During the pilot 20mph zone, in the GPCC area, the Community Council had urged the need for enforcement – without success until now.

The pilot was judged a success in reducing speeds in most streets: so the scheme is to be rolled out city wide and the City Council has also allocated funds for Police Scotland officers to enforce 20mph limits.



Get Involved. All meetings of the Community Council are open to members of the public.

Meetings are held at Cameron House Community Education Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue, EH16 5EU at 7pm on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December

Minutes and Agendas can be found on our website www.gp-cc.org.uk