**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 15 January 2020**

**Meeting held at Cameron House Community Education Centre**

**Present**

Chair - Ian Chisholm. (IC)

**Elected Office Bearers -**

Secretary- Raphael Bleakley (RB)

Joint Vice Chair - Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ).  Paul Rowllings (PR)

Stanley Bird (SJB), Sue Tritton (ST), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Chris Sherwood (CS), Scott Paterson (SP), Maureen Edwards (ME), Sally Griffiths (SG), Peter Jones (PJ), Ken Robertson (KR), Bill Reid (BR), Cris Ferguson (CF), Isabel Clark (IAC)

**Apologies :**

Andreas Grothey (Treasurer), Tony Harris, Julian Newman,

**Absence** – Cllr Alison Dickie

**In Attendance**-

PC Wong, Police Scotland,

Jim Aitken  (JA) and Stuart Tooley  (STuT) University of Edinburgh

Alex Luetchford

**1. Welcome. –**

IC welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished a Happy New Year to all. Discussed that it would be helpful to have name plates to identify recently elected Council members.   IC advised that there were to be two presentations at the meeting, namely University of Edinburgh Peffemill Sports Village Planning Application and GPCC Website..

**2.   Declarations of Interest**  - None

**3.** **Minutes of 18 December 2019 -** Previously circulated Minutes were agreed to be a full account of the meeting. Only discussion was to Apologies as CF absence was not recorded.

**4.  Appointment/Election of new member -** IC advised that the elected Secretary had stepped down and there were a number of options to be considered which would be discussed at the next meeting.

**5.  Notice of Matters Arising not covered by Agenda**- None

**6. Reports (External) -**

1. **Police -**

PC Wong advised that in 2019 there had been a Murder in the Prestonfield area and a 19 year old male along with two 16 year males had been convicted.

There had been a significant number of 999 calls over the festive period e.g. During a 2 hour period at Hogmanay there had been 800 calls. Southside had the highest number of missing persons.

**Police Appeal for  information -**Theft by Housebreaking by 2 males at a Cabin, Bristo Square, Edinburgh involving a safe and theft of £20,000. Two males believed to be in their 20-30’s, wearing dark clothing and had a hatchback car. Anyone with any information should contact the Police.

Housebreakings in Grange, Newington area - a 25 year man has been charged with several housebreakings in this area after Police Officers and a Police Dog  found the male hiding in a bush after one of the incidents.

Road Traffic update - Police actively involved in Road safety checks in Southside especially during festive period e.g. speeding, going through red lights, drugs, drink driving.  A number of people believed to be drink driving but had negative results were given Warnings and where positive results were charged.

PC Wong advised that the Police had received numerous email complaints regarding delivery/tradesmen drivers parking on pavement/street and/or prohibited areas of the road e.g. zigzag lines at pedestrian crossing.  Police sometimes give a Warning and/or issued a Police Fixed Penalty Notice. Police patrolling areas that the public advise are causing concern for pedestrians.

Speeding on Dalkeith Road - CS raised the public concern regarding speeding in this area.

PC Wong advised that the Police were aware of this and several drivers had been issued with Police Fixed Penalty tickets.

Discussed minimum space between cyclists and overtaking vehicles. PC Wong advised that where appropriate he and his colleagues gave warnings otherwise the offender was issued with a Police Fixe Penalty  and/or charged.

KR enquired if there was an increase in Road Traffic incidents by tourists who step out onto the road to take a photo into the path of drivers.  PC Wong agreed that this often happened and drivers had to swerve to avoid the pedestrian on the road.

Police Report - IC Chair enquired if it would be possible to have the Police Report circulated to GPCC members prior to the meeting. PC Wong advised this could be done and he would contact IC Chair to confirm position.

**(b) Councillors Report. -**None. (No Councillor attended).

**7. Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

**T**H had circulated his Planning Note to GPCC members prior to the meeting,.

Edinburgh University Peffermill Sports Village

Presentation by Jim Aitken (JA) and Stuart Tooley (STuT). STuT initially advised that in March/April 2019 he had made a Presentation Pre Planning Application to GPCC members and regularly attended monthly meetings in addition to attending various Consultation events.  In December 2019 the full Planning application for a Sports Village was submitted to CEC and hopefully a decision by CEC made by summer 2020 or earlier.

JA advised that Edinburgh University had 65 clubs  (Hockey Academy, Football, Rugby, Lacrosse, Archery, etc) all competing for use of pitches/sports hall facilities at Peffermill Sports ground which covers a 27 acre site. Some of the outdoor pitches would have artificial grass which enables greater use by clubs. At present the University cannot meet students demands for sports facilities.

The proposed planning application is to benefit students, plus 50% use by Community Groups, host events on site and accommodation on site for students. A visual presentation showed a new Indoor Sports Pavilion on two levels for Badminton/indoor sports, community gyms, Social/Bar area, physio, 4 new indoor Tennis courts (after consulting with local Tennis Clubs).

Outside - Archery field, football, rugby and hockey pitches. Edinburgh University Hockey team is competing in Europe. Sport is a big part of students life and development. JA pledged that 50% access for local common city use to the new Sports facilities.

Student Accommodation for 573 beds in 3 - three pointed towers - with different levels is planned for the university land nearest to the Cameron Toll roundabout.   A visual image was seen by members showing the accommodation towers along with the whole 27 acre proposed Sports Village plan.

Benefits:

Improved capacity for both student and community use of sports facilities.

Tennis courts

Sports facilities to host Youth Training Camps and Sports Events.

Community Liaison member of staff

Discussed concerns about apparent lack of car parking facilities for students, appears to be limited parking at accommodation building when students initially arrive with all their gear at start /end of year. Reason given was usually Students do not have cars, more likely to use bicycles, walk and/or local transport. Advised that the University had consulted LRT and discussions ongoing. Concern raised regarding walking as Cameron Toll a busy roundabout - was there any CEC discussions e.g. a walkway over the roundabout? STuT not aware of any previous discussion for a walkway.

Numerous issues raised regarding the proposed Parking on site/street - Local Residents had experienced a Sports event at Peffermill sports ground where vehicles were parked and/or abandoned causing residents/drivers difficulties to negotiate.   If Sporting events and International events are to be hosted this is likely to increase the volume of traffic parking on site/streets nearby. What is the Council’s position regarding this?

IC thanked JA and STuT for their excellent visual and detailed presentation.

Cameron Toll - Cinema Planning Application

We were shown a visual plan of the proposed separate 2 storey building at the south side of Cameron Toll shopping centre. The ground floor has glass windows and proposal is for additional shops. The 1st floor appears to be brick exterior for 10 cinemas. General opinion was that there was a demand in the Southside for a Cinema.   Planning permission has already been granted although there have been a few amendments to the Planning application.

ME raised concerns that the Cinema service area backed onto the Tennis Club and other members raised concern about the height of the Cinema as not clear from the visual picture.

SP and other members raised the issue of reduced car parking spaces. Already have Medical centre using car parking spaces. Initially there was proposal for a small multi storey car park at/near Inch Park but not on the plans now.    Additionally, discussed Commuters parking their vehicles all day although looking at installing camera’s recording the registration numbers of vehicles to reduce this type of parking.  Can vehicles still drive through the car from one end to the other? Not clear if the proposed Cinema building will stop traffic driving from Cameron Toll end through the car park to the Petrol Station.

General discussion about the increased volume of traffic in Cameron Toll roundabout area, Lady Road, junction with Liberton Road and Craigmillar Park. Concerns raised regarding whether CEC Planning Department has considered the impact on this very small road infrastructure in view of the major proposed developments:

* University of Edinburgh - Peffermill Sports Village
* Cameron Toll Cinema
* Cycle Route
* Ambulance route for ERI.
* Environment - Electric Car Charging Points?
* GPCC consider this should be raised with Councillor.
* GPCC Road Traffic Sub Group to address issues raised.

2 Wilton Road

Proposed extension at side of property with new front gates.

IAC advised that a few Craigmillar Park Association members were objecting to this proposed planning application. CPA is also objecting, GPCC agreed to object.

**b) Licensing**- None

**c). Roads/Transport**

Discussed under Planning

**d). Communications/Publicity. (new Website Presentation)**

PR(Joint Vice Chair) delivered an excellent proposed visual website. Presentation regarding his task to review the current GPCC website. He considered the new GPCC website should be more visual, include links to Sub Groups, Institutions, Portals, a History of the GPCC area,latest news, all Planning applications in our area, a Map with points of interest (e.g. Doctors, Post Offices, Churches, Libraries, Commonwealth Pool, Schools, etc) although this may incur increased costs which would have to be discussed with the Treasurer.

GPCC members are to consider the new proposed GPCC Website and provide feed back.

Members general view was that the proposed new Website was robust, updated and user friendly as included Links to various information to assist people who may access the GPCC website. IC thanked PR for his Presentation and hard work to update the GPCC website.

**e) Environment**

ST advised members that a number of Associations were all linked into the Astley Ainslie Hospital ground future development. Next scheduled meeting due to be Mon 20 January 2020.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

ERJ advised that the Nature Trail Signs were ready to go up and there would be an event to launch the erection of the signs. Snowdrop Walk event due to take place second weekend February  and details of this event will be publicised on the website.

**8. Reports from Office Bearers**

 IC Chair **-**Nothing to add

RB Secretary - Nothing to add

AG Treasurer - Email sent advising GPCC total balance £2,778.36 of which Newington Cemetery is to receive £1,588.15 thus leaving a balance of £1,190.21 for GPCC

**9.Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) GPCC Representative

IC Chair advised that TH had stepped down from this role and invited interest from members. Ken Robertson (KR) indicated he would be interested in being the GPCC Representative.

b) SNNN (Southside/Newington Neighbourhood Network)

ST advised that she attends the SNNN which involves assessing Grant applications,

She had nothing to add.

STuT advised that he attends a different level of this Network and the CEC are looking at different priorities for assessing Grants.

**11 Open Forum -**

CS enquired about a larger room for GPCC meetings as there was not a lot of room for members of the public and/or interested persons. Discussed that previously GPCC meetings had been held in a larger room in Cameron House Community Education Centre however due to noise levels had moved to the current meeting room which was quieter.

Discussed Sub Groups meeting at 6.30-7pm before GPCC meeting at 7pm.

IC to enquire if can use room from 6.30pm.

Publicise events - Discussion took place regarding GPCC members creating Posters to promote events by distribution and/or display Posters in Libraries, Medical Centres, Churches, etc to help inform, engage with and include the community in various ongoing matters within the Southside.

e.g. proposed Cinema at Cameron Toll.

Presentation at February meeting to be arranged by CS focusing on facilities for children & young people.

**12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 7 pm.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary of Open Actions** |  |  |
| **4. Appointment new member** | IC said options to be discussed at next meeting | GPCC members and IC |
| **6a. Police report** | Police report to be circulated to GPCC | PC Wong and IC chair |
| **7a. Planning**  **Peffermill, Sports Village**  **Cameron Toll Cinema**  **Road Infrastructure** | CEC views. Has planning department considered all proposed planning applications together as increased pressure on small area or road. | CEC councillor |
| **8d. Communications/Publicity** | View and give feedback on new website.  PR and AG to consider costs for map and existing/new website costs. | All members AG and PR |
| **11. Subgroups** | Consider meet 6.30-7pm prior to GPCC meeting | IC to confirm if can use room |