

**New Town & Broughton Community Council
Minutes of the meeting on
Monday 6th February 2012
(Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent)**

Members Present: Ian Mowat (Chair), Audrey Cavaye (Secretary), John Knight, Gaby Holden, Alan Welsh, Jonathan Finn, Richard Corral, Anne Casson, Judy Conn, Patrick Hutton, Bill Dunlop, , Alistair MacIntosh (Moray Feurs), Alan Welsh.

Ex officio members present: PC Derek Barbour, Cllr Lesley Hinds, Cllr Alastair Rankin

Members of the public present: Alan McIntosh, Sue Laman, Christine Ross, Robert Newton & Jeremy Scott

1) Apologies for absence received from: Ian McGill, Stuart Mclvor and Di Willis.

2) Minutes of Meeting and matters arising

Amendments were requested – No change to level of parking fees had been reported- it was just that 5ps and 10ps were no longer to be accepted by meters due to change in coin weights. Cllr Hinds confirmed that was the case. Also under the Police Report section, amend to 1 attempted on Carlton Terrace, rather than Royal Terrace.

3) Presentation

Presentation was made by Robert Newton and Jeremy Scott of GVA Grimley and Michael Laird Architects regarding the development at Eyre Terrace/Eyre Place owned by RBS. The plan is to demolish 11 to 13 Eyre Terrace, due to public risk and re-develop the wider site. The next public consultation is due in early March. Details of the development are still to be firmed up, including the mix of uses.

3/5/9 Eyre Place are not owned by RBS and are not scheduled for demolition. The development would also retain the Lorimer Building. John Knight advised that he was keen that there isn't a hard edge to the development boundary and the park. Cllr Hinds drew attention to the affect of the development on the park, the height of the development and the uses, and their affect on the existing uses of the area. Affordable housing is a definite advantage and the Community Council was unanimous that this be included. Judy Conn also suggested that 3/4 bedroom flats would be important to attract families to the area. Also discussed the possibility of start up space for small businesses and studio space (which has been successful in Stockbridge). Also recommended that underground parking be included.

Confirmed that 2nd consultation will be prior to outline planning application is made.

4) Transport

Patrick Hutton advised that tram works had resumed in Princes Street/Charlotte Square. David Anderson of the City Council had been reported as proposing that Princes Street remain traffic free until the end of the summer, however Alan Welsh advised that he thought Princes Street might open to vehicles earlier than expected and mentioned that businesses in the West End are close to leaving due to the impact from the tram works.

.Alan Welsh also advised that Princes St at the Waverley Steps are to be closed off in 4 – 6 weeks time under this proposal and pointed out that up to 27 bus routes will be diverted via Picardy Place. Ian Mowat advised that the Council were considering emergency diversion routes for traffic heading north from Picardy Place roundabout to Broughton St (and the number 8 bus route) along East London Street and Forth Street. South bound access from Broughton St to Picardy Place would not be affected. **Ian Mowat to investigate and report to March meeting.**

Sue Lamon, a Hillside resident then discussed an ongoing issue with buses parking on London Road, which had been ongoing since October 2011. National Express were particularly noted as parking for a very long period of time with their engines being started up continuously to enable the driver to run the heater on the bus. Residents have had ongoing

issues with the noise which happens throughout the night from 8.00pm through to 5.00am. Advised that Environmental Health had been helpful but cannot come out in the middle of the night. Anne Casson advised that she had experienced similar issues on Regent Road. It was confirmed that it was not an offence to keep an engine idling, and would only be switched off if someone in authority came along and requested that it be turned off.

Confirmed that Harry Lauder Way was where they used to park up, but that is not possible currently due to the roadworks. Also mentioned that this was encouraging taxi drivers to do likewise. London Road used to have fixed penalty notices and Sue Lamon has emailed the Council to ask if they could be put back, but was advised this was not possible.

Cllr Rankin confirmed that he had received an email and has started investigations. Confirmed he would keep in touch with Sue Lamon. Also suggested they speak to Marco Biagi MSP. Patrick Hutton also suggested that the email be forwarded to Gordon Mackenzie MSP. Jonathan Finn also suggested that the bus companies could use back up/battery heaters to allow them to run those plus their radios.

5) Police Report

PC Barbour advised that there had been the following incidents:

December 2011		January 2012	
Offence	Number	Offence	Number
Assaults	Serious – 1 unsolved/2 solved Minor – 16 unsolved/15 solved	Assaults	Serious – 2 unsolved/1 solved Minor – 10 unsolved/10 solved
Housebreakings	1 Business unsolved 1 business solved 1 domestic solved	Housebreakings	1 business unsolved 1 domestic unsolved
Cycling	No offences	Cycling	No offences

Also advised that there had been parking issues on Rose Street, with vehicles parking outwith the stated times for loading or waiting. That there were bike patrols in the city centre. That Occupy Edinburgh were no longer in St Andrews Square. Rumour was that they might try to move into unoccupied premises.

Issue raised with cycling speeds on Broughton Road – suggested that the Traffic Division be contacted.

Mentioned that the Mound reopens in around 6 weeks to buses/taxis/cycles. Also that there were currently signs up on Princes Street saying 'Cyclists Dismount'. PC Barbour confirmed that these were not legal and he thought these were likely put up by builders for the cyclists' protection.

6) Planning

John Knight presented his report (which is available separately if required). In addition to his report:

- (a) George Street/Frederick Street – new American Express building will involve knocking out at the side level to reinstate the shop front.
- (b) Royal Bank in Brandon Terrace – believes this will become a restaurant. Plan to keep the framework of the façade and the Georgian doorway.
- (c) 2 Moray Place – 2 flats becoming 1 – although this was not clear. Alan Welsh advised he believed this was to become one townhouse.
- (d) Charlotte Square – raised by Alastair Macintosh – John Knight advised that he had responded to the application and that the CC were generally in favour. Commented on the upkeep of the gravel, seating and loading bay for the book festival. Pointed out that the TRO promised Charlotte Square would be re-opened but this development restricts traffic to a single lane.

7) Neighbourhood Partnership

Audrey Cavaye advised:

- (a) Report by Mike Penny – Success of Winter Festival; Transport and the Environment – phasing out on street bag collection, but still deciding on best collection methods. Solution to be in place April/May; Royal Mile action plan and clean up; Waverley – closing to all general traffic mid 2012.
- (b) Environmental Projects – Assembly Rooms – alleys to the side are no longer required and paving is to be replaced; Thistle Street – improvements planned to walk ways and junction pavement levels.
- (c) NP Sub-Group Review – changing of the sub-group names; requesting additional involvement from any interested parties.

Also discussion on the public reaction at the latest NP to Minute taking during the public forum and the understanding that the NP was a partnership between the Council, Community Councils, police, etc but not with the public.

Alan Welsh advised that he had attended meetings recently regarding the privatisation of waste collection, and said that a Council official had been walking round the New Town surveying the changes, to help decide what further changes were needed. Cllr Hinds advised that a further review of the gull proof bags had gone in and discussions held with residents.

6) Environment

Anne Casson advised that she had spoken to Mike Penny's assistant regarding the distribution of gull proof bags in April. Cllr Hinds advised that a detailed report had been submitted, which included resident requirements on a street by street basis. **Judy Conn to arrange with Mike Penny to attend future CC Meeting.**

Advised that there were very few comments made on the National Heritage Strategy. Also Alan Welsh advised that there were a general lack of public street bins in the West End.

7) Licensing

Jonathan Finn discussed Broughton Street Lane and the various items that he was to object to in particular the noise, issues for residents and change of use. Ian Mowat asked why smokers should use that rear area after 10pm, when they could just go out the front door on Picardy Place. **Jonathan Finn to write with objections.**

Frederick Street – nightclub – historic problems with bottles/rubbish being discarded at the back door late at night. Residents have requested that the CC write with objections. **Jonathan Finn to action.**

Ian Mowat also mentioned a questionnaire received from the local Licensing Forum which Jonathan Finn may wish to respond to.

8) Chairs Report

Ian Mowat mentioned the Big Debate on 10th March from 9.30am in the City Chambers.

9) Treasurers Report

None.

10) Any Other Business

Bill Dunlop mentioned that over the next couple of meetings he would like to discuss email and the website. Would like this to either be put on the Agenda or have a separate meeting arranged.

13) Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 5th March at the Drummond Room, Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent.