

# **NEW TOWN & BROUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held at Drummond Community High School  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

**Members Present:** Ian Mowat (Chair), Judy Conn, Audrey Cavaye (Secretary), John Knight, Anne Casson, Iain McGill, Alan Welsh

**Ex officio members present:** Mark Lazarowicz MP, Cllr Joanna Mowat

**Members of the public Present:** Richard Corral, Alan McIntosh, John Ross Maclean

1. **Apologies:** Jonathan Finn(Treasurer), , Bill Dunlop (Vice Chair), Patrick Hutton, Henry Sutherland, Gaby Holden, Dianne Willis, Jo Simpson Cllr. David Beckett, Cllr. Charles Dundas, Cllr Louise Lang, Cllr. Deidre Brock, Cllr. Maggie Chapman, Cllr. Stuart McIvor, Cllr. Angela Blacklock, PC Neil Gilmour
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Chair observed that the meeting was not quorate, as a minimum of 8 members were required under the constitution. However he proposed going ahead with the meeting on the understanding that it could not take any decisions as a community council, and those present agreed. The May minutes were approved.
3. **Police Report:** No Officer present at the meeting.
4. **Chairs Report:** Ian Mowat advised the following
  - (a) Invitation to Edinburgh Canal Strategy Consultation runs through to 19<sup>th</sup> August.
  - (b) An invitation from Leith Neighbourhood Partnership will involve the discussion on what Community Grants have achieved.
  - (c) Edinburgh Association of Community Councils ("EACC") – joint meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June at the City Chambers starting at 6.30pm – Empowerment & Engagement. Noted that if anyone wishes to attend they should register.
  - (d) Require to nominate a representative for the EACC. Ian Mowat was the last rep, but would prefer if someone else took on the role but would do it again in absence of another taker.
  - (e) Cockburn AGM – 21<sup>st</sup> June at the Botanics. John Knight confirmed his attendance.
  - (f) TIE – Amendment to traffic orders TRO 1 extending implementation period, did not require an NTBCC response.
  - (g) Consultation on Housing – John Knight advised no action necessary. Not relevant to planning as more concerned with affordable housing, social affairs. John Knight to email Ian McGill. Mark Lazarowicz advised that private rented housing may be of more relevance. Ian Mowat agreed it may be more appropriate to respond by residence, rather than from the NTBCC.

5. **Autumn Community Council Event:** Ian Mowat advised that money was available to hold an event. Ian Mowat confirmed he had spoken to Jon Finn, who suggested it should be an event to raise the awareness of Community Council activities, and should also be circulated to other Community Councils. Suggestions included – vision for the City Centre, World Heritage, and also whether to have a debate or discussion based forum. A presentation from the recent Neighbourhood Partnership was suggested (Vision for Tomorrow). Ian Mowat suggested a meeting be convened to discuss possible topics.
6. **Planning:** John Knight advised as follows:-
  - The planning sub-committee has not met this month.
  - Since the last meeting **11WHS** cases and **2 non-WHS** cases have been examined. The only one requiring comment was **76 Great King Street** where the applicant has proposed Velux-type skylights in the front pitch. He had commented that these must be located in the valley and only Velux-type 'conservation' units installed on the front pitch if unavoidable (copy in the box).
  - He had written to both Councillor Mowat and Councillor Dundas on the decision to grant Vodafone/O2 consent to install mobile phone antenna on **114 Dundas Street**. While it is most unlikely that consent will be rescinded, he had emphasised that Edinburgh's 'living centre' requires a totally different approach to the normal town centre that mobile phone operators will be used to, and that such installations, known to be injurious to health, cannot be granted willy-nilly even if health concerns are no part of the planning regulations.
  - As instructed at the May meeting, he had objected to the proposed illuminated signage at **51-59 York Place** for the Indigo Hotel. No acknowledgement received from the Council (copy in the box).
  - He had written to the Chris Stewart Group on the decaying state of **1-5 Baxter's Place** that is now seriously at risk (thanks to Alan Welsh spotting this change of developer from the Fitzpatrick Collection in Dublin). He has offered a meeting either with the full CC or the planning sub-committee. No reply received as yet. I will follow up with a phone call. Copy in the box.
  - A further letter of objection to the **Leith Biomass Plant**, drafted by Judy Conn, has been submitted to the Scottish Government following the objection to the scheme by SNH allowing a further round of public consultation. A full public inquiry is still hoped for. Copy in the box.
  - This month's 'stop-press' news was the sudden totally unannounced installation of steel cabinets by Virgin Media in **Royal Crescent, Scotland and Dundonald Streets**. Thanks to prompt action by Judy Conn this work was stopped by Enforcement, and Virgin will now have to submit detailed plans for the 2000 cabinets they wish to install across the city centre. How strange they should start with the WHS! But this kind of thing is bound to happen until the WHS is properly identified, and valued. There was then a discussion on whether or not Virgin had the right to install these boxes in other parts of the City. Mark Lazarowicz suggested that a check be made via the Council to confirm their Rights of installation. Cllr Mowat agreed to check and confirm. A further suggestion also made that NTBCC should approach Edinburgh World Heritage to come up with a plaque to show the world heritage status on railings or lamp posts.
  - The CEC has produced a questionnaire "How Do You Hear about Planning Issues". Copies were made available for completion. There is also a review of the Neighbour Notification process that he will deal with. It is just a more easily understood letter or notice to affected proprietors.

**7. Environment:**

Waste Management Trials – final stage started 6/6/11. Concern is regarding the time it takes for this change to be picked up by the residents. Seagull Proof Bags – Cllr Mowat advised that there was probably no separation of food waste and confirmed that food waste must be out of landfill by 2013. This process may be privatised. Cllr Mowat also advised that the Council aim was to drop the cost per household from £66 to £53. We require to stop using landfill by 2017.

Allotments – McKenzie Place – have now been turned into half allotments. 18.5 allotments are going to local residents, with only 4 going to non-locals. Brandon Terrace (top of Glenogle Road) – plot of land which Transition Edinburgh were interested in. This was now under offer.

By Dean Bridge – Environmental opportunity noted to tidy up the falling stones from the cliff at Baxter's Lane. Judy Conn agreed to investigate.

**8. Transport:** Patrick Hutton unavailable. Ian Mowat advised he had received an invitation to attend the Moray Feuar's workshop in respect of identifying ameliorating measures given the closure of Shandwick Place to private vehicles under Tram TRO 1. He would try to attend.

**9. Licensing:** Iain McGill had no items to raise. Anne Casson queried licensing rules around event timings. Cllr Mowat advised that when there was a change of owner, there would always be a new licence application. Alan Welsh advised that at the back of the hotel on Albany Street, the beer garden has extended opening hours over the summer. Iain McGill agreed to investigate. Alan Welsh also queried whether the Portrait Gallery had applied for a licence.

**10. Activity of Local Street or Amenity Associations:** Ian Mowat advised the Drummond Civic were holding a party on Drummond Place on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00pm. Anne Casson highlighted the Exhibition at the City Art Centre (1<sup>st</sup> floor) which included paintings of Edinburgh from the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Century; hostility on the Terraces to the Bio-mass plant – noted that voting was not until the end of the year and the consultation had been extended for 6 months. The Hearing would be in November, with oppositions to again be registered in advance of that; and Street lighting – advised that some had collapsed. Also suggested that some of the lights be removed from the railings and put lights on the kerb instead, as it was said that the new lights would illuminate both sides of the street.

**11. Any Other Business:** Marco Biagi the recently elected MSP for Edinburgh Central to be invited to the next NTBCC meeting. Also noted that Amazon was going into the GPO building with 500 new jobs being created. Spurtle were getting together with them to direct staff to shopping, etc in Broughton.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 1st August , 7.30pm, venue to be arranged