

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 25 June 2012 at 21 Mayfield Terrace

Apologies : Patricia Alston(PA); Jennifer Johnston-Watt (JJW); Alex Stobart(AS) & Karin Froebel Overton (KFO).

Present : *Chair* - Ray Footman(RF); Bob Cupples(BC); Hazel Fletcher(HF); Alison Mowat(AM);
Richard Seligman(RS); Ian Lewis(IL) & Hugh Mackay(HMac).

MINUTES : The minutes of the meeting of 30 April 2012 were approved.

NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS :

Having polled the Committee for other volunteers, RF proposed that HF should be appointed Vice-Chairman with the intention that she will be the current committee's candidate for Chairman at the next AGM. This was passed by acclamation.

It was also suggested, in an effort to introduce new (and younger!) blood to the Committee, that some of the Jubilee Party team should be invited to apply for election at the AGM to join the Committee to work, in the first instance, with HF on social events but also more generally.

New Action 25Jun12(a) : HF to sound out suitable candidate(s).

AGM :

It was agreed that this year's AGM would be held on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in last two weeks in November. It will be a social event, rather a speaker – the suggestion of approaching Doug Thomson, the Royal Park Warden would be retained as a possibility for a future AGM.

The proposed wine tasting at Earthy would be pursued by HF, with the room decorated by pictures from the Jubilee and previous street & garden parties.

RF also agreed to approach Owen Dudley-Edwards about a separate social event such as a Burke & Hare tour or a Sherlock Holmes talk.

New Action 25Jun12(b) : HF to meet with Earthy to agree AGM format/costs & date.

New Action 25Jun12(c) : RF to speak to Owen Dudley-Edwards for possible social event.

PLANNING :

ALFRED PLACE DEVELOPMENT : BC reported on an eMAIL from Lynn Russell regarding road adoption & zoned parking implications. The developer (S1) was about to redo the road markings and mark out the already agreed parking bays under an existing TRO. However as the restrictions for this TRO had been advertised with another TRO to which objections had been made, these would not come into effect until the objections had been resolved.

BC undertook to find out number & types of bay but this was made redundant when S1 provided the agreed markings two days later! Although the bays are not yet being monitored (there are as yet no formal signs to specify the allowable useage of the bays), there are a total of nine Permit Holders Only bays – the rest of the road is marked with a single yellow line.

New Action 25Jun12(d) : BC to monitor the implementation of the restrictions.

GATEPIERS & OTHER DILAPIDATIONS : BC reported that Derek Roden had called just before the meeting to say that the repair work would not happen until late August or early September, requiring closure of the road for a few days.

New Action 25Jun12(e) : BC to monitor the implementation of the repairs.

NEW PLANNING MATTERS : 23A Minto Street : Seeking to modify existing extension but as not visible from Mayfield Terrace, no action will be taken.

South Gray Street : Outwith Blacket Conservation area, no action will be taken.

EXISTING PLANNING MATTERS : Thrums Hotel : Association raised as formal issue on 4 May 2012 and Enforcement Investigation 12/00291/ELBB was initiated on 14 May 2012.

New Action 25Jun12(f) : BC to get an update on progress of investigation.

8 Alfred Place : Seeking to erect garden tree house (Ref : 12/01443/FUL). Association representation of 24 May 2012 deemed material. Awaiting Planning Committee decision.

17 Blacket Place : Seeking to add an additional off road parking space (Ref : 12/01703/FUL). Association representation of 15 June 2012 deemed material. Awaiting Planning Committee decision.

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) :

RF reported that the GPCC are keen to support the application of a young pharmacist to set up in Dalkeith Road, despite past objections from elsewhere.

OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS :

RS reported that the main speaker at the recent Civic Forum meeting was John Bury, Chief Planning Officer talking about the planning implications of the HMO requirements. Edinburgh is proposing to follow the lead of Glasgow & Dundee requiring retrospective planning approval for what are considered to be mandatory features in HMO properties. RS was also impressed by one of our local Councillors, Steve Perry, who spoke very well.

WEBSITE : Nothing to report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH :

AM reported that the NW contact for the new part of Alfred Place is Victoria Gilmour at number 15 and that Pina Lang of 32 Mayfield Terrace has taken on the NW contact work for numbers 26 to 38 & 13 to 31 Mayfield Terrace.

Following a meeting of the Safe Neighbourhood Team, AM reported that one of their principal three month objectives is to make the Newington/South Clerk Streets area less "tatty" by both directly or indirectly (i.e. involving other agencies) interacting with shop owners who are suffering a spate of shoplifting and other anti-social events.

BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY :

HMac reported that currently there was a lull in activity but was concerned about the continuing poor image presented by (as well as the possibly dangerous condition of) the Thrums Hotel wall.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING :

AM supplied an eMAIL from the South Central Community Safety Group which quoted the Police position on 20 MPH Limit Zone. Some or all of the limits are in legal terms enforceable but as far as the Road Policing section are concerned, this scheme was agreed from the outset to be selfpolicing and will be monitored by the Council.

A speed survey was carried out to record average traffic speeds prior to implementation and will be repeated after implementation – currently happening in Blacket Place and Mayfield Terrace.

If the average speeds have not dropped, then the Council will apparently consider other measures including attendance of Traffic Support Wardens; speed calming measures etc. In the first instance, complaints of speeding should be forwarded to the The City of Edinburgh Council for their attention.

Concern was expressed that some vehicles were still entering east into Mayfield Terrace and this should be discouraged with an article in the next newsletter.

OPEN GARDENS/JUBILEE STREET PARTY :

HF reported, as was recognised by all who attended it, that the Jubilee Party had been a huge success and that it had also made a profit. There was general admiration and acclaim for the work done by HF & the committee and all the volunteers on the day. See report below.

RF expressed formal thanks on behalf of the Association to HF & AS and their team for the superb achievement.

BELLEVILLE LODGE :

RF reported that HMac had made contact with the matron, Margaret Cameron, who was very receptive to the idea that the Blacket community would get involved with the residents in her nursing home as “good neighbours”, particularly if that was in the form of music, and undertook to organise the audience.

There is musical talent in various forms throughout the area and the Committee need to identify and harness this appropriately as well as raising as a formal proposal with the members of the Association.

New Action 25Jun12(g) : ALL to suggest and sound out possible musicians & management for performances.

OTHER BUSINESS :

Newsletter : There was general agreement that a new newsletter was required and BC undertook to supply RF with a list of possible topics for this from the meeting.

Communications : One additional benefit from the Jubilee Party was the acquisition of 60+ eMAIL addresses which could be used for communication (e.g Newsletters) with the Association members. While this is, in principle, would be a definite step forward, the process requires to be analysed (and the implications of any implementation understood) as not only do some possible recipients not use the Internet, others have in the past been reluctant to provide eMAIL addresses for this purpose. This should be a possible topic for consideration (with suitable preparation) for the AGM. It was also agreed to proceed with headed paper for the Association at £157 + VAT for 2000 sheets.

Offstreet parking : After some discussion, the consensus was that the Association needed to adhere to the Planning guidelines when responding to applications on this matter (cf 17 Blacket Place) as to otherwise would adversely affect the amenity of the Conservation area.

FUTURE MEETINGS : Meetings were arranged for 10/9/12 (**host : BC**) & 29/10/12 (**host : ?**).

SUMMARY of ACTIONS :

16Jan12(a) : RF re Vice-Chair candidates – CLOSED.

16Jan12(b) : HF re AGM facilities – CLOSED.

16Jan12(c) : All re AGM speakers – CLOSED.

16Jan12(d) : PA re Map Library speaker – CLOSED.

16Jan12(e) : BC re zoned parking, road adoption & dilapidations process – eMAIL from Derek Roden indicated that road will not be adopted until after 12 month maintenance period. Zoned parking will require a TRO to be in place. Only other outstanding dilapidation is repainting of road markings on existing roads. BC will raise Zoned Parking with Lynn Russell, Development Control.

16Jan12(f) : BC re S1 co-ordination of repairs, liaison with IC re gatepiers & production of draft letter – AON still waiting for insurance company to agree. BC will chase.

16Jan12(h) : KFO re progress of website update facility. – carried forward.

16Jan12(i) : All re NW candidates for Mayfield Terrace/Alfred Place. – CLOSED.

6Mar12(d) : Snow shovels – BC to liaise with KFO.

6Mar12(e) : “Good neighbours” with Belleville Lodge – ALL to consider possible actions.

30Apr12(a) : Thrums Hotel wall – BC to raise with Planning. – **CLOSED.**

30Apr12(b) : Jubilee Party implementation – HF & AS to manage.– **CLOSED.**

30Apr12(c) : Insurance Policy – HMac to identify suitable policy.

25Jun12(a) : HF to sound out suitable candidate(s) from Jubilee Party team for Committee.

25Jun12(b) : HF to meet with Earthy to agree AGM format/costs & date.

25Jun12(c) : RF to speak to Owen Dudley-Edwards for possible social event.

25Jun12(d) : BC to monitor the implementation of the Zoned parking restrictions in Alfred Place.

25Jun12(e) : BC to monitor the implementation of the Mayfield Terrace gatepier repairs.

25Jun12(f) : BC to get an update on progress of Planning investigation into Thrums Hotel wall.

Jubilee Street Party - 3rd June 2012

The Street Party took Place on Sunday 3rd June from 2pm until 6pm. We estimate that around 190 adults and 75 children (under 16) attended. Entry was by donation to the Blacket Association and the recommended amount was £7.50. Using this guide we would have anticipated raising £1425. In fact we received £1705; the additional £280 was made up of additional donations.

Residents from Alfred Place and Dryden Place were particularly well represented, probably due to the fact that Alfred Place was hosting the event, and Dryden Place has been hosts to previous events.

The postman and our local policemen/woman were invited as guests, but were unable to attend. Our other guests, the Carters, insisted on making a donation and bringing food too! Our local MSP attended. 8 residents from the Bellevue Lodge nursing home attended with a number of carers. Former residents were encouraged to attend and a number did (about 14).

The format was as follows. At 2pm a piper walked round the streets and guests followed her. From 2.30pm until 3.30pm a ceilidh band played. At 3.30pm we started eating afternoon tea; each street had been encouraged to bring a plate of a particular type of food for communal consumption. At 4.30pm the band resumed playing, a quiz was available for those that wished to attempt it and an ice cream van arrived at 4.45pm. Various activities were available for children throughout the afternoon. The event was scheduled to finish at 6pm, but many people had drifted away before then, so the road was cleared up, and restored to near-normal by 7pm.

All the feedback we received was very positive, with many people remarking how friendly everyone else was. In terms of integrating the new residents of Alfred Place into the wider Blacket community, it was very successful. The residents of Alfred Place were particularly gracious hosts, and the location proved ideal for an event of this size.

Things that went particularly well

The tickets. The tickets looked very professional, and the Street Representatives reported that they sold the event, and that people were expecting something special. The production and printing of the tickets were donated by one of the residents.

Having a piper. The advantage of this was that all the guests arrived at once, and the party could start immediately. Participants felt part of the larger group and got over the initial shyness of not knowing other people.

Communal food. From the survey that we carried out the one thing that came through was that people wanted food that they could share. There was enough food of each type and everyone seemed to have enough to eat.

Having a First Aider on hand. Fortunately their services were not in demand, but it was reassuring to know that a very capable person was available for the duration of the event.

The beer kegs. A number of the residents had clubbed together to arrange for 2 kegs of beer and the other required paraphernalia to arrive at Alfred Place on the day. This proved very popular, and was something that the organisers had not considered. For future note the cost involved was ~ £300.

Things that could have gone better

Tables. We could have done with a number more tables, particularly for putting food out on. Putting food on the tables that people were eating at meant that just a few people ate it, and also that it was not available to attendees that went to the area where the rest of the food was laid out.

Guidance sheets. Next time we should consider putting the guidance sheets through resident's doors in advance of collecting donations and distributing tickets. That way people would know more about the event before we ask them to commit to it.

Website. Include more information on the web-site.

Ceilidh band. While people enjoyed having the band there, not many people were dancing, particularly during the period after we had eaten. Consider reducing the time the band plays or changing the location of the band.

Availability of loos. Informal arrangement of approaching a resident of Alfred Place was adopted. This put some strain on specific households. We should consider other alternatives for any future events.

Conclusion

A very successful and enjoyable day, helped by the weather, but mostly due to the people attending. There were concerns that we would not have enough help on the day, but the reality was that a number of people pitched up to help set up. The teenagers were particularly helpful in dispensing drinks and helping with the children's entertainment, and everyone that was around at the end helped clear up. I think the only surprise was how popular it was. Our initial costings were done on the basis of 100 adults, not the nearly 200 that attended.

Accounts

Income	
Cash received	1415.00
Cheques received	290.00
TOTAL INCOME	1705.00
Expenses	
Costco (plates, cups, juice, Pimms, lemonade)	280.39
Prosecco	151.68
Piper	20.00
Balloons	82.00
Band	350.00
Table Hire	271.20
Children's entertainment (bouncy castle, prizes, balloons, craft activities)	234.60
Additional children's entertainment	16.45
Sainsbury's (sugar, labels, water, squash pencils - for quiz, jugs)	22.13
Black bags	2.00
Peach Juice (for Bellinis)	14.80
Hire of bunting	10.00
Prizes (for hats)	18.90
Fruit and veg for Pimms	9.18
Coffee	2.69
Teabags, spoons	5.00
Milk	5.22
TOTAL EXPENSE	1496.24
NET PROFIT	208.76

Possible Newsletter topics

- 1. Jubilee Party*
- 2. Traffic into Blacket*
- 3. Belleville Lodge*
- 4. Gatepiers*
- 5. Offstreet Parking*
- 6. Neighbourhood Watch*