

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 13 May 2013 at 24 Mayfield Terrace

Apologies : Alison Mowat (AM); Sheila McLeish (SMcL); Jennifer Johnston-Watt (JJW) & Patricia Alston (PA).

Present : *Chair* - Hazel Fletcher (HF); Bob Cupples (BC); Ian Lewis (IL); Becky Colegrave (Bec); Ray Footman (RF); Richard Seligman (RS); Alex Stobart (AS); Hugh Mackay (HMac) & Ian Chisholm (IC).

MINUTES : Minutes of 18 March 2013 were approved subject to the partial rewording of the item on **RETENTION OF TREES** as follows : “***The Council, as defined by statute, currently state that if no response is received within 42 days the work can be deemed permitted to proceed.***”.

NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS :

BC's note was generally accepted – BC/HF to define detailed breakdown of required tasks & roles.

New Action 13May13(a): BC/HF – to provide breakdown of required tasks & roles.

PLANNING : THRUMS HOTEL : BC reported back that the escalated complaint had been rejected and any further complaint would now need to be directed to the Local Government Ombudsman. HMac & AS agreed to take the matter forward using the dossier to be supplied by BC. (Subsequently the proprietor of the Thrums Hotel decided to pay for the restitution of the wall and the reinstatement of the fence.)

The Enforcement Order with regard to the removal of the bright blue ship's containers was issued in February but no resolution of the matter had been seen.

New Action 13May13(b): BC – to query progress on the Enforcement Order.

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH POOL : Street Market: After some lengthy discussion on this matter, it was felt that the association should keep a watching brief on this matter as it was already being pursued by others, principally the Southside Association.

New Action 13May13(c): ALL – to monitor or report any comments on trial of RCP Street Market.

RETENTION OF TREES : HMac reported that Heriot Watt were not interested in doing a tree survey.

NEW PLANNING MATTERS : None.

EXISTING PLANNING MATTERS : 23 Minto Street : This building application was approved in April 2008 (07/04533/FUL) but concerns regarding breaches of planning permission arising from changes in some aspects of the construction had already been intimated to the Planning Department by RS. (This resulted in the Enforcement Investigation 13/00250/ENCOMP; Received: Thu 09 May 2013; Status: Pending Consideration.)

8 Alfred Place : Planning decision outstanding.

NEW EDINBURGH DEVELOPMENT PLAN : RS provided the following comments which are summarised as follows :

The plan is still in draft form and representations can be made from 1st May to 14th June. The plan is in two parts; firstly Strategy and Proposals and secondly Policies. The change in tenor of the plan as far as Conservation Areas (CAs) is concerned is much as has already been noted, i.e. instead of “a presumption against development unless there is enhancement” there is “a presumption in favour of development unless that is harmful”.

Strategy and Proposals : no direct impact in the Blacket CA - indirect impacts include safeguarding of the tram route down Minto Street (when and if constructed) and possible increased vehicle traffic from the housing and other development in the SE wedge.

Positive aspects are that the Plan notes that CAs “comprise significant architectural neighbourhoods” and that “The Proper conservation and management of these assets is an integral part of the wider planning function of the Council.” Further in a paragraph dealing with CAs, it notes that “This additional level of control helps to ensure that small scale incremental changes do not damage the character of the Conservation Areas.” and it also notes that specific legislation protects trees in CAs. It points out that there are specific design (planning) guidance notes and gives the website for these.

Policies : It is stated that Policies Env1 – Env22 will be used in assessing planning applications to meet the four objectives.

The two that particularly relate to the Blacket CA are:-

1. To ensure that the unique qualities of the city, its historic environment and the character of its urban areas are safeguarded for the future.
2. To protect and enhance the nature conservation and biodiversity interest of the city.

In particular Policies Env2 – Env6 relate to CAs and will be used in assessing proposals in these areas. There is also reference to the Guidance Notes, including an appendix containing the five policies Env2 to Env6 verbatim.

With regard to these, Policy Env3 is a prime example of the change of emphasis from “No development unless there is a positive result from a conservation point of view” to “Development permitted unless it is detrimental”. Policy Env4 is weak, particularly in relation to Grade A listed buildings. Second paragraph of Policy Env5 is not clear but most of Policy Env6 is generally good.

Policy Env12 deals with trees; although what is said concerning the preservation of trees is good as far as it goes, it does not specifically mention trees within CAs and, since even those without the protection of a TPO but within CAs have been given special status, this should have been covered.

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) : RF had forward an eMAIL seeking consultations with respect to the Community Council schemes. RF indicated that one representative was required and HF agreed to replace him.

OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS : No reports but it was suggested that links to each of the websites for these organisations be included on the Association website.

WEBSITE : RF agreed to meet with KFO to take forward usage of website.

New Action 13May13(d): RF – to meet KFO re website.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH : Burglary at the east end of Mayfield Terrace in early April happened while the residents were on holiday. Entry was through a downstairs window not visible from the road but the burglar alarm had not been set, so no one was alerted to the situation.

Fortunately not too much was taken but AM used this to encourage residents to get their burglar alarms checked out & in working order particularly new residents who may have inherited a burglar alarm system. Tom Borthwick of Belford House sent e-mail re Mark Hoffman, ex-ADT and now in his own security business. He comes highly commended him - phone number for Mark is 667 6288.

Scotland’s police system has been reorganised which means that PC Lynsey Collins’ e-mail has changed and is now lynsey.collins@scotland.pnn.police.uk. The police website is consequently now www.scotland.police.uk and the Safer Neighbourhood Team has been renamed the Community Policing Team. Please note – the emergency number **999** is to be used only for an **emergency** - for **all other** police calls use **101**.

BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY : HMac reported that there was not much activity at this time but work will pick up in the late summer & autumn – it would be useful to publish dates for Working Party days in a Newsletter. HMac also relayed that Ian McLeish was disappointed that the bulbs planted at the end of last year had rotted and was going to contact the supplier.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING : **West end of Mayfield Terrace**: Traffic Department has responded with the information that that the full No Entry with Cyclist Exception signage as at Sciennes Hill Place is no longer available in the current legislation.

COMMUNICATIONS : **Next Newsletter**: It was agreed that this would be issued as soon after the meeting as possible and would include items on Open Gardens evening; Trees & the associated planning rules; membership reminder; & note on Speed Restrictions

Use of eMAIL for distribution: Continuing to build up the eMAIL addresses beyond the 60% coverage. BC will implement any changes supplied, particularly those from AM from NW list.

New Resident information: No information on progress available at meeting.

New Action 13May13(e): RF/HF – to liaise on newsletter.

New Action 13May13(f): BC – continue to update list from AM and any other source.

SOCIAL EVENTS : **Open Gardens** : The Open Gardens evening will be held on 14th June with viewing of the gardens (4 Blacket Place – M&D Thomson; 14 Blacet Place – Mowat; & 32 Mayfield Terrace – C&P Lang) between 6:30pm and 7:30pm. The closing party will held at 20 Mayfield Terrace - John & Lindsey Garden. HF & Bec will organise including a rota of stewards at each garden gate.

New Action 13May13(g): HF/Bec – continue to update list from AM and any other source.

Other events : As Owen Dudley-Edwards has agreed in principle to doing a talk on Joseph Bell or Conan Doyle, consideration needs to be given to a date & venue for such a talk.

New Action 13May13(h): ALL – date and venue for Owen Dudley Evans social evening.

OTHER BUSINESS : One or more residents in the new part of Alfred Place were seeking to alter their gardens as built as part of the development. HMac made the point that it was worth checking the deeds if any restrictions defined there. Also it is worth checking the registered land Certificate for any deed of conditions.

FUTURE MEETINGS : Committee - 26 Aug (**host : HMac**)
Committee - 7 Oct (**host : tba**)
AGM - tba