**Granton & District Community Council**

**Secretary’ Report – February 2015**

**1. Community Engagement/Partner Involvement**

**1.1 City of Edinburgh Council Budget**

To note that the CEC budget was agreed. Concern still over the scale of the cuts and what this may mean in our area. Still uncertainty over long term funding for Edinburgh Leisure and the Library review of hours. Will keep on Secretary’s report as it is possible that we may need to be involved in local activities should any of our local services come under threat – a real possibility.

**1.2 Social Media Update** – The last month has seen a drop in the number of ‘hits’ on the website to **206.** It is clear that when we are more visible in terms of what we do has a knock on effect on the web traffic. I have added additional ‘tab’ on the web site in relation to ‘traffic’ disruption.

Twitter account - **@GrantonDistCC –** followers increased to **121**. This has most interaction between ourselves and councillors etc - in getting messages across – including advertising web site.

**1.3 Publicity –** To further advertise the community council it is recommended that we produce ‘postcards’ that can be left in various public areas and be handed out in small scale publicity and drop in days across the community.

That we identify the month of **April** to have a series of high profile events/drop in days. If agreed I will arrange to produce a draft programme of events for April and the production of 4000 postcards. The budget for this not to exceed £250.

**Recommendation:** Agreement is sought on the above.

**2. 20mph – Consultation – Lower Granton Road**

To note that after the last meeting we received the outcome of the public meeting in Wardie Residents club. The details of the workshop can be read on our website [www.grantonanddistrictcommunitycouncil.com](http://www.grantonanddistrictcommunitycouncil.com) – Traffic incl 20mph ‘tab’. If anyone wishes copy and cannot access the website contact me and I will forward copy.

Report summary on ‘progress’ – we will continue to support local residents and keep item within Secretary’s report meantime.

* Following the Consultation process, application of the criteria for roads which were to be 20mph led to the inclusion of Lower Granton Road
* The Council will discuss the provision of a shared use cycle/footpath on the grass area to the north of Lower Granton Road with the land owner. The Council also plan to seek funding to develop a design for this project in the 2015/16 financial year.
* Colleagues in Development Control continue to monitor proposed developments with regard to their potential influence on Lower Granton Road and its environs but at this time, there is nothing to report.
* Police Scotland informed the Road Safety Board of some enforcement activity in Lower Granton Road with hand-held LASER devices. The Council are working with Police Scotland in establishing a means to share a record of these activities.

**3. Granton Waterfront Development (EDI)**

As per previous reports - EDI agreed to either provide a written report or attend our monthly meeting. A written report is provided at **Appendix 1.**

Iwill see if EDI will come and provide short oral update at the next meeting (March) as this could form a quarterly oral update.

**3.1** I have been sent a copy of a letter from the ‘Friends of Granton Walled Garden’ who have an “aspiration that Granton Castle Walled Garden might be saved as open space for the benefit of the local community” – they have sought to work with EDI to see what may be achieved. The ‘Friends’ have a deputation at the Planning Committee on 26 February who are seeking “that the 'minded to grant' planning permission for 17 townhouses to be built in Granton Castle Walled Garden is withdrawn immediately”.

**Recommendation**: That we invite a representative of the Friends of Granton Walled Garden to attend the March meeting to give an outline of their plans.

**3.2 Madelvic House –** we have been invited to a meeting on Monday 2nd March to hear about the Madelvic Community Group plans (see Appendix 1 – report from EDI).

**4 Granton Harbour Development -** **REFERENCE NUMBER: 14/05305/AMC**

As per the previous report and as agreed at the last meeting I arranged for community council office bearers to meet with Planning Officials and I went along and spoke to the lead Planning Official. Also at the last meeting it was agreed that I would arrange for representatives of the local resident associations (Merlin & Hesperus, Granton Harbour and Harbour Green) to meet with community councillors to discuss their concerns and see if we can agree a joint position on this development.

**4.1** The meeting took place on 10th February – note of meeting is at **Appendix 2**

The meeting that I had with the lead planner did not shed a huge amount of light on some of the details given as some of what is being sought by the developer is aspirational. The concerns as outlined at our meeting with the Residents Association are relevant and should form the basis of our official response to this. We have an extension to reply – this to be in by **Wednesday 25th February.**

To this end I propose the following motion to the meeting:

“This community council notes the planning application by Granton Central Development.

Whilst we recognise that the Granton harbour area does require to be developed for the betterment of the local community we do not consider that the current application does this. In particular we are concerned about:

* Density and scale of the housing that does not provide a sense of place
* Lack of green space for children to play
* Insufficient transport modelling with a focus on car use
* Centralisation of retail outlets

We believe that achieving an environment in which people are encouraged to participate in the community and enjoy the city’s streets has a number of secondary long-term benefits of immense importance - for example, increased economic activity, better health from more active lifestyles and enhanced sense of personal safety and community. The current application does not do this and we agree to formally object to the current plan.

We further call on the Planning Department of CEC to arrange a Charettesplus community planning event. Charretteplus builds upon the traditional charrette model of engagement, promoted and supported by the Scottish Government through their Charrette Mainstreaming Programme. Charretteplus delivers more, to a greater number of people and provide the whole community input on what they would like to see in their community.”

**5. Granton Waterfront Development Group**

**A meeting is to take place on Thursday 26 February from 3pm - 5pm in Granton Youth Centre,** 3-11 West Granton Road**.** The framework for taking forward this group was agreed at the last Forth Neighbourhood Partnership business meeting on the 26 November 2014

The purpose of the meeting as outlined by Forth Partnership is

“to promote meaningful engagement between community representatives and those that own the land and those that are developing Granton Waterfront. It is an outcome from the [Regeneration Community Conference](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/media/16183/Regeneration%20in%20Forth%20Conference%20Report%20Oct%2014.pdf) held in Edinburgh College on 27 September 2014. One of the key themes to emerge from discussions at the conference was a need to have well informed and engaged communities through effective communication and consultation. The other key themes to emerge with regards to the development of Granton Waterfront are

         To maximise local employment opportunities

         To encourage investment in mixed use development

         To maximise investment where needed in infrastructure to meet developing needs

         To create cohesive and Integrated communities”

The closing date for nominees has past –however I sought clarification from the Programme Manager on attendees – some of you may already be going – however I have not been notified if so – notwithstanding that – we have two places ‘reserved’ though more if needs be.

**Recommendation:** Volunteers to attend this meeting – due to full time work commitments I cannot attend.

**6. Neighbourhood Partnership**

See paragraph 5.

Note that the next meeting is now taking place on **Wednesday 4th March** from 1pm – 3.30pm in Conference Room 2 in the North Office (NELO).

**7. North Edinburgh News – Contact in the Capital Project**

The next meeting of the project group is Thursday 26th February 2015 at 10am in the North Local Office. At the last meeting (I was unable to attend) it was agreed to devote a good part of the meeting to discuss the content of the report to be provided to the Council’s Communications Team. It is understood that Communications will create a composite report to be presented to the Council’s Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee on 6th May. This report will cover the wider Contact in the Capital project (North and East). Though this is also likely to include the ‘Digital Sentinal’ (Wester Hailes) that was provided with funding at the last Communities Committee meeting.

http://www.digitalsentinel.net/

**8. Community Council Governance**

Update at meeting.

**9. Planning & Roads**

**9.1** **Granton Development** - See paragraphs 3-5 inclusive.

**9.2** **Ferry Road Slip Road** – Oral update at meeting on possible meeting between local residents and Councillor Jackson.

**9.3 Road Closures** – I found out that Pilton Drive was closing and ultimately contacted Councillor Day and it has been agreed that I will be sent details from North Area Roads Team – a new ‘tab’ on the website is dedicated to this and the 20 mph campaign.

**9.4 Planning Conference** – Received invitation to attend a Planning Conference organised by ‘Planning Democracy’ on **25 April in Glasgow**. £10 per delegate. The conference you will hear how well the planning system works for the public (or not), meet other people and exchange experiences of planning join forces with others to create a louder voice for communities in planning work with us to campaign for better planning including an Equal Right of Appeal have an opportunity to have a dialogue with sympathetic professionals attend workshops with experts on a variety of planning topics. It is also open to any interested individuals to attend and report back to the community council.

**Recommendation:** I circulate the note about the conference and that if any community councillor is interested in attending that we agree to a maximum of two places on the conference with the community council agreeing to fund the delegate rate and return train fare to Glasgow as travel expenses.

**10. Licensing**

Nothing to report**.**

**11. Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC)**

As reported last month the EACC committee organised a workshop on 31st January which I attended. This workshop was attended by over half of the Edinburgh community councils. The professional facilitator Osbert Lancaster drafted a report. The report was based on a series of questions around the future purpose, scope and direction of EACC. It is clear that EACC or a body like it is needed to provide a link to all Edinburgh community councils and that this newly formulated body has a more active role – including increased use of social media and campaigning.

I propose the following:

“This community council welcomes the report as provided by Osbert Lancaster as a first step in re-energising the EACC. EACC should be a campaigning organisation that brings community councils together across the city and considers that a re-constituted AGM should take place within the next 8 weeks so that a new constitution and office bearers can continue the development of EACC”

A copy of the above report is on the web site – under the tab - ‘**Meeting Papers’**

It should be noted that the past Chairman of EACC, Mr David Saltoun recently passed away. Mr Saltoun was Chair of EACC for some years and condolences to his family.

**12. Community Councillor – Development**

As part of the ongoing development for ‘new’ community councillors there is another event being organised on Wednesday 18 March 2015, 18:30 – 20:30 ,Main Council Chamber

City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh. All elected community councillors should have got invite. The one on the 18th will cover ‘Partnerships’.

**13.** **Health and Inequalities Standing Group (HISG).**

HISG is committed to working with partners to develop a new approach to grants to third party organisations. Further discussion and input from local communities is required in refining some of the suggested proposals for the Health Inequalities Grant Programme. To enable this discussion to take place an event will be held at 9.30am-12.30pm on Thursday 12 March 2015 in the McDonald Rooms Conference Centre, 95 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS.

Anyone interested in attending let me as soon as possible. Details of this were forwarded to several people within our direct mailing list.

**14. The Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee.**

At their meeting on 6 February 2015, agreed that the following Quarterly Performance Reports be referred to all Community Councils and Neighbourhood Partnerships for information:

1.       Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – City of Edinburgh Performance Report – Year to Date December 2014

2.       Police Scotland – Performance Report for Edinburgh – April 2014 to December 2014

I have received 2 referral reports which are pdfs of the relevant performance reports for Police and Fire Service. I have written regarding the Police report as they are Edinburgh wide whereas the Fire report covers Forth and has more meaning for the area.

These have been placed on the website under ‘Meeting Papers’ tab

Dave Macnab

Secretary

February 2015

**Appendix 1**

**EDI Update February 2015 – Edinburgh Waterfront Granton**

* Madelvic House – The Madelvic Community group have now submitted their application for funding to carry out a scoping exercise for future use of the building.
* Preparation of proposals for the National Galleries project are ongoing.
* Ongoing demolition and stripping out of site at West Harbour road. Completion of works aimed for mid-March.
* Site investigations and an ecological survey have commenced on site North shore plot A which hopefully will lead to the provision of opportunities for business users.
* We are about to remove a very small number of dangerous trees from the walled garden site. We are mindful of the interest in the garden by local community groups and want to reassure you that this is a limited number of rotten trees for H&S reasons.
* Following a review of the programme for development within the central development area, EDI are carrying out a housing feasibility/viability study on the housing sites.

**Denise Havard Community Development Manager – EDI Group**

**January Report – For Information**

At this point there isn’t anything major that we need to report on so we will just provide a written update:

**Madelvic House –** EDI are currently working with a community group called Madelvic United to explore ideas for community /social use of Madelvic House as a potential option for the buildings future. The group are being supported by both CEC and CDAT to apply for funding to the BIg Lottery to carry out research and consultation to explore and test ideas for its’ use.

**The National Galleries project** on site (Madelvic 1-4 next to Madelvic House and bounded by Waterfront Avenue and United Wire)have now appointed architects and preparation of proposals are ongoing.

Demolition of buildings on the site at West Harbour Road, which should complete by end March 2015. Work has now began on site.

Site investigations on site North shore plot A will commence shortly which hopefully will lead to providing opportunities for business users.

Pending our internal review of our programme for the area we hope to bring some sites to market in the spring.

**Denise Havard – Community Development Manager – EDI Group**

**January 2015**

**Appendix 2**

Note of Meeting of representatives of Merlin and Hesperus Residents Association and Granton and District Community Councillors on Tuesday 10 February – Royston & Wardieburn Community Centre

**In Attendance:**

Dave Macnab, David Millar, Joan Cunningham and Donald Macdonald – Granton & District Community Councillors

Tony Worthington, Corinne France, Katrina Mcbrierty and Jack Paterson – Merlin & Hesperus

**Background to Meeting**

At the last meeting of the Community Council it was agreed that the Secretary would arrange for representatives of Merlin and Hesperus Residents Association (MHRA) to meet with community councillors to gauge their views on the Granton Harbour Development. All community councillors and nominated groups within the community council were invited.

It was made clear that this was not a decision making body but rather was an opportunity of MHRA to provide the community council with their position regarding this particular development.

**Key Points from the Meeting**

* The original leaflet outlining the plan sent to residents in the area – was different from the plans that were lodged with the council. It was considered that this therefore was misleading
* Opposition to the density and scale of the housing. Too many flats with 7, 8 and 11 levels too high and not in alignment with a sense of place and goes against what was submitted in the consultation statement “No high flats” (being the concern) with the response of the developer “the masterplan is reducing the number of high flats in preference to family housing”. A reduction in 41 houses to be replaced by an increase in flats including 3 bedroom flats which the developer now perceives as fulfilling the family accommodation requirements.  Something they argued against in their last planning application.
* Insufficient transport modelling, assessment and travel plan and the focus on car parking goes against the Scottish Government policy on the shift from car based travel to walking, cycling and public transport
* There is lack of clarity on road width across this development – concern about potential conflict between cars being parked randomly and the access for emergency vehicles
* The question of how materials from the cars to the community boatyard is unknown given that the plan indicates that access is a ‘traffic free route’.
* Increased traffic using the local road network will increase carbon pollution and have a negative impact on the environment. Increase in noise, smell.
* Insufficient ‘green space’ across the whole development – it is a concrete jungle with too many flats.
* Insufficient areas for social and leisure activities within the whole area.
* Insufficient detail on retail outlets and how these will be encouraged. No restaurant outwith the proposed hotel complex.
* Concern about future land sale
* It is proposed to build a multi-level car park within the retail and commercial area to meet – how does this align with the suggestion that this development encourages shift from car based travel? Linked to this traffic surges at weekends and summer, plus plant machinery to move boats in and out of the water is very disruptive. People like to be back and forwards to their cars.  The proposed parking on the site and a multistorey car park some distance away is insufficient for demand.
* The idea that “When the Edinburgh Tram project reach Granton Square, the commercial centre will not only contribute to the appearance and re-invigoration of the Square as a community heart; but as a transport interchange” is an absurd proposition given the history of the tram project and totally irrelevant
* Concern that roads will not be up to standard i.e. not adopted.