**MINUTES OF THE WEST PILTON WEST GRANTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL – 6 August 2019**

**Present:**

* *Community Council:* Willie Black (Chair), Peter Faassen de Heer (Minutes), Geri McDonnell, Lana Kelly
* *Non-Community Council:* PC Sarah Hall, Cllr Jim Campbell, Cllr Eleanor Bird, Colin Douglas, Lesley Da Fonseca, Ben MacPherson MSP

**Apologies**: Deirdre Brock MP, Audrey Coltart, Lynne Munro, Alan Munro

**Absences:** Betty Mcvay, Frances Durie, Johura Ahmed, Karen Simpson, Peter Wojcik

1. **Welcome**

WB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting**

It was noted that LK and JC were missing from the attendance list of the previous minutes. Subject to these changes the minutes were accepted.

1. **Police Report**

SH provided an update report on activity since the last meeting. Police had held a very successful drop in centre for young people at Morrisons on 20 July as part of their community partnership and discussed issues such as alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour.

There had been a seizure of drugs at waterfront park and an arrest warrant executed. In addition, in West Pilton 2 men were arrested and cocaine seized. Reports of motorbikes in the area as well.

SH stressed the importance of local knowledge about what’s happening and that the community’s help was vital in allowing the police to take action.

The body of a 38-year-old man had been found on Saturday afternoon between 1 and 2 pm. The death is being treated as unexplained and police are looking for further information.

The CC discussed the benefits of youth work in the area and the important to keep young people in employment, giving them things to do on a sustained basis. Granton Youth street workers had returned and were looking to work with the kids. PF agreed to approach the Youth Work Consortium with an invitation to attend the next meeting to tell us about their work.

The CC discussed why young people were hanging around Javits but this was unclear.

1. **CEC Update**

LDF discussed the following update which was emailed to the CC post-meeting:

* 1. **Housing Improvement Schemes**
* Pre site start meeting with contractors takes place Thursday 8 August at Phase 1 - Ferry Road Drive.
* Final agreement needed on shade of chosen grey that best lends itself to an attractive finish.
* Thereafter, all residents will be written to with a start date, timescale and any other additional relevant information.

This has taken quite a while, but we’ll be pleased when phase 1 is completed to offer some comfort to other residents that improvements throughout the street is coming

* 1. **NEP**
* We have 7 projects in West Pilton/ West Granton that will be presented for consideration. I believe further discussion has to take place to whether former neighbourhood partnership members can consider and agree, or whether this may now fall to the first meeting of new Neighbourhood Networks. George will confirm to Willie the outcome once discussed with Peter Strong.
* Projects range from resurfacing work, new growing beds, improved front and rear gardens and lots of new trees for Ferry Road Drive and West Pilton Park.
* George is still trying to pin down Housing Property on options for Incholm Community Room

There was some additional discussion around the development at MacMillan Square and the possibility of having a market there.

BM provided some additional perspective as MSP. He acknowledged that to preserve communal spaces it was challenging-getting owners to take responsibility. An expert group has provided recommendations to Scottish Government and this is currently awaiting a response from the Housing Minister. It was suggested that solutions could take 5-10 years to come through sometimes. Need landlords to take ownership.

Lawyers to come in and do pro-bono work for areas where responsibility is uncertain.

EB asked how many council tenants there were in Northview Court – she said this needs attention – the finish and lighting needs sorted. It was agreed to consider during the next walkabout.

* 1. **Landscaping**

The CC discussed general work that could be done to brighten the area through landscaping. It was suggested that we could add flowers that would last more than a season and provide some funding for Grow Your Own schemes.

WB mentioned Look at raised beds that are not currently being maintained and get community gardeners to take it on. There was a meeting next Wednesday on this.

1. **Councillor Reports**

JC – Council was in recess so mostly his time was dealing with constituent concerns. He had engaged with LM on the Forthquarter Park situation. He suggested that all maintenance was factored and that there had been improvements since the last meeting, even if we were short of where things needed to be. JC said that the officer leading it would be happy to meet LM. It was confirmed that local residents and businesses were paying toward upkeep of the park and needed to be brought together, ideally as a ‘Friends of’ interest group.

EB – Spoke about the budget process and asked the CC to help promote local consultation – an initial event is being held at Craigroyston High School on 21 Aug. She mentioned that garden waste registration closes tomorrow and there had been a higher take-up than expected. She confirmed there would be a review of how well the service had worked. CD said that the West Pilton Gardens green bins had not been collected on time.

It was discussed that there were general issues in the area around waste disposal and dumping and that we should get Changeworks to come in and talk about what they could do to help people make relevant changes.

1. **MSP Report**

BM said that since becoming a Minister the pressure on his time had increased. He would nevertheless aim to attend more regularly.

He said that the Scottish Government was doing a significant amount of legislation from organ donation, increasing age of criminal responsibility and introducing a new planning bill.

There was the introduction of Scottish child payment to help the SG meet its tackling child poverty targets: a new benefit for 6 year olds and then up to 16 year old - £10/week/child for families - 2021. These were new powers being used by the SG and a different approach than child benefit as this is more targeted.

BM said that Brexit taking up lot of time – lots of meetings with UK Government to limit the likely damage to business. Police stood up. Face likely No Deal Brexit and this caused significant concern.

BM was attending a car boot sale on 30th – catch people – 1-3.

1. **Waterfront Development Update**

There would be a further meeting at end Aug – possibly at Edinburgh College with architects attending. JC called for this to be opened up to as many people as possible.

1. **Community Council Matters**
   1. **Social Media**

GM provided an update. FB and Twitter were going from strength to strength and provided local people with a stream of information. It was noted that while Elizabeth has left the CC, she was keen to stay involved as a ‘Leith correspondent’. The CC had lots of messages on FB – on TRIM’s pages.

* 1. **Elections**

PF circulated election guidance for CC elections. PF agreed to hand Treasurer’s notes etc. to WB.

1. **AOB**
   1. **Save Our Services**

There had been little activity since the last meeting. BM was meeting the Integrated Joint Boards so will raise points on the SOS campaign to them.

The CC noted that while some Holiday Hunger programmes were being run, these had been scaled back since last year. The Millenium Centre did not run some sessions.

1. **DONM**

7 September 2019