**MINUTES OF THE WEST PILTON WEST GRANTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020**

**Present:** Geri McDonnell (chair), Audrey Coltart, Syed Anwar Hossain, Willie Black, Peter Faassen de Heer (Minutes) PC Sarah Hall, Cllr Jim Campbell, George Norval (CEC), Laura Kearney (HCL)

**Apologies**: Hossain Moazzem, Cllr Ellie Bird, Ben MacPherson MSP, Deirdre Brock MP

**Absences:** Lana Kelly, Gladys Strang, Janice Holm

1. **Welcome**

GM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **HCL Transport**

LK provided an overview of the services that HCL deliver. They charge a reduced cost for helping those with mobility issues get around. This consists of a dial-a-ride service which is akin to a taxi service but carers go free and drivers are specially trained to help users with wheelchairs etc.

This service has 30 vehicles across 4 different LA areas, employing 44 staff (38 drivers) and while it has some central funding and charges for its service, they also do fundraising. Most staff are employed but there are some volunteers.

HCL also provide community group bus groups. They were keen to reach out to other interested parties such as PEP.

GM agreed to publicise HCL and its service through our social media channels

1. **CEC Report**

***Bonfire Night***

GN provided an overview of the work done before and after bonfire night to restrict potential for arson. He said that this had largely been successful. The conversation drifted into discussion about fireworks and WB reminded the CC that the Scottish Government was looking at this through its consultation work (WB is on the panel) but would be restricted to matters of devolved competence.

***Waste***

The CC debated the general issue of waste and specifically dumping and flytipping which it views as unsightly and a potential public health issue. The CC believes this attracts vermin and needs to be tackled before the warmer weather.

There was some debate on the best approach for this. GN agreed to invite a colleague from Waste Services to the next CC to discuss and address the issue.

***Property Development***

First phase of FRD is complete and funds are available for phase 2. GN agreed to share the original 5 year plan with the CC for reference. Biggest problem with properties is the lack of an ongoing factoring arrangements. Identifying an empty housing officer to bring empty buildings back into use is a challenge going forward.

***New NEP season***

Community walkabouts will be needed to identify locations for investment. WB pointed out that once we do the walks, the CC will have more control over the outcome. CC could sign off on a design. CEC could look at getting a designer on the team.

***Vehicles***

The CC questioned what could be done with abandoned vehicles. GN suggested calling Engie to get them removed.

1. **Police Report**

SH identified the local police consultation and asked if the CC could complete it.

It’s only in the last few days that there has been a spike in motorbike crime, however dedicated officers at Drylaw were still assigned to look at this and would do so. Additionally there have been some break-ins to sheds and outbuildings (as opposed to homes). Police have been doing events to encourage Bike Marking – putting serial numbers on their bikes – so that stolen goods can be reunited with their owners.

1. **Elected Officials**

JC provided an update to the CC on the Social Index for Multiple Deprivation report which shows that more areas in Edinburgh are no longer in the poorest 20% in Scotland but that there were still some serious issues in the city.

Granton Waterfront – Old national grid site - will go to the planning committee soon and then become public quite soon after. JC said there was a plan to do a community meeting by end month. This included some discussion over the funding but restrictions on how much CEC can borrow.

The CC agreed to defer to the next meeting to discuss funding for development of the site.

Comment was made that Local Delivery Plans would allow Neighbourhood Networks to be working to feed into this process. 4-5 CCs need to be brought together to shape this.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of our next meeting is Tuesday 3 March.