



CROSSHILL & GOVANHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES 11TH DECEMBER 2017 (DRAFT 3)

PRESENT

K Hawley	C McCormick	A Carberry
D Tausney	G Mc Manus	M Nisbet
Cllr Belic	Cllr Hunter	E Pollock
J Adair		

CHAIR

The meeting was chaired by C McCormick, CC chairperson.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Soryia Siddique, Joe Beaver, Iain MacInnes.

MINUTES (Nov 2017)

Minutes were proposed by : Grant McManus ; seconded by : Jean Adair

POLICE

Instead of the usual figures, they presented a summary comparing june to nov for 2016 and 2017

serious assault reduced 20%
robbery reduced 22%
house break-ins reduced 50%
(attempted break-ins (with "intent") reduced 25%

50 less victims for those categories

antisocial behaviour reduced 19%

Andy asked about child abuse - they can't give details but there *are* ongoing investigations.

SCOTTISH WATER

Derek Christie from Scottish Water presented an update on plans for Queens Park, with map and visualisations. Vent stack is now being planned for a more appropriate area of the park. He explained filtration system (total odour removal 95%, and should be rarely used - only "during storms")
Environmental Health dept had not expressed any concerns.

They aim to be completely out of the park by summer 2018.
The pictures will be available with the renewed planning application.

FIRE ON VICTORIA ROAD

Five residents affected by the fire joined us and related their stories (restaurant owner couldn't make it).
Background: serious fire ten days ago in kitchen of Kebabish

- building control had to check building and haven't
- some people had insurance, some didn't
- factor Redpath Bruce were going through their due diligence
- very little action from authorities and too little communication
- the building was opened for a brief supervised period
- it still appears structurally sound
- worst cases will not be able to return to flats for 6 months to a year; but nobody has been told formally
- there is a long process: all the separate insurers need to get together
- residents are frustrated: who makes decision? who decides the timeline? ("for the number of public sector parties involved the response has been shocking")
- front door has been replaced by a metal door (people are receiving invoices for this)
- not only are they not getting info but also being told wrong info: one resident was told he'd be back in a few weeks.
- they were not given enough time to get their belongings out - someone was already welding the door when they had access.
- they need a coordinator (Mhairi Hunter confirmed that Building Control will determine timings)
- Redpath say there is no Buildings Policy (insurance) - people paying the factor for insurance thought they were covered.
- rehousing is done by Council and GHA - but some accommodation offered might be expensive

Marion suggested Community Resilience Teams

Iain suggested the Fire Service should have experience with dealing with this type of scenario.

What can CC do? Chase Andy Young to encourage to attend Monday's meeting. [action: secretary]
We should continue to liaise and discuss.

CLEANSING

Background: a number of issues have been raised by CC, including in a Walkabout in October. we wanted to hear how these would be tackled, and begin an ongoing liaison with Cleansing.

We received a communication from James Crawshaw shortly before the meeting advising:

- I understand that the main issue for the Community Council concerned overflowing commercial bins on the footpaths of Allison Street, which were addressed by our Commercial Waste Enforcement Officer, Bobby Philips.
- In addition, attention was drawn to two large 'taylor' bins containing domestic refuse outside 218 and 318 Allison Street. The bin outside 218 Allison Street is the current domestic arrangement with LES Cleansing Services. This is because of the difficulty of pulling through wheelie bins from the back court due to the design/layout of the back court. Consequently, this arrangement will have to remain in place.
- After consultation with LES Cleansing, the Taylor bin outside 318 Allison Street was removed as there is ample wheelie bin accommodation in the back court.
- I can advise that the three grey Cleansing bags that were found on the corner of Annette Street/Allison Street were removed the following day.
- A number of choked road gullies were reported to RALPH.
- There was also a complaint that the carriageway of Allison Street was not mechanically swept often enough. It was explained at the time that this would be due to the difficulty of numerous parked vehicles.

Robert Soutar and Brian Roberts attended tonight's meeting. There was some heated debate.

- There is a Neighbourhood Manager role - but person is absent now and his role was not filled. They

are seeking to fill this post.

- deep clean on Allison St that had been proposed - it's hard to get compliance ("TTO", temporary traffic order); Robert says they have to do Allison St in sections to get "TTOs"
- Andy stated that there was no cohesive strategy for the area - no one is taking ownership.
- Marion asked about pole-mounted bins, said we'd been asking for two years.
- grey bags are not being lifted - Eldritch felt that the council was creating the grey bags problem, leaving them in the street. Robert agreed there was a problem and they need a new way of dealing with it - aim to tackle this by summer 2018
- new bins are to be introduced - "smart bins" - with sensors which report when they are full
- Some general disappointment was expressed by all at the meeting and Marion felt that James Crawshaw "looked down his nose at the area" and she was angry at him not turning up personally to the arranged walkabout.
- (Robert Soutar noted that he himself had come in on his holiday tonight)
- Marion noted that, despite various initiatives, things were "not getting any better."
- Andy noted "Depot Rationalisation is not happening" (there are Union issues)
- Linda (a local resident) noted that bins were still not being emptied despite her complaining many times. She considered this was due to laziness and has shown to bin men.
- Problems with blue bins and replacement - there is a schedule on GCC website but the website has been broken. They will send out calendars

SOCIAL WORK

Susanne Miller, head of Social Work (children) attended.

Background: an article in The Times had made allegations that there was a significant problem with child exploitation in Govanhill.

Susanne gave reassurance on the issue: child exploitation has been going on since 1990 - it's not new - and Govanhill is no different to the citywide picture.

No reports have been made after the Times article.

Andy raised issue that children of school age are not attending school and are seen in the streets.

Susanne noted there is a Roma/EU group that is encouraging Roma parents to register their children at school - but this is not a specific Social Care issue.

Grant noted that "senior social workers" had been quoted in The Times article. Susanne doubted these reports.

Iain noted people in his close weren't at school - he called social work and education authorities but just got passed around between them - no one was taking responsibility.

Susanne noted some schools have attendance officers, but not all.

Andy said this is not working, it's just not happening.

POLICE MEETING

Also in response to the recent media coverage, 4 CC members met with the Police (Inspector Hutton) to discuss the allegations, and had been reassured that a good deal of what had been reported has been actively followed up on but no new evidence to support the reports had come forward.

Yes, Social Work are working with them on a reporting campaign.

Iain felt it was a campaign against racism that was needed.

POSTPONED TOPICS

Due to time constraints, the following topics are to be discussed at a future session: shop certification, ALISS. Citizen Income won't be covered until City Council have passed their plans.

SECRETARY REPORT

Updates had already been covered within the other topics.

But also noted:

- Christmas Tree festival had raised a lot of money (over £1500) for a Lodging House Mission for homeless people; and Damian had done a terrific job with the decorations
- Govanhill Baths had completed their funding round and raised the money they need to progress the re-opening of the baths

TREASURER REPORT

Current balance is £1561.57

HOLYROOD CROSS-PARTY GROUP (CPG)

It was agreed to reject the Edinburgh date that has been proposed, and ask for a Govanhill meeting [action-secretary]

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Soryia Siddique sent some notes to be circulated [action- secretary]

Mhairi Hunter noted:

- large investment in Annette Street School
- Albert Road building is "not as bad as it looks"
- she has a report from Social Work which she can circulate to Community Councillors

AOCB

Jean has maybe found someone willing to do minutes [action - agree rate and make offer]

NEXT MEETING

8th January