

# **Juniper Green Community Council**

**(Serving Juniper Green and Baberton Mains)**

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## **Minutes of Meeting held in Juniper Green Village Hall (in the main downstairs hall).**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 starting at 7 pm.**

Chairperson – Professor Cliff Beevers

Present – Robert Ogg, Helen Ogg, Maxine Magee, Norma McGeever, Vic Stewart, Neil Wheelan, Neil Ingram, Eric White; Alan Laing, Ron Axon (Village Hall caretaker representing the Village Halls Group), Alistair Macadam, Cllr. Alastair Paisley, Cllr. Ricky Henderson

Apologies – Richard Watt, Ian Gilmour, Karen Noble, Katrina Donaldson, the Police.

1. Allan Laing of Balerno Trust described arrangements for the Farmers' Market at Balerno, as a committee member of it, with a view to our considering having a similar one here. The Balerno Trust bought the stalls and a trailer, with an outlay of some £7000 some of which came from an NP grant, and arranged storage. They transport and erect the stalls on monthly market days at 0700 hrs, and remove them after 1300 hrs. They obtained planning permission, agreement to close the Main Street except for vehicles taking/collecting goods at the Post Office and Pharmacy, street traders' licenses for the stalls (one to ten costing £50 - £100 per annum), agreement of the Police, and obtained public liability insurance. Electricity was laid on for those needing refrigeration or lighting. Rents from the stalls (unstated) cover the outgoings and make the market economically viable. Alastair Paisley suggested we could rent the stalls from Balerno on days when not required there. Five volunteers are used, one remaining while the market is open.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

2.1 Matters Arising – The Clean-up party will meet in Bloomiehall Park on 29<sup>th</sup> May from 1000 hrs and the clean up will end at 1300 hrs. Eric, Norma and Ian have agreed to help with organisation though Norma is unavailable on the day itself.

Allotments – No further comments have been received from the secretary of Wester Hailes Allotments Association following a very informative email to Eric about the spread of members there. Nor has there been a response from the Parks Department regarding the possibility of siting allotments at Curriemuirend Park. They will be reminded.

The strip of land next to the tennis courts is thought to be in use but Alastair Paisley has started the process of recovering it for school use.

Alastair suggested there could be 60 allotments behind the football park (location not clear). Cliff suggested a community orchard again (would this need security fencing?)

Post Office – Vic Stewart described a number of possibilities for partial Post Office provision. For example in Cumbria a service with two separate half days per week has been set up. He has obtained a guidance brochure for such cases and will talk again to Mark Farrell.

JGCC has submitted an entry for the British Archaeological Society's awards.

Flower tubs insurance – this has now been covered by the C and B News policy though JGCC may wish to acknowledge this with its own donation to the C&B News account.

3. Reports from Office Bearers and of recent meetings.

3.1 Secretary – Licensing – There were no applications for licenses in our area. Nearby ones affecting our residents are for 75 Harvester's Way in Wester Hailes, Somerfield at 57 Lanark Road West (but as a garage this won't be permitted), and 1 Corselet Place in Currie.

A letter had been received from the Depute Clerk of the Licensing Board regarding a review of the Licensing Policy, with a consultative "Supplementary Licensing Policy Statement – Licensed Hours on Sundays" by the Clerk. It was felt unnecessary to reply as we are only marginally concerned, and individual applications here will be dealt with as they arise.

3.2 Treasurer – Neil W reported that the grant of £4250 from CEC should reach our bank account later this week. We still have £200.85 in hand.

3.3 Planning – The Planning report from Neil Ingram had been received and contents noted (report attached), most items being on small domestic alterations. He included a survey of applications over three years which showed a decline in numbers, possibly due to the recession.

Alastair Paisley said a site meeting is due at 22 Baberton Mains Loan, since a number of objections have arisen to the proposed house extension.

Neil I led a discussion on a letter received by Alastair P from John Bury regarding Alteration of a Boundary Wall Without Consent at 16A Belmont Road, which did not produce clarification. Neil I will write to enquire what the phrase "Enforcement staff will continue to monitor the site" actually means.

The Post Office should have moved one of the two boxes beside the tennis courts, amalgamating them into one, and have been supposedly doing so for a year.

The dumped material near the Water of Leith has been partly removed.

New powers of enforcement for breaches of planning regulations are due.

Neil I explained that he would respond to the outstanding consultations in due course.

3.4 Meetings/Walkabouts

Walkabout on 23<sup>rd</sup> March attended by Craig Dunlop, Richard Koch of Community Services, Richard Watt, Cliff, Robert and Helen in Curriemuir Park. Some work has been done on clearing up the play area, and this will be completed soon.

A meeting of the Strategic Development Group for Older People on 23<sup>rd</sup> March was attended by Eric White. He reported the main items as an address for an Advice Shop on George IV Bridge where individual applications are worked through. Graphs were produced showing the likelihood of pension credit with variations in total investments plus savings against weekly income. These are likely to be most useful for widows in our area. There is said to be a large unclaimed sum of money available.

Liz Beevers attended a meeting on Allotments at the Engine Shed on 1<sup>st</sup> April, where some useful ideas were exchanged and helpful contacts made.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April, Robert and Helen attended an EACC meeting on Transport. The main items discussed were the trams, the New Forth Road Bridge, a new Park-and-Ride facility at Ingliston and its probable affect on the Baberton (??) roundabout, and the bus service. The City is said to be £80m behind in road repairs.

Maxine Magee reported concerns of a parent that the minimum distance for bus-passes for school children has been raised from two to three miles. This will affect many travelling from Baberton Mains to Currie High School. Lanark Road is not safe, and the Broomiehall Park route can be muddy and slippery. Youngsters with asthma may need help, and assistance may be forthcoming where there are three or more children per household attending the CHS.

#### 4. Reports from sub-committees

##### 4.1 Health -

Helen explained some of the issues from the meeting of March 18<sup>th</sup>, report attached.

Maxine reported that £650,000 is available in the City for training and respite for carers.

Robert had recently attended a meeting of the Health Sub-Group of PNP, largely concerned with the Wester Hailes Health Centre. They do not appear to accept Juniper Green as well as Baberton Mains. Referral is by GP or self-referral. Maxine mentioned a Time Bank in relation to carers.

Norma reported that it is proposed to form a new drop-in facility to be called WesterHaven (health agency?), which it is suggested will be funded by the Macmillan Trust. The building is opposite Wester Hailes Police Station and needs upgrading before opening. This will be a pilot scheme for chronic illnesses and cancer patients for the area. This was initiated by a GP, and will have a write-up in our newsletter. Both centres should benefit Juniper Green and Baberton Mains residents.

4.2 Publicity – Following the meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> (report attached), Eric had sent out the Logo made up into a sample letterhead in which councillors can insert their own details mainly for use by Richard.

Cliff explained that he had tried, so far unsuccessfully, to contact someone from Wester Hailes who was offering to author our website. The wording for our website on health and the environment has largely been worked out by Helen and Neil I respectively. A cash injection is awaited. Neil I will also write a piece on planning.

The Newsletter is in an advanced stage, Helen reported. It should return from the printers on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and should be delivered by the school and Scouts before April 27th to all houses in our neighbourhood at a cost of £200 split equally between school and scout group.

Helen in collaboration with Isabel Johnstone (President of the SWRI) is arranging a Walking tour to visit some of the front gardens in Baberton Mains. Twenty-five posters will be produced to advertise all the walks around the area in early May in advance of the AGM.

Helen is still working on the wording for questionnaires.

5. Police reports have been circulated and crime figures were down. Difficulties of parking when collecting/delivering children at the Primary School were again raised, mainly by Alistair Macadam whose drive becomes blocked. Alastair Paisley will ask for a Traffic Warden to be sent out by scooter for the appropriate hours. Critical times are 0815 – 0900 but more especially 1430 – 1530, though Maxine believes that around 11.50am on Fridays is the worst time both on Baberton Mains and Baberton Avenue.

Norma described an incident of exceptional flooding in Westburn Avenue when there were floods at many places around the City.

#### 6.1 PNP meetings

Helen had emailed reports of the PNP meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March (also attached) in which JGCC was given a grant of £4250. There had been some concerns that the Hustings arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> April may not be impartial but we are of course taking great care that it will be organised even-handedly.

From a Business Meeting of the PNP a decision was passed on that streets in Edinburgh will no longer be named using the old logical method of naming them after the district, and a sample of possible new names was handed round. Dismay was expressed because this will surely result in confusion.

Helen had also received an email from the PNP Development Officer suggesting we have one representative per sub-group. These are –

Funding Panel - Helen is our representative;

Health and Employment – Robert and Maxine are our representatives;

Environment and Transport – Neil I volunteered to represent JGCC on this group.

Our Biodiversity Representative is Richard. Open Space includes Allotments.

We have no representation on the Housing Area Board, Community Resources and Community Safety at present.

6.2 EACC – Robert described a difficult meeting of the EACC on 8<sup>th</sup> April with a number of contentious issues.

7. Events in run up to AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> May -

7.1 Spending the grant award: Neil W was given authority to start spending the grant on the items identified in the proposal, when the money does arrive in the JGCC account.

7.2 Hustings for Westminster elections on 28<sup>th</sup> April. We are now committed. Currie and Balerno Community Councils have each allocated £100 to costs, such as stationery, food and helpers. Tickets are now available at the Old Post Office and Scott's in Juniper Green as well

as several other shops in Currie and Balerno. There are at least seven candidates. Alastair pointed out city councillors are now in a period of purdah. Ricky advised us to deal with the event maturely.

It was thought that in the future it may be beneficial if several community councils come together over issues like planning, especially in situations close to the boundary between two CCs or affecting the wider area. Alastair also suggested useful contacts should be Archie Clarke because of his experience, and Tom McCall of Balerno CC. Richard Owen is planning convenor at CCC.

7.3 Arrangements for the four walking tours of our area will be advertised on posters in local shops, pubs etc in the weeks before the AGM. Cliff reported that there were already bookings for the tree, wild life and history walks on Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively starting at 7pm. Helen explained that the tour of Baberton gardens would start at 2pm on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

7.4 AGM Arrangements (6<sup>th</sup> May) - Eric will check whether a projector can be used in the room we will occupy at the golf club, and whether they have visual aids.

It was agreed that we should cover the usual items at an AGM such as reports from the office bearers and sub-committee convenors.

George Williamson of Community Education and of our Village Halls Group has offered to speak on the idea of a Village Day for groups to present themselves to the public, such as Pentlands Regional Park, sports clubs etc. Cliff agreed to liaise with George on this item.

7.5 Programme of speakers and venues for the rest of the year. Cliff suggested that this item be referred to the Publicity sub-committee for further consideration.

8. AOCB and Open Forum – Vic is still enquiring into metal notice boards.

Neil W enquired into the costs of buying a laptop. (Eric bought a Dell on line in December 2009 with Windows 7, a wide screen (not liked), Word, Excel and Powerpoint for £409. This is satisfactory apart from the need to get used to a new set of bells and whistles).

Alastair Paisley brought up the Farmers' Market for discussion again. The playground of the old primary school seems a suitable site, but is on sale for £6.4m. We will discuss it again at the AGM.

The PNP had received a Funding Application from the Mark Wright Project, an organisation aimed at supporting ex-service men and women as they return to civilian life. Helen sought advice on this application for funds for a Family Day/Welcome Home Concert at Redford Barracks on 8<sup>th</sup> May. This was felt to be a worthy cause though with soldiers drawn from many other areas it seemed inappropriate to seek funding from just one of the NPs and we wondered if general CEC funding would be more appropriate on this occasion.

9. Date and venue of next meeting and walkabouts.

Walkabout - 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1030 hrs outside the Royal Bank of Scotland, mainly to look at pavements and enquire about progress on outstanding work.

AGM at the Golf Club – 1900 hrs on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

Signed by Cliff Beevers .....

**JUNIPER GREEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
REPORT ON PLANNING MATTERS ARISING OVER THE PAST MONTH  
PREPARED BY THE PLANNING CONVENOR  
DATE: April 12<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Planning Applications received between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**

**10/00523/FUL** 482 Lanark Road Edinburgh EH14 5DH Erect new garage/store, form new vehicle run-in/driveway, erect replacement boundary fence. Submitted on 01/03/2010, due for determination by 30/04/2010.

**10/00588/FUL** 75A Belmont Road Juniper Green EH14 5EB Retrospective planning permission to erect 1.8 metre brown timber slatted boundary fence. Submitted on 08/03/2010, due for determination by 07/05/2010. Response to enforcement **09/00744/EOPDEV (see below)**

**10/00733/FUL** 71B Belmont Road Juniper Green EH14 5EB Single storey extension to rear of house. Submitted on 22/03/2010, due for determination by 21/05/2010.

**10/00804/FUL** 32 Baberton Mains Place Edinburgh EH14 3DE. Form new single storey extension to side of existing dwelling house. Submitted on 29/03/2010, due for determination by 28/05/2010.

**Planning Applications determined between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**

**09/03369/FUL** . Existing porch to be altered with new roof, door and windows. Install new upvc patio doors and windows at 9 Belmont Road Juniper Green Edinburgh. Application received 30/12/2009, **permission granted 16/03/2010.**

**10/00403/FUL** 37 Baberton Mains Park Edinburgh EH14 3DX. 1 storey extension to side of property. Submitted on 17/02/2010, **now deemed permitted development.**

**Applications yet to be determined:**

**10/00469/FUL** 23/02/2010 30 Woodhall Terrace Juniper Green EH14 5BR. Remove existing garage and conservatory, extend house to east side and south west corner, form new roof etc. Submitted on 23/02/2010, due for determination by 22/04/2010.

**10/00394/FUL** 22 Baberton Mains Loan Edinburgh EH14 3EP The alteration and extension of a house. Submitted on 16/02/2010, due for determination by 15/04/2010. Resubmission of previous application (**09/02666/FUL**) withdrawn on 30/12/2009. **9 objections submitted, mainly on grounds of over-development of site. Due to go to Committee on 7/04/2010, but not determined.**

**09/03344/FUL Proposed** 2 storey extension to existing dwelling at 4 Baberton Mains Row Edinburgh. Application received 24/12/2009, due for determination by 23/02/2010, **report from Transport Department requires the provision of an off-street parking space.**

**09/01637/FUL** Attic conversion with new Velux rooflights to front and rear elevations at 7 Belmont

Road Juniper Green. Application validated 1/07/2009 but deemed incomplete.

### Progress on Enforcement Cases:

**08/00301/ECOND** 16A Belmont Road - The owner was granted permission on appeal in 2003 to erect a garage (**02/01236/FUL**), but in 2008 he demolished a rear wall without meeting conditions imposed by the consent. Enforcement action was started in June 2008. Councilor Paisley has written to CEC Planning Enforcement asking to look again at what further action they can take. **The attached letter from Planning Department explains why further action is now not practicable. I suggest we discuss this at our April meeting with a view to writing further to the Council.**

**09/00711/EOPDEV** Belmont Road Juniper Green 10/09/2009 - Alleged, unauthorised erection of posting pouch in conservation area - second red pouch will be relocated next to existing grey one by Post Office – **No progress!**

**09/00744/EOPDEV** 75A Belmont Road Juniper Green 24/09/2009 - Erection of boundary fence. **Pending consideration – a retrospective planning application has now been submitted.**

**09/00926/ECOU** Baberton Loan Juniper Green Edinburgh 03/12/2009 - Unauthorised Change of Use Development –relates to previous enforcement case **07/00819/ECOU** concerning dumping of construction materials from another site on open Brownfield land. **The landowners, Caledonian Heritable, have been instructed to remove the dumped material, and while much of the material has been removed, some broken asphalt remains.**

**10/00066/EOPDEV** 53 Belmont Road Juniper Green EH14 5EB - Alleged, unauthorised erection of lights and non-compliance with approved plans – **Case now closed.**

**10/00096/ECOND** 53 Belmont Road Juniper Green 01/03/2010. Alleged, non-compliance with conditions. **Pending Consideration**

### Development in Baberton Mains

I have analysed applications for planning consent in Baberton Mains over the last 3 years. As the table below shows, there have been 35 applications, over half of which have been for extensions. None have been rejected. There has however been a steady fall in the annual number over this period, in part presumably due to the recession.

Year	2007	2008	2009	Total
Extension	10*	5	5	20*
Porch	1	1	1	3
Conservatory	6*	5	1	12*
Other	1	1	0	2
Total	16	12	7	35

\*2 applications included extensions and conservatories

### Development Planning

CEC have recently published their 2010 Development Plan Scheme. This sets out the timescale for preparation and implementation of the Strategic Development Plan (known as SESPLAN) and the Local Development Plan.

The Strategic Development Plan covers a large area of south east Scotland, including the four Lothian authorities and parts of Fife and the Scottish Borders. It looks 20 years ahead, and must be updated every 5 years. The process starts with a Main Issues Report, which sets out alternative proposals for key areas. This is the point at which communities are encouraged to get involved, though most of the issues will cover larger areas than those of community councils. The Main Issues Report for the SESPLAN will be published in May 2010, and consultation will last for 6 weeks. The proposed plan will be published in February 2011.

The production of the new Local Development Plan will not start until May 2011. At present there are two local plans – the Edinburgh City Local Plan, last updated in January 2010, which includes Juniper Green and the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan, which includes Currie and Balerno, which was last updated in 2006.

### **Consultations**

There are currently 3 consultations on planning issues under way in Edinburgh – Landscaping and Development, Biodiversity and Open Space Strategy. Once I have read them I will circulate draft comments for discussion. The closing dates are 23 April for the first two, and 21 May for the Open Space Strategy.

### **Training**

Cliff Beevers and I attended a training day for community councillors on 27 March. It was run by Planning Aid, and focused mainly on changes to the system of development plans which will be introduced starting later this year.

**Neil Ingram**  
**Planning Convenor**

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### **Report of Health Sub-Committee 18 Mar 2010**

Present: Maxine Magee, Norma McGeever, Helen Ogg, Robert Ogg

**1 and 2.** Members were welcomed to Norma's and there were no apologies.

#### **3. Matters Arising/ Actions from previous meeting.**

South Edinburgh Public Partnership Forum (SEPPF) - Helen reported that the Equalities Network had circulated a request for representatives of thematic groupings (older people, young people, and Chairs of Health sub-groups of Neighbourhood Partnerships) to form a new steering group. Chair of the steering group will be Heather Levy of Firrhill Community Council and Oxfords Care. The first meeting of that group will take place at the Astley Ainslie on 6 April. Norman Tinlin will attend for Pentlands NP. Following that meeting there should be a process available for individuals and other groups to join the SEPPF to give the Community Health Partnership the benefit of their experience and convey their needs. Helen undertook to keep the group and the CC informed.

#### **4. Statistics on Baberton Mains and Juniper Green SO2000340**

Helen had undertaken to use the statistics to draft a contribution for everyone to see and comment on for the forthcoming website. This is work in progress.

Draft to be circulated by Helen when ready.

## 5. Newsletter article

The group discussed the content of the article for the newsletter. We were aware that the word limit was tight and we may have to edit the article. Norma agreed to check that we could use the information about Wester Haven in the article so that we were not breaching any confidential information.

Norma to check with her contacts about Wester Haven.

## 6. Possible Speakers

A first draft of an invitation letter had been produced for sending to possible speakers (so far Bob Anderson, Chair of Edinburgh CHP; Sarah Sinclair, Head of Patient Focus and Public Involvement, and the speaker from Roodlands re Health and Wellbeing have been identified). The difficulty in issuing an invitation is that the venue would ideally need to have at least some accommodation for members of the public and suitable access for any disabled person. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a programme of speakers in place – together with suitable venues – perhaps over the next year. It was agreed it would be helpful to put this to the CC for guidance.

Action: Helen to ask if this can be an item on the next CC agenda.

## 7. AOCB

Maxine reported that she had arranged a meeting at the Wester Hailes Health Agency through Dr John Gordon on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30pm to find out about the facilities and current projects with a view to finding out what was available to people in the JGCC area. Robert agreed to accompany her to this meeting and they would report back.

Action: Maxine and Robert to report back.

Helen mentioned that Cliff had been doing some thinking around a possible fruit/veg market - "Juniper Greens" being his snappy title for it. He would be meeting with an ex H&S officer for CEC to try to identify suitable sites. We are all keen to help get this off the ground – and each of us will do some work in finding out about

- Regulations and licensing
- Possible suppliers
- How to run a market – possible contacts to help

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 May – venue to be confirmed

Helen Ogg  
29 March 10

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## Report of the Publicity Sub-committee Meeting of 25/03/2010

**Present:** Cliff Beevers, Maxine Magee, Norma McGeever, Helen Ogg, Robert Ogg, Richard Watt.

1. **Report of the Last Meeting:** the report was accepted as an accurate record.

3. **Logo:** this item was taken first to allow Eric, who had been invited to attend to discuss his logo design, to leave early. Richard thanked Eric for an attractive design, but felt it reflected

past history rather than a forward looking Community Council, with its images of one building (Woodhall Mill) which no longer exists and one (Baberton House) which now plays no part in the life of the community. Helen argued that the logo should be adopted as it represented all areas of the community. In any case, the logo could be changed in the future if it was felt that change was needed. Most other community councils used logos reflecting the history of their constituencies. The only other possibility was to use an abstract design, which would mean starting again. It was agreed that Eric's design would be adopted if it were approved by the full committee on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Richard thanked Eric for his attendance and the work he had put in to creating a logo which satisfied the requirement to represent both parts of the constituency.

## 2 Matters Arising:

2.1 **Website.** Although texts on Health, Environment and Planning were awaited, there was no pressure to produce them quickly since the site designers had not yet been commissioned to start work.

The JelSIM submission for website design was discussed at length. Its advantages were that the site could be kept up to date by ourselves, after we'd been trained by the designers; main menu items could be kept to a minimum to avoid confusion and improve ease of use; polls and surveys could be conducted electronically, and searching for or sorting data would be relatively easy. It was felt that Planning merited its own place among the main content types. In any case, all aspects of the site were up for discussion with the designers who could adapt it to meet our needs.

It was agreed that in the final design minutes of meetings should be kept separate from reports of sub-committees, such as the health group, which could be published in a different field. Transport and Environment, like Planning, should appear as an item on the main menu.

Information on history, natural history etc. of the area had already been written for JG300 and there should be no problem in using them for the website, even though they were currently on the JGVA site. **Action: Cliff.**

2.2 **Newsletter:** Helen produced a mock-up of the Newsletter. She had received almost all the text with the exception of an item on Planning/Environment which Neil I. had been unable to submit owing to a family bereavement. Apart from this, appropriate images were still needed to illustrate the text and enhance the appearance of the Newsletter. Richard would circulate Council members to ask for any suitable pictures. Photos had already been received illustrating natural history and history walks and the article on school news. Cliff offered to supply a picture from the JG300 calendar of the old school as a single storey building. Cliff would give Richard contact details so that he could obtain the view of Baberton Mains which had appeared in the *Scotland on Sunday* article on Juniper Green. He also would ask Martin Bone of CCC for a jpeg image of the poster he had designed for the hustings. A picture of the monument unveiling and group photo of the Community Council would be included with, possibly, a picture of the river. A vertical row of small images would be used to add interest to the front page.

Maxine suggested a regular history article, written perhaps by Liz Beevers, might become a feature of the Newsletter. This proposal was deferred for future consideration. Space on the back page would be used to list all members of the JGCC, including nominated and associate

members, accompanied by the group photo. A new, complete photo of the full Council could be taken at the AGM. The font size of the mock-up was small, but Helen said that it could be increased.

Information about the candidates for the hustings was incomplete, though Clare Cooney had sent a short CV. No information had been obtained about Caroline Bellamy yet. The article about guided walks in the week of the AGM would have to be amended to include a Gardens Walk round Baberton Mains.

The printers would be given the newsletter a week in advance of its distribution date. Richard would forward copies of the printers' quotations giving details of format etc. to Helen. It was agreed that the deadline for delivery to the printers should be 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Distribution of the Newsletter, together with the school Press Gang's *Green Word*, would be by the scouts and the school, the school doing Baberton Mains and the scouts Juniper Green, on 20<sup>th</sup> April. It was proposed by Cliff, and accepted, that £200.00 would be divided equally between the scouts and the school for this service. Cliff would contact the scouts. Action: Neil I., Helen, Richard, Cliff.

**2.3 Posters:** Helen had made mock-ups of posters for the AGM and for the guided walks showing a landscape photograph from the JGVA website for which Cliff would ask their permission. It was agreed that the two posters should differ sufficiently in design and colour to avoid confusion between them, particularly because they would appear simultaneously. A fourth walk, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, round gardens in Baberton Mains, was planned and would have to be added to the poster. The logo designed by Eric would be used on the AGM poster. It was agreed that posters would be distributed to shops, the school, libraries, waiting rooms, clubs, pubs and cafés etc. by volunteers from the committee. 20 of each poster could be photocopied at the Currie Library free of charge. Action: Helen

**2.4 Questionnaires:** Helen had devised a draft questionnaire on an A4 sheet folded in 3. The logo could be printed on the front. All questions were open and listed under 4 general headings. There was some discussion of the appropriate number of questions, but it was agreed to submit the draft to the committee meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> April for a final decision on this. The questionnaires would be distributed after the general election to public places such as shops, hairdressers, local libraries, Currie Post Office, cafés, and so on, for members of the public to pick up. An electronic version could be emailed to residents. Distribution centres could have collection boxes, which, it was suggested, might be made by school children, for completed questionnaires. Probably around 500 questionnaires would be needed, but to begin with 200 could be run off at the library. The Newsletter could be used to alert residents to the questionnaire. Action: Helen, Richard.

**4. Funding Grant Application and Proposed Expenditure:** no funds had yet arrived in the bank account, though £250.00 was expected the following day. Some publicity work could be done without grant money; for instance, posters and questionnaires could be photocopied free in the library and the school children might be asked to make collection boxes for questionnaires.

**5. 'Your Edinburgh' Website:** Richard read through the "contacts" form sent by the Library Service. It was agreed that he should send in a form, even though not all sections were appropriate to community councils and so could not be completed satisfactorily. It was felt

that a presence on the website was important as it provided another avenue of contact with the public. **Action: Richard.**

6. **VOiCE:** Richard had spoken to Michelle Mulvaney of the CEC who was organising an introductory demonstration of VOiCE for those community councils which might be considering using it as a tool. The demo would take place after the school holidays, but before the May 11<sup>th</sup> seminar at Murrayfield. Application for attendance by JGCC at Murrayfield would be made in light of the demonstration. Michelle Mulvaney had said that VOiCE was moving from being a data based system to being web based, a distinction that was lost on the meeting.

7. **Hustings Prior to General Election:** the organisation of the proposed hustings had been divided up, with Balerno CC undertaking stewarding and Currie publicity. JGCC would be responsible for distributing posters in its own area. There would be another meeting to finalise arrangements, probably in Currie, at which Cliff and Helen would represent JGCC.

8. **AOB:** on behalf of the sub-committee, Richard wished to record thanks to Eric for the work he had done on the logo.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm at 630 Lanark Road.

RW 29/03/2010

## **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP) – Business Meeting 3 March 2010 Report to JGCC**

### **Introduction**

The PNP holds two kinds of meeting – the “Business” one in which the agenda covers items which are not likely to be of immediate interest to the general public and where the agenda for the next public NP is set, and the “Public” one, where matters of a more general interest to the public are presented and where the decisions taken at the business meeting are ratified in public.

### **3 March Meeting**

#### **1. Street Naming**

We had a presentation on street naming – copies of the names in the naming “bank” for the Pentlands area were made available. There was a lively discussion about the rule that it would no longer be acceptable according to the Scottish Government (which I find very difficult to believe) to use area names like “Baberton Mains”, followed by the name of a street eg Avenue, Place, Crescent etc. Councillor Aitken pointed out that it was helpful to know what part of the city you were in by an area name. Our local councillors are the final arbiters unless there is a disagreement, in which case the proposed name goes to the Planning Committee of the CEC for a decision. CCs are no longer involved in the process, but they may, as anyone can, suggest names to the CEC. A link will be placed on the NP site to enable the public to do this. Judy Wightman of Ratho CC pointed out that sometimes it is necessary for there to be liaison between local councils on naming and she pointed out that “Bonnington” was about to be used in West Lothian when there are existing names in Leith. The street naming team will contact West Lothian.

## 2. Council Reports

- **Allotment Report** – (noted and sent to the PNP Environment and Transport Sub-Group)
- **Public Convenience Report** - (noted and remitted to PNP Environment and Transport Sub-Group)
- **TAC Outcome Report – (Tasking and co-ordinating)** – noted and to form basis of a future presentation at next public meeting)

## 3. Library Hub Development

Consultation event happening on 27 March.

### **Report from Norma McGeever – who attended on our behalf on 27 March.**

Attended this meeting on the 27th March at Oxgangs library. There is a very warm friendly atmosphere at this venue. I personally would prefer this library to remain as it is. Keeping it maintained and updating computer systems. Ideal meeting room which could be used for presentations for limited numbers. Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, and Colinton mains community education centre, are helped by volunteers from the community. Both of them offering many activities to the local people. Oxgangs care day services for the elderly, provide support, and offer respite time for carers. This all contributes to a good sense of wellbeing in the area. NMcG.

## 4. SubGroup Reports

- a. **Funding Panel** – Full report available with NP papers, but it was agreed that JGCC be awarded £4000 – later upgraded to £4250.
- b. **Transport and Environment** – Actions are in place, members of the group to report as and when eg a management plan for Redford Woods and on transport, action planning still under development as most of the goals are long-term, so template is being adjusted to accommodate some short and medium term goals.
- c. **Health and Employment** – Currently focussing on mapping current mental health services in Clovenstone and Oxgangs. Liz Simpson NHS in lead. Support for carers to be publicised through Oxgangs Library Hub. Second focus is on parenting and family support to be given some funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund for research. Again publicising to be done through Oxgangs Library Hub.
- d. **Community Safety** – New group to be formed.
- e. **Area Board** - All new projects will be presented with the breakdown of the scoring system and officer comments supporting scoring/ weighting process. Key officers will be on hand to answer any questions from the Board. The Board has agreed to meet at the SWNO to encourage more buy-in from SW RTO groups and interested parties.

## 5. AOCB

Norman Tinlin queried whether funding was available to subgroups. For example, Balerno Community Council was used as a front to obtain funding for paths. Would the subgroup have the authority to apply for funding to assist in the running of their work?

Helen Ogg  
2 April  
JGCC

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## **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP) – Meeting 30 March 2010 Report to JGCC**

### **Introduction**

This is the “Public” meeting, where matters of a more general interest to the public are presented and where the decisions taken at the business meeting are ratified in public.

### **30 March Meeting**

#### **1. General Business**

Declaration of interests, approval of minutes from December meeting, and answers to public questions were all uncontroversial and quickly agreed.

#### **2. Motion by Councillor Henderson**

Councillor Henderson’s motion requesting a report to examine safety issues and to present options for short and longer term improvements to increase safety and security etc was unanimously carried. I spoke to Councillor Henderson at the end of the meeting and he has agreed that JGCC should also be consulted.

#### **3. NP Community Grants Fund**

As previously reported JGCC will receive £4250 from the Community Grants Fund. Other amounts were nodded through for other organisations.

The JGCC request for £270/250 from the Community Engagement Fund had unfortunately caused email uproar and Convenor Rust had vetoed the application. We requested and were given the advice on which this refusal was based before the meeting. At the meeting I, with the support of Cliff and Graham Dane of CCC, challenged the ruling. Jason Rust proposed the argument be put to CEC lawyers. I attach a copy of our argument and the CEC advice received after the meeting, but the bottom line is that we will not receive any funding for this event from CEC. Interestingly CCC had confirmed with both the Returning Officer’s office at CEC and with the Electoral Commission (part of Scottish Government ) to be informed that what was being planned was legal, sensible and to be encouraged.

#### **4. Pentland Hills Regional Park – Minute of Agreement with Midlothian Council**

MC have agreed to put £52,000 towards this - £40,000 short of requirement.

#### **5. Public Questions**

A question concerning planning consent for a development at 303 Lanark Road was raised. Apparently it involves the building of a house in a back garden.

#### **6. Community Safety in the Pentlands Area**

A presentation on all aspects of community safety (Environmental Wardens, Community Safety Teams, and Community Safety Officers) was delivered, explaining the headway that is being made. The presentation will shortly be available electronically.

### **Argument put to Mike Avery/Jason Rust**

“Scott kindly let me have a copy of the recent pre-election guidance issued to CEC officials and councillors. However, I have to say having read the pre-election directive, that it seems to me **not** to preclude our holding a hustings. Just for reference one of the Frequently Asked Questions in Appendix I is:

*A school has been approached by a candidate in the forthcoming election who wishes to meet pupils and have a general discussion with them about topics of concern to them. Is it OK to allow the visit?*

You have to show even-handedness to all political parties. It would therefore be acceptable to invite all candidates to meet the pupils, for example, by holding a mock hustings meeting, but it would not be appropriate to allow only one candidate to meet the pupils.

*In the above situation, what should be done if one of the candidates does not attend?*

As long as all the candidates have been given the opportunity to be represented, then the event can proceed.

The above question and answer would seem to destroy the argument that we cannot proceed – particularly as we (3 Community Councils) are being even-handed to all candidates. And perhaps to take the argument further, since a hustings is not favouring one party or another, then resource to hold it is presumably allowable. The corollary is that if it is disallowed by someone in a party political position, then presumably that someone could be accused of acting in a party political way?

Helen Ogg”

### Advice received from CEC and its lawyers

#### **POLICY ADVICE**

#### **PENTLANDS NP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUND**

#### **APPLICATION FROM JUNIPER GREEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR A GRANT FOR A WESTMINSTER HUSTINGS EVENT**

This application has been assessed by Council officers, advice has been taken from the Council’s Legal Services Department and is considered not eligible for funding. Please see below for background to this position.

The Grants cannot be used to support publications or activities designed to affect public support for a political party.

This information can be found in the Fund Criteria which notes that “Each grant will be issued under the City of Edinburgh Council Standard Funding Conditions” and these Council Funding Conditions are issued as part of the application pack.

The Council Funding Conditions state (Section 7.6)

“ Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986 prohibits the Council from publishing any material that appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.

The same section also prohibits the Council awarding funding to organisations for this purpose.”

All applicants sign a declaration at the end of the application form stating that they “ Have read and will comply with all City of Edinburgh Council Funding Conditions”.

In addition the advice on the “Purdah” period issued to us by Jim Inch Director of Corporate Services refers to the 1986 Act and emphasises the need for vigilance during the weeks approaching a General Election, with references to Councillors potentially exercising pressure on Council Officers.

I consulted Isabell Reid who referred the enquiry to Legal Services. Having reviewed the information, the Solicitor suggests that the application is ineligible and that no grant is awarded.

He makes the point that it would be very difficult to have a completely “all party” event and if it transpired that all parties were not present then the event would be seen as favouring one or two parties calling into question the Council’s impartiality under the 1986 Act. In the Pentlands area it would be unlikely that the Chancellor would be available to attend.

1 April 2010  
Maureen Thompson  
Policy Assistant  
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