

Present

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Colin Proctor, Alastair Murray, Bill Alexander, Catherine Lang, Iain Gotts (CAA), & Lorraine O'Shea (CVE).

Cllr Jason Rust, PC Graeme Howie & 8 members of the public.

Apologies

Nigel Rudd, Cllr Elaine Aitken, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Joanna Cherry QC MP, Cllr Richard Lewis, PC Vinnie Blair (MoD).

Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

Minutes of the meeting on 11th August 2015

Proposed: MS, Seconded: LO. These were approved.

Matters arising:

The Vice Chair briefly described the conversation he and the Chair had with executives of Kilpatrick Property Group Ltd concerning issues with regard to 8 Bridge Road. Kilpatrick Property Group are considering their position. Amongst issues discussed were the concerns about the effect on the village, design of the building and the possibility of betterment for Colinton.

The NEPs project for upgrading the pavements at the top of the village is to go ahead on 1st November 2015.

Closure of the RBS Colinton Branch:

The Secretary reported that he had sought information on what services the Post Office may not be able to offer against the services advised by RBS in their leaflet. He stated that he had been given sight of a letter from the Post Office to Mr Mathur detailing exactly what had previously been stated by RBS but cautioned that we would need to be aware that the future of the Post Office services in Colinton was still uncertain. Discussion followed on this matter.

SESPlan: TM suggested that Colinton would be barely affected and suggested leaving representations to individuals. Issues of a secondary nature might have some effect. IG had attended the local SESPlan meeting in Currie the previous evening. He was surprised that, the proportion of the required housing, 64% were in the category of social and that there was likely to be a huge gap in the provision of these houses.

The possibility of the MOD selling off land they hold was mentioned, however with Redford Barracks being refurbished and more personnel being moved in as part of the 51 Brigade HQs move to Redford, this was not an imminent concern.

Police Report

PC Graeme Howie gave a brief overview of policing issues in the Colinton area. There had only been one house-breaking (West Mill Road), no assaults, no crimes of violence and no hate crimes (a recent addition to the Police reporting system) and no major road incidents during August. There had been two thefts of fuel from Dreghorn Service Station. Significant arrests have been made in connection with house-breakings in Edinburgh.

A question about access by residents to areas around Colinton Primary School at the start of the day and at end of school was asked by a resident. It was not clear if this would be maintained for those living in the area. GH mentioned various communications and access initiatives. A resident expressed concerns about lack of communications to affected residents.

Action Group Reports

Communications:

The final designs for the logo were discussed and agreed. It was agreed that the smaller square version would only be used for social media purposes.

There followed a discussion on the leaflet and it was unanimously agreed that the Communications Group would approve the final version. Following a comment from a member of the public it also was agreed that the Secretary's address would be added for those who did not have electronic means of communicating.

Environment

In NRs absence the Secretary covered the report. He explained that funding might not be available immediately for various initiatives such as the paths in Campbell Park. The Council officer responsible for Bridges and Structures had phoned to say that the tunnel relining had been deferred until April due to more pressing work required to North Bridge.

On 31st August drains in Woodhall Road were water jetted. This would hopefully resolve some issues with regard to effective drainage of surface water along that road. The Secretary also mentioned that a resident of Mossy Mill flats had contacted him concerned that a very large tree was leaning at 45 degrees towards his flat from the opposite side of the river and if it fell during high winds could potentially cause a large amount of damage to the flats. **ACTION: NR**

Secretary's Report

The matter of Dog control along the Water of Leith Walkway was raised as a possible safety issue and something which might be raised at the next Community Safety Action Group meeting. **ACTION: Community Safety Reps**

Transport Roads and Pathways (TRAPs)

BA reported that he and the Chair would meet with the “Clarence” team to understand what various responses on the website meant. He also mentioned that there would be an environmental walkabout on Monday 28th September 2015 commencing at 10:30am starting outside the Colinton Pharmacy. BA stated that it would be helpful to hear from anyone who had a concern about issues that could be raised at this walkabout and to have it added to the list of actions to be followed up.

Finance Report

The Treasurer reported that funds had been transferred in the Community Council account that day amounting to £610.88, which he stated was broadly in line with what was expected less an amount for insurance. There should be another half year’s grant money due sometime.

AOCB

The Chair updated the members on the issue of collaboration with CAA. A draft document was discussed between the two Chairs informally. The Chair proposes to meet again with the Chair of CAA and complain to him about statements made both in the CAA minutes of June and also the Colinton Magazine.

Questions from the Public:

Comments made regarding:

- Panel fencing down between Woodhall Road and the City Bypass. Possibly Bear Scotland’s responsibility.
- Trees now meeting above the middle of Woodhall Road.
- A Grit Bin has been thrown into the wooded area next to Woodhall Road
- The white triangles on Speed bumps in Bonaly should be repainted as they have been worn away. Cllr Rust said this was in hand.

BA stated that these items were on the Walkabout list which would be discussed with the CEC representative at the Walkabout.

An issue was raised over elderly persons being unable to use computers. Address line to be added to leaflet.

ACTION: Communications Group

Euan Scroggie raised matter of emphasising Boundary Commission responses. The Chair suggested looking at the level of residents in the area and suggested that Colinton/Fairmilehead’s 9% over parity could be tolerated and not overly excessive against the 6% target. MS mentioned “Natural Neighbourhoods” and it’s relevance to objections to the Boundary Commission recommendations. Bob Bell mentioned the UK Government’s position on communities.

The Chair mentioned that within the statute there were five key reasons for objecting.

IG commented that CAA had emailed 240 of its members. There was a discussion on how the

CC should publicise the consultation and promote responses. MS suggested a number of images be used on library screen and in Colinton shops etc. and asked for suggestions as to where these could be placed. There was also a suggestion that a banner be created to publicise the consultation and placed at the top of the village. **ACTION:BA to coordinate this with LO.**

Date of next meetings: Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Reports will be available on the website and in the folder in the Library.

Presentation

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Jestyn Davies (Murray Estates) and Robin Holder (Holder Planning) on the proposal for the development of Land East of Milburn Tower (The Garden District) soon to be the subject of a planning application.