

Stockbridge & Inverleith
community council

May 2024 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2024
at Stockbridge Parish Church, Stockbridge, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Clive Preston (Chair); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Nigel Clark; Tannis Dodd (Secretary); Gregan Crawford; Pam Barnes (Planning)

Members of the Community: Peter Linn; Sheila Linn; Caroline MacFarlane; Holly Harrison; Daria McDonald; Peter Chalmers.

Ward Councillors and Member of Parliament: Cllr Hal Osler; Cllr Jule Bandel; Cllr Max Mitchell

Apologies for absence: MP Deidre Brock; Cllr Vicky Nicholson; PC Holly Matheson (local Community Police Officer)

CC Chair Clive Preston welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

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Minutes of last meeting 10 April 2024: The Minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

Place Based Investment Fund: Pam Barnes explained what the application from Inverleith Park is for. They want to create islands tethered together in the pond and plant them up with water plants. They would then take nutrients from the pond and hopefully reduce the amount of algae that builds up in the pond. This would encourage wildlife and biodiversity and allow the model boat club to use the pond again.

The applications are going to committee in August – there have been a high number of applications and they need time to study them in more detail and to ensure that the funding for these applications is in place.

Community Councils Review: This is now in its second phase and we will wait to see if any of the changes we requested have been made. They are not actually making changes to the concept or influence of the Community Councils.

Public toilets in Hamilton Place.: Clive has spoken to Cllr Max Mitchell and the inside of the toilets are supposed to have been cleaned up. Nigel is specifically talking about painting doors etc. and removing old stickers etc. off the tiles. Max to ask if they can be refurbished by the Council or can local residents, do it?

Visit to Broughton High School: Sally MacMillan, Senior Development Office at the School has liaised with the Head of Social Subjects and has sent two dates for Clive and anyone else who would like to join him to go to the school and meet up with smaller groups of S5 students. The dates proposed are June 24th and November 18th. If anyone is interested in going along to then let us know please.

Daria McDonald from the Citizens-led Bin Hub Committee was introduced and explained they had got together to represent the residents and small businesses affected by the roll out of bin hubs out with the World Heritage sites. They have 7 district reps. They have done door to door community interviews to see how people feel about the bins and how the Council has dealt with them. Each district has different bin requirements and they have worked on ideas of interim solutions. They have started a petition and currently have 2,400 signatures.

Daria came to invite us to think about our community and to discuss how we can push to pause the project and reevaluate it. She is looking for support from the Councillors especially those attending the Transport and Environment Committee meeting at the end of May. They want to try to turn the bin hub disaster into something positive.

Bins have been a point of discussion at most CC meetings for the last couple of years. In fact the bin hub scheme has been in the pipeline for several years but the roll out of it has been a little chaotic with not enough or little consultation in some phases.

Daria thanked Max and Hal for their help so far and asked why there was not more cross-party collaboration on improving the situation for local residents who have actively tried to get the positions of the bin hubs moved.

Hal said one of the main problems is that there are certain criteria set out for the positioning of the hubs which is inflexible. A few local residents have had the criteria changed in order to move the positions of the hubs but there are many who have not been successful. It was said that residents should have the ability to have their voice heard on the usage of the bin hubs. Some areas have been massively affected by the bin hubs positions. Motion put forward to allow the public to review the criteria has been voted down. Also, a motion has been put forward to find ways to reduce the noise of the glass bins and change the times of collections – to make them not too early in the morning or late in the evening.

Max suggested that Daria's group should put forward a deputation to the Council meeting. Residents Peter and Sheila Linn are concerned as they still have kerbside collection on their street in Learmonth but they are due to have a bin hub placed on their street outside their home. Hal explained that there was nowhere else to put the hub for the adjacent street and it is to be placed at the end of Learmonth Place. It can't be placed on the opposite side of the street as there is no pavement on that side of the street.

It was questioned as to whether recycling rates had increased because of the hubs – according to the review it has but there has been other evidence to dispute this.

One piece of good news; the bin hub outside Smith and Gertrude on Hamilton Place has been moved from sitting in front of their business.

2. Brief reports:

a. Police Scotland

PC Holly Matheson, local community officer, was not in attendance but Clive read out the report sent for last month which had been emailed to the group. It has been a quiet month. She has organised a rota for school parking patrols; there are 11 schools in the Inverleith ward and with the shift pattern and abstractions from regular duties she can't be there weekly, but she does get round them all in a cycle all year round.

As always, she is dealing with ongoing neighbour disputes, mental health issues, speed checks, anti-social behaviour, and the usual background work the police do.

She is at Stockbridge market every third Sunday for Catch up With a Cop. Her next one is Sun 19th May if anyone wants to speak to her face to face.

b. Councillors (on any local matters/action points):

Cllrs Max Mitchell and Hal Osler:

They went on a walkabout with waste officers to check positioning and sizes of bins and if they are being cleaned properly. Aim to keep Stockbridge clean.

Anti-social parking outside Flora Stevensons – increased as the car park at Waitrose currently closed for refurbishment. They are trying to work with the school re the issue.

Comely Bank Road is due to be resurfaced.

Thriving Green Spaces – the cycling lane on Carrington Road is being put forward again.

City Plan – this is going to committee in June and is due to be ratified at the end of June.

The headmaster of Broughton High School John Wilson is due to retire soon.

St Stephen's Clock is now working. There is still ongoing issues with the clock at Franco Manca but it is being worked on.

c. Chair

Clive Preston highlighted the drop in sessions to discuss the Councils budget. Email was sent to the mailing list.

Edinburgh 900 Community Grants Fund that are available to eligible projects. Grants available to put on events to celebrate 900 years of history in Edinburgh – email was sent out to mailing list.

Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) – we had been sent notification of their conference on May 15th, 2024. At the request of the Scottish Government, SCDC have been working with community representatives and staff from public sector agencies to develop ideas for improving the Participation Requests process based on experience of using them so far. These ideas will inform ministers consideration of Part Three of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as part of the wider review of the Act happening this year. Clive might attend.

d. Secretary: Nothing to report.

e. Treasurer: David Chamberlain said the accounts had been signed off. Tannis to send a request for funds for paper and printing. He said there is about £1700 in the account, and we are expecting about £820 for our grant. Our yearly running costs are about £650. David to make payment to Warriston Residents Association.

f. Environment – SEPA survey – Clive to fill out but Tannis to send out to mailing list for people to fill in with their own specific issues.

Hal suggested we should all have water butts in our gardens to collect excess water.

g. Transport: Concerns have been raised about the wide pavement on Ferry Road that backs on to the Heriots Playing Field. It is being used as a car park for motorhomes and camper vans. There is concern about the status of the land – who owns it. It may be private land – owned by the people who live across the road.

Crossing at Buckingham Terrace and Oxford Terrace – fast moving traffic but there is a designated crossing place.

There was a walkabout with officers and a lady in a motorised wheelchair in Inverleith Park, Water of Leith and Orchard Brae – this highlighted the lack of safe crossing areas for wheelchair users.

h. Licensing and Planning- The old Ping On premises have applied for a late licence to 1am every night of the week – there may be a precedent on this but it was decided that it was worthwhile putting in an objection to minimise the number of days that it has a late licence. It is to become an Italian restaurant.

Planning: An objection has been put in re the change of use for Finance House Orchard Brae from residential and co-working spaces only to also include student accommodation. Objections and comments can be made up until May 31st, 2024.

Marks and Spencers are taking on the old Scotmid premises in Raeburn Place. They have applied to have refrigeration equipment at the back of the building. This raises concerns about noise issues for the nearby residents. One of the neighbours has commissioned an expert opinion on this. Pam expects the report to be in by May 10th and will put in an objection asking the Council to look more closely at this issue and find ways which can resolve it.

NW Localities: New funding panel meeting in June. Community Grant Funds -full Guidance and Application Form can be found here: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/community-planning/community-grants-fund>

Parks and Amenities: Public toilets are going to be put in place in Inverleith Park at the end of the summer. They will be placed near the gates of the depot. Temporary toilets will be in place from June. The permanent toilets will be able to be remotely locked and unlocked.

The Ferranti site is coming along slowly. It will probably be knocked down and rebuilt as currently not fit for purpose.

Flooding in Inverleith Park was raised – a major problem and they are looking at sustainable urban drainage solutions. Massive storage tanks underground that release water slowly is a possible solution, but they are very costly. Councillors working with Scottish Water to find solutions.

AOB - Neighbourhood Market – has re-opened and concern has been raised as to how long it is running this year. There is no obligation to notify the public about the market licence applied for. Tannis asked why they don't have a sign outside saying that there is an entrance fee on the weekends. Max to follow up.

The AGM will be in June – if anyone would like to stand for a position in the Community Council, please let us know. Positions include Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Engagement Officer.

7.Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday June 12th, 2024, at 7.15pm. It will be preceded by the AGM at 7pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend community council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise a subject, please contact the S&ICC at stockbridgeandinverleith@gmail.com or visit our website www.stockbridgeandinverleithcc.org.uk