

**Longstone Community Council**  
**Secretary's report to 2019 AGM (draft)**

This is a review of most activities during the year but is not exhaustive.

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*Planning applications and development:*

The application by 'Lanark Road Living Ltd' to build student flats on the Westside Motors site in Slateford was approved on 1 August 2018. Westside Motors ceased trading in November but the site was not vacated until early this year. At this time there is no indication of work starting.

In September we noted an application to demolish the Kingsknowe Roadhouse and replace it with a row of 10 townhouses. Subsequently we objected to this proposal, as did 146 local people, many patrons of the Roadhouse who value its facilities. Despite the deadline for determination being passed in October, no decision has yet been made and the application will be considered by the planning sub-committee in the autumn.

In October we noted an application to convert the Cross Keys public house to flats. We made no comment and the application was granted on 28 November. Work has only recently started.

An application to convert a bungalow on Lanark Rd to an HMO is still under consideration.

There has still been no development of the site in Inglis Green Gait.

Although not in our area, we noted that an application to build flats on the site of the Blue Goose Country Pub, then closed, had been rejected.

In May I explained that a condition attached to the planning permission for the Sainsbury's store in Inglis Green Road was for the payment of £20,000 for a survey to locate a site for a pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the river and for a design study. Although the payment was made, the conditions do not appear to have been met. This matter is being pursued.

*Environment:*

Fly-tipped material dumped beside Hawmuirside in the panhandle of the school grounds lay there most of the year until it was removed about the end of April. Other fly-tipping has been reported beside the canal at Stoneyport; we await some action on this by Scottish Canals.

Graffiti continued to be a problem. I sometimes manage to get the owners of the property involved to remove the tags but many remain. I explained that, apart from the odd private owner, I had to deal with 6 different public companies and 5 different CEC departments. There is hope that CEC will try to coordinate reports and build a graffiti database. LCC has provided me with spray-can paint to deal with some of the tags. The matter of graffiti on the gable wall of a house beside Duncan's Gait was discussed. The owner had previously painted over graffiti but was not inclined to continue doing so. In fact, no new graffiti has appeared there since I painted over the most recent tags.

In September, after we had queried CEC's policy on gritting roads and pavements, Colin Groundwater came to explain the policy.

During the year I raised the matter of the so-called 'wetland' in Hailes Quarry Park, which is usually dry. I suggested it needed a water supply, perhaps from the Murrayburn which runs in a culvert beside Murrayburn Road. The suggestion was not taken up by the Parks Department and the 'wetland' remains mostly dry.

There were several reports of accidents on Lanark Road near the day nursery and the junction with Kingsknowe Road South. I obtained information from the road safety unit that a pedestrian safety island would be installed adjacent to the junction with Kingsknowe Park. This has not yet been done, but the kerbs opposite the present traffic splitter island were dropped during the year and pimple pavements added.

Jack Keiller came to our November meeting to explain CEC's plan to convert street lighting to

LEDs. The conversions in ward 7 have mostly been accomplished.

It was noted that, during the year, several of the MoD houses in Redhall had been sold.

Bus stop boxes were painted beside bus stops on Kingsknowe Road North and South.

#### *Duncan Colquhoun*

The school identified a pupil qualified to receive the Duncan Colquhoun Memorial Award and this was presented by our Chair Des Laughney on sports day 6 June 2018 together with a book token supplied by LCC. We wait to see if an award will be made this year.

On 4 October 2018 DL and I met the Head Teacher (AP) to discuss the future of the memorial outdoor classroom, which LCC had offered to restore. AP was to find out what contractors can be used for the work (she wanted everyone to be happy with the ultimate decision). Eventually, LCC was allowed to find its own contractor, which it did and the refurbishment took place on 6–7 May 2019 at LCC's expense. Later a replacement plaque was mounted. The classroom remains in CEC ownership and the school is responsible for ongoing maintenance. The school will organise new planting by children.

#### *Councillors' reports*

Cllr Dixon attended in Sep/Oct/Nov and Cllr Graczyk attended only in September.

In September Cllr Dixon mentioned a meeting of the Community Alcohol Project, to which Margaret Campbell would have gone had she been available. We have not heard of this Project since. We were also told of the reorganisation of Neighbourhood Partnerships and Local Network meetings.

#### *Meetings attended*

DL has continued to represent us on the Hailes Quarry Park Steering Group and Vicechair John Allan represents us on the Canal Community Action Group. DL attended the SW Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 8 November. DL has also been organising astronomical and ornithological excursions in Hailes Quarry Park, mainly for children. On 16 January I attended a CEC community planning meeting.

#### *Data control and records*

In April I reported having to sort out old LCC records found in Grace Hughes's former house by her family. Most of them had to be dumped but some older minutes went to CEC Archives, which also collect copies of all current minutes. Other published material went to the National Library of Scotland.

#### *Remembrance Ceremony:*

LCC organised a well-attended memorial ceremony at the war memorial on 11 November 2018. It was addressed by DL and he laid our wreath alongside two others.

#### *Graysmill Farm*

In November I drew attention to the historic encampment of the Jacobite army on the fields of the farm on 16 Sep 1745. It is commemorated only by a bronze plaque on the wall of the concrete aqueduct over Lanark Road in Slateford, far away from the actual site and not in our area. I suggested that some memorial on the farmhouse site would be appropriate. Subsequently I was encouraged to explore the idea of an information board and consider applying for a grant for this from CEC. The application was later rejected because a site had not been identified and permissions had not been obtained. Even though a site on the pavement outside Sainsbury's was identified permission would

include Advertising Consent costing £101 (not includable in the grant). Eventually, because the difficulties encountered, it was decided to abandon this idea and, instead, as CEC if it would take it on.

*LCC membership and meetings*

In March we co-opted Alan Gordon but in May we lost Ann Watt, who resigned. The membership remains at 8, one more than the minimum number. In May members signed a card to Lily Campbell recognising her long service to LCC.

Since the last AGM, we have met 7 times, 6 of them in the school, 1 in the Church.

*Facebook*

In May we recorded that AG will now handle our Facebook page and try to make maximum use of it.

Steuart Campbell  
30may19