

West End Community Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, at 19:00h
Children's Library, Blackness Library, Perth Road DD2 1EJ

PRESENT:

Neil Mcleod (Chair)	WECC		WECC
Karen Fox	WECC	Bailey Fraser Macpherson (FM)	Elected Councillor
Jayne Purcell	WECC	Cllr Michael Crichton (MC)	Elected Councillor
Gail Stirling,	WECC		
Ellaine Kuwahara,	WECC	11 Members of the Public	

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies Neil McLeod welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies from WECC : Gary Langlands, Roz Langlands, Alison Duffy, Hazel Lancaster, Darci Reid, Inaaya Ishaq and Stuart Paton (Community Police Officer)</p>	
2.	<p>Assignment of Roles from AGM. Roles assigned to different councillors were agreed by email and contained in the November minutes. Gary Langlands is stepping back from the position of Chair, but will take over from Roz Langlands as Treasurer. Future changes will be shared at meetings.</p>	
3.	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes Proposed: Jayne Purcell Seconded: Karen Fox</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Replies to questions about Magdalen Green footbridge sent to DCC were embedded within a letter in response to WECC's formal complaint about the consultation and WECC's role within that. The complaint was partially upheld, and some answers were addressed in the letter. WECC to send a reply to DCC's letter. <i>DCC letter attached to Minutes?</i> Accessibility of meeting venue within Blackness Library. This has been addressed by moving to the Children's Library on the Ground Floor. At the end of the meeting it was agreed that this is a good fix and future meetings will continue here. Amendment to room booking for future meetings to be made. Karen Fox gave an update on the second Joint Community Council meeting, noting that it was a mutually helpful arena for support and guidance on matters beyond our constituency. 	?? GS
5.	<p>Police Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little to report. Continued efforts to reduce speeding on Blackness Road using the speed gun and 'pop-up Jim' when staffing allows. Some parking issues at Victoria Park Primary School in relation to parking. A joint approach will be conducted with parking officers to tackle this problem. No reports of anti-social behaviour. Please get in contact if anyone is reporting any problems. <p>FM raised the upcoming consultation on Police Scotland's proposal to close Ryehill Police Station. With the loss of Logie St John's Cross Church Halls for community groups from June 2025, this building may be of potential interest to the community.</p>	
6.	<p>Planning and Licensing Planning No items affecting the West End Ward on Weekly Lists other than the Magdalen Green bridge. WECC to follow up on previous queries on signage and checking that the correct licensing is in place regarding the usage of Slice and Eazy which was planned as a takeaway but is being used as a café.</p> <p>Proposed Magdalen Green Replacement Bridge Planning Application Update The planning consultation period is live. It was disappointing to note that this is in December with a closing date of 27th December. KF contacted DCC Planning asking for an extension and this has been granted until the 6th January 2025 (noted 11.12.24, website has been updated). WECC recommend that comments, support or objections are lodged as soon as possible. WECC will post link to DCC's Guidance note on public participation in planning on Facebook page. After GS contacted planning department to note missing and incorrect files, the planning officer replied that the name of the new bridge planning application had changed to</p>	KF GL

	<p><i>Replacement footbridge, hard landscaping and associated works</i> This better reflects the scope and scale of the project but has been done too late to show on weekly list etc.</p> <p>It was noted that there is also an application to demolish the existing footbridge, and those wishing to object to the replacement bridge will need to object to both applications.</p> <p>Available WECC Councillors met between public meetings to test the applications against material objections which are related to local and national planning policies. They concluded there are grounds for objection and shared some of these.</p> <p>A good discussion followed covering considerable concerns; safety-both the introduction of a ‘highway’ for dirtbikes and fast moving scooters on a shared path and a lighting plan which could actually make parts of the Green less safe; absence of a cumulative impact assessment of other development work happening at the same time; frustrations that accessibility in and around the Green and Perth Road area are only being considered in this single access point.</p> <p>The project does not meet conservation area criteria, including the design is not in keeping with the rest of the surrounding architecture nor does it reference the heritage of the area. It also has a visual impact on Grade A and B listed buildings and protected sight lines and effects a material change of use of Magdalen Green from a park to a thoroughfare.</p> <p>The development has been badged as an essential part of Rail Service Decarbonisation Action Plan from Transport Scotland and yet this complex bridge project is being undertaken at the very earliest stages of a plan that is to be completed by 2045. By this time there may well be other solutions, including rolling stock that will not need catenary electricity, which could make this a much simpler project.</p> <p>There is an enduring frustration that better, early community consultation could have resulted in much better outcomes for all, across the whole area with less negative impact on the Green and that there is no overall strategic accessibility plan for this area.</p> <p>WECC reiterated its wholehearted support for improving accessibility in this area along with frustrations that simple, easily achievable measures have not been implemented. These could include more dropped kerbs, anti-car/speeding measures, tidier pavements, fewer bins and street furniture, pedestrian crossings and reconfiguration of Riverside Approach. A previous proposal on Riverside Approach that was not progressed was limited in scope and not presented as part of a wider plan for accessibility in the area yet has been used as a justify not developing this route.</p> <p>Following this discussion a motion that WECC should object to this development was agreed unanimously. WECC will prepare an objection on behalf of the community. WECC will contact relevant bodies such as the Civic Trust to share concerns.</p> <p>General concerns re planning strategy being fragmented by funding streams to be raised with MPs, MSPs and Elected Members after current planning decision has been made.</p> <p>Licensing No relevant applications</p>	<p>KF and councilors</p> <p>Chair/Sec</p>
7.	<p>West End Christmas Fortnight Draw</p> <p>As this event grows, the number of prizes and entrants has also grown. MOP were involved in drawing the many prizes. Fraser Macpherson will post results on appropriate social media.</p>	FM
8.	<p>Joint Community Council Update</p> <p>Following the decision to object to the current plans for Magdalen Green and a discussion of the collective knowledge and expertise in this group, it was agreed that the plans for Magdalen Green and WECC’s objections are forwarded to them for their consideration to comment, support or object as they see fit.</p>	KF
9	<p>AOCB</p> <p>MOP queried the status of Riverside Pavillion. FM advised that there had been a community asset transfer to Yusef Youth Initiative. FM still has questions over the loss of public car parking space.</p>	

10	<p>Agreed Actions Actions from the meeting were restated and refined as required by agreement prior to the close of the meeting. Review of actions will become a standing item of future agendas.</p>	Chair/ Sec
11	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING No Public meeting in January Tuesday, 14th February , Blackness Library (Children’s Library), 1900 - 2100h</p>	