

Minutes of New Town & Broughton Community Council's ordinary meeting, at Broughton St Mary's church, on Monday 8 May 2023 at 7pm

Actions and decisions are **RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS**. **ND** ('no dissent') means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision.

URLs have been added by the minutes secretary.

Summary of actions – to be omitted from final version

Item	Actor	Action
4	S Macinnnes	Chase police for attendance/reports
5b	A Gaillard	Chase for site visit for 1 Gayfield Square
6c	Cll Caldwell	follow up about Gayfield benches
7c	Cllr Caldwell	Chase up installation of sensors on Leith Walk bins & elsewhere
11	NTBCC	Arrange a further meeting for NTBCC members to agree next steps about Edinburgh World Heritage

1 Welcome/introductions/attendance

1.a Attendance

Mike Birch	NTBCC	Carol Nimmo	NTBCC	Cllr Finlay McFarlane	City Centre ward
Annick Gaillard	NTBCC	Richard Price	NTBCC	Cllr Claire Miller	City Centre ward
Laura Graham	NTBCC	David Renton	NTBCC	Cllr Max Mitchell	
Jack Hugh	NTBCC	Alan Welsh	NTBCC	Cllr Jo Mowat	City Centre ward
Stephen Hajducki	NTBCC	Peter Williamson	NTBCC	Cllr Hal Osler	Inverleith ward
Deirdre Henderson	NTBCC	Cllr Jule Bandel	Onverleith ward	Alan McIntosh	<i>Broughton Spurtle</i>
Ken Lochrie	NTBCC	Cllr Jack Caldwell	Leith Walk ward	~12 residents/visitors	
Susan Macinnes	NTBCC	Cllr Margaret Graham	City Centre ward		

1.b Apologies

David Clarke	NTBCC	Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary
Simon Holledge	NTBCC	Ben Macpherson MSP	Edinburgh Northern and Leith
Nick Reid	NTBCC	Deidre Brock MP	Edinburgh North and Leith

2 Approval of the minutes of the ordinary NTBCC meeting held on 10th April 2023

Accepted as-is (proposed L Graham, seconded k Lochrie, *ND*)

3 Matters arising from previous minutes (and not included on agenda below)

No discussion

4 Police matters

No police report received.

- **ACTION: S MACINNES TO CHASE FOR POLICE ATTENDANCE/REPORTS**

5 Licensing

See also [report on NTBCC website](#). All points made by A Gaillard unless otherwise noted.

- The significant reduction of the licensing backlog is welcome in view of the likely surge in applications for Edinburgh Festivals.
- The licensing forum consists of ~30% CC representatives, ~30% licensing trade and ~30% police, NHS etc.

5.a Licensing Board - New Statement of Policy – Feedback from Evidence sessions (3 of)

See section 2 of the NTBCC report.

- The policy statement is still being drafted. It is welcome that the business sections of Licensing Board meetings are now webcast, at least, while applications still aren't. I was challenged at one of the evidence-gathering session whether I represent the views of residents within the NTBCC area. I confirmed that I always share my actions with the wider NTBCC, including at our public meetings. This was also confirmed by a CEC councillor present at the meeting.
- It has become clear that licensing [issues] are mostly city-centre-centric.
- Over-provision was not covered due to up-to-date data not being available and a lack of definition of over-provision.

5.b NTBCC: Relevant new applications: 1 Gayfield Sq / St James Quarter (11 May)

- The concern is that the licensing application for 1 Gayfield Square appears to be very inconsistent with the aims of the planning application (a charity), and might actually be a trojan horse for extension of a food-outlet (13 Antigua St), rather than about training people supported by the charity (as stated in the recent planning application for 1 Gayfield Square). Hence I am chasing further information, and currently do not recommend supporting this (licensing) application, which is **not** for a pub but for limited food and drink sales (including off-sales). No site-visit is planned but **I WILL PUSH FOR ONE.**
 - The presence of the nearby police station may help prevent public nuisance.
 - I was curious as to why some use-classes were removed from the planning application when it was granted.
 - A resident: residents are concerned that this license would lead to alcohol-born public nuisance harming the residential Gayfield Square. (Other residents expressed similar concerns.)
 - A resident: there are cooking facilities downstairs (at 13 Antigua St); air-extraction has just been significantly upgraded. Many food-delivery have been present recently. It may well be easy to link 13 Antigua St and 1 Gayfield Square.

- A resident: There is a history of attempts to set up a restaurant on the Antigua/Gayfield corner. The properties being discussed are connected in several ways. The uses in the licensing application include club events and live music. Also Police are not often present at the station so it provides limited protection from antisocial behaviour.
- R Price: class 10 use was removed by CEC for environmental protection reasons. Classes 3 and 4 have been approved by CEC planning.
- Cllrs Graham, Macfarlane and Mowat advised people to concentrate on material factors if submitting objections.

It was noted that NTBCC would support objections to this application.

5.c **St James Square**

- This would be a new W hotel. NTBCC plans to object to unwelcome features of the licensing application, especially over-intensification of pop-up use of St James Square outside the building.
 - A Welsh: We don't know who owns the square.
 - A Gaillard: Relationships between the Dunard Centre and local residents appear to be good so far.

6 **Transport**

[See also report on NTBCC website.](#) All points made by Mike Birch unless otherwise noted.

6.a **City Mobility Plan consultation**

- City Mobility Plan consultation is now live (open for comments until 9 July ([.City Mobility Plan consultation](#)))

6.b **East London Street – update**

- There is still significant concern, despite work by local councillors. Lothian Buses says that only buses accessing Bellevue should use ELS, but this is not the case. A petition to highlight concerns should soon be available. NTBCC is not against buses or their drivers but wishes LB to mitigate issues reported *ad nauseam* and prove this with hard data.

6.c **Trams to Newhaven - public realm issues**

- A walkthrough with local councillors enabled highlighting of concerns. The trams team will be demobilised by the end of July, leaving much for CEC to handle. There are significant concerns about tactile paving. NTBCC has also circulated serious concerns to CEC councillors.
 - A Gaillard: there are issues with parking on Leith Walk cycle-lanes, so bollards have been requested – but this would increase clutter. Leith Walk businesses need parking and loading bays, but these have been removed. (A Welsh seconded need to support shops, and noted bans on deliveries at the Foot of Leith Walk.)
 - Cllr Caldwell: bollards are being considered for some of Leith Walk. Planters may be used to deter pavement-parking. The issue of loading bays is being considered.
 - M Birch: the trams project is not only about the rails and cars, but about the overall place – and there are concerns about this.
 - A resident: in removal of clutter, benches have been removed, reducing the 'place' features.
 - Cllr Caldwell: benches are due to be installed at the end of Iona St. *I WILL FOLLOW UP ABOUT GAYFIELD BENCHES.*
 - D Renton: the planters are randomly placed, and obstruct the views of and progress mobility scooter and wheelchair users. They are likely to be used as bins and urinals.

6.d **Update on Picardy Place**

- NTBCC has not been able to obtain detailed plans. Cllr McFarlane has chased for their release. NTBCC has hence been unable to comment on the plans.
 - A Macintosh: Picardy Place plans have been released onto social media by Cllr Arthur.
 - M Birch: these released plans do not give sufficient detail.
 - K Lochrie: is the Broughton St gyratory now working? There is speeding down BS hill.
 - M Birch: saturation at this junction is very high. Some tweaks to traffic signal cycles may be possible. I hope that the forthcoming circulation plan will help matters, but this area has multiple uses, as noted in NTBCC's review.

6.e **ETRO consultation delay / extension for comments**

- ETROs for Canonmills/Broughton St and London St are delayed, apparently to November, but CEC's website disagrees.

6.f **Other matters**

- K Lochrie: it is rumoured that Waverley station ticket offices will be closed. (This could not be substantiated.)
- L Graham: Gayfield Square has become blocked with cars parked in residents' spaces, which is not allowed except for residents' cars. They should use other spaces.
 - M Birch: I am in contact with CEC's parking manager, so please keep me informed of such issues. Changes due to pandemic measures have had unexpected consequences.
 - Cllrs Mowat and McFarlane: emails/letters about parking changes have been issued zone by zone, not all at once. Rescinding of dispensations has been just paused by CEC until further decision by CEC's transport and environment committee (expected in July) . I will push for further communication from CEC.

6.g **Membership of Transport committee**

- New NTBCC members are very welcome, especially from the western area of NTBCC's area, necessary due to concerns about issues there.as well as the number of issues it is handling.

7 Environment

See also [report on NTBCC website](#). All points made by P Williamson unless otherwise noted.

7.a 'Air Quality Management Report' (TEC 20 April)

- While progress is being made (according to CEC), a new draft action plan is out for consultation. Air quality is significantly linked to transport, but Edinburgh is waiting to learn from Glasgow's experiences.

7.b 'Street Cleaning Performance' (TEC 20 April)

- Data indicates recent improvements: 85.9 of audited sites had little or no litter. However, NTBCC's area does have litter. Extra CEC money (~£3 million) is being put into cleaning. There was lack of substantive targets in the paper. Work will not go live until later in 2023.
 - R Price: it is a long time since I've seen an overflowing bin, so I think CEC is succeeding on this issue at the moment. .
 - R Price: Are the devices that monitor whether bins are full working?
 - Cllr Caldwell: roll-out and start of data-gathering are due in June.
 - A resident: my local recycling bin is often overflowing, so sensors on such bins would be very welcome.
 - Cllr McFarlane: sensors can be added to any bins. They will be installed on Leith Walk bins – ***I WILL CHASE THIS UP.***
 - Cllr Mowat: the investment was from officers' estimates of needs. Some cleansing is already underway.
 - P Williamson: the paper didn't say how the money would be invested/spent.
 - K Lochrie: graffiti is prevalent on street furniture.
 - P Williamson/Cllr Osler: CEC is responsible only for its own property. However, CEC may start to cleanse other properties, then charge their owners. CEC also prioritises offensive graffiti.

7.c 'George Street & First New Town' Workshop 19 April – feedback

- This focussed on trees, leading to Atkins saying there could only be 8 trees. CEC is working on proposals.
- Access by mobility impaired people was also discussed. Further proposals are due.
 - R Price: is NTBCC attending the meeting on 10 May (organised by Jeremy Balfour MSP?)

7.d Other issues

- A resident: YouTube reports issues with 20-minute neighbourhoods. The Portobello 20MN seems to be innocuous but the Leith 20MN seems to involve many barriers. NTBCC should keep an eye on such things.
 - C Nimmo: 20MNs are not about parking limitations, but controlled parking zones are.
 - Cllr McFarlane: LEZs will fine older (i.e. more polluting) vehicles. 20MNs have been around for 100s of years, preventing rat-running. They are not about imprisoning people.

8 Planning

See [report on NTBCC website](#). All points made by R Price unless otherwise noted.

- There have been a number of short-term let applications around existing operations. – almost all have been refused.

8.a 72 – 74 Eyre Place appeal (PPA-230-2408 & PPA-230-2409)

- The period for further input has passed. The process has been 'a shambles' due to the appellant trying to change the proposal and CEC being reluctant to comment on anything.
 - There are also appeals about 11 Marshall's Court, 20 Dublin Lane South and Bar Hütte: all of these appeals are closed to further involvement except by CEC and the appellants.

8.b Former Smithies site (23/01201/FUL) – 11 flats (10x 2 bed) proposal

See [report on NTBCC website](#).

8.c Third-party right of appeal

- Currently, developers can appeal against refusals, but if there have been many objections to a development which is then approved by local authorities, people cannot object to this. Hence there was a motion that was agreed at full Council to ask Scottish Government to enable such objections, and to deal with non-determination issues (as in the 'Jewsons' site).
 - Cllr Osler: CEC has asked SG to allow pauses if hearings are delayed until late within the normal window.

8.d Princes St hotel

- P Williamson: I have concerns about the height of this proposed hotel. Can NTBCC submit a comment on this?

9 Culture and Communities

See also [report on NTBCC website](#).

9.a Culture & Communities Committee scheduled for 11 May 2023 ('Use of Public Spaces for Filming & Events'; 'Guidance on Lighting in Parks'; 'Tree Protection in EPSG / WPSG')

- It was noted that there will be a full report on 'use of public spaces' later in 2023. Also proposal for further stakeholder consultations, NTBCC will attend any future discussions.
 - Cllr Osler: there is also a report on lighting. This may well benefit Calton Hill.

10 Communications

10.a Update / Committee news

No items raised.

11 Residents' open forum/AOCB

- C Nimmo: NTBCC is concerned about lack of transparency and progress with the Edinburgh World Heritage arrangements. There are also serious concerns about lack of representation and responses from EWH Trust. *NTBCC WILL ARRANGE A FURTHER MEETING TO AGREE NEXT STEPS.*
 - A resident: this stems from my residents' association trying to replace its representative on EWHT – EWHT has refused to facilitate this or any other discussions.
 - R Price: NTBCC engaged fully with the new draft management plan, however, requests for any updates on progress have been ignored. .The wider issue regarding EWHT governance etc. will be discussed at the next NTBCC meeting.