

Minutes of New Town & Broughton Community Council's business meeting, on Zoom, on Monday 8 January 2024 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 online version)

Item	actor	Action
1.b	B Ryan	check if NTBCC can use his wife's company's account
1.b	NTBCC	if that account can't be used, NTBCC to set up its own pay-annually account
2.a	R Price	find precedents of CC articles in the <i>Spurtle</i>
2.a	NTBCC	explore creation of a leaflet/flyer/poster, and spurtle advertising
2.b	M Birch	forward F Banatvala's contact details to B Ryan, for adding to mailing list, website etc
2.b	P Williamson	formally welcome FB to NTBCC
2.b	R Price	ask Eyre Place residents' association if it wishes to be represented on NTBCC.
2.b	K Lochrie	ask Fettes Row residents' association if it wishes to be represented on NTBCC.
2.b	M Birch	ask Northumberland/Nelson residents' association if it wishes to be represented on NTBCC.
2.c	volunteers	PW, KL, SH, AG to co-ordinate their work on planning
3.b	NTBCC	advise how many meeting notices are needed
3.b	B Ryan, N Reid	Print and laminate meeting notices; collect and distribute them
6	NTBCC	continue dialogue on boundaries consultation with neighbouring CCs
7	R Price	Circulate links relevant to local place plans
7	P Williamson	ascertain whether NTBCC's putative plan would cover all of its area or just Broughton
7	S Mills	If willing, investigate level of commitment needed to create local place plan
8	M Birch	circulate a draft short written deputation supporting Cllr Caldwell's motion, and inform him
8	A Gaillard	chase about removal of planters
9	NTBCC members	submit their own responses, then share these with R Price (via P Williamson)
9	R Price	use these to create NTBCC's submission
10	P Williamson	draft NTBCC's 'democracy matters' response
11	P Williamson	Respond to Living Rent
12	M Birch	create a deputation expressing NTBCC's disappointment with the East London Streport

1 Admin and welcome

1.a Attendance

Mike Birch	NTBCC	Simon Holledge	NTBCC	Richard Price	NTBCC
Annick Gaillard	NTBCC	Ken Lochrie	NTBCC	Peter Williamson	NTBCC
Stephen Hajducki	NTBCC	Nick Reid	NTNBB	Bruce Ryan	minutes secretary
Deirdre Henderson	NTBCC	David Renton	NTBCC		

1.b Zoom for NTBCC online meetings

- NTBCC has been using M Birch's pay-monthly Zoom account, which costs £15.59 per month. A pay-annually account would effectively cost £12.99 per month. However, MB no longer needs for his own Zoom account.
 - NTBCC's current balance is £1585, so it could afford its own annual account. Alternatively, NTBCC could set up a new monthly account each month it meets online, given it meets online every other month.
 - Free Zoom accounts are available, but they are limited to ~40 minutes. Using consecutive short meetings is tricky.
 - There was consideration of sharing a Zoom account (and its costs) with other CCs: this would require co-ordination and avoidance of simultaneous meetings (NTBCC may well meet online between monthly meetings), and might have accounting issues, so was rejected.
 - If NTBCC has its own account, the account-holder can set up meetings as needed, and need not attend.
- **ACTION: B RYAN TO CHECK IF NTBCC CAN USE HIS WIFE'S COMPANY'S ACCOUNT.**
- **ACTION: IF THAT ACCOUNT CAN'T BE USED, NTBCC TO SET UP ITS OWN PAY-ANNUALLY ACCOUNT.**

2 Convenor/office-bearer positions, NTBCC membership

2.a Advertising for and recruiting new members

- P Williamson: how can NTBCC communicate its needs and hence recruit new members?
 - M Birch: Secretary and planning convenor are essential. I could pass on either or both of my roles (treasurer, transport convenor). It would not work to ask someone to join NTBCC and then immediately take on a key role.
 - K Lochrie: NTBCC could put flyers into physical copies of the *Spurtle*.
 - S Holledge: NTBCC could selectively leaflet streets, showing how NTBCC acts for its residents – thus attracting new members.
 - M Birch/R Price: *Spurtle* circulation is increasingly electronic. Leaflet drops are time-consuming hard work.
 - R Price: NTBCC should place articles in the *Spurtle*, with hyperlinks to flyers etc. **I WILL FIND PRECEDENTS.**
 - **ACTION: NTBCC TO EXPLORE CREATION OF A LEAFLET/FLYER/POSTER, AND SPURTLE ADVERTISING.**
 - M Birch/R Price: NTBCC should also engage with local democracy correspondents in local newspapers.

- D Henderson: NTBCC should take advantage of the student journalists who attend its meetings.

2.b Local interest group members

- NTBCC has two vacancies for such members, and four vacancies for elected/co-opted members.
 - M Birch: Fiona Banatvala is in the process of replacing Simon Baig as Moray rep, but may need help to get through CEC bureaucracy to join NTBCC
 - ACTION: M BIRCH TO FORWARD HER CONTACT DETAILS TO B RYAN, FOR ADDING TO MAILING LIST, WEBSITE ETC.
 - ACTION: P WILLIAMSON TO FORMALLY WELCOME FB TO NTBCC
- ACTION: R PRICE TO ASK EYRE PLACE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IF IT WISHES TO BE REPRESENTED ON NTBCC.
- ACTION: K LOCHRIE TO ASK FETTES ROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IF IT WISHES TO BE REPRESENTED ON NTBCC.
- ACTION: M BIRCH TO ASK NORTHUMBERLAND/NELSON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IF IT WISHES TO BE REPRESENTED ON NTBCC.
- Various: other RAs to ask include Gayfield Square (if/when this is fully set up), East London St, Powderhall.
- M Birch: associate membership of NTBCC might be a stepping-stone for those wary of taking on full membership.
- B Ryan: because NTBCC can only have two more local interest group members, it could co-opt others into normal membership. (Both LIG and co-opted members are full voting members, along with elected members.)

2.c Planning convenor

- No volunteers, but P Williamson, S Hajducki, A Gaillard, K Lochrie are willing to take on aspects/part of this work.
 - ACTION: THESE FOUR TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR WORK ON PLANNING.
 - A Gaillard: NTBCC should broadcast to residents associations etc planning matters that concern them.
 - R Price: this would be welcome, but would not cover all planning matters NTBCC has covered, e.g. hotels on Cockburn St. (Perhaps such matters could be left to the Cockburn, with NTBCC supporting residents.)
 - B Ryan: could the weekly planning lists be put on NTBCC's website.
 - P Williamson: this could be done, but the information on these lists takes isn't always easy to understand.
 - S Hajducki: NTBCC should engage on planning matters with points of contacts in residents' associations and groups
 - S Holledge: NTBCC needs to reach out to first new town residents – there are significant numbers of them.

2.d Secretary, Vice-chair, Environment convenor, membership of George Street Association

No discussion

3 Communication and engagement – possible developments

3.a NTBCC's social media

- B Ryan and R Price have access to NTBCC's Twitter/X feed. Another person may be needed. (Perhaps N Reid as NTBCC's communications convenor.)
 - R Price: content is key. Hence NTBCC members should forward relevant content to BR and RP for broadcasting.
 - S Holledge: this should include CEC reports.

3.b Meeting notices

- ACTIONS: NTBCC TO ADVISE HOW MANY ARE NEEDED; B RYAN TO PRINT AND LAMINATE; N REID TO COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE THEM.

4 NTBCC meetings – agenda planning

- This seems to be working.

5 NTBCC priorities for 2024

- P Williamson: should NTBCC set its priorities, or continue to be reactive? (There is a risk of loss of attention to priorities because so much emerges from CEC.)
 - S Hajducki: NTBCC could create a mini area-plan, as it did for Broughton St.
 - D Henderson/S Holledge: CCs often need to react quickly to CEC. For example, NTBCC has only a couple of days to react to Cllr Caldwell's motion on Leith Walk etc. NTBCC has often asked for more notice of such items, to no avail. NTBCC could ask Cllrs each meeting what is likely to come up each quarter – it would gather support for Cllrs.

6 Community council scheme and boundary review – update and discussion

See [note of meeting with CEC governance](#).

- P Williamson: CEC governance is probably not looking for significant change. We raised some potential boundary issues around Stockbridge and Powderhall. We were not so comfortable drawing potential changes on maps.
 - S Holledge: the notes of Leith Central's CC's meeting with CEC governance helped clarify governance's aims. LCCC doesn't want any change to boundaries. NTBCC's population (18,136) is smaller than LCCC's (25,099).
 - M Birch: because CEC governance received a suggestion that larger CCs can't adequately represent their residents, CEC governance has arranged these meetings as an extension to phase 1 of the whole consultation. NTBCC does not believe that its size creates issues but some parts of its area could be represented better. NTBCC works well with local interest groups. NTBCC is unsure where Powderhall might go: LCCC is already the largest Edinburgh CC. CEC is not aiming to disenfranchise any group, so would not move any part of a CC's area to another CC unless that CC was able to represent it.
 - P Williamson/M Birch: any firm proposals will be issues in February. This will delay CC elections.

- S Holledge: LCCC and Old Town CC are happy to meet with NTBCC on this topic. It is curious that CEC governance is talking with successful CCs rather than those having problems.
- M Birch: it would be important to meet with Stockbridge and Inverleith CC. it may be that residents of Cumberland St and Royal Circus areas see themselves as part of Stockbridge, not the new town.

- *ACTION: NTBCC TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH NEIGHBOURING CCs.*

7 Local plans – NTBCC participation

- M Birch: participation could help NTBCC be proactive, but it needs to react to so many CEC initiatives at short notice.
 - R Price: NTBCC should not enter into this lightly. [Planning Aid Scotland has done useful relevant work](#) Local place plans are best developed prior to consideration of cityplan2040, which must strongly consider LPPs. Community actions plans have wider scopes than local place plans – those cover only land-use. There would need to be several public sessions to gather ideas, followed by creation of a plan. All of this requires resource and funding.
 - S Holledge: NTBCC could recycle its work on Broughton St.
 - M Birch: there was brief reference to it in the city mobility plan, but I am unsure that further work will be impactful.
 - *ACTION: R PRICE TO CIRCULATE RELEVANT LINKS.*
 - *ACTION: P WILLIAMSON TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER NTBCC'S PUTATIVE PLAN WOULD COVER ALL OF ITS AREA OR JUST BROUGHTON.*
 - *ACTION: IF WILLING, S MILLS TO INVESTIGATE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT NEEDED.*

8 Trams project – outstanding works

- M Birch: Cllr Caldwell's motion responds to a CEC report that is not transparent about tram-work close-out. It states that reporting will be to the trams project board and to TEC. The project board will only be in place to the end of March. Defect-handling is to be tracked by 'established contractual processes'. It is not clear that the two-year defect-resolution period has even started. Roads are being handled through normal CEC processes. A report will be issued no earlier than April, when the 'lessons learned' session is completed. (That should have been done last year.) Meanwhile there is a litany of issues, NB Picardy Place part of St James, not part of the trams project.
 - P Williamson: as well as completion, there are also the desired outcomes [improvements to traffic, pollution etc]. See also the draft paper by S Hajducki. NTBCC needs to continue to lobby for post-project evaluation.
 - S Holledge: see also the [Spurtle's Picardy Place timeline](#), which could be tied into this paper
 - S Hajducki: this might inform a local place plan, because Broughton St leads into Picardy Place.
 - M Birch: NTBCC is chasing for the Picardy Place planned dimensions requested via FOISA. There are serious issues.
 - Action: P Williamson and S Hajducki to work further on the paper.
- P Williamson: would a deputation supporting [Cllr Caldwell's motion](#) help?
 - S Holledge: yes. Even a short, written deputation is better than nothing.
 - R Price: the motion asks for work to be updated to the current street design guidance. NTBCC should support it.
 - M Birch: While I am not generally optimistic about deputations' impact, [CCTT will make a deputation](#) – and so should NTBCC. Tomorrow, there is a meeting about Elm Row with groups concerned with access. CCs do not have a statutory role in transport, so NTBCC should aim to be on the Edinburgh transport forum.
 - D Henderson: there is also the Edinburgh Accessibility Commission.
 - A Gaillard/M Birch: a clanking personhole at Blenheim Place has now been fixed. Benches are due to be moved when tactile paving is fixed. *I WILL CHASE ABOUT REMOVAL OF PLANTERS.* Edinburgh World Heritage had no input into design of benches.
- *ACTION: M BIRCH TO QUICKLY DRAFT AND CIRCULATE A SHORT, WRITTEN DEPUTATION SUPPORTING THE MOTION, AND INFORM CLLR CALDWELL.*

9 City Plan 2040 – participation statement questionnaire

- *ACTION: NTBCC MEMBERS TO SUBMIT THEIR OWN RESPONSES, THEN SHARE THESE WITH R PRICE (VIA P WILLIAMSON).*
- *ACTION: R PRICE TO USE THESE TO CREATE NTBCC'S SUBMISSION.*

10 Scottish Government Democracy Matters Phase 2 Consultation

- P Williamson: While this may undermine CCs, and create frictions, I favour communities being able to make decisions.
 - *ACTION: P WILLIAMSON TO CIRCULATE DRAFT RESPONSE*

11 Communication from Living Rent

- P Williamson: this requests that all revenue from the visitor levy are used to ameliorate the housing crisis. I believe that CCs should not be lobbied in this way. *I WILL REPLY IN THIS MANNER.*

12 Any other business

- M Birch: a report on East London St recommends no further action, and states that there is no money to repair the road surface sooner. There has been some reduction in rat-running but by no means all. The report does not mention noise issues. I have engaged with CEC cllrs, because the noise findings have been seriously misinterpreted, and traffic data in the report do not match observations. Bus-use of Green St would require removal of pedestrian improvements.
 - *ACTION: M BIRCH TO CREATE A DEPUTATION EXPRESSING NTBCC'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE REPORT.*