



New Town & Broughton Community Council Engagement Plan June 2024

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Video and in-person meetings
3. Noticeboards
4. NTBCC website
5. X/twitter
- 6 Residents' associations
7. Walkabouts
8. Formal responses to local government consultations and deputations to City of Edinburgh Council committees
9. Engagement with other community councils, networks and heritage organisations
10. NTBCC boundary and Scheme review
11. Previous NTBCC Engagement Plans

1. Introduction

This report covers eight months from the New Town & Broughton Community Council (NTBCC) AGM (and Engagement Plan) on 9 October 2023 to the AGM on 10 June 2024.

The purpose of the report, which is a formal requirement under the City of Edinburgh Council Scheme for Community Councils (10.3), is to show how the community council interacted and engaged with residents and organisations inside its area, as well as its involvement with external bodies, including the City of Edinburgh Council.

The report indicates, to a greater or lesser extent, the level of activity that the community council has been able to maintain throughout the year — what in council jargon might be called our ‘key performance indicators’ (KPIs).

2. Video and in-person meetings

During the period covered by the report, NTBCC have continued to meet, both in-person and by video conference.

Video conference enabled a high level of community engagement during the pandemic, and we have continued to use it alternately with in-person meetings at St Mary’s Broughton’s Drummond Room. (Since the last AGM we have had three in-person meetings and three video ones.)

We have continued to use Zoom, notable for its easy interface, quality of video and audio, and bandwidth handling capacity, which we regard as superior to other platforms such as MS TEAMS.

3. Noticeboards

As in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Communications Committee produced a laminated notice of NTBCC meetings for 2024 which was displayed in locations in our area.

4. NTBCC website

The NTBCC website (<http://www.ntbcc.org.uk>) continues to be used to advertise meetings, agendas, publish minutes and consultation documents and to communicate government, council and other information to residents. Views per month rose from 1000 in 2019 to 1,400 in 2020, and then 1840 in 2021. In 2022 it fell to 1400 views and then to

1336 in 2023. Views per month have continued to fall slightly averaging 1215 during the period of October 2023 to May 2024.

5. X/twitter

The X/twitter platform continues to be used by NTBCC to reach the wider Edinburgh public including the media, council services and councillors. During the period, the number of followers rose slightly from 1631 to 1676.

6. Residents' associations

The number of residents' associations (RAs), registered as local interest groups (LIGs) and represented on NTBCC, has decreased to five. There are three vacancies.

7. Walkabouts

In the past, walkabouts have been an opportunity to check on everything from overflowing bins to litter, blocked drains, graffiti, derelict BT boxes, damaged trees, overgrown hedges, out of sync traffic lights, and neglected public spaces. However no walkabouts have been held since 2022.

8. Formal responses to local government consultations and deputations to City of Edinburgh Council committees

NTBCC made 13 submissions and deputations during 2023-2024, compared with 6 during 2022-2023, 17 during 2021-2022, 11 in 2020-2021, and 8 in 2019-2020. These were:

NTBCC Deputations (written and verbal) to T&E Committee Meeting 12 October 2023 (East London Street)

Licensing Board Policy Consultation, Phase 2 – NTBCC response November 2023, 13 November 2023

NTBCC Deputation (written) to T&E Committee Meeting (Communal Bin Review), 16 November 2023

NTBCC Response To Phase 1 - Community Council Scheme and Boundary Review 2023, 6 December 2023

*Street Trading, Market Operators, Mobile Trading Consultation – NTBCC response
December 2023, 11 December 2024*

*NTBCC deputation supporting Cllr Caldwell's motion on reporting of tram-work completion,
9 January 2024*

*NTBCC Deputation to T&E Committee Meeting 11 January 2024 (East London Street). 11
January 2024*

*NTBCC Deputation (verbal) to T&E Committee Meeting 25 April 2024 (Trams Delivery
Report)*

NTBCC letter to CEC about sale of land at Eyre Place, 9 May 2024

*Licensing Board Supplementary Policy Consultation, Over-provision – NTBCC response
May 2024, 13 May 2024*

NTBCC's objection to RSO/21/08 and TRO/21/32, 17 May 2024

*NTBCC Deputation (written) to T&E Committee meeting 23 May 2024 (Changes to Leith
Walk/London Road junction)*

*NTBCC Comments to the Communal Bin Review Team regarding Phase 5A communal bin
locations - 26 May 2024*

The list above does not include representations submitted to various planning applications, DPEA appeals and others during the period or submissions to the Licensing Sub-committee on various applications (occasional or permanent).

9. Engagement with other community councils, networks and heritage organisations

NTBCC continued to be involved with Community Councils Together on Trams (CCTT) alongside the three Leith community councils, participating in a deputation on 'Edinburgh Tram York Place to Newhaven Project Delivery' to Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee on 25 April 2024.

NTBCC attended the Civic Forum, organised by the Cockburn Association, that promotes dialogue between city officers, particularly planners, and community councils. The George Street Association (GSA) have continued to invite NTBCC to participate in their meetings and we reciprocated by inviting the GSA. The Five City Centre Community Councils, of which NTBCC is a member, have not met since 26 June 2023.

Despite the world heritage site occupying a large part of the NTBCC area, the community council still does not have a formal relationship with Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) and is not represented on EWH's board etc. NTBCC held an online public meeting on 25 March 2024 to discuss the '*Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan, 2024-2035*', which has been under consultation, and related governance issues.

10. NTBCC boundary and Scheme review

The *Community Council Scheme and Boundary Review*, which opened in 2023, continued into 2024. This looked at both the regulations that govern the community councils and the size of the organisations, in terms of population and area.

NTBCC contacted the neighbouring community councils — West End CC, Stockbridge and Inverleith CC, Leith Central CC and Old Town CC — about our mutual boundaries, followed by discussions with all of them, except the Old Town which was not able to respond.

Leith Central, the largest by population of all Edinburgh community councils, were opposed to any changes to their border with NTBCC, and West End took a similar position with their much shorter boundary. Stockbridge and Inverleith were open to minor changes, given the irregularity of their border with NTBCC.

NTBBCC respected the wishes of their neighbours which precluded any significant changes to NTBCC itself, subject to the final results of the review.

It is expected that a revised Scheme and boundaries will be presented to Edinburgh Council at the end of June, before a final four week consultation probably in July, before final approval in August 2024.

11. Previous NTBCC Engagement Plans

The first NTBCC Engagement Plan of May 2020, presented at the AGM on 12 October 2020, dealt at length (17 pages) with background information about NTBCC and the area it represents, which is relevant to the current review of community council boundaries (<https://www.ntbcc.org.uk/new-town-and-broughton-community-council-engagement-plan-may-2020-2/>).

The second NTBCC Engagement Plan of June 2021 is also available online (<http://www.ntbcc.org.uk/ntbcc-engagement-plan-june-2021/>).

NTBCC Engagement Plan 2024

The third NTBCC Engagement Plan of June 2022 is also available online (<https://www.ntbcc.org.uk/new-town-broughton-community-council-engagement-plan-june-2022/>).

The fourth NTBCC Engagement Plan of October 2023 is also available online (<https://www.ntbcc.org.uk/ntbcc-engagement-plan-october-2023/>).

Simon Holledge,
NTBCC Engagement Officer,
10 June 2024