

# Heriot Community Council

Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

Present: J Williams (Chair), F. Connelly (Treasurer), G. Whittaker (Secretary), S. Sharp, I. Hall, Cllr Anderson (SBC), plus 11 members of the public.

Apologies: P. Hood, K. Findlayson, Cllr. Aitchison, Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Jardine.

1. Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed.
2. Police Report. Attached. The news of a significant reduction in the accident rate at Crookston had resulted from improvements to the road in that area. The proposed community police officer, PC Roger Changleng, would not now be taking up the position, but plans are in place for another officer to take up the role.
3. Planning applications:
  - a. 17/01383/FUL. Erection of 2 no. chalets for holiday accommodation at Falahill. This application followed on from a previous application in the same area that had been rejected by planning officers. The new application differed from the previous one in having moved the location away from the centre of the field to the edge and by officially denoting the buildings as temporary and moveable (to prevent their subsequent conversion to residential dwellings). An extended discussion followed, during which objectors, and the applicant, were afforded the opportunity to speak. The issue of planning creep was raised and the applicant provided assurances that no more applications would follow immediately, and that any further applications would be for a maximum of one further chalet.

The community council concluded that:

    - i. The principle of new business in the area was broadly welcomed.
    - ii. The proposed location was regarded by some as being too far from the existing building group.
    - iii. The application claimed that the chalets would not be visible from the A7, whereas they would be highly visible from the A7 northbound.

- iv. The CC would take note of the discussions from the meeting and, along with information from the Officer's report from the previous application, would draft an appropriate comment to the Planning portal (circulated among the CC prior to submission).
    - b. 17/01455/FUL Extension to annex building at Raeshaw. The CC had no comment to make on this application.
- 3. Landscaping group. In James Fletcher's absence, GW provided a summary. The farmer at Nettlingflat had kindly offered, in principle, some land at Nettlingflat to allow planting of hedgerow and trees to improve the appearance of the area, to provide wildlife corridors and to protect the access road from snow in winter. JF and GW were following this up. Mr Sinclair commented that he was also interested in planting at Crookston, and GW would discuss this with him at a later point.
- 4. Heriot Community Broadband.
  - a. JW reported that he had had a major visit from Matt Hancock MP (Minister for connectivity) and several other MSPs and Councillors to discuss rural broadband issues. The visit had been reported on ITV Borders.
  - b. SSE had funded half of the future costs of HCB, but an application to the DLX Trust was still on hold. JW had attended a meeting of the Trust, along with Gordon Hughes, to present a case for funding, but reported that he and Gordon had been subjected to aggressive questioning by one of the trustees. The DLX Trust is scheduled to meet again in the next couple of weeks to make a decision.
  - c. Nettlingflat masts have been overhauled, and the network extended to Burnhouse Mains with commercial connections. HCB is in discussions with community councils in Midlothian to serve communities in that area, and with Dalmeny Estates following a request from them for assistance in providing services.
- 5. AOB
  - a. SS proposed a vote of thanks for the bonfire and fireworks.
  - b. Funding for the Christmas tree was agreed at £110
  - c. The dead-end sign at Falahill had still not been installed, SA agreed to chase this up with SBC.

- d. A complaint was received regarding the condition of the road surface along Shoestanes Terrace. This had previously been reported by the CC, but it was not clear what action if any had resulted. SA agreed to chase this up with SBC.
6. Community Council Elections. The current members of the CC will formally resign their positions on 5<sup>th</sup> December and the CC will cease to conduct any new business.

Nominations will be open for anyone wishing to join the Community Council. Nomination forms will be made available via the notice boards, the website and from SBC. Nominations are welcomed from anyone who is registered on the electoral register as a resident of the Heriot Community Council area (EH38 5Y\* or EH \* postal areas). Please note that residents can only nominate or second ONE person.

**The closing date for nominations is 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

The meeting closed at 20:10