

Drylaw Telford Community Council

26th October 2023

Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre

Minutes

Attendance: Sara Collins (Chair), Pam Higgins (Secretary), Eileen Brash, Thomas Brown, Christine Paterson, Jason Whitefield, Cllr Vicky Nicolson, Patricia Wood (resident), Penny Donnelly, Dean Thomson (resident), Natalie Taylor (resident).

Apologies: Dave Pickering, Cllr Hal Osler, Cllr Max Mitchell, Jackie Brown.

1. **Welcome & Apologies** – Sara welcomed everyone and noted the above apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none
3. **Minutes** – proposed Thomas – Seconded – Jason
4. **Chair Report** – Nothing from Sara to update on.
5. **Secretary Report – EACC AGM on 23rd November via TEAMS** – link to be shared nearer time. EACC looking for new office bearers and members of their board if any community councillors have an interest.
 - Update from Cllr Osler who is not here this evening:
 - 1. **Feedback from Easter Drylaw Drive flood meeting in the summer.** Next Steps are Scottish Water to investigate the non-return valve, which that have done and responded directly to the residents concerned. CEC will continue to progress the mini flood study, the timescale for the study is to have it completed within this financial year. Potential short term mitigation measures may be considered when this is complete. This will then feed into the wider Craighleith catchment study which will consider wider measures that could be introduced.
 - 2. **Improvements to the public realm by Drylaw Shops** – met with officers to look at the area. Hoping to use some funding from Place Based Investment Fund to make some improvements. Latest update from officers is “we will add this to the list and will report that to Committee that there is a desire to see improvement in the area. In order for it to have any chance of receiving an allocation, proposals and support from shopping centre owners and the wider community are needed”.
 - 3. **Skips for Easter and Wester Drylaw** - Met with officers who have agreed to provide facilities and is liaising with Thomas Brown (Community Councillor).
 - **Creative Community Chest Grants Available** micro-projects. There are 30 - £300 grants available. Applications can be made now from www.onecitytrust.com/creative-community-chest-grants
6. **Police Report** – No report received this month and no police in attendance.
7. **Treasurer Report** – no change in the account apart from rent due to the Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre for our monthly meeting.
8. **Councillors Report – Vicky** – Saw Jimmy Galloway today – he looks very well and is much improved. He is hoping to come to our next meeting in November. Tree that had fallen in the park has been removed. Unsure if they will be replaced. Had some housing and road issues in Telford that is being dealt with.

9. **Cllr Scott Arthur** – Pam Higgins welcome and Introduced Cllr Arthur to this evenings meeting.

Low Emission Zones (LEZ)

- Can be controversial but it is a Scottish and Nationwide launch. Will be enforced from June 2024. A league table was shared showing Edinburgh as the most congested city in the UK (other and more up to date tables are available). There are many transport challenges that we face including getting the basics right, chronic underfunding, 5-dimensional party politics and getting Edinburgh ready for the future etc. Change is also painful. Uncertainties include post pandemic travel, city growth, inequality (great bus service but not in all areas of the city e.g., Ratho), economic shocks (war in Ukraine, pandemic etc) and attracting investment.
 - LEZ signage and cameras will start to be put in place end of this year/beginning of next. We want to be able to issue tickets (not a fine) prior to 1st of June when enforcement will start. We hope these warnings will remind people so they don't fall foul of it. The minimum criteria are
 1. Euro 4 for **petrol cars and vans** – generally vehicles registered from 2006
 2. Euro 6 **for diesel cars and vans** – generally vehicles registered from Sept 2015
 3. Euro 6 for **petrol and diesel taxis and private hire vehicles**, according to standard licence conditions as set out in the Taxi Emission Standards Policy (2021).
 4. Euro VI for **buses, coaches and HGVs** – generally vehicles registered from January 2013.
 - Can check your vehicle at www.lowemissionzones
 - If you live within the zone and have a vehicle that does not comply – the vehicle would need scrapped/replaced. There are schemes in place for small businesses who need to replace company vehicle. Sara Collins concerned as she has contacts who are not going to be able to continue to trade as they cannot afford to update their vehicle despite the scheme available.
 - We are going to invest more in Public Transport and hope that this will reduce the traffic in the city as a whole.
 - George Street will become pedestrianised in the next 2 years.
 - Sara Collins asks if air quality will be improved at the same time as it goes hand in hand. Cllr Arthur advises that the CEC are hoping to increase the number of trees in the city to 1 million.
 - Potential of electric bike hire scheme in future again despite previous problems with a similar scheme.
 - On most streets there are only 2 things we can do well due to lack of space on most Edinburgh Streets. 1. Walking, wheelchair, buggy etc. What is the 2nd? Cycling? Public transport?

North West Tram Network

- Looking at introducing tramlines from
 1. East of Princes Street – North Bridge towards either ERI and Dalkeith or Musselburgh (not both Dalkeith and Musselburgh). This will boost the economy in the area.

2. **Granton Square – Granton - Roseburn** (via Roseburn cycle path) – 20mins journey end to end (exits cycle path and goes to road at Red Bridge). Not viable to link Newhaven to Granton. **OR** Granton – Granton Square – Crewe Road South – Orchard Brae.
3. Concerns as the Roseburn route is an attractive route for cyclists/walkers – hoping to utilise for both walkers and trams – not cyclists (alternative will need to be sought but how will this be policed??). Local resident raised a concern that it is a wildlife corridor and that more lighting and noise will reduce the wildlife.
4. Second route concerns - This is a challenge due to space so brainstormed ideas e.g., could it be buses and trams only with resident access? The tram would then also need to travel across Dean Bridge and unsure of the appearance with overhead electrics and also the width of the bridge.
5. A consultation is still to be held on both options and compromises on either route is possible. This will open in the first quarter of 2024. Due to the close proximity to Drylaw and Telford, there will be sessions in local community spaces for people to find out more and record their opinions etc. Cllr Arthur is also happy to attend another meeting when the consultation is up and running.
6. We aim to be able to link both hospitals (WGH and ERI) on the tram network.

10. **Greenspace Project update**

- Ferryhill Primary School not engaging with the project. No response from first contact made. Subsequent contact has been made with a 2-week extension given for the children to share their views on the local greenspaces.
- Online responses – 98. During 4 public consultations – about 120 people spoken to with very similar responses including lighting, CCTV, Wildflowers, bigger bins, outdoor gym equipment, football space etc. Several people have also identified feeling unsafe at night going from Telford to Drylaw due to overgrown bushes. Jennifer Johnson (Park Ranger) has offered to come to our next meeting.
- Park noticeboard to be moved towards the road where it will be better lit and we are hopeful that this will reduce the vandalism.
- The roundabout at the playpark is currently being repaired and will be back soon.

11. **The Big Drylaw Cleanup**

- Council have agreed to provide skips – looking at week beginning 27th November.
- Pam and Thomas meeting with council refuse team on 31st October to discuss locations of the skips. Will feedback at next meeting.

12. **Drylaw Shops Art Project**

- Local Graffiti artist has been trying to get the council to do a similar project that he was commissioned to do in Broomhouse in 2012 and more recently in Glasgow. We would need to source funding to support this and everyone attending the meeting this evening are very keen to explore this further.

13. **Shared Calendar**

- Jason and Thomas are to implement a shared calendar on the website to incorporate events between the Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, School, Drylaw Parish Church and Fetlor Youth Club. It will be designed in a way that users can filter to events for children, teens, the elderly etc.

14. **AOB**

- Pantomime – Thomas has approached 3 companies and had no response.
- Community Meal – Sara and Jason liaised with Rik (Coordinator at DNC) who has this in hand and is supportive of doing this regularly going forward.

15. Date of next meeting 23rd November 2023