

Forth Neighbourhood Network

NOTE OF MEETING: - Thursday 4th December 2019, Royston Wardieburn Community Centre

Present

S Cumming
H Scammell
W Black
T Parker
B Atkinson
E Davies
H Norriss
C Morrison
L Simpson
Cllr Bird
Cllr Campbell
Cllr G Gordon

Organisation

Granton Parish Church
Pilton Community Health Project (PCHP)
West Pilton West Granton Community Council (WPWGCC)
Trinity Community Council (TCC)
Trinity Community Council (TCC)
Salvation Army
Fresh Start
Spartans Community Football Club
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop
City of Edinburgh Council
City of Edinburgh Council
City of Edinburgh Council

In attendance:

Peter Strong
Scott Donkin
Helen Bourquin
George Norval
Elaine Lennon

CEC North West Locality Manager
CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
CEC NW Housing Operations Manager
CEC NW Lifelong Learning Development Officer

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>INPUT/DISCUSSION</u>	<u>DECISIONS / ACTIONS</u>
1. <u>Introductions:</u>	<p>Peter asked that those present introduce themselves to the wider group. Peter then provided a general update in terms of activity that has taken place since the inaugural meeting of the Network in May.</p> <p>This has included nominating and electing a Neighbourhood Network Representative – Fred Marinello and then the inaugural meeting of the NW Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) which has now met twice. Peter acknowledged that the processes to support the new community planning arrangements were still at an early stage and hoped that those attending, and the wider membership would continue to support the development of the network.</p> <p>Peter explained that Fred Marinello had provided his apologies as he was unwell. Fred was due to provide an update from LCPP meetings and with the network’s permission, Scott was happy to do this in Fred’s absence.</p>	<p>Agreed that Scott Donkin would provide the update in Fred’s absence.</p>
2. <u>Neighbourhood Network Representative Update:</u>	<p>Scott explained that the LCPP had now met twice, with some focus on the format of the group and its structure. Like the networks, the LCPP is also ‘finding it’s feet’ and there is a need to build relationships across the members.</p> <p>Cllr George Gordon and Steve Kerr – Western NN Representative (Corstorphine Community Council) have agreed to co-Chair the LCPP.</p> <p>The most recent meeting focused on reviewing the NW Locality Improvement Plan (LIP) and a copy of the LIP report discussed had been circulated to the Forth NN. The Edinburgh Partnership has asked that the LIP’s are reviewed to improve how they align better with poverty and inequality-based issues and to link with the Edinburgh Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities. Other things likely to have some bearing on the future development of the LIP is the outcomes from the work of the poverty commission and to ensure the LIP doesn’t address outcomes that are more associated with single service or ‘business as usual’ activity.</p>	

	<p>A discussion took place on transparency of the LCPP meetings, and it was explained that notes of these meetings would be able to be read and downloaded on the Edinburgh Partnership website. Scott added that the notes (once approved by LCPP) could be circulated to NN members.</p> <p>Helen S suggested that PCHP, and larger organisations like them, could provide a conduit for service users to influence NNs and LCPPs. She added that a 'North Edinburgh Action Group' (NEAG) forum had brought together some key local groups, and that they had developed a strategy which aimed to focus on three key strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Access to spaces • Information <p>It was agreed that Partners should be invited to NN meetings to be part of the local discussions and help identify solutions where possible.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Forth Neighbourhood Network Community Grants Fund (CGF):</u></p>	<p>Scott explained that around £320,000 had been allocated to local small projects since 2008, and that an allocation of £25,112 was received for 2019-20.</p> <p>Scott added that £14,308 of the total allocation currently remained and that one application had been received.</p> <p>Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden have applied for £729 to purchase and install a greenhouse to enable them to grow a wider variety of fruit and vegetables for the benefit of the local community. A final balance will remain of £13,579.</p> <p>A discussion on the way forward for assessing and agreed CGF awards would take place under agenda item 5.</p>	<p>It was agreed to allocate the full £729 to the Granton Castle Walled Garden.</p>
<p>4. <u>Forth Neighbourhood Network Environment Programme (NEP):</u></p>	<p>Peter explained that in Forth, due to the higher density of Council Housing, there is a substantial HRA (Housing Revenue Account) fund to support environmental based initiatives. The fund comes via Council Housing Rents and must be spent on housing land.</p> <p>George N provided a summary of some of the projects currently underway and those completed and circulated images to show these differences. He said that he is happy to organise local walkabouts to identify and discuss potential projects.</p>	

	<p>Peter also informed those present of the Roads budget to support capital spend, much of which can be identified across communities where things like footpaths and fencing have been upgraded.</p> <p>Similar to the Community Grant funding, the Council is keen to see the Neighbourhood Networks having a say on how these funds should be used and again, this can form part of the discussion at the next agenda item.</p> <p>It was suggested that local patch Officers might be given a small budget to enable them to react more quickly to local issues. George and Peter explained that this is something that could be considered.</p> <p>A discussion on the way forward for assessing and agreed NEP projects would take place under agenda item 5.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Developing the Forth Neighbourhood Network</u></p>	<p>Peter reminded those present that there is no intention from the Council or partners to lead in the shaping of the networks and this is entirely within the gift of its members.</p> <p>Several issues or opportunities were discussed, and points raised: -</p> <p>How do smaller groups get a voice in this new structure eg Older People's lunch groups? – The discussion led to identifying new ways to involve people, developing different themes. Suggested that a wider NN might not appeal to everyone but thematic approaches or engaging with different groups on different subjects might be more appealing.</p> <p>Daytime meetings best to encourage some groups? – It was felt that for some groups and individuals, arranging activities during the daytime might help encourage better attendance.</p> <p>Officers should withdraw to allow community discussion where needed? – Suggested that at times, the Network can meet with no officer involvement to help community groups and members have open discussion.</p> <p>Themed meetings could help, but maybe in addition to regular meetings to ensure continuity of core discussions eg LIP? – There were some positive suggestions to develop an approach that could see an ongoing programme of themed events and activities that could also then help shape the North Small area LIP. This would assist the LIP review where the action plan for North would be more fluid and reactive to local issues.</p>	

	<p>Need to be able to articulate the 'why' to make these gatherings relevant to all groups? – Again, suggested that by making events and gatherings more relevant to groups and individuals via themes as a starter, more might then get involved.</p> <p>Do we need sub groups to tackle specific themes and feed back to this group? – It was suggested that should the NN wish to create sub groups, it is within their gift to do so.</p> <p>Helen S proposed, and it was agreed, that Food could be a useful theme for next meeting, and the 'Food for Thought' forum could help plan and promote it. – It was agreed that the network and its development need to start somewhere. Lifelong Learning to support Helen S.</p> <p>Cllr Gordon suggested that the chairing role is taken forward by whoever from the forum is leading on a specific theme. This was agreed –</p> <p>Scott highlighted that whilst it was agreed to begin with Food, there had been a few other themes suggested, and to then help with planning future activity, a very brief survey identifying the other themes could be circulated to the wider network for people to put forward priorities and potentially help lead. This was agreed.</p> <p>It was also suggested that as the meeting was running over, a small 'panel' could be introduced in January with a view to identifying options around the different grants and budgets with a view to then making recommendations back to the network. This was agreed.</p>	<p>Food theme to be first NN event activity led by Helen S and supported by Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Scott to send other themes to wider NN mailing list for feedback</p> <p>Funding panel to be established to look at CGF and NEP and create recommendations for future development</p>
6. Date of next meeting	Food themed activity/event to take place Feb/March 2020.	