

Merchant City and Trongate Community Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 26th January, 2016, City Chambers DRAFT

Attendance	
Community Councillors	Tam Coyle (Chair), Gerald Hirst (Treasurer), Bob Cochrane (Vice Chair), Madeleine Rooney, Liz Hayle, Duncan MacLaren.
Residents / Others	Claire Hyland (minute taker/associate member), PC Aitken, PC Urban, Seonaid MacDonald, John Connelly, Sheila Brown, Peter Hayman, Tony Whigham, L. Kennedy.
Ex Officio members	Cllr. Gordon Matheson, Baillie Baker, Baillie Braat, Baillie Bolander.
Apologies	Sandra White (MSP), Paula Reilly (Community councillor), Michael Stephenson (Student President, Glasgow Caledonian University), Lynne McKenzie.

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions Tam Coyle welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. Secretary's Report (Paula Reilly) Secretary not in attendance, apologies noted. No pressing issues to discuss.</p>	
<p>3. Treasurer's Report (Gerald Hirst) No updates.</p>	
<p>4. Police Report PC John Aitken & PC David Urban. Very good festive period. Crime down by 100 crimes compared to last year.</p> <p>There has been a noted increase in house break-ins in the city centre, mainly in the Garnethill area. There have been 2 in the Merchant City and Trongate area within the last month and someone has remanded for one of these. Thieves are targeting commercial premises.</p> <p>Regarding serious violent crime there have been 2 robberies. Apprehensions have been made for both of them. This is low in comparison with other areas. Good CCTV coverage has assisted. Break-ins are more frequent in areas around Union St & Argyle St and there are more break-ins in Trongate than Merchant City area.</p> <p>Post office in Glassford St. Police have spoken to their licensing department. The shop want to sell crisp, juice and snacks. Police licensing have no issues with it as a licensing stand point. Does not seem to be causing impact in numbers in the area. There have been a few violent assaults around the clubs in the area. Clubs are cooperating and police are monitoring the situation.</p>	

Questions

Question regarding a friend who was attacked in a night club in Royal Exchange Square 2 weeks ago. Police confirmed there has been a 100% detection rate in the area and will follow this up.

Tam Coyle thanked police for their time. John Aitken's email is on the MCTCC website. Please get in touch with any issues.

Police to follow up on enquiry regarding attack.

5. Licensing (Tam Coyle)

Blackfriars bar. 36 Bell St/45 Albion St. Application to amend hours and increase seating in Bell St. from 16 to 37 persons - concern was raised about this.

Would anyone like to attend royal garden party at Holyroodhouse, Tuesday 5th of July 2016 - contact Tam.

6. Planning Applications (Tam Coyle)

Selfridges site.

- The owners only own 90% of site - any updates on this? Peter Hayman suggested that they might be able to build without owning 100% because vacant plots were shown on plans. John Connelly thinks they might have bought the leather shop.
- Bob Cochrane questioned why developers would buy land before obtaining planning permission.
- There was discussion over whether planning has been obtained, nobody knows for sure. Baillie Bolander will check. 6 objections are needed for planning to go to committee and the MCTCC objection would only count as one.
- Baillie Baker confirmed that not all large sites go to committee, with some having been approved under delegated powers, e.g. Albany site. Tam Coyle commented that the proposal for this site would not cause offence as the site has always been a hotel. However, building a 19 storey tower block in the Merchant City does cause offence and should be discussed by committee. The GCC planning portal has been down.
- Tam Coyle raised the issue that because three (of four) councillors sit on licensing and planning boards they cannot publicly express opinion and support on issues such as the Selfridge's site. Baillie Bolander suggested asking the 4th councillor to submit an objection if necessary. Cllr. Matheson suggested that having 3 of 4 members who have a vote is to advantage because they will be sensitised to opinion of MCTCC.
- Bob Cochrane commented that there have been few issues in the

Baillie Bolander to progress queries regarding Selfridges site.

Baillie Bolander to forward details regarding sports centre meeting.

MCTCC area that have had such a vocal response to planning as Selfridges. There cannot be ambiguity to the majority view that people were not happen with the proposals as was. There have been other developments in other areas that councillors have been more vocal about. Baillie Braat commented that councillors have been more vocal about applications that they had notice about.

Strathclyde University Sport Centre, Cathedral St.

Baillie Bolander commented this might be of interest as it is just outside MCTCC patch. The University will be offering community memberships and there will be a meeting to discuss the development plans. Baillie Bolander will forward details to the secretary and chair.

Gambling Policy

Baillie Braat notified MCTCC that there will be a review of gambling policy within the city. Hopefully MCTCC will receive communication regarding this. Baillie Baker advised there can only be minimal changes as most of this is regulated at national level.

NCP Carpark

Peter Hayman enquired if there have been updates since the press release regarding this site. No-one is aware of anything.

7. Councillors' Reports

a) Baillie Baker

- Plans for next autumn to have festival of High St. It will be nothing like the Merchant City Festival and will involve people who live or work in the Salt market corridor.
- DRS will be bringing forward a draft river strategy that will affect south of MCTCC patch. Peter Hayman asked about sitting on consultation group. Nina will find out. Will be progressed this year.
- The next district to be considered by city centre strategy team for redevelopment is St Enoch area, in a similar way to Garnethill.
- There will be a city wide review of everything to do with student halls of residence. Baillie Baker has sent a spreadsheet with statistics for existing, new and planned accommodation. While the West End is more vocal, Merchant City has far more. This is a very significant issue. The review is intended to create more robust policy. Tam Coyle confirmed he is meeting with 5 other community councils on Sunday to discuss this.

b) Cllr. Braat

- Already referred to gambling policy and Baillie Baker has covered some other points.
- Pot hole issue at Hutcheson St, Trongate end. Work will be carried out before end of financial year. Bob Cochrane thanked Baillie Braat for assuring that hole was patched.

[Baillie Baker to enquire about consultation group for river strategy.](#)

c) Baillie. Bolander

Most of issues have been raised.

- Bus stop enhancements in surrounding area.
- The public consultation about gambling policy will be available on GCC website.

d) Cllr. Matheson

- MCF meeting was today (Tam Coyle could not attend). Key points as follows:
 - Festival looking great;
 - Has been established now as lasting for two weekends;
 - Core funding is in place for this year;
 - Vintage is coming back;
 - Usual markets will be there, this has become a real feature;
 - More local markets, there has been a growth in Scotland in recent years – good to have continental and Scottish;
 - Looking at setting a date for the Get Involved Fund, event will be held attended by local business looking to promote an activity that they wouldn't normally do - the date(late February) has yet to be finalised, will take place in Metropolitan, Tam Coyle will attend;
 - Merchant City Garden have plans ahead for next year;
 - There will be a parade, this hasn't happened other years.
 - Cllr. Matheson has asked if Mary Barber can be incorporated into festival. She successfully campaigned against rent prices and marched in the Merchant City area, was the first woman Baillie, first women magistrate, pioneer of family planning services when it was controversial. Mary Fyfe, former MP for Maryhill, has a group raising funds to create a statue.

Questions

Peter Hayman enquired if there are plans for Paddie's market? There was an article in the paper. Cllr. Matheson will find out and get back. Baillie Baker said it is in the hands of network rail as they had previously stalled.

Bob Cochrane thanked Baillie Braat for getting pothole patched so quickly.

8. AOCB

- Bob Cochrane asked Baillie Baker to clarify regarding gambling licenses. There is a presumption to approve a gambling license unless it is against the law or planning policies. They have more leeway. Planning is a lot tighter. Casinos are allowed to be open later, with thought that alcohol is secondary to gambling. Example of changes that had to be made by Corinthian. An eye is kept on money that is brought in comparing gambling to alcohol.
- Baillie Bolander commented that regarding planning permission for betting shops, the Scottish government is recommending that local council should have policy.
- Liz Hayle raised the issue of the bollard between Trongate and Candleriggs. It has been down for the majority of the time this winter this is a health and safety issue. The bollard should go up or there should be consultation and publication of the fact that the rules got changed. Baillie Bolander suggested emailing her the details so she

[Liz Hayle to email details regarding the bollard to Baillie Bolander.](#)

can follow up on this. It was questioned if this could be connected to the developers as it is their preferred access to site. Send an email to councillors.

- Peter Hayman questioned if Tontine House is to be developed. There was discussion over where this is because there is more than one. Baille Baker confirmed this, has received communication from DRS. They will use this as a hub for start-up businesses and an improved way of working with SMEs. Business advisers will take SMEs right through the whole process.
- Baillie Bolander commented that there will be an event in the Saltmarket where small companies will have pop up businesses and the final competition will be run in Glasgow.
- John Connelly questioned if a planning application has been submitted for pop up restaurants planned for early spring in Candleriggs Square. It looks like it will be a long running event. Cllr. Matheson commented that he would be surprised if planning permission is required. Baillie Braat commented that they would require land and environmental services permissions. John Connelly thinks there may be an application for a semi-permanent event space.
- Liz Hayle – MCTCC will be buying a printer to be used by Tam Coyle.
- Celtic Connections has been great.

Date of next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Tue 23rd February, 2016, 7-9pm. Glasgow City Chambers.