



Edinburgh Civic Forum

Minutes of meeting, 6 September 2016

1. **Welcome:** Marion Williams (MW) welcomes members and introduces Cliff Hague, Chair and James Gary, Assistant Director of the Cockburn Association.

2. **Current Planning Issues** David Leslie (DL)

Local Development Plan (LDP) - the council are proceeding to adopt plan.

Planning white paper could be expected around Christmas time (now early 2017) in response to the Scottish Government's Planning Review

DL responded to a number of questions on the LDP/SDP.

MW updated the Forum on developments relating to the Old Royal High School. In particular, stating that we are in an unprecedented situation. The developers have asked for a "sist" or pause in the appeal. So that a new planning application can be considered. Then both appeals can be considered concurrently next year. The CA has instructed an advocate to represent them, EWH nad Broughton and New Town CC at the public inquiry. This incurs significant costs and there will be an appeal to raise funds.

3. **Open Space Strategy**

An introduction to the Open Space Strategy 2021 by Andrew Spencer and Peter Strong.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20178/park_management_and_rules/427/open_space_strategy

Cemetery & burial spaces are now to be managed by parks and recreation services.

Q: Why weren't the Gilmerton & Straiton CC invited to your consultation? In Broomhills, the report was scathing about the local open space provision. The Drum estate has a massive development proposal and there is a v small allocation of open space but not enough. We are also worried about predatory developers.

A: the workshop went through different areas. I went to Liberton & Gilmerton neighbourhood partnerships and points were made. Re: Drum Estate, the 2 hectare minimum open space applies. Should there be another category that is higher in scale and serving a bigger area? We are looking into these standards. This strategy will link to the LDP. It's important that the audit is accurate. If people have comments on the mapping that would be welcomed.

Q: In Murrayfield there is a large space owned by the SRU. They fought an appeal against the CEC on flood defences. 12yrs later we are building a flood prevention scheme at the water of Leith. Rumour is part of the Roseburn Park will be designated for a new rugby pavilion and for development where the pitches currently are.

A: I am hoping we can get a round table discussion to meet the needs of all parties.

Q: IP We've lost 2 appeals for Miller houses in East Suffolk Road. Reporter has also overturned care home in Corstorphine. Looks to me reporters are finding ways to overturn council protections of open space. We need to make policy more robust and precise. We need to look at why the reporters are ignoring them. And strengthen the arguments. A "Shortage of Care Homes" trumped everything. In Corstorphine you'd be surprised how many of these green spaces are privately owned.

Q: Open Space has been treated as a material consideration. It needs strengthening.

Q: DC Greenbelt is long standing countryside heritage. There is a lot earmarked for development. We need to deal with Green Belt in relation to open spaces. The importance to maintaining views, treatment of water courses and maintaining woodland.

Q: CH How far is the analysis based on active and inactive recreation, age & gender? Teenage girls for example tend to miss out. Didn't get the sense there were critical pressures on open space. The possibilities of transfer of assets into private sector. How the pieces fit into a working city as a crucial component to be protected.

A: The aim of current strategy was to move away from crossover of info, gives the steer to what we are trying to achieve. I would agree we haven't stressed open space is under pressure but it certainly is. There is scope for low quality open space to be recognised. We hope final version of doc will be reconfigured. We need to ask are we missing out teenagers?

Q: (Portobello) Will this strategy apply for new sites ie Brunstane where 1300 homes are planned. The land they have left out is only because they are not able to build on it. We are also concerned about people hard-landscaping their front gardens. Also what about beaches, are they considered part of open space? Also what is the policy for outlooks – views out from your house not just in?

Q: what about the underuse of festival square?

Q: Re cemeteries, the integration with parks is a good step. We had a positive meeting with David Jamieson. Going forward one could consider adding parts of cemeteries to the green network?

A: We have protected views in the skyline study. Stirling have just introduced a new policy which we will look at. Re front gardens I can't comment on policy for hard landscaping frontages but on council estates we are looking to use their large green spaces. We would like to remind you that the deadline for comments is the 21st October 2016

MW Thanks guest speakers and attendees.