

March 2010

Your Edinburgh

Library Project

Plans are underway to develop MacDonald Road and Oxbgangs Libraries as 'hubs' offering a wide range of community information and activities.

Community councils have already been invited by Libraries to add their details onto the new community information website, www.youredinburgh.info/engage, which gives access to local information from one access point.

As well as on-line information, the project will encourage the use of libraries as a community resource with facilities such as meeting rooms and display space. There will also be a regular programme of events offering a variety of activities to suit all ages.

Prior to the launch of the project there will be a consultation and information event at Oxbgangs Library on Saturday 27th March 2010, between 2-4pm. A similar event is planned for MacDonald Road at a later date.

Planning Training – Book your place now!



Planning Aid Scotland is delivering a training session for new community council members and those who want to find out more about Scotland's planning system.

Community councils have recently received a copy of the new Planning Guidance for CCs and this event will

explore the changes brought about by the new legislation. There will also be opportunities for questions and discussion throughout the day.

The training will be held on **Saturday 27 March** from 9.30 – 3.30 pm in the City Chambers with lunch and refreshments provided. For further information or if you would like to register, please contact Planning Aid Scotland on 220 9730 or email polly@planningaidscotland.org.uk.

Edinburgh Community Council News

Community Council Induction Training

Over 60 community council members attended the induction training event held on Saturday 5 December. The event was designed to provide a general introduction to the roles and responsibilities of community councils.

Members from the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils also participated in the programme and feedback indicates that there is strong support for holding further events which allow members to network and share their knowledge and experience.

For those unable to attend the induction in December, there will be another session on **Tuesday 16 March at 7.00 pm** in the City Chambers. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be available from 6.30 pm.

For further information or if you would like to register please contact Eileen Hewitt on 469 3838 or Eileen.Hewitt@edinburgh.gov.uk.



Open Space Strategy for the City

The Council has prepared a Draft Open Space Strategy for Edinburgh. The strategy will ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to protecting and developing the city's network of open space. It sets standards for different types of open space and estimates needs for certain types of open space and proposes sites which could address those needs. It is accompanied by 12 action plans, one for each Neighbourhood Partnership area, setting out site-specific proposals for change in open spaces.

Its preparation has been informed by an audit of open space and consideration of information gathered during public consultation and engagement during 2009.



A period of consultation will take place from 26 March until 21 May 2010. Once finalised, the audit, strategy and action plans will be used to inform planning decisions on loss of open space and provision in new development; and to inform investment and site-management decisions by the Council and potentially other organisations responsible for open spaces.

Look out for consultation events in your area by visiting our web site www.edinburgh.gov.uk/openspacestrategy. For further information please contact the Open Space Team 0131 469 3411, or by email at openspacestrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk

Allotment Strategy Consultation



The first draft of the new Allotment Strategy 'Cultivating Communities: A Growing Concern' is out for consultation and is available on the Council's website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk.

Comments should be returned to the following address by Friday 23 April.

parks@edinburgh.gov.uk

This strategy follows on from Cultivating Communities, the first Allotments Strategy for the City of Edinburgh Council and the first of its kind produced by a Scottish local authority. The new strategy identifies ways to give more people the opportunity to grow their own food by increasing the number of allotments in Edinburgh and promoting other 'grow your own' initiatives.

An Allotment Strategy Implementation Plan has been developed, alongside the strategy, to guide the work of the allotment service over the next 5 years.

The Strategy and Implementation Plan have been written in consultation with the Allotment Strategy Steering Group, which includes representatives of allotment holders and NHS Lothian as well as the Council.

Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Consultation

Community councils have been invited to comment on the Council's 3 year Antisocial Behaviour Strategy which is out for public consultation. The draft document can be viewed in full at the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership website at www.saferedinburgh.org.uk.

Consultation events and activities will help to shape the final draft for Committee approval. When ratified, a formal Strategy launch will take place around June or July 2010.

Napier University Student Project

The CEC communications team have recently initiated a project with five Marketing students from Napier University. As part of their studies, the students will look at the representation of different groups and individuals on community councils.

The project started in early February and is due to be completed in May. Findings from the project will be reported back to community councils.

Drylaw/Telford CC Youth Pilot Project

Four members of Inverleith Youth Forum attended the first hour of the community council on the 24th of February 2010. It had been previously agreed that the youth forum would attend three meetings a year of the community council, and that the first hour of business would be given over to discussion on young people's issues.

The meeting was extremely successful and focused mainly around the issue of toilet provision (or lack of!) in Inverleith Park. All the members of the community council agreed with the young people's view that there needed to be better toilet provision in the park, not just for young people but for older members of the community and younger families particularly. One of the four neighbourhood councillors who was in attendance was asked to respond, and take forward a request for the planning section to look into the issue.

The community council members asked the young people to explore why community parks in the Drylaw area were being vandalised, and how these parks could be made more "young people friendly", a task the young people have embraced with enthusiasm.

It was agreed by all attendees that the meeting was successful in introducing an intergenerational perspective on community issues, and that the attendance of the youth forum should continue. Indeed they welcomed the proposal that stronger links should be forged between the community council and the youth forum.

The Inverleith Youth Forum is in the process of approaching Stockbridge/Inverleith Community Council with a view to introducing a similar process there.

Leith CCs host stall at Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting

The Housing and the Built Environment Action Group is leading the Leith NP public meeting on 10 March at 7.00 pm in Thomas Morton Hall. The Action Group is chaired by Nicky Sherry, Leith Harbour and Newhaven CC. Nicky will be joined by other members from Leith CCs who will be hosting a stall to promote their work and involvement in the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The meeting promises to be a lively event with stalls demonstrating the various elements of the Action Group (Housing, Community Safety and Environment).

Other groups represented at the event include Greener Leith, Edinburgh Tenants Federation, Letwise, Homeworks and Edinburgh Stair Partnership and Lothian and Borders Police.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation 20th Anniversary



Edinburgh Tenants Federation is the umbrella organisation for tenants and residents associations in Edinburgh. It is run by volunteers who work for better services for tenants. ETF works with Council staff and elected members on many topics and its role is to represent tenants' views. Tenants' groups can become ETF members and elect the Committee that runs the organisation each year.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2010 with a diverse programme of events from a conference and exhibition highlighting the work of tenants groups, to a gardening competition and other social events.

Some recent successes include:

Supporting mental health initiatives

The Convenor of ETF recently spearheaded a campaign to bring the issue of suicide prevention to the Council's attention. This resulted in tenants living in high-rise flats being provided with information and a key fob from Breathing Space, a charity that promotes positive mental health.

Tenant led inspections

The idea is that tenants become trained inspectors to provide a 'real life' view of services and then feed back their ideas for improvement to the Council.

Community councils and tenants groups have important representative roles and often share common interests. Links between tenants groups and community councils currently exist and there will be scope in the future to develop these links further.

How you can get involved

- ✓ Become a fan of ETF on Facebook. There's a link from our website www.edinburghtenants.org.uk
- ✓ Join our mailing list to get up to date information about what's happening in tenant participation
- ✓ Join your local tenants group (just contact our office to find out if there's one already in your area)
- ✓ Set up a group (there's support available for you to do this)
- ✓ Pop into our office for a chat about how you can get involved in issues that interest you.

Contact us

Edinburgh Tenants Federation, Edinburgh's Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Associations, Norton Park 57 Albion Road

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) provides a forum where Edinburgh's community councils can meet to discuss issues of common interest and concern.

A programme of **Question Time** meetings are scheduled for 2010 and all community councillors are welcome to attend. Meetings are held in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

Transport	Sat 10 April	10 am
Edinburgh Partnership	Thurs 20 May	7.30 pm
EACC AGM	Sat 19 June	10 am

EACC EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES 2010

Thurs 8 April, 7.30 pm, City Chambers

For further information about the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and EACC Executive meeting dates visit www.eacc.info.



Why not try something

different.....

The Risk Factory is Scotland's only interactive safety centre, teaching children important safety messages in a fun way. Volunteers are vital to the delivery of the programme and help make the centre a roaring success.

Volunteers are trained on every scenario and given advice on how to deliver the safety messages as efficiently as possible as if the children were in a real life situation. The training includes regular talks from experts; "shadowing" following an experienced volunteer round to see 'volunteering in action'; and one to one training and support from our volunteer co-ordinator.

Over the last three years the centre has gone from strength to strength, creating a great environment for children to learn about dangers they may face in the real world.

Recently the volunteers completed a questionnaire and when asked what they found most rewarding about volunteering, they answered seeing the children's reaction, enjoyment, enthusiasm and participation in each scenario.

If you would like to find out more and have a few hours spare either daytime or evenings, please contact Angela Hall on 0131 455 8932, or e-mail a.hall@edinburgh.gov.uk www.theriskfactory.org

Grab a grant from the Waste Action Grant Programme!

£50-£200 grants are available to individuals, groups and schools for reduce, reuse and recycling activities in your neighbourhood. Your project could be composting, a bicycle donation day, toy library, furniture reuse, litter clean-up or bring & buy sale to name but a few.

There is a rolling deadline, so you can apply any time. Download the application forms and guidelines at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/wasteaction or contact the Waste Education Officer on 0131 469 5070 email wasteaction@edinburgh.gov.uk

Spring Clean Edinburgh



If you are looking for a fun day out this April then why not take part in National Spring Clean and put a sparkle back in your neighbourhood. Have a look online at

www.keepsotlandtidy.org/springclean to find out what's going on in your area, or get a group of friends or neighbours together to organise your own litter pick this spring. You can

also contact Keep Scotland Tidy on 01786 468 242 and you'll be sent a FREE Clean Up Kit to help you get started.

For any further information please contact Lorna McFadden on 529 5821 or lorna.mcfadden@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Please send future articles for the Newsletter to:

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