**Tranent West Tenants & Residents Association Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 22nd September 2016 Loch Centre**

**Minutes**

**Present**: M. Scott (Chair), N Bradford (Secretary),

**In attendance:** G Duncan, D Bell, M Mercer, J Sands, J Dunlop, Cllr Grant, A Hogarth, Amenities ELC, D Laird ELC, G Robinson ELC, M Ormiston (ELTRP)

**Apologies**: Cath Henderson (Treasurer), Laura McIntyre (Committee Member), Paul McIntyre (Committee Member), Kimberley O’Neill (Committee Member), Kevin Potter (Committee Member); Cllr McLeod, Cllr Gillies, Cllr Aktar, D Oliver, Environmental Officer, ELC, S Davie ELC, S Cairns (ELTRP)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

MS welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all for attending. Apologies given as above.

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Previous minutes agreed as true record by M Scott and N Bradford.

**Matters arising from Minutes of 18th August meeting**

The queries regarding the cleanliness of the bins – NB contacted Tom Reid ELC who replied saying that if there was any mess at the time the bins are lifted, the collection team would lift this. If there was a mess before the uplift of the bins the collection team would only lift it if they had time. He also said people should keep their own bins/caddies clean. He did not say whether spillage would or would not attract vermin.

There was also an issue with the garages on Kerr Road. NB contacted Gary Robinson ELC who then informed the meeting that all the garages were now rented. He intends checking up on garages 1 and 2 in John Crescent as one of the residents informed the meeting that they are being used as a gym and for storage. GR will report back to NB.

**Action: GR/NB**

1. **Elphinstone Road Update**

AH informed the meeting that ELC are well aware of the mess of weeds, grass cutting problems in the area and in fact all over most of East Lothian. However, he asked NB to let him know where the mess is and he will do his best to tidy the area up. There is also a problem with weeds etc growing out of the drains in the area, which could cause problems in heavy rain and the water could not get away. GR contacted the appropriate area in ELC and they will attend to these drains. The area has not been sprayed for weeds since May/June due to the weather, however as ELC will be grass cutting until November he will try to remedy the weed problem. One resident has spoken about the tress on ER needing cut back. NB will contact Mike Foy ELC re this problem.

In relation to parking issues, it was suggested that registration numbers are taken and reported to ELC.

**Action: AH/NB**

There is a problem at Sandee Kennels area where someone has built a very large metal enclosure and is supposedly breeding dogs in this. They have in the last few days had delivery to the enclosure of a static caravan, which is now in situ and apparently someone is living in it. Cllr Grant informed the meeting that David Taylor, ELC Planning are aware of this problem and intend approaching the owner re planning permission. Cllr Grant also informed the meeting that they will be getting a visit very soon from Planning/Dog Warden and Environmental Inspector from ELC. If they are breeding dogs here DL informed the meeting they would require a licence and if necessary the Dog Warden would report this to SSPCA. There is a barrier at Sandee which belongs to ELC and the padlock was broken from this to allow cars to use the pathway and also allow delivery of the static caravan. AH intends speaking with Nick Morgan ELC re this padlock as the one on the barrier at the moment is definitely not ELCs padlock and therefore ELC workmen, who apparently have their own keys for the padlocks in the area could not get into the area if required. There was also talk of the owner of the caravan cutting down a tree to get this caravan into situ. This will be looked at to see who owns and land and the tree. Cllr Grant will inform us when he has more information.

**Action: AH/Cllr Grant/NB**

1. **Infestation of rats update**

This problem is still ongoing and according to Environment Officer the rats are still about. DO sent an update to the meeting as below:-

“Information on responsible bird feeding was distributed to a significant number of houses. No evidence of recent rat activity in the area and no recent calls from council tenants to ELC re rats. Only rat activity pest control logs are ER (21/03/16) and Caponhall Drive (29/04/16). On discussion with the seconded pest control officer, private house owners have indicated rat activity April/May and around July in different areas. A contact for the pest control company used would be helpful to determine level of activity. Rat boxes have been placed at houses (residents aware) to ascertain activity. Boxes will be checked early next week (wb 25/09/16).”

The meeting was informed that if they see anyone throwing excessive feeding for the birds they should report this to ELC. This problem is ongoing and Cllr Aktar has involvement with ELC re this problem.

One of the residents has spoken again about a problem at 46 ER with dogs dirt and rubbish in the garden. This has been looked at by ELC as this could encourage rats to the area. The owner of the house does not appear to be making any attempt to fix this and DL will speak to Antisocial Area re this problem.

1. **CAPP Meeting**

The CAPP meeting for 22nd September 2016 was cancelled. Next meeting is in November.

1. **Local Housing Partnership (LHP) Meeting update**

MS and DL attended the latest meeting. AH informed the meeting of the intention to update the pathways behind Polson Park to Main Road. He also spoke about putting bulbs at Muirpark.

1. **East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel (ELTRP) Update**

There was a very successful Conference in September for ELTRP and presentations given by TRAs were excellent.

ELTRP AGM will take place on 29th November 2016 from 6.30pm. Venue to be confirmed. Invites will go out s/c 24/10/16.

1. **New Row update**

Cllr Grant informed the meeting that this was still ongoing and would perhaps have more information for our next meeting.

1. **AOB**

Cllr Grant informed the meeting that Traffic Wardens may be in the area, perhaps November/December 2016. They will be on the streets of the area before they start issuing any tickets to make everyone aware of their presence.

One of the residents suggested that some of the signage on the High Street needs redone (at bus stop, loading bays etc).

Next Area Partnership meeting, which will be a Public meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th October at Ross High School at 7.00pm. All Welcome.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is **24th November 2016 at 7.00 pm in Tranent Loch Centre.**

1. **Thanks and Close**

MS closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.