

## **LCDT Board Meeting held on Tuesday 26 September 2023 via Zoom**

In attendance: Margaret Whitelaw, Chris Roan, Sandy Taylor, Sheila Shaw, John Whitelaw, Jim Bunney, Ken Ruth Daubney, Deirdre Campbell

Apologies: Barbara Scott, Margaret Reid, Isobel Paterson, Fraser Paterson

### **1 Minute of Last Board Meeting held on 10 May, 2023**

Chris Roan approved the Minute, seconded by Ken Macleod

### **2 Myrtle Gardens Report - Volunteers/ Gardener Support/ Finance/ Covid Memorial**

Chris Roan reported that the beds are getting out of hand in both gardens and she is going to ask George Reid to do some work on them.

The person who had promised to provide another raised bed has been unable to do so. It's possible to get a build-your-own version on-line for c£500. Chris will look for cheaper option.

Money (£104.32) has been used for 2 pruners, a fork, Weedol, fertilizer, and ericaceous fertilizer. Compost is also required. Also tree stumps for seating under the tree. Ken suggested setting up a sub-committee to finalise the spending. Chris wondered about installing a permanent locked box for donations but concerns were raised about security.

Sheila is looking into companies who may provide volunteers for the gardens.

Chris has heard nothing further re the Covid Memorial for Myrtle Avenue.

### **3 Communication - e-Newsletter/ Register of Support**

John has designed a newsletter, which everyone endorsed. It will now be sent out to the membership by email. Some hard copies will be printed by Ken for those not technically able and placed in shops such as Billingtons or the Library. Copies will be put on the Trust noticeboards. Sheila and Jim will distribute some at the coffee morning held at Lenzie Union on a Friday morning.

The Register of Support for Cohousing stands at 129 + 74 written signatures and 135 online signatures.

Sandy raised the important issue of Communications under the Equalities legislation. It was acknowledged that this had been overlooked due to pressure of business. After discussion it was decided we need to gather information and research any available technical solutions to put together a formal note as a basis of applying for any relevant grant funds. Sandy and Margaret would take this forward.

### **4 Lenzie Senior Cohousing Project**

Margaret Whitelaw and Sandy Taylor met with a Council Officer from EDC Estates Department on 7<sup>th</sup> September (unfortunately no telephone facility was provided which caused a barrier to free communication). The Council Officer indicated the Council is in favour of placing social housing on the Campsie View site.

However, our submission – the feasibility study and our vision - will go to the full Council Planning Meeting at the same time as the Council's own plan for the site.

Formally, therefore, the door is not closed and we continue to work with DTAS and Community Enterprise for support towards our feasibility study.

It was agreed that, while we should not raise people's expectations unduly, we need to persevere and work towards getting further community support.

Government money is short and at the moment is ringfenced to support areas of deprivation. After discussion it was decided to withdraw our expression of interest in supporting the Supporting Communities Programme which DTAS administers on behalf of the Scottish Government.

It is important that we meet with John Main and Fiona Taylor from DTAS. Matt Bridgestock, an architect with John Gilberts Architects, is willing to visit the Campsie View site on 11 October, followed by a debrief meeting. His 2 hour visit will not incur any costs. This meeting should give us an idea of what the Lenzie Cohousing project might look like.

The Council describe the site as 'the former Campsie View'. If our bid is successful, the project may be known as Lenzie Clachan.

Deirdre had written a letter to Paul MacLennan, the Scottish Government Housing Minister, asking for the Government's views on cohousing in general. The letter in response from the Minister's Private Secretary was basically a copy of the response to Deirdre's previous letter which had asked about the Campsie View site. It therefore didn't at all address the question in her second letter. It was agreed Deirdre should write again pointing out that she was asking general question about the Minister's view on cohousing, not about a specific site.

## **5 Finance**

Ken Macleod, Treasurer, had previously provided a table showing our financial situation. There is c£700 in the General Account and c£2500 in the projects account. Sandy asked how much is charged for the hire of Dean House; it's c£60. Sandy felt a Zoom account, costing £143.88 pa, was more cost effective. (He has paid the fee for this year.) It was pointed out that it is good to meet up face to face occasionally rather than using Zoom all the time but that we should request money from the Council, under the Equalities Act, to cover the annual cost of Zoom.

Deirdre suggested getting local companies like the Co-op to sponsor us; in return they could advertise on our raised beds.

Sandy has charity boxes which could be re-purposed for the Trust and placed in shops.

## **6 Any Other Business**

Margaret Whitelaw pointed out that the visit to the Campsie View site is limited to 5 people. This would include Matt and Norrie and others to be decided but possibly Jim, Deirdre and Margaret Whitelaw.

Sandy Taylor noted that asset transfers are not limited to public buildings/sites and other buildings might become available which might be suitable for Cohousing.

Margaret Whitelaw responded saying that recent changes to the planning system in Scotland aim to empower communities and strengthen links between citizens, communities and the planning system.

One of the steps towards achieving this is the introduction of **LOCAL PLACE PLANS** (LPPs), as a way for communities to highlight issues, ideas and aspirations. LOCAL PLACE PLANS are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. Introduced by the 2019 Act. LPP's offer the opportunity for a community-led, collaborative approach to creating better local places. It is the Government's intention that local people have the opportunity to engage meaningfully and have a positive influence in the future planning of development in their **areas. are part** of the Government's wider work on planning reform and implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (the 2019 Act), including steps to reduce conflict, improve community engagement and build public trust in planning matters.

LPPs can identify areas of potential change and opportunities for enhancements, and can suggest areas of vacant or derelict land for new or alternative uses. Conversely, they can recommend land and buildings that should be protected. LPPs can also set out circumstances where a community group wishes to amend provisions within the Local Development Plan. East Dunbartonshire Council's new Local Development Plan 3 will consider any registered Local Place Plans, enabling communities to have a more direct role in the decisions that influence their local area.

LCDT as a constituted community organisation with relevant Purposes and Powers is interested in preparing an LPP and has completed an Expression of Interest form.

**7 Date and Time of Next Meeting – to be arranged.**

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