

AA Community Engagement Group (AACEG) *(formerly the AAH Planning Group)*

**Held at 10 Wyvern Park (invitation of Roger Kellett)
4.00pm Tuesday 05th February 2019**

Present: Roger Kellett (RK), Grange Association (GA)
Goff Cantley (GC), Morningside CC (MorCC)
Sue Tritton (ST) Grange Prestonfield CC and Grange Association
Helen Zealley (HZ), Merchiston CC (MerCC)
Nigel Ayton (NA), Marchmont & Sciennes CC (MSCC) and Grange Association
Robin Harper (RH) AACT
Jo Doake (JDo), Grange Association
Peter Pitkin (PP) Grange Association
Tony Harris (TH) Grange Prestonfield CC

Apologies: Sofia Leonard (SL), Alan Farningham (AF), Malcolm Fraser (MF)

1. Welcome and apologies: RK welcomed everyone.

2. Meeting of December 5th 2018 with CEC. RK explained that there had been a meeting between various interested parties in the CEC office on December 5th. Those present included RK, NA, ST, MF, Daniel Johnson MSP, Stewart Adams (SA), NHSL and Lesley Carus and Paul Devaney (both CEC). CEC promised to provide minutes of that meeting before Christmas and to hold a further meeting with AACEG before Christmas. Neither had happened despite various reminders being sent. NA had taken notes at that meeting and was asked if he could provide a record detailing the main points. The main points were:

- a) **Place Brief** The aim was that this should be completed by the end of 2019. SA said NHSL should be the lead as he thought NHSL would not fund a brief produced by another party. After discussion it was agreed that NHSL and CEC would work together to produce the Brief.
- b) **MoU** CEC want a MOU to reflect who will do what including contents of the brief
- c) **Surveys** Agreed that all would be shared – unless there were confidentiality issues
- d) **Progress** Nothing appeared to have happened since early December. RK had received information that SA is now on extended sick leave. He had also been told that the consultants who would be contracted to produce the Brief had yet to be appointed.

3. Open Meeting on 14th February:

Following the meeting of December 5th the AACEG had felt that it was important to hold a public meeting to let people know what was happening timewise and to explain the different roles of the AACEG and the AACT. Various dates and venues had been considered and, although it may be too small, it was agreed to hold it at the Eric Liddell Centre on February 14th. At the time of choosing the date and time it had been agreed that there would be presentations from NHSL, CEC as well as from AACEG, AACT and Daniel Johnson MSP. Most important to tell people what the AACEG is and how it differs, in principle aims, from AACT.

- a) **Advertising and costs** 2000 flyers had been produced and mainly distributed in areas to the north, west and south of the AAH site. As there will be a report of this meeting at the Grange Association AGM on March 5th there was minimal advertising done in the Grange area. All 4 CCs (Merchiston, Morningside, Marchmont&Sciennes, Grange Prestonfield) had agreed to contribute to the cost of the flyers with the balance to be paid by the Grange Association.

- b) **Absence of NHSL** Because of the illness of SA it now seemed that NHSL would not be present. RK had been in contact with Iain Graham (IG, Director of Capital Projects and Planning, NHSL) who said that there wasn't a NHSL employee senior enough to attend and answer questions. IG confirmed that the consultants had not yet been appointed, that the date for vacating the AAH site is 2023-25, and offered to provide an "information sheet" for the meeting. IG also said he knows nothing about a MOU and would check to see if the documents to be provided for the consultants could be made available to the AACEG. It also appeared that there is, not yet, funding available for accommodating the AAH on the REH site, nor a business plan for this.
- c) **Contacting NHSL** The meeting was very concerned at the probability that NHSL would not be present. HZ offered, as a previous Board member of NHSL, to contact IG and other NHSL Board members to try to persuade someone to attend. The meeting welcomed this offer.
- d) **Publicity etc.** There was discussion about whether, or not, to contact the Evening News in advance of the meeting. Concern was expressed that a reporter might make capital out of the non-attendance of NHSL – AACEG didn't wish this to happen. Agreed that we would send a report of the meeting to the Press after the event and that this report should explain the difference of AACT and AACEG.
- e) **Preparations for meeting:** The following need to be done:
 - i. **Invite all 8 councillors**
 - ii. **Check who will come from CEC Planning**
 - iii. **Prepare labels for AACEG members**
 - iv. **Check ELC equipment – projector, microphone etc.** (NA offered his projector -is this compatible)

4. Progress of AACT. RH reported steady progress; they have a bank account; events committee; communications committee. A facilitator will be running "Open House" on March 30/31 – mini-consultation on what good things could be done on site. This was a condition of the original grant. Feels much more professional. They had a small grant to start with which paid for facilitators – now looking for more funds. Trust has had tentative approaches from Housing Associations etc.

5. Future meetings. Need to press NHSL for a meeting – we had been promised, at least, monthly meetings.

6. AOCB TH noted the delay to the next LDP. Main Issues are now expected in late 2019 – mainly due to the delay to the Strategic Development Plan. He said it was most important that we ensure the AAH site is highlighted in the Main Issues Report.

Sue Tritton
9 February 2019