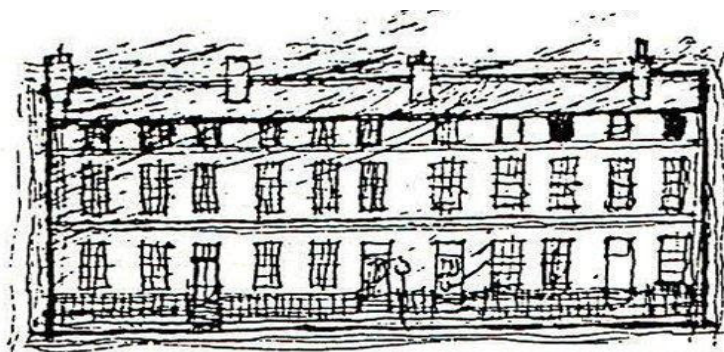


Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland and Nelson Street Association (incorporating Abercromby Place), held on Sunday 4th September 2022 in St Vincent's Church, St Vincent Street Edinburgh.



Present:

R Hadden; D McEroy; J Simpson; J Hughes; J Stokes; L Briggs; A Johnston; G Deust-Porta; P Robertson; S Mayne; A Hogg; G Hogg; H Gentleman; R Gentleman; P Andrew; I Gordon Brown; A Ford; J Ford; D Gilchrist; R Cour; E Cour; I Blackley; P Blackley; G Stevenson; K Knowles; B Moore; L Rosborough; P Stollard; J McAdam; T Lockhart; D Young.

In attendance:

J Mowat; C Miller; C Fletcher; Yann Grandgirard; Fiona Banatvala (item 3).

1. Association Business

- a) The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and thanked two of the local councillors, Jo Mowat and Clare Miller, for attending.
- b) The Chair introduced the current committee:

Chair	Linda Rosborough
Treasurer	Tracey Lockhart
Secretary	Gill hogg
Website	Joe McAdam
Members	Iain Gordon Brown; David Young

Committee members, who had indicated they were content to stand again, were duly elected. The Chair appealed for any other residents who would be willing to join the committee to indicated this on the signing sheet. Following the meeting Anne Ford, who had indicated her willingness to join, was co-opted onto the committee.

- c) The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021, which had been previously circulated, were approved.
- d) The Statement of Accounts, which had been previously circulated, was approved.
- e) In her Annual Report, a copy of which had been previously circulated, the Chair highlighted the campaign to oppose the introduction of communal bins and the success of the Decorate our Streets for Christmas initiative.

2. Energy Efficiency in Listed Buildings

Yann Grandgirard from Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) provided an overview of EWH's approach to energy conservation in listed buildings. The following points were noted:

EWH have 4 key principles when considering energy efficiency.

- It is important to take a 'whole home' approach and consider both the fabric and services, whilst avoiding unintended consequences such as lack of ventilation.
- It is important to preserve the historic significance of the buildings and not damage the original fabric in a way that is irreversible
- It is necessary to consider the original materials used
- It is important to use professionals and conservation accredited companies when carrying out improvements.

He highlighted the need for regular maintenance, ensuring the buildings are wind and water tight. Insulation is important and ensuring windows and doors are properly draught-proofed. Secondary glazing can be effective in reducing heat loss and allows access to the original windows. Wall insulation is an option if lathe and plaster has been used and basement floor insulation is effective but should reinstate the original floor.

For services, whilst there are limitations in World Heritage Site (WHS), energy efficient light bulbs are effective and heat pumps are now a good technology and permissible in the WHS. However there are challenges with these in flats and residents may wish to consider a communal system for a building. Photovoltaic panels are an effective way of lowering fuel costs, but must be sensitively installed and not be visible from any vantage point.

In response to a question regarding the EWH view of energy efficiency measures considering recent developments permitted by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), he agreed that policies were being reviewed but there is a need to maintain the roof-scape and applications would be assessed on their individual merits.

Chris Fletcher, resident of Great King Street, gave an overview of his experiences with secondary glazing and the use of poly-carbonate panels which have been successful in reducing heat loss, noise and condensation.

Gill Hogg, resident of Northumberland St, shared energy measures they are installing and experience of applying for interest free loans and cashback from Home Energy Scotland.

Yann Grandgirard described EWH climate emergency strategy and ways in which EWH can support homeowners including a grant targeted at improvements to windows and doors, a rainwater project launching in October 2022 and a new project focussed on New Town properties similar to a project recently completed in the Old Town.

EWB are available to provide technical advice and signposting to professionals and are keen to hear of the challenges that residents find in installing energy efficiency measures.

3. Pilot of Green Gull Proof Bags

Fiona Banatvala gave an overview of the campaign to stop the communal bin hub rollout in the New Town and retain the Gull-Proof Bags (GPB) in the horizontal streets. The argument for communal bin hubs is to improve the quantity and quality of recycling and to reduce the cost of rubbish collection. However, it is acknowledged that the most efficient recycling is individual sorting by households which needs more education of residents of what can, and cannot, be recycled. Red boxes as currently used blow over, are difficult for refuse collectors to empty, go missing and cause problems for sight impaired pedestrians when left on streets.

As a result of the extensive campaign ran by New Town Broughton Community Council, CEC have agreed to pause the roll out of the bin hubs in New Town and trial the use of a green GPB in 1,000 households including Northumberland St and Abercromby Place. The trial does not include Nelson Street which has communal bins currently.

Residents will be supplied with a green GPB and clear plastics bags. These will replace the red boxes and be collected every other week as at present. The trial will start in October 2022 and last 6 months. Blue recycling boxes will not be affected as it is anticipated that the introduction of the deposit return scheme in 2023 will solve the glass recycling problem.

The importance of this trial was emphasised. The community council and street associations are working in partnership with CEC to find a solution that is successful in increasing recycling, is easier for refuse workers to lift, less messy than the red boxes and provides a workable solution to recycling in the New Town. It was stressed that we either use the GPBs or lose them.

There was general support for the trial and the Chair asked residents to indicate on the signing sheet if they were willing to help with the trial and distributing the bags/information.

4. Traffic Problems

The Chair asked residents to share concerns about traffic in our streets. The following points were raised:

- The cumulative impact of various CEC initiatives is driving more traffic onto residential streets. The LEZ has already had this effect and the closure of George St is likely to have a similar knock-on effect. Similarly, the introduction of Sunday parking charges in Zone 1 drives more traffic to the peripheral Zones.
- The diversions introduced for tram works are still having an impact on traffic, especially in Abercromby Place and the York Place narrowing is causing chaos which drives more vehicles to find alternative routes, moving traffic to our streets.
- Although there is a 20mph speed limit this is not respected by many drivers.

5. Concluding Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone present for coming and for their contribution, in particular Yann Grandgirard, Fiona Banatvala, Chris Fletcher and the local Councillors.

GH

5/9/22