Paper 2/2015

EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

“The EACC is a liaison body that supports the 43 community councils currently up and running in Edinburgh.

The association holds four Executive meetings a year, an annual general meeting and a series of question and answer sessions throughout the year.

These various meetings allow community councillors to network with each other, council officials and other groups outwith their area.” (EACC website)

The Constitution is appended to this paper.

Issue

Bluntly, the EACC has lost its way, is supported by only a dozen or so CCs and due to illness did not meet much last year. At a meeting late last year (attended by Nick Marshall) there was a call for a major rethink culminating in a workshop on 31 January to which all CCs are invited. The Council is likely to support the existence of an effective EACC as it has been helpful in recruiting, training new community councillors and could provide a way of collecting an overview from all CCs.

How does it help N&W CC?

Not much in its present form. It could provide a place to go for basic questions of good practice and to identify common problems and solutions. However, it seems to be stale and not pro-active.

What do we need?

A place to share and ask. At present we connect closely with Portobello CC but less so with other CCs. There is little guidance for CCs of real value in handling the issues that come to us – recently, licensing, traffic, planning and engagement. We could easily just become an organisation that hassles council officials – whereas our real role is engaging with and representing our community. An effective EACC could promote that more positive approach.

Proposal

That John Fayrer and Geoff Pearson attend the workshop with a primary objective of assisting the creation of a modern EACC – that might be worth a subscription. It would be exploration with other CCs and we might have to be assertive to produce a positive outcome.

**CONSTITUTION**

**EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION of COMMUNITY COUNCILS (EACC)**

1. NAME
2. MEMBERSHIP
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
4. STRUCTURE
5. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE
6. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE
7. VOTING
8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1 **NAME**

The name of the organisation is the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

**2 MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Association is open to all Community Councils within the City of Edinburgh Area. It is subject to all the policy decisions at a General Meeting of the EACC.

**3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

* To ascertain the views of its member Community Councils on all issues which concern them, to provide a forum for discussion of these views and to communicate them to local and central government, other public bodies and the general public.
* To increase the collective influence of Community Councils, and to strengthen their identity throughout the city.
* To facilitate the flow of information between Community Councils and with the City of Edinburgh Council.
* To ensure that no action of the Association goes against the authority or responsibilities of the individual Community Councils.
* The Association shall be non-discriminatory.

**4 STRUCTURE**

a. Meetings – There will be a minimum of one AGM and four Executive meetings each year.

**5 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE**

a. Membership shall be open to all Community Councils in the area covered by the City of Edinburgh Council.

b. Membership fees for Community Councils will be decided by the Annual General Meeting of the Association on the recommendation of the Executive.

c. The Treasurer shall open a bank account in the name of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. He/she shall keep proper and accurate accounts of its finances and shall produce a statement independently examined by a suitably qualified person for the Annual General meeting of the EACC. The signatories will comprise two from the Treasurer, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

**6 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

a. Each community council shall be entitled to have one member on the Executive Committee. A Community Council can, if they wish, have a substitute to attend in the absence of their member but each Council is only entitled to one vote. Unless otherwise notified the contact details for the Council will be those of the Secretary.

b. The Office Bearers of the Association must be members of the Executive Committee and will be elected at the AGM.

c. The Office Bearers shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and such other positions as the Association may decide. The Office Bearers shall decide on procedural matters only.

d. Office Bearers will stand down at each AGM but will be eligible for re-election. Nominations for office bearers will be submitted to the EACC secretary no less than two weeks prior to the AGM.

e. The Association’s representative to the Edinburgh Partnership will be a member of the Executive Committee and will be elected at the AGM. The representative will stand down at each AGM but will be eligible for re-election. A substitute representative shall also be elected.

**7 VOTING**

a. Should a vote be required on any issue, each Community Council (paid up to 31st March of the current year) shall have one vote. The Chairperson will have a casting vote if required.

b A quorum will consist of one third of the Executive members for Executive meetings.

**8 ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution can only be altered at the AGM of the Association.

Notice of any wording of a proposed alteration must be sent to the Secretary at least three weeks prior to the AGM.

The Agenda will be issued at least 14 days before the AGM.

Two thirds of eligible votes will be required for approval.

Amendments to Section 5 (c) and 8 approved at the AGM November 2013