

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 8 August 2024

Present:

Councillors Walker (Convener), Burgess, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Doggart, Glasgow, Heap, McFarlane (except item 14), McNeese-Mechan, Osler and Thornley.

1. **Emergency Motion by Councillor McFarlane - Community Safety Against Riots and Hate Crime**

In accordance with Standing Order 4.5 the Convener ruled that this matter was not urgent and accordingly was not considered by the Committee.

2. **Deputations**

a) **Monti Stramka**

(In relation to item 6.1 on the agenda - Business Bulletin – Cemetery Rules)

The deputation speaker indicated that she visited her local cemetery with her dog and that if there was a total ban on dogs at cemeteries, it would stop some people from being able to visit them. There was no reason why people should not be able to take a well-behaved dog on a lead, and, that statistical evidence demonstrated that there was no requirement for a ban on dogs in cemeteries.

It was highlighted that proportionate measures were required to address actual issues and alternative measures had been suggested by their deputation. The speaker indicated that the ban had not been enforced last time and there were reports of members of the public self-policing cemeteries. If a ban was brought in with no enforcement, these harmful behaviours could escalate. Many people benefited from having dogs accompany them on visits to cemeteries and dog behaviours were not actually a significant problem. Hostile approaches by people self-policing cemeteries was causing fear amongst dogwalkers, therefore it seemed unnecessary to ban dogs in Edinburgh Council cemeteries.

(see item 6 below)

b) **Edinburgh Tour Guides Association**

(In relation to item 6.1 on the agenda - Business Bulletin – Cemetery Rules)

The Deputation speaker offered his condolences to the previous speaker on behalf of the Tour Guides Association. The Association was a relatively new organisation with about 70 freelance tour guides. They were formed to foster a spirit of cooperation and took tours into the historic cemeteries of the city on a regular basis. This involved guests and members bringing dogs into cemeteries.

This was an issue that affected the Association as well as guides. The five historic cemeteries in the centre were regulated and it was ensured that dogs and guests were behaving appropriately, including that dogs were kept on leads.

They wanted to foster a spirit amongst tour guides of guides being stewards of the graveyards and were therefore cooperating with all the public bodies to ensure that people were behaving properly in these historic spaces, recognising the importance of public spaces. Whilst they had no position on the presence of dogs in active cemeteries, the Association wanted to make sure that their presence in the historic cemeteries and their reliance on them for tours was acknowledged.

(see item 6 below)

c) Paul Irvine/Andy Lees

(In relation to item 6.1 on the agenda - Business Bulletin – Cemetery Rules)

The deputation indicated that those visiting cemeteries to see family members had no choice, whereas dog-walkers had a choice. Cemeteries were sacred ground, they had a core purpose which should be respected, and the unnecessary presence of dogs in cemeteries was disrespectful to the bereaved and to cemeteries' core purpose. There was general access to green space, however, it was also socially unacceptable and morally wrong to use cemeteries as a convenient dog exercise yard.

The consultation report stated that although the Council encouraged appropriate use and enjoyment of cemetery spaces, this must accord with the core purpose of the spaces. The report also stated that their primary purpose must remain part of any other activities that took place. This deputation speaker had been at the forefront of the issue and had received significant online abuse. Some dog owners had indicated that they chose to use cemeteries because local cemeteries were the nearest green space to their home and the walled in nature made it safe for them to let their dog off the lead.

(see item 6 below)

(d) Friends of Dalry Cemetery

(In relation to item 6.1 on the agenda - Business Bulletin – Cemetery Rules)

The deputation indicated it was not true that rules regarding dogs in cemeteries were “relaxed” during COVID-19. In 2004 a rule was enacted banning dogs, however, this rule expired automatically in 2014 and no new rule banning dogs had been passed. The removal of “No Dog” signs to standardise signage created the impression that the rules had changed, but in reality, this was not the case. The Friends of Dalry Cemetery would not exist if dogs were banned from cemeteries as they accompanied people who helped maintain it. In 2022 a rule had been passed requiring that dogs be kept on leads. This was thought to be a good, workable balance.

Most dogwalkers adhered to the rules. It was anti-social behaviour of all types that was a more serious issues than activity caused by dogs. The main

contributor to safety in cemeteries was the presence of visitors. Overall, banning dogs from all cemeteries was unnecessary. The current rule was proportionate and tightening the rules further would be detrimental to general safety.

(see item 6 below)

(e) Blinkbonny Neighbourhood Watch

(In relation to item 8.4 – Safety of the Off-Street Path Network)

The deputation indicated that the BlinkBonny Neighbourhood Watch had been raising concerns about the safety of the Cycle Path between Roseburn and Craigleith Drive for a number of years, which includes safety on the path and in the adjacent houses and the removal of a CCTV camera in the vicinity. Discussions had taken place with the Police and local councillors and on their advice, safety measures had been adopted. However, due to lack of action by Police, residents have now stopped reporting incidents, nuisances and anti-social behaviour. This was the reason that the Police statistics looked rather low. In addition, reporting details was difficult due to the obscured line of sight because of planting.

There were a number of residents who did not feel comfortable walking that section of the path due to e-scooters, bikes and motorbikes. The regular cutting of foliage would enhance visibility and allow more space for walkers to seek refuge from scooters and bikes. The proposals to address these concerns were welcomed.

(see item 15 below)

(f) North Edinburgh Community Growing Network

(In relation to item 8.5 - Right to Grow)

The deputation indicated that the North Edinburgh Community Growing Network had a network of organisations which were all involved in food growing in various ways. They supported other residents to grow food and had regular community meals and this had helped to provide local jobs. The right to grow had been ongoing for 14 years, but now they had hit some barriers. They were trying to support local residents to grow food without experiencing any barriers, but at the moment they could not access Council funding.

The right to grow brought huge benefits for people and for the environment, a local economy that was becoming more regenerative and building community wealth. Community growing allowed space for skills development and provided greater access to healthy, locally grown food. However, it was necessary to go beyond the right to grow, to allow local organisations access to public funding and public contracts.

Lauriston Farm might be the largest urban farm in the UK. Details were given of tree planting, people attending courses, a weekly market and the large number of volunteers. They supported the Right to Grow Motion but thought this had to go beyond community gardens and allotments.

(see item 16 below)

3. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 16 May 2024 as a correct record.

(Reference – Minute of the Culture and Communities Committee, submitted)

4. Work Programme

The Committee's Work Programme was presented for review.

Decision:

To note the work programme.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme, 8 August 2024, submitted)

5. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision:

1) To agree to close the following actions:

- **Action 16** - Edinburgh's Winter Festivals – Update on Procurement
- **Action 22(3)** - Business Bulletin – Reuse of Tennis Balls
- **Action 26** - Motion by Councillor Heap – Free Little Libraries
- **Action 29** - Motion by Councillor Staniforth – Ending the Use of Fossil-Fuel Powered Leaf Blowers
- **Action 31** - Motion by Councillor McFarlane - Edinburgh Deaf Festival
- **Action 32** - By Councillor Thornley - Safety of the Off-Street Path Network
- **Action 33** - Motion by Councillor Osler - Right to Grow – Support
- **Action 35** - Business Bulletin (long-term plans for the cycling project)
- **Action 42** - Temporary Toilet Facilities in Parks
- **Action 44** - Motion by Councillor Walker – Dogs in Cemeteries
- **Action 45** - Motions by Councillor Osler and Councillor Heap – WASPS Patrioathall Studios
- **Action 48** - Motions by Councillor Heap and Councillor McFarlane - Summerhall
- **Action 51** - By Councillor Thornley - Salvesen Community Football Club

2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log 8 August 2024, submitted)

6. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities Business Bulletin was presented.

In accordance with Standing Order 33.1, the Convener agreed to hear a presentation from Ward Councillor Flannery in regard to Summerhall.

In accordance with Standing Order 33.1, the Convener agreed to hear a presentation from Ward Councillor McKenzie in regard to Pansy Walk.

Cemetery Rules

Motion

Committee:

- 1) Notes the Business Bulletin Update
- 2) In respect of Cemetery Rules, Committee:
 - a. Notes
 - i. That cemeteries are spaces for remembrance and reflection to honour departed loved ones and offer moments of peace and comfort for visitors and mourners.
 - ii. That the decision from the December Committee to uphold the existing cemetery rules, which requires dogs be kept on a lead and prohibits commercial dog walking, has been in place for over 6 months.
 - iii. That despite this decision and ongoing work by Council staff to encourage dog walkers to keep their dogs under control, there continue to be instances of dogs off lead or on extendable leads that have resulted in distress for mourners.
 - iv. That Edinburgh has an extensive network of high-quality parks where dog owners can exercise their dogs.
 - b. Asks officers to
 - i. Amend the cemetery management rules to ban dogs in cemeteries with exceptions for guide dogs, emotional support dogs, and dogs accompanying mourners on a trial basis for a period of one year.
 - ii. To monitor and report back to Committee on the first meeting subsequent to this trial period.
 - iii. Utilise signs and communications as well as work with Friends groups, commercial dog walking groups, and other community groups to publicise these rules and promote the use of public greenspaces for dog walking.
 - c. Recognises that there is a financial challenge in providing appropriate staffing to enforce a ban on dogs. Therefore, requests that proposed costings be included in the one-year progress report to consider for future budget allocation.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment

Inserts at the end of the 'Conclusion and next steps':

Therefore, a further period of monitoring will take place in the five cemeteries with the highest number of dogs observed (Grange, Warriston, Newington, Saughton, and Morningside), asks officers to increase promotional and educational activities in order to continue raising awareness of the recent rule changes in addition to working with cemetery-users. This will be reported back to committee within four cycles.

- Moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Cowdy.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

- For the Motion - 2 votes
- For the Amendment - 9 votes
- (For the Motion: Councillors Lezley Marion Cameron and Walker.
- For the Amendment: Councillors Burgess, Cowdy, Doggart, Heap, Glasgow, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Osler and Thornley.)

Edinburgh 900

Composite Motion

Committee

1) In respect of Edinburgh 900

- (a) Is pleased to see that 30 organisations have been awarded funding via the Community and Civic Events Funds and looks forward to their innovative, community-based contributions to celebrating Edinburgh's nine-hundred-year journey.
- (b) Understands that due to the considerable interest with 97 eligible applications for funding the fund has been considerably oversubscribed.
- (c) Believes that Edinburgh 900, as a celebration of the city, is a celebration of the communities that make it and therefore feels it would be more appropriate to end the ongoing work on outdoor projections and to reallocate this funding to support previously unsuccessful civic and community applications up to the funding total.
- (d) Notes that Appendix 1 of the May report referenced that each theme would have at least one linked event with a lead stakeholder to run it and requests an update on this aspect of the programme in the next business bulletin update.

- Moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Osler.

Decision

- 1) To note the updates on the Business Bulletin.

Cemetery Rules

- 2) To insert at the end of the 'Conclusion and next steps': Therefore, a further period of monitoring would take place in the five cemeteries with the highest number of dogs observed (Grange, Warriston, Newington, Saughton, and Morningside), ask officers to increase promotional and educational activities in order to continue raising awareness of the recent rule changes in addition to working with cemetery-users. This would be reported back to committee within four cycles.

Edinburgh 900

- 3) Committee is pleased to see that 30 organisations had been awarded funding via the Community and Civic Events Funds and looked forward to their innovative, community-based contributions to celebrating Edinburgh's nine-hundred-year journey.
- 4) Committee understands that due to the considerable interest with 97 eligible applications for funding the fund has been considerably oversubscribed.
- 5) Committee believes that Edinburgh 900, as a celebration of the city, was a celebration of the communities that made it and therefore feels that it would be more appropriate to end the ongoing work on outdoor projections and to reallocate this funding to support previously unsuccessful civic and community applications up to the funding total.
- 6) To note that Appendix 1 of the May report referenced that each theme would have at least one linked event with a lead stakeholder to run it and requested an update on this aspect of the programme in the next business bulletin update.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin, 8 August 2024, submitted)

7. Police Scotland - Edinburgh City Division Scrutiny Report - April 2022 to March 2023

An update was provided from Police Scotland on the Edinburgh City Division for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

Motion

- 1) To note the update from the Divisional Commander.
- 2) To thank Police Scotland for all of the work they do to reduce harm and ensure Edinburgh's residents are safe and supported.

- 3) To note the enormous pressure for police forces to deliver core policing duties amongst an ever-widening remit of responsibility, increasing demands, and reduced capacity.
- 4) Therefore, condemns the awful attack in Southport and the far-right thugs who have hijacked this terrible event to spread misinformation and violence.
- 5) Encourages greater coordination between police forces to counter the spread of hate and potential criminal behaviour across our communities.
- 6) Notes that Council officers are continuing to work closely with the Edinburgh Partnership to monitor the national situation, be prepared in case we experience any issues here and provide reassurance and guidance to communities across the city. A dedicated webpage has been created for this purpose:
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitysupport
- 7) Reinforces that Edinburgh will remain an inclusive and welcoming city that will not tolerate attempts to spread division and hatred.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Decision

To approve the Motion by Councillor Walker:

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

8. Bowling Greens

Details were provided of a report by the Service Director, Operational Services, which had been prepared in response to an adjusted motion by Councillor Osler. This was approved by the Council on 1 June 2023 and it described the consultation and design work that had been undertaken to develop proposals to repurpose the bowling greens at Victoria Park, St. Margaret's Park and Prestonfield Park, and set out the next steps required to implement the schemes.

Motion

- 1) To note the options considered for the future of the bowling greens at Victoria Park, St. Margaret's Park and Prestonfield Park; and
- 2) To note that these potential projects did not have any funding identified for delivery nor did they currently form part of any investment plans for the Council.
- 3) Therefore, Committee was asked to agree to proceed with refining of designs in order to determine outline costs, with a report to a future committee summarising these costs alongside any other investment priorities for the city's park and openspaces.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Committee:

- 1) Thanks officers and all those within the communities who took the time to help shape this report and appreciates that there is a very strong desire to maximise the use of these precious spaces.

Accepts recommendation 1.1, amends 1.2 adds 1.3,1.4 and 1.5

- 2) Therefore, Committee is asked to agree to proceed with refining of designs, placing a priority upon the delivery of accessible public toilets, in order to determine outline costs, with a report to a future committee summarising these costs alongside other investment priorities for the city's parks and open spaces.
- 3) Understands that whether the Council "develops" these sites or not, there is a cost implication as the buildings and sites will need to be maintained.
- 4) Therefore, Committee requests that officers consider whether any toilets (where present) can be made available for use by the general public on an interim basis and that these considerations, along with any resourcing or cost implications are reported back to Committee and Ward Councillors within three months.
- 5) Notes paragraph 6.5 of the report by the Service Director, Operational Services and agrees to consider it in relation to Agenda item 8.5.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 2

Add to recommendations:

Notes the potential of these former bowling greens to contribute to residents' demand for growing space, community benefit and net zero ambition, and requests the further report in two cycles.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Heap

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion. In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted) - 7 votes

For Amendment 2 (as adjusted) - 4 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Lezley Marion Cameron, Glasgow, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Osler, Thornley and Walker.

For Amendment 2 (as adjusted); Councillors Burgess, Cowdy, Doggart and Heap.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the options considered for the future of the bowling greens at Victoria Park, St. Margaret's Park and Prestonfield Park.

- 2) To note that these potential projects did not have any funding identified for delivery nor did they currently form part of any investment plans for the Council.
- 4) To thank officers and all those within the communities who took the time to help shape this report and appreciate that there was a very strong desire to maximise the use of these precious spaces.
- 5) Therefore, to agree to proceed with refining of designs, placing a priority upon the delivery of accessible public toilets, in order to determine outline costs, with a report to a future committee summarising these costs alongside other investment priorities for the city's parks and open spaces.
- 6) Understands that whether the Council "developed" these sites or not, there was a cost implication as the buildings and sites would need to be maintained.
- 7) Therefore, requests that officers consider whether any toilets (where present) could be made available for use by the general public on an interim basis and that these considerations, along with any resourcing or cost implications were reported back to Committee and Ward Councillors within three months.
- 8) To note paragraph 6.5 of the report by the Service Director, Operational Services and agree to consider it in relation to Agenda item 8.5.
- 9) To note the potential of these former bowling greens to contribute to residents' demand for growing space, community benefit and net zero ambition, and requested the further report in two cycles.

(Reference – Act of Council No 14 of 1 June 2023; report by the Service Director, Operational Services, submitted.)

9. The Seventh Edinburgh Makar

The achievements were noted of the outgoing sixth Makar, Hannah Lavery, whose term of office came to an end on 30 September 2024 and sought approval of the appointment of Michael Pedersen as the seventh Edinburgh Makar, to take up the post from 1 October 2024.

Motion

- 1) To acknowledge Hannah Lavery's achievements as Edinburgh Makar over her term from October 2021 to September 2024, and to extend Committee's thanks and best wishes for the future; and
- 2) To approve the appointment of Michael Pedersen as the seventh Edinburgh Makar, from October 2024 to September 2027.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment

Work with Young People

Committee notes:

- 1) The busy and diverse schedules of the Sixth Makar over the period of their appointment, and thanks them for their work.

- 2) That the schedules don't appear to feature significant numbers of events with schools, or other work with young people.
- 3) And welcomes the appointment of students as School Makars at Boroughmuir High School.

Committee therefore approves the report with the following adjustment:

Add new recommendation 1.1.3:

Request that officers work with the new Makar to explore engaging with young people in the City's schools and other appropriate fora, including, but not limited to, encouraging and supporting schools to appoint student school Makars.

Publicising the Makar's Work

Committee notes:

- 1) There is no obvious place on the Council website advertising the work of the Makar with the Council, including a place for the public to view the poems they have written or the city.
- 2) That this limits access of the public to an important part of the city's culture

Committee therefore approves the report with the following adjustment:

Add new recommendation 1.1.4:

Request the Council, with the consent of the Makar, creates a webpage on the Council website providing information on:

- 1) The current and past Makars.
- 2) The work of the current Makar written as part of their partnership with the Council.
- 3) Resource-permitting, the work of past Makars written as part of their partnership with the Council.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the Amendment was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To acknowledge Hannah Lavery's achievements as Edinburgh Makar over her term from October 2021 to September 2024, and to extend Committee's thanks and best wishes for the future.
- 2) To approve the appointment of Michael Pedersen as the seventh Edinburgh Makar, from October 2024 to September 2027.
- 4) To note the busy and diverse schedules of the Sixth Makar over the period of their appointment and thank them for their work.

- 5) To note that the schedules did appear to feature significant numbers of events with schools, or other work with young people.
- 6) To note and welcome the appointment of students as School Makars at Boroughmuir High School.
- 7) To request that officers worked with the new Makar to explore engaging with young people in the City's schools and other appropriate fora, including, but not limited to, encouraging and supporting schools to appoint student school Makars.
- 8) To note there was no obvious place on the Council website advertising the work of the Makar with the Council, including a place for the public to view the poems they had written or the city.
- 9) To note that this limited access of the public to an important part of the city's culture
- 10) To approve the report with the following adjustment:
To request the Council, with the consent of the Makar, create a webpage on the Council website providing information on:
 - i) The current and past Makars.
 - ii) The work of the current Makar written as part of their partnership with the Council.
 - iii) Resource-permitting, the work of past Makars written as part of their partnership with the Council.
- 11) To refer report by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing to the Education, Children and Families Committee for its awareness.

(Reference – report by the by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing, submitted.)

10. Gorgie City Farm Site Options Analysis

An outline was provided of the conclusions of the Gorgie City Farm Site Options Analysis produced by Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC).

Motion

To agree that Option C (as set out in paragraphs 4.4.3 – 4.7) is the Council's preferred approach for this site and that expressions of interest at the appropriate time to operate a community farm on the site should be invited.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Delete all and insert:

- 1.1 Agrees that Option C (as set out in paragraphs 4.4.3 – 4.7) is the Council's preferred approach for this site and that expressions of interest at the appropriate time to operate a community farm on the site should be invited.

- 1.2 Committee commends Gorgie Community Farm Ltd (GCF) on their work to-date and believes that their expertise and effort should be recognised by CEC in any open expression of interest stage.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane but subsequently withdrawn

Amendment 2

A Framework for the way forward

Committee notes:

- 1) And welcomes the suggested next steps.
- 2) But further notes, there are no clear timescales for any of the next steps.
- 3) The welcome suggestion that the farm could open in phases, but notes with concern that this does not feature in the immediate next steps, despite the Committee's decision of 29 February 2024 to direct officers to "work with the steering group to ensure that the final recommendation includes provision for the farm to re-open to the public as soon as possible, even if this may mean initially partial or limited access, ahead of new arrangements for the farm being put in place.

B Funding

Committee notes:

- 4) Any future for the farm will need significant capital investment.
- 5) There is no clear explanation of how appropriate funding may be obtained, other than through the Council budget process and through non-specified partners, and the relative roles of Council, the partners and the new operator in funding the capital investment and any other forms of funding needed.

C Governance

Committee notes:

- 6) And welcomes the Gorgie City Farm (GCF) entity's proposals for governance of a future farm.
- 7) But notes that GCF is only one potential bidder to deliver the future of the farm, and that these proposals would be nullified if GCF is not chosen.
- 8) The poor governance of the farm at some points in the past, and the importance of good governance to the future of the farm.

E Role in Net Zero agriculture and nature restoration

Committee notes:

- 9) The recommendations the farm focuses on growing, as well as outdoor play, community enterprises, markets and partnership working around community need.
- 10) The potential for a farm focused on growing to contribute to zero carbon agriculture, tackling climate change and nature restoration.

F Report and Scrutiny

11) Committee therefore approves recommendations with the following amendment.

Add new recommendations, thus:

1.2 Culture and Communities Committee is asked to request that a report is presented to the next meeting of the Committee covering:

- a. Proposed timescales for a re-opening of the farm, including indicative times for:
 - Reopening the site to appropriate public access ahead of fuller re-opening.
 - Inviting Expressions of Interest (Eols).
 - Deciding on a new provider.
 - Submission of external funding bids.
 - Re-opening of the farm.
- b. Capital and other funding requirements, and how these can be met, including from external grant funding and other sources.
- c. The Governance requirements that will need to be submitted as part of expressions of interest.
- d. A plan for appropriate Facilities Management services being provided until a new operator is appointed.
- e. How the call for Expressions of Interest can emphasise the need for Eols to focus on the farm's contribution to Net Zero agriculture, nature restoration and the fight against climate change.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion - 6 votes

For Amendment 2 (as adjusted) - 4 votes

(For the Motion: Councillors Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Doggart, Osler, Thornley and Walker.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Burgess, Glasgow, Heap and McFarlane.)

Decision

To agree that Option C (as set out in paragraphs 4.4.3 – 4.7) was the Council's preferred approach for this site and that expressions of interest at the appropriate time to operate a community farm on the site should be invited.

(Reference – report by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing, submitted.)

11. Hunters Hall Park - Competition Standard BMX Track

An update was provided on the development of cycling facilities at Hunter's Hall Park and seeks approval to proceed with the project towards technical design and tender phases.

Motion

To approve the progression of a competition standard BMX track at Hunter's Hall Park to RIBA Stage 4 (Technical Design and Tender).

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Delete all and replace with:

- 1) Committee agrees to approve the progression of a competition standard BMX track at Hunter's Hall Park to RIBA Stage 4 (Technical Design and Tender).
- 2) Agrees that officers will consult with local people, and especially young people, as part of the design and development process.
- 3) Understanding that discussions with Edinburgh Leisure will continue develop, additionally requests that council officers enshrine affordability for local people into the proposals including exploration of regular free to access days for young people, and requests that Edinburgh Leisure consult with local schools and youth work groups at the Jack Kane Community Centre with a view to collaboration once the track is open.
- 4) Further request that officers consult with the 20-minute neighbourhood team to assess active travel and public transportation links to and from the centre.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Amendment 2

- 1) Additionally, Committee requests that officers engage with the track designers and contractors, as well as Edinburgh Leisure to explore ways for greater community engagement and involvement throughout, the design and development stages, particularly with local young people.
- 2) Requests that this is included in the next update to Committee.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion. In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To agree to approve the progression of a competition standard BMX track at Hunter's Hall Park to RIBA Stage 4 (Technical Design and Tender).
- 2) To agree that officers would consult with local people, and especially young people, as part of the design and development process.
- 3) Understands that discussions with Edinburgh Leisure would continue to develop, additionally requests that Council officers enshrine affordability for local people into the proposals including exploration of regular free to access days for young people, and requests that Edinburgh Leisure consult with local schools and youth work groups at the Jack Kane Community Centre with a view to collaboration once the track is open.
- 4) Further requests that officers consult with the 20-minute neighbourhood team to assess active travel and public transportation links to and from the centre.
- 5) Additionally, Committee requests that officers engaged with the track designers and contractors, as well as Edinburgh Leisure to explore ways for greater community engagement and involvement throughout, the design and development stages, particularly with local young people.
- 6) Requests that this is included in the next update to Committee.

(Reference – report by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing, submitted.)

12. Neighbourhood Networks Evaluation

An update was provided on an evaluation of Neighbourhood Networks (NN). The information gathered would feed into a wider review of Community Planning in the city which would be reported to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in October 2024.

Decision

To note the evaluation of Neighbourhood Networks and that this information would feed into a wider review of Community Planning in the city.

(Reference – report by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing, submitted.)

13. Community Grants Fund Evaluation

An update was provided on an evaluation of the Community Grants Fund (CGF) and recommended next steps. The evaluation was carried out in response to a motion by Councillor Thornley approved by Committee on 7 December 2023. (See appendix 1 of the report by Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing).

Motion

To note the outcome of the evaluation and the development areas identified in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Adds:

- 1) Committee agrees that a core guiding principle of the CGF is and should continue to be minimising bureaucracy and burden on applicants to maintain the funds reputation as an easy to access catalyst for grassroots community projects.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

Amendment 2

Committee:

- 1) Understands that the community grant scheme has been running for a number of years and in that time many grants have been awarded across the City to support community-based projects.
- 2) Notes that no updates are currently provided to Committee on what projects have been supported by Community Grant Funding, meaning that awareness of the funding and the community work it supports is comparatively low.

Agrees that it is important that an overview of this is provided in order to fully understand the important impact of the Community Grants Fund, so adds:

- 3) A briefing note will be provided to all Councillors on a breakdown of each of the 13 Community Grant Fund for the last 5 years.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

Amendment 3

Committee notes:

- 1) The report highlights that Leith is the only area of the city that disburses Community Grants through Participatory Budgeting.
- 2) The success of Leith Chooses.
- 3) The Council's commitment to ensuring at least 1% its budget would be subject to participatory budgeting.
- 4) That the report suggests improvement to the CGF process and learning from Leith Chooses whilst not proposing that the Leith Chooses model could be rolled-out more widely.

Recommendations therefore amended as follows:

- 5) Insert new recommendation at end, thus:

Requests a report outlining:

- (a) How Next Steps 5.1.1 – 5.1.4 will be progressed.
- (b) A process for communities to requests Community Grants are disbursed through Participatory Budgeting processes the same as, or similar to, Leith Chooses, and how such requests can be implemented.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an amendment to the Motion. In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to the motion. In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the outcome of the evaluation and the development areas identified in paragraph 5.1 of the report.
- 2) To agree that a core guiding principle of the CGF 2 was and should continue to be minimising bureaucracy and burden on applicants to maintain the funds reputation as an easy to access catalyst for grassroots community projects.
- 3) To understand that the community grant scheme had been running for a number of years and in that time many grants had been awarded across the City to support community-based projects.
- 4) To note that no updates were currently provided to Committee on what projects had been supported by Community Grant Funding, meaning that awareness of the funding and the community work it supported was comparatively low.
- 5) A briefing note would be provided to all Councillors on a breakdown of each of the 13 Community Grant Fund for the last 5 years.
- 6) To note the report highlighted that Leith was the only area of the city that disbursed Community Grants through Participatory Budgeting.
- 7) To note the success of Leith Chooses.
- 8) To note the Council's commitment to ensuring at least 1% its budget would be subject to participatory budgeting.
- 9) To note that the report suggests improvement to the CGF process and learning from Leith Chooses whilst not proposing that the Leith Chooses model could be rolled-out more widely.
- 10) To request a report outlining:
 - (a) How Next Steps 5.1.1 – 5.1.4 would be progressed.
 - (b) A process for communities to requests Community Grants were disbursed through Participatory Budgeting processes the same as, or similar to, Leith Chooses, and how such requests could be implemented.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of Committee on 7 December 2023 (item 22); report by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing, submitted.)

14. Edinburgh's Winter Festivals

An update was provided in response to the action agreed by Committee on 10 August 2023 to provide a report prior to commencement of the Prime Contractor procurement

(or within one cycle thereafter), on mechanisms (for) managing persistent and/or serious non-performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), to include development of a remedial plan at the time, supported by termination rights if not duly delivered.

Decision

- 1) To note the contract management measures, Terms and Conditions and Key Performance Indicators contained within the contract pack for the delivery of Edinburgh's Winter Festivals.
- 2) To provide members with previous report by the Executive Director of Place.

(Reference – Culture and Committee of 10 August 2023 (item 14); report by the Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing, submitted.)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McFarlane declared a non-financial interest in the above item by virtue of a close friend who was an employee of a company listed in the report. He left the meeting during consideration of that item.

15. Safety of the Off-Street Path Network

Details were provided of a report which responded to a motion by Councillor Thornley about improving safety of the off-street path network including initial exploration of options, analysis of lighting, and plans using allocated funding.

Motion

To note the update on the safety of the off-street path network and the planned next steps.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Committee:

Understands the importance of providing a safe place for individuals to walk/wheel or cycle, so adds;

Agrees to a further update on 5.2 in the Business Bulletin or a briefing within two cycles so that political groups can consider any additional funding that may be necessary as part of the budget setting process.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To notes the update on the safety of the off-street path network and the planned next steps.

- 2) To agree to a further update on 5.2 in the Business Bulletin or a briefing within two cycles so that political groups could consider any additional funding that may be necessary as part of the budget setting process.
- 3) To provide update to members on why the section of the Innocent Railway Path south of Holyrood Park was not lit.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 29 February 2024 (item 24); report by the Service Director, Operational Services, submitted.)

16. Right to Grow

Details were provided of a report by the Service Director, Operational Services, which had been prepared in response to a motion by Councillor Osler, which was approved by Committee on 7 December 2023, and an adjusted motion by Councillor Osler that was approved by the Council on 21 March 2024.

The report considered the possibility of whether Edinburgh could also adopt “a right to grow” policy on Council-owned land that was deemed suitable for cultivation, provided information about what support was already available (outside of allotment provision) and what more could be provided to allow residents to grow food, as well as providing high-level next steps in consideration of adopting a “right to grow” policy on Council-owned land.

Motion

- 1) To note the update on existing food growing initiatives in Edinburgh and the support already available for food growing initiatives; and
- 2) That officers would explore how a ‘right to grow’ policy fitted with the wider food growing provision within Edinburgh (as outlined in the Next Steps section).

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

Amendment 1

Committee:

- 1) Thanks officers for their work in drawing together a report which crosses many different work streams.
- 2) Congratulates Inch Nursery, in partnership with Craigmillar Growers and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, who within the last year harvested almost 1,500 kg of fresh fruit and vegetables that have been shared between local food pantries at Craigmillar, Gilmerton, Gracemount Primary School and Inch House.
- 3) However, is concerned that the report focusses on existing projects and groups, rather than explores possibilities to open spaces for communities to adopt and grow on.
- 4) Notes that despite the huge demand for land in Edinburgh, there are also many ‘grey’ spaces across the city – such as disused areas of hardstanding which do not currently provide community benefit.

- 5) Believes these 'grey' areas are good examples of where small-scale community Right to Grow projects could breathe life into unmaintained areas within our communities particularly in areas of high-density housing or with lower amounts of green space.
- 6) Notes the apparent success of Right to Grow in other local authorities such as Runnymede, and requests consideration of what methods, policies and approaches have worked elsewhere.
- 7) Notes that the Council budget agreed on 22nd February 2024 allocated £750,000 pa for Flood Prevention/Biodiversity (including Trees and Food Growing).
- 8) Notes that there is currently no small-scale fund that food growers can bid into to help with small scale new or existing projects.

Accepts recommendations and adds the following:

- 9) Investigate the potential to use existing budget allocations to create a 'Grow Your Own' support fund (with an assumed maximum grant of £5000) to provide setup funding for community groups to purchase tools, create planters and establish management arrangements for community growing projects.
- 10) Agrees that as part of the mapping exercise outlined in Next Steps 5.3, officers will investigate and identify 'grey' areas that can be repurposed for small-scale projects.
- 11) Notes the findings of Agenda item 7.2 (Bowling Greens) and the desire to develop the sites into allotments and/or plots for Community food growing, but that presently there is no allocated funding.
- 12) Agrees that emphasis should be placed on engagement with communities and community groups during stakeholder workshops to gain a better understanding of both the barriers experienced when working with the Council to access land and what processes are realistically manageable for communities, rather than potentially becoming a barrier themselves.
- 13) Agrees to an update to Committee in 6 months on recommendations 9 and 10.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley.

Amendment 2

Recommendations therefore amended as follows:

Insert new recommendation at end, thus:

- 1) Requests the report due in Summer 2025 includes information on the following:
 - (a) How appropriate spaces on Council land can be made available, with a particular focus on repurposing hardstanding.
 - (b) How partner organisations with suitable land, such as Universities, can be brought on board to grant access to land for community growing.

(c) How, following the successful use of such an approach in Fountainbridge, how the owners of gap sites and other unused spaces can be used for community growing.

(d) What work is ongoing in relation to HRA land to support community growing
- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion and Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the update on existing food growing initiatives in Edinburgh and the support already available for food growing initiatives.
- 2) That officers explore how a 'right to grow' policy fitted with the wider food growing provision within Edinburgh (as outlined in the Next Steps section).
- 3) To thank officers for their work in drawing together a report which crossed many different work streams.
- 4) To congratulate Inch Nursery, in partnership with Craigmillar Growers and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, who within the last year harvested almost 1,500 kg of fresh fruit and vegetables that had been shared between local food pantries at Craigmillar, Gilmerton, Gracemount Primary School and Inch House.
- 5) However, Committee is concerned that the report focusses on existing projects and groups, rather than explored possibilities to open spaces for communities to adopt and grow on.
- 6) To note that despite the huge demand for land in Edinburgh, there were also many 'grey' spaces across the city – such as disused areas of hardstanding which did not currently provide community benefit.
- 7) Believes these 'grey' areas were good examples of where small-scale community Right to Grow projects could breathe life into unmaintained areas within our communities particularly in areas of high-density housing or with lower amounts of green space.
- 8) To note the apparent success of Right to Grow in other local authorities such as Runnymede, and requested consideration of what methods, policies and approaches had worked elsewhere.
- 9) To note that the Council budget agreed on 22nd February 2024 allocated £750,000 pa for Flood Prevention/Biodiversity (including Trees and Food Growing).

- 10) To note that there was currently no small-scale fund that food growers can bid into to help with small scale new or existing projects.
- 11) To investigate the potential to use existing budget allocations to create a 'Grow Your Own' support fund (with an assumed maximum grant of £5000) to provide setup funding for community groups to purchase tools, create planters and establish management arrangements for community growing projects.
- 12) To agree that as part of the mapping exercise outlined in Next Steps 5.3, officers would investigate and identify 'grey' areas that could be repurposed for small-scale projects.
- 13) To note the findings of Agenda item 7.2 (Bowling Greens) and the desire to develop the sites into allotments and/or plots for Community food growing, but that presently there was no allocated funding.
- 14) To agree that emphasis should be placed on engagement with communities and community groups during stakeholder workshops to gain a better understanding of both the barriers experienced when working with the Council to access land and what processes were realistically manageable for communities, rather than potentially becoming a barrier themselves.
- 15) To agree to an update to Committee in 6 months on recommendations 12 and 13.
- 16) To request the report due in Summer 2025 include information on the following:
 - (a) How appropriate spaces on Council land could be made available, with a particular focus on repurposing hardstanding.
 - (b) How partner organisations with suitable land, such as Universities, could be brought on board to grant access to land for community growing.
 - (c) How, following the successful use of such an approach in Fountainbridge, how the owners of gap sites and other unused spaces could be used for community growing.
 - (d) What work was ongoing in relation to HRA land to support community growing.

(Reference – Act of Council No 13 of 21 March 2024 and Culture and Communities Committee of 7 December 2023 (item 21); report by the Service Director, Operational Services, submitted.)

17. Flying the Palestinian flag – Motion by Councillor Mumford

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Mumford in terms of Standing Order 17:

By Councillor Mumford – Flying the Palestinian Flag

“Committee

- 1) Recognises that the flying of flags from the City Chambers can be an important way to express solidarity with oppressed peoples, and communicate the values of the council, for example through flying the progress pride and Ukrainian flags;
2. Therefore, following support of Edinburgh Council for a permanent, bilateral ceasefire in Palestine, and the recognition of the State of Palestine, Committee agrees that the Palestine flag should be flown from the City Chambers, starting immediately;
3. In acknowledgment of the potential conflicting requirements related to flag-flying, Committee agrees that the Palestine flag should be flown, as a minimum, from Fridays to Mondays inclusive, and that this practice should continue until there is an internationally recognised bilateral ceasefire.”

Decision

To note that Councillor Mumford had withdrawn her motion.

18. Internal Audit Update Report June 2024 - Referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Committee agreed, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Internal Audit Update Report June 2024 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

Decision

As detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Convener, with reference to this minute.

(Reference –report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)