

Estate Walkabout Report

May 2018

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Housing Officer Nicola O'Connor, Roads Inspector Lesley Hay and Tenant Participation Officer Greig Henderson

Police Scotland – PC Phil McDonald and one other

Residents: 8

This walkabout took place on Friday 25 May 2018 and was arranged at the request of Councillor Joe Wallace and residents who attended the Penicuik East Residents meeting. The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, and social networking pages. Posters were displayed in the local area on lampposts, bus stops, library etc. and flyers were sent to local tenants.



The group made its way to Teviot Road where a number of road traffic issues were raised with the Roads Inspector and Police. Lesley took a note of some of the issues however she advised the group that due to the current financial restrictions, there were insufficient resources available to carry out any non-essential repairs. Concerns were raised by the group regarding cars parking on the corner of the road. Police advised that although he understood the concerns, it was not illegal to park on the corner and there were no double yellow lines present.

The group asked Lesley if the lines on the road at the entrance to Nevis Gardens could be repainted as they had faded away.



Prior to the group starting the walkabout, Greig reminded the group of the reasons why it had been agreed to reschedule this walkabout. At the Penicuik East Residents meeting in April, a number of residents raised concerns regarding litter and a number of other environmental issues in the area. Greig asked the group to suggest a street or area in Ladywood that would benefit from a litter pick.

It was agreed by the group that the area was pretty clean and that only the area around the Ladywood leisure centre had a problem with litter lying around.

The group then proceeded along to Wyvis Park and concerns were raised regarding a small sink hole which was in a grassed area next to a residents property. One of the group advised that Midlothian Council had created the sink hole as a temporary measure to let the flow of rain water drain away in order to prevent flooding. It was believed that the council would return and fit a property drainage system.

Greig advised that he would try to find out more information on this.

THIS HAS BEEN PASSED ONTO THE CONTACT CENTRE FOR ACTION



Also at Wyvis Park, there was an old tree trunk which had been cut down and left. The group asked if the remains of the tree trunk could be taken away and the area possibly slabbed.

Lesley advised that she thought that this was on housing land. Greig to check if anything can be done

PASSED OVER TO THE CONTACT CENTRE FOR ACTION



Concerns were raised regarding a decommissioned telephone box in Wyvis Park. Although BT have advised that they intend on removing this telephone box, the group advised that local kids were throwing stones and vandalising the phone box. PC McDonald advised the group that they should report this to Police Scotland on the 101 telephone number. Greig advised that he would contact BT to advise them of the above and request if they had a timescale for the removal of the phone box.

The group raised concerns regarding an overgrown tree at the bus stop in Wyvis Park. The trees branches where overgrown and hitting people walking pass the bus stop or waiting on a bus.

Greig to pass onto the Contact Centre to arrange for tree branches to be cut.



Some members of the group wanted to take a walk to the pathway leading into Yarrow Court (behind the Old Crystal Warehouse, currently Bishops Move and 2 other businesses). The land behind these businesses had become overgrown and was being used for fly tipping. One member of the group stated that they believed that the land belonged to the council and that the responsibility for maintaining should be with the council. Nicola advised that she believed that the land was privately owned and not council land.



ACTION – Greig to pass onto Environment Team to see if anything can be done.

Date of next walkabout – 27 June 2018 in Mayfield