

West Blacket Association & Neighbourhood Watch

Annual General Meeting held on Monday 21 November 2005
at the Unionist Club, 5 Duncan Street.

Present: Brian Charlesworth (Chair), Elma Alexander, Mary Bell, Irene Brown, James Campbell, Ian Carter, Deborah Charlesworth, Dorothy Cloughley, Alice Foster, Jane Griffiths, Rory Hammerson, Evelynne Hill, Ron Hill, Mike Hunter, Margaret Muir, Roger Pountain, Stella Pryde, Jeff Robinson, Jane Robinson, Alastair Scouller, Chris Theobald, Rosemary Wake, Alan Westlake. City of Edinburgh Council: John Gill. Cllr Fred Mackintosh. Police: Insp Graham Jones, PCs John Leadbetter, Kevan MacDonald.

Apologies: Sandra Carter, Kenny McFarlane, Ewan McIntyre, Cllr Mackenzie, PC Neil Sinclair

Minute of AGM 29/11/2004

Tabled and approved

Annual Report (Brian Charlesworth, Chairman)

The West Blacket Association is the community association for that part of the Blacket Conservation area not covered by the Blacket Association i.e. Minto St, Upper & South Gray St, north side of West Mayfield to Gray St, Duncan St & Middleby St. Ian Carter's role as Secretary of the Blacket Association, but also a member of our association, and now resident in West Blacket, provides overlap.

Our major activity is to monitor planning applications, in order to ensure that the character of the conservation area is preserved. We also draw attention of planning officers to modifications made without seeking such permission. Of course, we don't object to everything, and not all of the objections we raised during the last year were successful, but I think we can claim some success in preventing uglification.

We have also raised other concerns with Councillors and council officials, for example the speed camera on Minto St (not successfully, as they regard it as having an important role reducing accidents – according to info from Fred MacKintosh, these actually increased post camera).

We also participate in meetings with other representatives of community groups, such as the South Local Development Council (Ian Carter) and South Local Environmental Forum. The latter is a useful way of providing feedback to council officials concerning issues such as street maintenance, street cleaning & rubbish collection. For example, the repairs of the large pothole in Ratcliffe Terrace seems to have been an outcome of a complaint at this venue.

BC also participated in discussions of Tramline3; as we know, this is now on hold after the failure of the congestion charge proposal.

Another role is to organise social events for the area – none last year, though the one hosted by Sandra and Ian Carter in 2003 was very successful.

Neighbourhood Watch

Stella Pryde, now standing down from the WBA Committee, was thanked for her contribution. James Campbell was thanked for agreeing to be co-opted to take her place.

Graham Jones, Sector Inspector for the area, introduced two of our three Community Beat Officers There is a community officer for each ward, but West Blacket is divided between 3 wards.

- Kevan MacDonald: Ward 48 (Sciennes: Cllr David Walker)
- John Leadbetter: Ward 49 (Newington: Cllr Fred Mackintosh)
- Neil Sinclair: Ward 50 (Prestonfield: Cllr Gordon Mackenzie)

Insp Jones is responsible for tactical assessment of requirements in each ward, and may be contacted by phone or email at Howdenhall. The Community Beat officers do not have rigid shift patterns, but are normally on duty about 8hr/day. Several WBA members and Fred Mackintosh requested more general police presence at rowdy times, especially in Minto Street at closing time.

Treasurer's report (Evelynne Hill, Hon. Treasurer)

Our membership stands at 34 households and some 60 members.

We have had some kind donations to the Association.

Our main expenditure has been:

- The Cockburn Association Membership
- Newsletters for West Blacket Association and Neighbourhood Watch
- The Fee for Dr Graham Cruikshank, the speaker at last year's AGM

We have a deficit of £5.72 and our bank balance stands at £459.82

Election of Officers & Committee

There were no new nominations

The following positions were approved by the meeting;

Chairman:	Brian Charlesworth, 39 Minto Street, 662 1725
Hon.Secretary:	Mike Hunter, 40 Upper Gray Street, 667 1767
Hon. Treasurer:	Evelynne Hill, 37 Upper Gray Street 667 0675
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jane Griffiths, James Campbell
Committee:	Irene Brown, Ian Carter, Jeff Robinson, Chris Theobald.

Parking and Traffic

Parking on pavements is illegal, but traffic wardens do not have powers to issue fixed penalty notices and police have more important priorities. Proposals to allow traffic wardens to issue fixed penalty notices for double parking may apply to parking on pavements as well, but these powers are unlikely to be exercised in evenings or at weekends.

Council Official John Gill and Cllr Fred Mackintosh informed us that the West Blacket area, although surrounded by areas with existing or agreed traffic calming schemes, is low on the current list of priorities. BC pointed out that there are 2 nurseries on our boundaries (Duncan St and Minto St).

Draft Minute

Mike Hunter, Hon Sec: 02-12-2005