

EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS, AGM, 28th November 2015

I attended the above meeting, along with about 18 others, representing about 15 CCs. Firstly, we had to decide whether to have the AGM or not. I did not really understand why we might not, but it was agreed to proceed. We then had to vote on the Chairship before going any further. I abstained but the previous Chair was reinstated. Reports by Office bearers and by several sub-groups were given and the Constitution was approved.

Although it was clear that there is historic bad feeling, with people behaving defensively and /or aggressive and aggrieved, and that present attendance is not very representative of the full 45 CCs, it did seem that some progress to working this out was achieved and the sub-groups are trying to progress the aims of the EACC.

These aims are most simply stated in the Constitution:

- to ascertain the views of its member CCs 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 CCs and to strengthen their identity throughout the City.
- to facilitate the flow of information between CCs and with the City of Edinburgh Council.

A few things I learned or noted are:

- CCs are to have more responsibilities in future, transferred from the ECC. ECC will come to a EACC meeting to explain and do Q&As.
- Four "Regional Hubs" are to be established by the Council soon. This will present lots of changes and challenges ...
- More CCs need to participate in this group; it was suggested that they are all contacted and encouraged to participate.
- Have we at SSCC seen the proposed changes to the Master Plan (Planning) and have we responded?
- Scottish Govt is having a "Root and Branch Review of the Planning System". An Independent Planning Review Panel is due to report in Spring 2016. Should EACC engage and, if so, How? What should we say?

If anyone wants to see any of the papers/reports from this meeting, please ask me. If anyone has anything they wish for me to take to the next meeting, please let me know.

Joan Carter