

**OLD TOWN COUMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Public Meeting 13 November 2006**  
Augustine Hall, George IV Bridge

Notes from the meeting

**Attendance:**

Old Town Community Councillors present; Catriona Grant (Chair), Bill Cowan (Planning), Jane Yeoman, Sally Richardson, Julie Logan (Planning), Ken Smillie, Murray Forgie, John Stewart, Bruce Borthwick

**Noted Attendees:** CEC Councillor Chris Wigglesworth, Margo MacDonald MSP, Richard Miller Development Manager for the Grassmarket Project.

Plus 61 others.

Represents the council's interests at the public meeting.

Chris Wigglesworth wants it to be as balanced as possible. The ?? to ?? Grassmarket residents etc. views

Bill Cowan spoke about the aspirations/hopes and approximately 30% of the changes suggested from the public have been included in the plans submitted to the council.

Caithness Stone / rigid layout and details – still traffic both sides of ??

Access / problems, public toilets! ONE

Events spaces – July / August good rest of year empty. Steps to sit on at mon. like Hunter Square.

Flodden Wall installation!?

Traders and parking net loss 64 spaces, with yellow lines with near 30 lost at night.

Parallele parking at the cost of 3 trees?

LRT say no to improved bus services.

Dr. Jane Yeoman – Gillespies chosen due to their work at Castle Street. Not well chosen.

Trees – 18 months ago they said they were to go – folk were passionate about not allowing this. Now that ?? to fell 3 healthy ones.

Tree surgeon's classification for the health of trees is from 'A' to 'D' the 3 planned for felling have been classed 'B'. Most trees show signs of dead wood which should have been removed if the trees had been maintained.

Anya – 500 yrs as a market with a unique charm, danger this will be destroyed, other parts of Edinburgh homes in piazzas – etc plazas.

It's a paradox to use this money to ruin the grassmarket. Use the money the way the people and traders etc. would like it to be used.

A woman from the floor asked what about the trees?

Richard Miller says that the 3 trees are "coming into the autumn of their lives" so set to chop, but replaced with 2 saps – Gillespies are saying this.

Brian McCardil (grassmarket) likes the Flodden Wall aspect.

23 years in Grassmarket – talks about it – thinks it's a car park.

No compromise, part of a tree fell off last week – one of the 3 earmarked for felling!  
However, if the trees had been looked after with regular maintenance this would not have happened.

Murray Forgie talked of losing car parking and the café culture that Gillespies want to promote – how that would happen? Jazz Festival works, French Market works.

Concerned the history of redevelopment of Public Realm has not been successful, developer led.

What stage are we at?

We will not accept

We will not accept but will 'swallow' it as you are spending the cash!

Mechanical bollards, how will these work, Richard Miller said the Council will organise this but suggested residents will have to apply to the council to have the bollards lowered when deliveries have to be made out-with normal access times.

Within bollard area would be a place for skateboarding and ASBOs!

Bruce Borthwick wanted to know from the CEC what the benefits to the residents and traders would be?

Cat asked is this the only plan or is there room for compromise? Directed at Chris Wigglesworth and Richard Miller.

Miller said no loss of disabled parking, couldn't make comment on no tree maintenance!  
Is this a done deal? No this isn't a done deal "this is part of the consultation process – if ideas have true relevance then they will be taken on-board"

Who was the person who thought money should be ?? nobody said anything.

Chris Wigglesworth – spoke about the process, 2 things on Bruce's point.

Late night management needs improved – better CCTV, better lighting.

Not perfect, too many cars blocking it through the day – traders say quiet during the day – still a lot of questions need answers.

Margo Mac Donald MSP talked about late night problems with drinking – primary consideration is residents not a destination for others to enjoy themselves, 30% of the wish list what happened to the other 70%?

Julie Logan spoke about the Scottish Executive money and the arrogance of the developers. Talked about the disruption to the lives of city folk and compared it to Canongate project.

A man spoke about losing the money if not used.

25 years ago Caithness Slabs were laid, brewery lorries ruined the pavements within a month.

Can't compare Buchanan Street to Grassmarket since nobody lives in Buchanan Street.

A former Grassmarket resident said parking not lost spoke about the £5m, where its coming from where should it be spent.

A guy said what can we do with this? Cat said to come back to this.

A women asked can we have a public enquiry? Julie explained the process.

A women, not a resident, asked who makes these decisions.

Jane spoke, said get rid of cars

A man spoke said we need as flexible space. Gillespies not listening.

Ben spoke about disabled access – 21<sup>st</sup> century traffic.

Young guy spoke, student, said he thought problems were a national thing not just local, upset the area has become anti-social area.

Why tourists enjoy the grassmarket - ?? irregular- fiscal autonomy at local level.

We should be planning ahead for 30years.

Edinburgh not built for volume of cars today.

Talked about why there is more traffic going through Grassmarket – because this is the only West route for traffic as an alternative from Princes Street, High Street closed etc.

Tour guide spoke about how the 'higgilty piggilty' nature is what makes the Grassmarket unique.

Talked about pro forma letters 'weaker' than letters from individuals.

Margo MacDonald spoke about money, individuals letters, petitions and elections. Sitting down with Gillespies.

Woman Spok about Brian Gillespies being rude, not listening.

A guy asked for a show of hands of who was going to write a letter to the planning department.

Bill Cowan said this was an actual planning application, so everyone must write in.

A man asked why £5m is spent mostly in paving slabs.

Richard Miller spoke at length.

Then Cat summed up, is there a consensus.

Murray spoke about having feedback from the consultation process.

Richard Miller said they were compiling the responses.

Julie commented on forms.

Cat closed meeting at 8.45pm