

Old Town Community Council

Meeting Agenda - 11th November 2025, 6.30-8pm
The Crannie, 9 Cranston Street, Edinburgh EH88BE

Welcome and Apologies

Carolynn, Karen, Simon, Oonagh (chairing), Jo, Maria, John, Daniel, Claire, Paul, Finlay, Antonia, Patrick, Sugan

Apologies:

Calim, Iona, Marie, Margaret

1. Matters arising from the last meeting (minutes attached)

Finlay - HMO licenses - as of 16th oct 1671 HMO licenses in the entire city centre ward. No data for the Old Town. Marie requesting how many bedrooms in all of these HMO licenses.

Finlay has form for new member - will discuss in related point

Under 100 properties have both an HMO and a STL license.

Antonia - Leith Community Council always get a breakdown form police - can we have this

Minutes of last meeting:

Proposed - Antonia

Seconded - Patrick

2. Planning and Licensing Update

Virgin Hotel wanting a roof terrace - they already have one. Converting Espionage into a spa.

- ACTION: Carolynn to look into it and send out. - Done

Demolition of Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson st.

- Carolynn to email out consultation details. - Done

3. Tram consultation

- Oonagh went to the tram consultation at Bristo Sq. 6 people from the council were there asking questions.
- Edinburgh Minute have said that there is overwhelming rejection to both options of the tram.
- Lothian road is not being considered as a Tram route.
- SB: Roseburn path is a green corridor that should not be sacrificed.

What action would we like to take?

Carolynn will put together a reply which will say that the Community Council believes:

- While we welcome more public transport, explore different avenues of public transport to increase accessibility in the city.
- Object to the three routes, as they are not acceptable - Done

Carolynn to send out consultation link. savetheroseburnpath.com - Done

4. Social Media

5. New members

Grassmarket community project - to become a local interest group. Finlay to send over application

6. Roseburn Path

See above.

7. Chair's concerns - AirBnBs in the Old Town

Oonagh - AirBnbs, not one residential stair on St Mary's street

- Paper going to committee about proactive enforcement around planning and licensing.
- Enforcement currently based on resident tips.
- Councillors can send a tip on behalf of residents in case residents don't want their names on it.

8. Any other competent business

CR - bringing up homelessness crisis. Council currently breaching its policy in providing temporary accomodation. Finlay will provide links to Carolynn for places to contact.

hello@simonscotland.org - contact if you have concerns about someone sleeping rough.