

Old Town Community Council

Meeting Agenda - 12th December 2025, 6.30-8pm
The Crannie, 9 Cranston Street, Edinburgh EH88BE

Welcome and Apologies

Attending: John, Carolynn, Iona, Simon, Margaret, Karen, Daniel, Maria, Margaret

Apologies: Calim, Antonia, Patrick, Paul, Oonagh, Jo, Claire,

Not in attendance: Sagan, Marie, Finlay,

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

Proposed: Daniel seconded: Marie

John spoke to STV about the safer consumption room. His interview is accessible online.

2. Planning and Licensing Update

Tram consultation finished - results from this will be released in the New Year, dates unsure due to the volume of responses.

Student housing applications are through the roof. Need to keep objecting.

- Mention of a consultation for late night closing of Cowgate has closed. Need more information as Carolynn unable to find anything online about it.
- To write to the Council to add a letter on to the consultation. Cowgate is unsuitable for pedestrians.

Action: Carolynn to ask Patrick about the consultation.

Hotel on the corner of George IV/High Street scaffolding is now going to be up until 2027. Can we take this to the Scottish Parliament? Request for a comment from the Council about why it has taken this long, and what will happen if the next deadline is missed?

Argyle House - Karen went to the consultation for the demolition. They apparently will be reusing the concrete for the new building. It will be a hotel. There is another consultation day on 28th January at Edinburgh Futures Institute. All are encouraged to attend if possible.

3. Finance Update

Bank account is now open with the Bank of Scotland. Issue with compiling the accounts for the previous year as we don't have access to the bank account.

Action: Carolynn to email the governance team at the Council to discuss this issue.

eotcc.org.uk - chosen as our website.

Action: Carolynn to purchase and create website.

4. Planning for 2026

Look at this in the January meeting when more people are there.

John went to the Mercat tours - get businesses and residents to come together and work together. Another meeting in Feb.

SB: Tourist tax - look into where that money is going.

- Cleaning the Old Town, especially the bridges and well lit.
- Get sign boards telling Edinburgh's history in the Cowgate.
- A tree at the roundabout in the Grassmarket.

5. Any other competent business

Matters arising: Whatsapp group?

- Hotel on the corner of George IV/High Street - Engage a petition website?
- Argyle House
- Cowgate consultation

Bin hubs have begun to reappear. Having a few issues where the bins are overflowing.
20 'mega' hotels to be opening in Edinburgh in the next two years.

Win: Council have confiscated goods from businesses on Princes St. Now there is a precedent for the council to collect outside trading. What are the next steps for the Old Town?

Next meeting:

13th Jan 2025

6.30-8pm

Daniel Todd is chairing

Carolynn to send out a list of all the meetings for 2026