

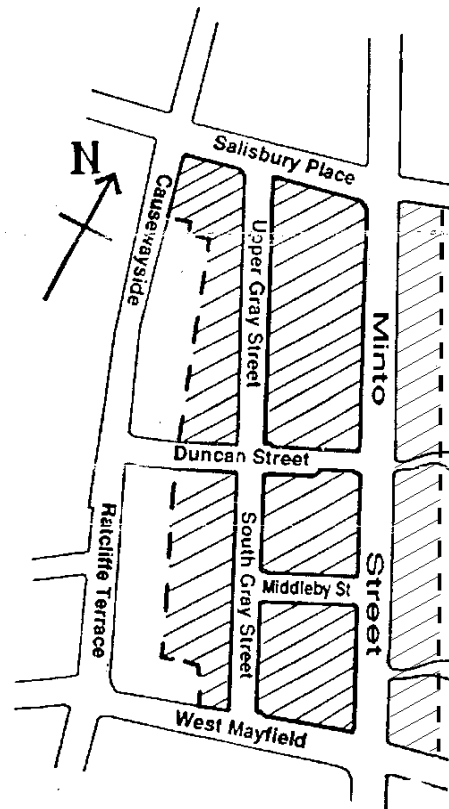
WEST BLACKET ASSOCIATION

Information for Residents 2012

The Association

The Upper Gray Street Association was set up in 1966 to object to the proposed demolition of a Georgian villa at what was then 20, now 22, Upper Gray Street. The Association subsequently expanded, as the West Blacket Association, to become the community association for the part of the Blacket Conservation Area not 'within the gates' and therefore not represented by the Blacket Association. The two associations are distinct though often confused.

Further details, including contact addresses, archives & local history can be found on our website at www.westblacket.org.uk



Although community associations cannot have the same constitutional status as Community Councils, the City of Edinburgh Council sees us as important conduits for local opinion. No less important a function of community associations is to foster good neighbour relations, both by organising social events, and more formally in the Neighbourhood Watch which has been active in West Blacket for more than 10 years.

Planning

Living as we do in an Outstanding Conservation Area, we cannot change the external appearance of our houses without obtaining Planning Permission from the City of Edinburgh Council. Trees are also protected, and permission is required to cut one down. If a house is individually Listed for its architectural or historic interest, even internal alterations may require Listed Building Consent before proceeding. Applications for Planning Permission are notified to local residents in case they may wish to object. These notifications appear in the Edinburgh Evening News, and are copied to amenity associations such as the West Blasket Association. Immediate neighbours are required by law to have individual notification. The WBA does not always comment on planning applications, but will be pleased to discuss objections and may lend support. Objections to planning applications must be considered by Planning Officials and may be put to the Planning Committee. If the objection is judged to be valid, the objector must be informed of the Council's decision. It is generally believed that objections from many individuals are more likely to influence the Planning Committee than a single objection from an amenity association such as ourselves. However, do not expect your objections always to influence the outcome. Applicants for planning permission are well advised to approach Planning Officials in advance and to tailor their application according to advice received.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Association incorporates the West Blasket Neighbourhood Watch and membership of the Association automatically gives membership of the Watch. The Edinburgh police produce a regular community newsletter which offers news, advice and announcements relating to security and crime.

*This leaflet written for the West Blasket Association
in 2007 and revised in 2009 is again under revision*

For more details, or to join the Association, see www.westblasket.org.uk