

## **Highlights -- November 1, 2009**

### **Community Council Elections**

In the first half of September, nominations were invited for election to the Community Council, 12 vacancies being available. Had more than 12 nominations been received, it would have been necessary to hold a ballot. However, as occurred at previous elections, the number nominated (10) did not exceed the number of vacancies and so all nominees were declared elected by the Returning Officer, Cllr Balfour. The first meeting of the new Community Council was held on 13 October, at which Mr Walter Spence was elected Chairman and Dr Hamish Ross, Hon. Secretary. Dates of future meetings are given below.

### **Murrayfield Stadium – concerts**

Following the Oasis concert, it was reported at our meeting that from 1 September 2009 a new Licensing Act would apply. The licensing of Murrayfield Concerts will involve the Licensing Board rather than the Regulatory Committee of the City Council. This will allow more scope for objections from the public: applications for concerts will require 21 days' notice and will be advertised to the Community Council, City Councillors, through the City of Edinburgh Council web site and on lamp-posts around the ground. The promoter of the concert will have increased responsibility to fund portable toilets and to clear up outside the ground. We all hope that these changes will tighten up the present excessively lax system.

## **Flood Prevention Programme**

Because funding for the whole scheme was currently insufficient, the Transport Infrastructure and Environment Committee of the City Council on the 28 July had recommended a phased progressing of the scheme: re-tendering will be required and work on site would not be able to commence until autumn 2010. This further postponement of the scheme will result in attendant problems for residents, particularly with house sales and insurance. Cllr Wheeler stated that the Scottish Government had neither produced its share of the agreed costs nor usefully responded to prompting on the matter, and Cllr Balfour suggested that people write to Roseanna Cunningham MSP (Minister for Environment) about this.

## **Western Corner Environmental Improvements**

Western Corner has been selected by the local Neighbourhood Team for the introduction of a range of improvements which are being carried out throughout the city under the Urban Centre Programme (UCP). The aim of this is to “improve the accessibility and quality of the public realm in order to increase the economic viability of local centres”. The Community Council has formed a small working party which will be consulted by the Project Team dealing with this.

**Next meeting: Tue 1 December, 8 pm, Murrayfield Parish Church Upper Room.** The public are welcome at these meetings.