

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 13 May 2014 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland, D Huckle,
N Macdonald, G McLeod, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 8 members of the public, PC Graham Hepburn, Cameron
Buchanan MSP,
Apologies: J Forbes, P Sizeland, W Spence, Cllr Balfour, M Crockart MP,
M Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies
Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.
2. Order of Business
This was approved, subject to Item 5 being dealt with as Item 3.
3. Report from Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group meeting held on 13 May 2014
A number of those present had attended the Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group meeting immediately prior to the Community Council ("MCC") meeting.
Rob Leech, the Project Manager of Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme ("FPS"), reported that the "value engineering" process to reduce the cost of Phase 2 (Stockbridge to Balgreen) from the original estimate of £35m has resulted in a current estimate of £25m. As the available funding is only £19.916m, there is still a shortfall. The Scottish Government has again refused a request for further funding, but lobbying is continuing. The current proposals are as follows:-
 - 3.1 Deferring the works to the section from Stockbridge to the A8 (Roseburn), as 93% of the potentially affected residential properties are in the section from Roseburn to Balgreen;
 - 3.2 Omitting, at this stage, the proposed pumping station where the Stank Burn joins the Water of Leith;
 - 3.3 Erecting permanent defences, rather than the proposed temporary ones, in the section adjoining Riversdale Crescent and Murrayfield Stadium;
 - 3.4 As the existing wall round Roseburn Park gives an excellent level of flood protection, raising the height at the eastern corner only, instead of along its entire length;
 - 3.5 Relocating the playground in the south west corner of the Park, which would be cut off by the new defence wall, to the north east corner of the Park;
 - 3.6 Omitting some of the sheet piles in arrears of low residential density, such as the SRU land; this is being discussed with the SRU;
 - 3.7 Lessening the impact of construction on Baird Grove by making the new wall there simpler and cheaper;
 - 3.8 At Baird Drive substituting sheet piles for the proposed gravity wall with heavy foundations.

Efforts are ongoing to identify further savings.

The target timetable is for completion of the options analysis by early summer, a final consultation meeting with affected residents in July/August, followed by final costings and committed funding to enable the posting of a notice in the European Journal inviting expressions of interest from construction companies and the submission of an application for variation of the existing planning permission. It is proposed to run the procurement process and the planning application in tandem, have a list of contractors by the end of the year, complete the tender process and start construction in mid 2015. Rob Leech explained that Scottish Gas has to move a gas main before construction can start and would prefer to do so when gas demand is low, i.e. from early March onwards.

In response to a complaint from V Forbes that not all affected residents were informed of the last public consultation, Rob Leech explained that the flood map is used to identify affected properties and it may be appropriate to cast the net wider for the next public meeting. He asked to be given advance notice of any significant local events which would be affected by the construction works, so that, if possible, they could be taken into account in organising the works. He informed the meeting that information about the progress of the construction works would be disseminated via Twitter, a website, letters to residents and leaflets.

In response to a question from a member of the public as to how the level of flood protection is calculated, Rob Leech explained that protection against the type of flooding which occurs only once in 200 years is the highest level to which defences are designed and that 1 in 150 years is still a very good level of protection.

A member of the public, who was brought up in Roseburn and has recently returned to live in the area, commented that the Water of Leith has silted up significantly since his childhood. Rob Leech concurred and explained that the Water of Leith has been dredged since the floods in 2000 and the Phase 2 works will involve widening the river by up to 30 meters in some parts.

4. Community Policing Report

PC Graham Hepburn reported as follows:-

4.1 MCC's request for greater continuity in Police attendance at MCC meetings had been referred to his superior, but the new shift patterns made this difficult to achieve;

4.2 MCC's concerns regarding policing at rugby international matches at Murrayfield Stadium had been referred to his superior, who is progressing this. PC Hepburn had no current information regarding the anticipated Celtic football matches at the Stadium;

4.2 The City Council is dealing with the burger van, which is parked permanently in Roseburn;

4.3 The yellow Saab parked in Belmont Crescent has valid Road Tax, MOT and insurance and is therefore parked legally; if the vehicle were not insured, the Police would contact the DVLA, who would serve notice on the registered keeper to remove the vehicle within 28 days;

4.4 The West End Police Station is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm; the Corstorphine Police Station is open Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 5pm, but the person in charge of the front office is about to leave and it may close again;

4.5 Anyone requiring non-urgent Police attention can arrange an appointment with a Diary Car officer by phoning 101;

4.6 In April there were break ins at one house and five business premises (these crimes have not been solved) and six incidents of vandalism.

PC Hepburn reminded the meeting that the Police are continuing to prioritise house breaking with Operation RAC and bogus callers targeting vulnerable householders with Operation Aristotle;

4.7 High visibility patrols are being used to combat violence associated with licensed premises;

4.8 The teams at Corstorphine and South Queensferry, supported by the City Council, are launching Operation Wolf on 17 May to combat crimes of violence and drug related crime.

PC Hepburn had no information as to whether PC Blamire had been able to speak to the Head Teacher at Roseburn Primary School about dangerous parking near the School, but **would follow this up**.

PC Hepburn was unable to give Cllr Edie any information about the incident in Roseburn Terrace on Sunday, 11 May, which had been reported in the news media, other than that it was being investigated. A member of the public, who lives opposite the location of the incident, asked why she had not been interviewed by the Police and was told that she may well be visited by the Police as part of the investigation.

Cllr Edie asked for clarification as to whether the front office at Corstorphine Police Station is actually open to the public and will remain so. **PC Hepburn undertook to refer this question to his superior.**

G Douglas informed the meeting that, at the Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”) AGM on 29 April, attended by Sergeant Scott Walker and PC Prince Durant, he had been told that Corstorphine Police Station is open Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 5pm and that a post had been advertised to enable it to open during the same hours on Thursday and Friday. He also referred to general confusion over, and dissatisfaction with, community policing and PC Hepburn admitted that the changes since the formation of the unitary authority had caused problems.

R Smart reported that the Murrayfield Church Centre had been broken into the previous week and money stolen. G Douglas reported that the Bible Society’s premises had been broken into and laptops stolen.

D Huckle asked that the phasing of traffic lights at Western Corner and elsewhere, which is too tight for pedestrians, be looked at. He also asked what parking arrangements were being made for the One Direction concert at Murrayfield Stadium (on 3 June). Cllr Edie suggested asking this question at the next residents’ meeting with the SRU, which is to take place in the 1925 Suites of the Stadium on Monday, 19 May from 2-3pm. V Forbes pointed out that the Police had not attended the last meeting with the SRU. PC Hepburn noted this.

A member of the public informed the meeting that she had been told that the forthcoming SRU meeting would discuss only the concert and not the Celtic matches.

5. Councillors’ Reports

5.1 Cllr Edie reported that the trams will begin passenger carrying services on 31 May, before the One Direction concert, and use of the tram stop at the Stadium should help with crowd movement.

5.2 Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

5.2.1 Celtic Football Club has not yet applied for permission to play at Murrayfield Stadium;

5.2.2 A formal request has been made to the licensing authority to suspend the trading licence for the burger van and, once it has been suspended, the van can be removed;

5.2.3 A TRO has been put forward for double yellow lines to prevent the double and triple parking which has been occurring in the cul-de-sac in Roseburn Street;

5.2.4 The Environment Committee of the Council will be consulting on the introduction of 20mph zones, predominantly in residential areas.

E Robertson asked whether holders of the bus pass for the over 60s will be able to travel free on the trams and was told by Cllr Ross that, if they are Edinburgh residents, they will.

There was a brief discussion on the possible impact of the tram service on the airport and other bus services. Cllr Edie reminded the meeting that the trams and the City buses will be run by the same company but are expected to serve different sections of the population. The operator has said that the frequency of the airport bus will be reduced slightly.

A member of the public complained about the congestion caused by cars which are parked all day at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue opposite the laundrette.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 1 April 2014

These were approved. Prop: R Smart, Sec: S Holland.

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *Advertising Hoardings at Roseburn Terrace*

The Chairman confirmed that Henry Coyle and Dave Sinclair of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) will join members of MCC in a walk round Roseburn immediately before the next MCC meeting on Tuesday, 24 June to discuss possible improvements to the area. It was agreed that the walkabout will start at the advertising hoardings at 6.30pm.

7.2. *From Paradise to Regency*

The Chairman commented that the Regency, which has replaced the Paradise Sauna, is open 7 days a week. It was thought that the nature of the establishment has not changed. S Holland informed the meeting that the management has not changed.

E Robertson expressed her concern that the women who work there should be properly protected. Cllr Ross explained that the fact that the Council no longer issues entertainment licences for such establishments, does not mean that they are no longer subject to regulation. That has always been, and remains, the responsibility of the Police.

7.3. *Coltbridge Canter plaque*

The Chairman explained that a member of the public, John Riddell, had proposed the erection on Roseburn Old Bridge of a plaque to commemorate the Coltbridge Canter, which is depicted in Panel 49 of the Prestonpans Tapestry. It had been decided that the plaque should be in aluminium, bronze being too expensive. The plaque should be available for inspection at the next MCC meeting. Its precise location on the Old Bridge could be discussed during the walkabout referred to above.

7.4. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

R Smart confirmed that he had not yet spoken to the new Secretary of Murrayfield Golf Club about getting this item on the Agenda of the Club's Council, but he would do so soon and would confirm the request in writing.

8. Planning and Licensing

8.1 R Smart confirmed that he had responded on behalf of MCC to the WENP consultation on priorities for the Local Community Plan 2014-17 and he referred to the points he had raised. **Cllr Edie undertook to take up the issue of pavement cleaning.**

8.2 G Douglas reported that the developer of the vacant site at Kew Terrace wants to let the ground floor of the proposed development to a kitchen company. Cllr Ross confirmed that the developer has submitted an application for variation of the planning permission to permit this. He also reported that several applications have been submitted for tree management works in the Ravelston Dykes and Murrayfield areas.

9. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman ascertained that there was nothing further to be discussed.

10. Proposed Public Meeting on Independence Referendum

The Chairman asked whether there were to be any further local public meetings on the Independence Referendum. He reminded the meeting that MCC had been asked some time ago about arranging a venue for such a public meeting.

S Holland was able to tell the meeting that the MCC Minutes of 26 February 2013 stated that the request had come from the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer. **N Macdonald undertook to follow this up.**

11. Any Other Reports

11.1 The Chairman reported that the recent Water of Leith clean up had not had to tackle much litter.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Balfour had recently assisted in remedying the situation when emptying of the bins in Roseburn Cliff was 10 days overdue.

11.2 G Douglas reported that the DAAA AGM on 29 April had been attended by the City Councillors, the Chairman/Vice Chairman of the neighbouring Community Councils, the Chairman of the Wester Coates Amenity Society and two MSPs. The booklet on the history of the Donaldson Area has now been completed and he will send a copy to the MCC Chairman.

11.3 G Douglas reported that he had been told by Savills that a press release on Donaldson's Hospital would be issued by the end of April and "residents would be pleased", but this had not happened. Cllr Ross said he understood that an agreement for the original residential proposal had either been signed or was imminent.

12. Correspondence

S Holland had received a leaflet about the Lauriston Lectures, which are organised by the City Museums and Galleries and take place at Lauriston Castle. He commended the Lectures to the meeting.

G Douglas urged participation in the Edinburgh Street Design consultation which runs until 30 June.

13. Any Other Competent Business

In response to a question from a member of the public about participation in the meetings with the SRU, S Holland confirmed that they are not strictly public meetings and advised her to contact Isabel Irvine at SRU to request an invitation.

14. Questions from the Floor

A new resident of Roseburn Crescent asked whether the Council could do something about the litter and other mess in the area, in particular the litter round the advertising hoardings near the junction of Roseburn Street and the Western Approach Road. He was told that this area is railway land and was advised by the Chairman to contact the Network Rail National Helpline on 08457114141.

G Douglas reported that his recent complaint to the Helpline about ivy dangling down over the footpath under a bridge at this location had been dealt with promptly.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 24 June 2014

Subsequent meetings: 29 July and 9 September 2014.

Minutes approved at meeting of 24 June 2014.

for approval