

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 24 June 2014 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland,
D Huckle, N Macdonald, E Robertson, R Smart, W Spence,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour,
In attendance: 9 members of the public, PC Sarah Bloomfield, Henry Coyle and
Dave Sinclair of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership,
Apologies: G McLeod, P Sizeland, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross, M Crockart MP, Marco
Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cameron Buchanan MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Sarah Bloomfield reported as follows:-

3.1 There had been no violent or sex crime in May. There had been 6 acts of vandalism, of which one had been solved, a number of break ins and attempted break ins to dwellings and business premises and 6 thefts of motor vehicles. Two persons had been charged with possession of drugs;

3.2 Continuity in the Police representative attending Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") meetings could not be guaranteed;

3.3 There had been both positive and negative feedback regarding traffic management for the One Direction concert at Murrayfield Stadium, which was attended by 65,000 people. She explained that the Western Approach Road is always closed on these occasions. The Police, the Council's Events Planning Team and the SRU decide beforehand what measures will be required and public safety is the paramount consideration;

3.4 Corstorphine Police Station is open to the public on Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and there is a drop in service at Drum Brae Hub on Monday to Friday between 12.30pm and 1.30pm;

3.5 Recent re-structuring has resulted in the appointment of Chief Inspector Graham McInarlin to Edinburgh West and Pentlands. Inspector Stephen Dolan now covers Corstorphine and South Queensferry.

3.6 46% of the local team are Community officers and 54% Response officers. Their shift patterns have been changed to reflect demand;

3.8 A question had been raised at the last MCC meeting about the phasing of the traffic lights at Western Corner. She deferred to Dave Sinclair, Environmental Services, West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP"), who explained that the time allowed for pedestrians to cross has now been increased.

The Chairman raised three Police related matters as follows:-

3.9 Had the Police contacted the Head Teacher at Roseburn Primary School about dangerous parking near the School? Cllr Balfour confirmed that they had, another letter had been sent to parents and from the start of next term the Police would be giving this matter a higher priority. He mentioned that Roseburn Primary School was one of 20 schools which had applied to take part in a trial which would involve closing certain streets around schools at peak parking times;

3.10 Dave Sinclair confirmed that the speed signs at Murrayfield Road are to be replaced;

3.11 PC Bloomfield had no official information about the anticipated Celtic football matches at Murrayfield Stadium. Cllr Balfour understood that the draw for the Champions League qualifying matches had taken place on 23 June and the first Celtic match would take place at Murrayfield Stadium in mid-July. He had been told that, if Celtic get through their two qualifying matches, they will have to play subsequent Champions League matches at the same venue. Cllr Balfour called for a report from the Police and WENP on how these matches would be handled. Henry Coyle, WENP Manager, replied that the Events Planning Team would hold a meeting with all stakeholders prior to the first match.

A discussion ensued about the handling of the One Direction concert, which had taken place at Murrayfield Stadium on 3 June. Several local residents complained about the parking restrictions which had been put in place prior to the concert, the amount of time it had taken for the traffic to be dispersed after the concert, the conduct of some of the drivers and the arrangements for rubbish collection and cleaning of Roseburn Park. Cllr Balfour explained that the unprecedented volume of traffic arose from the fact that most of the 65,000 concert goers were youngsters, whose parents came to collect them after the concert. In answer to a question from D Huckle about the use of car horns late at night, PC Bloomfield confirmed that the use of a horn after 11.30pm is contrary to the Highway Code. Dave Sinclair reported that 6 rubbish bins had been provided and serviced during the day of the concert, but the service vehicle had broken down; Roseburn Park had been cleaned while the concert was in progress and after the concert goers had left.

In response to a member of the public, who reported that she had seen a helicopter land in Roseburn Park near the Stadium gate, apparently to check the condition of the Stadium pitch, PC Bloomfield recommended reporting any concerns to the Police by phoning 101.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.1 He thought the One Direction concert had passed off reasonably well. An ongoing issue is the way in which the SRU apply for the public entertainment licences which they require for such concerts. They applied only 8 days before the One Direction concert was due to take place, apparently assuming that the Council would not wish to stop the concert at such short notice and the licence would, therefore, be granted. Cllr Balfour has asked the Licensing Board to look at ways of encouraging the SRU to submit licensing applications earlier;

4.2 As the Celtic matches will be sporting events, they will not require additional licences. Celtic's first opponents are from Iceland and it is anticipated that not many of their supporters will attend the match. In reply to a question from a member of the public Cllr Balfour confirmed that the SRU will not be granted an alcohol licence for the Celtic matches;

4.3 The consultation on extending the controlled parking zone is under way. Cllr Balfour encouraged householders to respond to the letters which have been sent out to them. The Transport Committee will make a decision in the autumn and, if it is in favour, implementation could take place early next year;

4.4 McCarthy & Stone have been granted planning permission to re-develop the former Tower Nursing Home in Murrayfield Drive as retirement accommodation; he viewed this as a positive development. In reply to a question from a member of the public, he confirmed that the existing building is B listed and will not be altered externally, but the annexe will be demolished and rebuilt;

4.5 In response to a question from the Chairman he confirmed that new refuse collection arrangements will be put in place in September – the existing green bins will become recycling bins for all recyclable material except glass, which will continue to be recycled via the blue boxes; food recycling will remain the same, new smaller bins for all other refuse will be provided and all refuse will be uplifted on the same day; families of five or more will be entitled to larger general refuse bins;

Replying to questions from E Robertson, Cllr Balfour confirmed that the recycling of food waste is encouraged, but is not obligatory; it is possible to dispose of food waste in the general refuse bins; all plastic other than recyclable plastic bottles currently goes to landfill. Dave Sinclair informed the meeting that from September all plastic will be recyclable. Henry Coyle confirmed that the implementation of the new refuse strategy is the responsibility of WENP, whose Waste Officer could brief MCC on the new strategy, if desired.

In response to questions from members of the public, Cllr Balfour confirmed that the existing parking controls in Wester Coates will not be reconsidered as part of the current consultation; if householders have not received a letter from the Council, they can assume that their street is not included in the consultation; the previous consultation revealed no appetite for controlled parking in Roseburn; the proposed extension is designed to deal with parking by commuters, the Toyota garage and holidaymakers catching the airport bus; residents will require to buy a permit only if they need to park between 1 and 2pm, but not if they take their cars to work; the attendant street furniture should be minimal. Dave Sinclair thought prices for residents' and visitors' permits would be similar to those currently in force in Morningside.

5. Outcome of walkabout with Messrs Coyle and Sinclair, WENP

The Chairman asked Henry Coyle and Dave Sinclair for their reaction to the suggestions made during the Roseburn walkabout which had preceded the meeting. H Coyle proposed putting the suggestions into an action plan, dividing it into "bite sized chunks" with a timeline and assigning a responsible person to each issue. MCC could then be updated on progress at future meetings. Day to day issues would be dealt with as they arose. He would be happy for residents to be involved in the longer term issues, if they wished. The action plan would include issues raised by MCC at earlier meetings and by the City Councillors via email. It could be posted on MCC's website.

He referred to suggestions which had been made regarding the installation of bin stores, a bench, raised beds and allotments on the land next to the advertising hoardings and confirmed that there is funding available for some environmental work. He would welcome suggestions from the community.

H Coyle mentioned the proposal for a plaque on Roseburn Old Bridge and suggestions which had been made for bollards and new paving. W Amcotts expressed the view that the Old Bridge would make an excellent town park with hard landscaping. R Smart suggested that other people might have other ideas and proposed **a meeting before the next MCC meeting on 29 July to agree proposals which could be fed into the action plan.** This was agreed and the **pre-meeting was arranged for 6.30pm.**

Members of the public raised concerns about parking opposite the laundrette in Murrayfield Place, ivy growing over Roseburn Bridge, gutter cleaning and the state of the Bridge railings and some of the front gardens in Roseburn Street. It was acknowledged that there are no yellow lines to prevent the parking. D Sinclair confirmed that the ivy will be cut down and that the Council has no powers to require owners to maintain their gardens. He stated that a programme of temporary parking restrictions to allow gutter cleaning is proposed and confirmed that the street cleaning team has been reduced in numbers and is stretched.

In reply to a question from J Forbes the Chairman confirmed that the Council are happy to give clearance for MCC to commission the proposed plaque for Roseburn Old Bridge.

6. Flood Prevention, including public consultation

V Forbes informed the meeting that the next meeting of the Stakeholders Group will take place at the Ice Rink on Tuesday, 1 July at 6pm. There is no date yet for the next public consultation.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13 May 2014

As copies of the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May were not available at the meeting, approval was postponed.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

R Smart reported that he had spoken to the new secretary of Murrayfield Golf Club about the possibility of access through the Golf Club land to Corstorphine Hill and the Secretary was to raise this with the Golf Club's Council. R Smart did not expect a positive response.

8.2. *Redevelopment of Donaldson's Hospital*

G Douglas reported that he had no further information from Savills on when a press release might be expected.

9. Planning and Licensing

9.1 R Smart reported that an appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the proposed block of flats at the corner of Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes. He had already submitted an objection on behalf of MCC which should be considered as part of the appeal process.

9.2 He had attended a recent meeting of the Civic Forum at which the effect on the Green Belt of the Scottish Government's demand for new housing had been discussed. It was suggested that a disproportionate amount of new housing was proposed for Edinburgh.

E Robertson commented on the new housing at Ocean Terminal which has not been sold and is lying vacant and suggested that this problem would not have arisen if the tram line had been taken as far as Leith.

9.3 R Brown read out a report received by email from P Sizeland that retrospective planning permission for the demolition of the house at 26 Belmont Gardens was granted on 4 March and work has begun on a new build.

10. Traffic and Transport

S Holland, G Douglas and others commented on the traffic jams at Haymarket and along Princes Street which have occurred since the commencement of Edinburgh Trams passenger carrying service on 31 May. The Chairman informed the meeting that a review of the operation of the service will be carried out in due course.

11. Independence Referendum

The Chairman asked **N Macdonald to find out whether the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer wished to pursue the request**, which had been made some time ago, **for MCC to organise a public meeting prior to the Referendum.**

12. Reports

R Brown read out a report received by email from P Sizeland that the Saughtonhall Community Association fete on Sunday, 15 June took over £3,000, about half of which will be profit. There had been a great turn out.

13. Correspondence

13.1 The Chairman introduced Bethan Thompson, a post-graduate student at the University of Edinburgh who is conducting focus groups on sustainable food as part of her dissertation research and who had contacted him to ask for MCC's help. B Thompson proposed holding a focus group, ideally of 5-10 people, in the Dove Café at Murrayfield Parish Church on Tuesday, 1 July at 8pm and asked for anyone who is interested in her research to attend. She offered refreshments as an incentive.

13.2 E Robertson reported that she had received correspondence about micro generation of electricity. The government is keen to encourage such generation at a local level. A member of the public suggested that a turbine in the Water of Leith would be feasible.

14. Any Other Competent Business

R Smart intimated a request to display posters advertising a Fringe production on the MCC noticeboards.

15. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public, who is a resident of Roseburn Court, expressed the concern felt by him and his neighbours over the proposal to move the play park from the south west to the north east corner of Roseburn Park. The Chairman suggested that he put his concerns to the meeting of the Flood Prevention Stakeholders Group meeting on 1 July. It was also suggested that he contact the Friends of Roseburn Park for an explanation of the background to this proposal.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 July 2014

Subsequent meetings: 9 September, 28 October and 2 December 2014

Minutes approved at meeting of 29 July 2014