

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 24 March 2015 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, P Sizeland, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie,
In attendance: 9 members of the public, PC Tony Palin, PC Phil Jones, Margaret Laing, City of Edinburgh Council, Cameron Buchanan MSP,
Apologies: N Macdonald, E Robertson, W Spence, Cllr Ross, 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 the omission of items 6.2 and 7 of the Agenda. The Chairman explained that M Smith of JC Decaux felt that it was premature to discuss the landscaping proposals for the advertising hoardings on Roseburn Terrace, as his company is still subject to certain technical approvals from the Council ("CEC"), which it needs to satisfy before moving focus to the look of the completed site. He will attend the next meeting on 12 May. Lindsay Grant, Senior Development Officer, CEC, will also attend the meeting on 12 May to give the presentation on Living Landscapes.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Adam Brown and PC Phil Jones, who are both based at Corstorphine Police Station, reported on the period from 20 February to 20 March 2015 as follows:-

3.1.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 33 recorded crimes, 7 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter. 11 of these crimes involved theft or attempted theft from residential and business premises and of motor vehicles. There had been 11 incidents of violence and 5 of vandalism.

3.1.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 47 recorded crimes, 10 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter. 25 of these crimes involved theft or attempted theft. There had been 5 incidents of vandalism and one bomb hoax.

PCs Palin and Jones acknowledged that there had been an increase in housebreakings across the city since before last Christmas and reported that they were aware of three or four teams operating in the local area. The Police are running several operations to combat this increase with some success. PC Jones's team had apprehended 4 housebreakers in the last 4 weeks. PC Palin reported that £6-7,000 worth of stolen property had been recovered from one vehicle. PCs Palin and Jones encouraged the reporting of any suspicious behaviour and in cases of suspected housebreaking recommended phoning 999 to report a "crime in progress".

3.2 PCs Palin and Jones drew the meeting's attention to the Domestic Property Security Event which was to be held by Police Scotland the following evening, Wednesday, 25 March between 7pm and 9pm in the Presidents Suite 2 at BT Murrayfield.

M Laing, Team Leader, Environmental Wardens, West Neighbourhood Team, advised the meeting that a further Domestic Property Security Event had been provisionally arranged for Wednesday, 29 April between 7pm and 8.30pm at the Drumbrae Library Hub.

3.3 A member of the public complained that graffiti is a growing problem in the Roseburn area. Another local resident informed him that CEC has a designated graffiti team, who respond quickly to reports of new graffiti. M Laing advised that the Anti-Social Behaviour team is keen to photograph graffiti in public places, as the tags which graffiti artists use can help to identify them. Graffiti on private property cannot, however, be photographed.

3.4 D Huckle complained about the recent drop in the level of public lighting due to the introduction of LED lights. Cllr Balfour explained that this is an issue across the city and the use of LED lights, which are considered to be more environmentally friendly, is currently being reviewed. He expected to learn the results of the review in 2-3 weeks.

3.5 A local resident raised the issue of crowd control inside BT Murrayfield. She explained that she had experienced a frightening lack of control the previous Saturday, when three consecutive international rugby matches had been held there and a large number of spectators using the large TV screen and a number of food outlets on the concourse had been funnelled into a narrower space. She was told by the Police representatives that this was a stewarding issue which should be raised with the SRU. Cllr Edie suggested that it be raised at the next meeting between the SRU and local residents in May.

D Huckle expressed the view that traffic control at the BT Murrayfield fixtures had improved in 2015. He was told by the Police representatives and Cllr Edie that some of the traffic and crowd control on these occasions has been sub-contracted to private security firms.

4. Councillors' Reports

4.1 Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.1.1 EE, the owner of the telecommunications mast in Ellersly Road, has agreed to submit an application for retrospective planning permission by mid-April. This is a short term measure, as the lease of the site of the mast comes to an end in January 2016 and will not be renewed. No enforcement action will be taken pending submission of the application. EE has submitted an application for planning permission for a new mast beside Murrayfield Tennis Club.

4.1.2 Regarding the advertising hoardings on Roseburn Terrace Cllr Ross has sent an email to the Planning Department about the apparent contradiction between the advertisement consent which has been granted and what is to be put up on the site.

4.1.3 Prior to the local elections in two years' time proposed changes to the ward boundaries have been published and are currently being considered by CEC. There will be a public consultation on the proposals for 3 months from the end of June. MCC will be sent a plan showing the proposals and should discuss these at the MCC meeting in June. The proposed changes involve moving Roseburn, Wester Coates and the Donaldson's area to the City Centre ward. Ravelston Dykes and Craigleith would become part of the Corstorphine/Murrayfield ward.

Cllr Edie confirmed that BT Murrayfield and the original Roseburn House would also become part of the City Centre ward. Cllrs Balfour and Edie were agreed that the changes are not logical or desirable. Roseburn, Wester Coates and Donaldson's have a greater affinity to Murrayfield than the City Centre and the issues relating to BT Murrayfield affect Murrayfield more than the City Centre. Cllr Edie explained that the proposals are designed to balance the number of constituents in each ward and increase the number of councillors from 58 to 64 or 65, neither of which he thought was necessary. In answer to a question from a member of the public Cllr Balfour expressed the view, based on previous experience, that opposition to the proposals would have little effect.

4.1.4 The recent People Survey indicates that the public's view is that CEC services have declined in the past year and more than can be accounted for by budget cuts. A full CEC debate on the Survey will be held.

4.1.5 The People Survey disclosed a significant increase in complaints about dog fouling. This was not something which Cllr Balfour had noticed in his correspondence from constituents.

M Laing informed the meeting that complaints about dog fouling peak in January to March when the longer hours of darkness make it easier for dog owners to avoid detection.

G Douglas informed the meeting that the residents of the Donaldson's Area are exasperated by CEC's failure to deal with dog fouling.

M Laing advised residents to report incidents to CEC (1) by phone to 031 529 3030, (2) by email to westteam@edinburgh.gov.uk or (3) via the CEC website – www.edinburgh.gov.uk, Report It, Environmental and Health Issues, Dog fouling. The Chairman asked whether this information could be published in the Murrayfield Grapevine and **the Minutes Secretary undertook to investigate.**

M Laing explained that the Environmental Wardens need intelligence about location and timing and, if possible, the identity of the dog owner. If an owner admits the offence, they can issue a penalty notice on the spot. Otherwise there has to be a corroborated sighting. G Douglas expressed the view that Wardens in plain clothes would have a higher success rate than those wearing high visibility jackets.

4.2 With regard to Item 4.1.1 J Forbes expressed the view that the Planning Department had bent over backwards to accommodate EE in relation to the Ellersly Road telecommunications mast. In spite of the fact that EE had acted in bad faith in erecting the mast without planning consent and in submitting a notification drawing showing the mast to be 7 metres less than its actual height, they had been given from 23 January until 7 April to submit an application for retrospective planning consent.

Cllr Balfour explained that, as enforcement action usually takes about a year, the Planning Department takes a pragmatic approach to planning breaches. He suggested lobbying Cameron Buchanan, MSP for changes to the planning regime. Cameron Buchanan explained that the Scottish Government is reluctant to interfere in the planning system unless absolutely necessary. He agreed that appeals take too long and stated that he is considering raising a question in the Scottish Parliament on changing the procedure.

Cllr Edie expressed the view that the Scottish Government operates a presumption in favour of development which undermines local councils. It does not necessarily favour "big business", but does disadvantage communities.

R Smart raised the case of the development at the corner of Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes. He understood that planning permission had been granted on the advice of a Planning Officer in spite of objections from, among others, MCC. Cllr Balfour asserted that this was not the case. He had attended the planning meeting at which consent was granted. As the application was a minor, not a national, one, it was decided by three or four Councillors instead of the full Planning Committee. He had requested a site visit, which had taken place before the meeting. He was of the view that the decision was the wrong one, but he did not agree that it had not been properly considered.

R Smart informed the meeting that he had received a reply from Alex Neil, MSP to his letter to Sarah Boyack, MSP, complaining about the current appeals procedure. **Cameron Buchanan undertook to pursue this issue.**

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24 February 2015

These were approved. Prop: V Forbes, Sec: D Huckle.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Enforcement Action against EE re telecomms mast, Ellersly Road*

This had been dealt with at Items 4.1.1 and 4.2.

6.2. *Landscaping of Advertising Hoardings*

See Item 2 above.

M Laing informed the meeting that the site had been tidied up by CEC following the dismantling of the old hoardings.

6.3. *Roseburn Action Plan*

6.3.1 R Smart and M Laing reported that they, the Chairman, D Huckle, V Forbes and S Holland had conducted a walkabout around Roseburn immediately before the meeting. **M Laing undertook to deal with the matters identified on the walkabout** as follows:-

6.3.1.1 She will remove the redundant signs and tags on the lamp posts.

6.3.1.2 She will ask the Roads Team to reinstate the white line outside the Roseburn Bar.

6.3.1.3 She will ask Mark Love of CEC to review the timing of the traffic lights at the junction of Roseburn Terrace and Roseburn Street, as the crossing outside Tesco allows pedestrians only four seconds to cross.

6.3.1.4 She will reinstate the "No Cycling" stencils, which have already worn off in three locations on Roseburn Terrace, and will monitor the situation in future.

6.3.1.5 She will investigate the two abandoned bins outside the former Johnstone Smillie premises on Roseburn Terrace.

6.3.1.6 She will investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing from Tesco to the north side of Roseburn Terrace.

6.3.2 M Laing provided the following update on the Roseburn Action Plan:-

"Bollards - Roseburn Old Bridge.

Email sent to Iain MacPhail, City Centre Programme Manager, to provisionally hold wooden planters, until decision made. Decision would have to be made by May/June as the trial ends this September.

Costings from Inch Nurseries: - planters are 1.5m x 0.75m x 1m, painted black and planted with a mix of perennial and annual bedding plants and delivered would cost £750 each. If this is too expensive, then there are smaller options. Planters are made by the Council blacksmiths so can be made bespoke depending on the size required, for example, 1m x 1m x 1m planters (like those in the City Chambers Quadrangle) again painted black and planted with a mix of perennial and annual bedding plants and delivered would cost £600 each. Any order would require a 6 week manufacturing period.

Replacement of lamp posts on Roseburn Bridge

Email sent to Street Lighting with alternative proposals due to the high cost, £3000, of the cast-iron columns. Propose lamp posts similar to the streetlights throughout Wester Coates - i.e. standard steel posts, colour black (probably just paint the existing posts) with a 'lantern'-type fitting and 'whiter' light output. Awaiting response.

Littered area at the Roseburn Terrace Advertising Hoardings

An email was received from Cllr Frank Ross in relation to a litter concern raised by John Riddell. The Task Force Team Leader has made arrangements for the littered area at the hoardings to be cleansed on 29 March 2015.

Broken pavement/crossing slab at pedestrian crossing, north side of Roseburn Terrace at the Roseburn Old Bridge side

Checked by Roads Inspector 5/3/15, repair observed to be complete.

Water of Leith Walkway Sign

Email received from John Yellowlees on 4 March 2015 requesting that the "No thanks" sticker be removed from the Water of Leith Walkway sign near Roseburn Cliff.

9 March 2015, email forwarded to Environment Team for action, with response to be sent directly to John Yellowlees.

Darren Wraight - Area Roads Manager

Darren, who is coming to MCC meeting on 12 May, suggested a walkabout, possibly at the end of April, before the May meeting, taking in Roseburn Bridge and the wider area of Murrayfield.

Inconsiderate Cycling at Water of Leith Walkway

Email sent to PC Euan Hair to arrange joint patrols to be carried out. Dates in April/May to be confirmed."

6.3.3 M Laing pointed out that there had been no MCC representative at the last meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") on 3 March. She recommended attendance at the WENP meetings to facilitate progress on the Action Plan.

Future dates:-

Wednesday, 22 April 2015, 7 p.m. at the Drumbrae Library Hub, 81 Drum Brae Drive, Edinburgh, EH04 7FE

Thursday, 18 June, venue and time as above

Wednesday, 2 September 2015, venue and time as above

Wednesday, 4 November 2015, venue and time as above

A member of the public pointed out that it would be helpful if **Darren Wraight** could carry out the requested walkabout before, rather than after, the WENP meeting on 22 April and **M Laing undertook to contact him with this suggestion.**

D Huckle confirmed that he would represent MCC at future WENP meetings.

In reply to a member of the public M Laing confirmed that the WENP meetings are open to the public.

6.3.4 J Riddell expressed disappointment at the lack of progress on straightforward low cost items of improvement which he had been requesting for 18 months. R Smart and M Laing both felt that progress had been made since the drawing up of the Roseburn Action Plan in October 2014 and M Laing's involvement as the link between CEC and MCC from November 2014. M Laing explained that large items of capital expenditure, such as road works and the proposed improvements to Roseburn Old Bridge, would be delayed until after the start of the next financial year in April.

6.3.5 The meeting discussed the proposal to replace the bollards on Roseburn Old Bridge with new bollards or planters. R Smart favoured three storey planters like those is George Street and thought that four of these would be required. He felt that they gave an air of activity to a quiet area. If the area were already busy, he would favour lower planters with seating around the edge. A member of the public pointed out that not everyone is in favour of planters. **M Laing** suggested a mixture of planters and bollards. **She undertook to circulate photographs of the various types of planter which are available.**

6.3.6 In reply to M Laing, R Smart confirmed that Lindsay Grant will not need to bring a screen for his presentation on Living Landscapes to MCC's meeting on 12 May, but he will need to bring a projector.

6.3.7 The Chairman asked why nothing had yet been done about the proliferation of "A" boards on Roseburn Terrace. M Laing replied that they will be dealt with when the new trade waste scheme is introduced to Roseburn. A member of the public stated that a business is allowed one "A" board, but the Murrayfield Bar has three. Cameron Buchanan explained that corner premises are allowed two boards, which have to be a specified distance from the building. **M Laing undertook to speak to the Roads Team**, which is responsible for enforcement.

6.3.8 In response to a complaint from a member of the public about the delay in removing the ugly traffic light gantry over Roseburn Terrace, **M Laing undertook to refer this matter to Darren Wraight and Mark Love.**

6.4. *Donaldson's College Consultation*

The Chairman confirmed that the latest public consultation on the development proposals for Donaldson's College had shown that the flow of traffic within the development would be one way. G Douglas confirmed that the access road for the new crescent of townhouses will be at the front,

instead of behind, the townhouses, thus leaving more space between them and the chapel at the rear of the existing building.

6.5. *Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2*

V Forbes reported that she had asked the Project Manager, John Neilson, about the delay in implementing Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme and had been told that meetings were to be held with Scottish Gas Networks and Scottish Water to obtain answers on programme and construction queries. The next meeting of the Stakeholders Engagement Group is in August.

6.6. *Water of Leith litter notices*

J Riddell displayed a draft of the notice he proposed to put up along the Water of Leith Walkway asking for the public's assistance in dealing with litter. He advised the Treasurer that he had received a quote for three signs of £125 plus VAT. **M Laing volunteered to ask CEC's Signs Team for a quote for similar "Corex" signs and also ascertain whether any signs could be provided free of charge.** G Douglas suggested that, if MCC were to pay for the signs, MCC's name/logo should appear on them.

6.7. *General Election Hustings*

The Chairman informed the meeting that Murrayfield Churches Together and MCC are holding a General Election hustings at Saughtonhall United Reform Church on Thursday, 23 April at 7.30 pm, at which all the Edinburgh West candidates will be present.

6.8. *Other Matters Arising*

The Chairman reminded the meeting that J Forbes was to contact the new owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens about the path to Campbell Avenue which is within their property. J Forbes reported that he had been briefed by R Smart on the history of this matter and would make an approach shortly. M Laing intimated that Darren Wraight was willing to be involved and J Forbes thought that that might be appropriate at a later stage.

7. Living Landscapes Presentation

See Item 2 above.

8. Planning and Licensing

8.1 R Smart confirmed that the development at Kew Terrace is progressing well. He reported that he had looked at six minor domestic planning applications and had objected to none.

8.2 Cameron Buchanan reported that licences are to be separated into different types with a view to making it more difficult to obtain a pub licence.

9. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman was pleased to note that the bus tracker at Roseburn now shows the 38 bus run by First Bus in addition to the Lothian buses.

10. Friends of Roseburn Park acquisition of toilet block

As V Forbes had left the meeting, this matter was held over to the next meeting.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 It was agreed that MCC would not pursue invitations to join the movement to reform the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

11.2 J Riddell reminded the meeting of the Water of Leith (Roseburn to Coltbridge) Clean Up on Sunday, 26 April, starting at 10.30 a.m. at Coltbridge Bowling Green. He intimated that 12 pupils on the Junior Award Scheme for Schools (“JASS”) would be assisting with the Clean Up.

12. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 12 May 2015 (including AGM at 7.30pm)

Subsequent meetings: 23 June and 28 July 2015

Minutes approved at meeting of 24 March 2015.

for approval