

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 27 November 2012 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: H Ross

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland,
N Macdonald, G McLeod, H Ross, R Smart, J Yellowlees,

Ex officio:

In attendance: PC Prince Durant, 12 members of the public,

Apologies: E Robertson, W Spence, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross, M Crockart MP,
M Biagi 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

P C Prince Durant reported as follows:-

3.1 In response to numerous complaints about cycling on pavements, the City of Edinburgh Council ("CEC") had put up yellow signs prohibiting this activity at Balbirnie Place, Wester Coates, Western Corner, Pinkhill and Corstorphine. These had already been torn down and replaced several times. A number of cyclists had complained that they did not understand the wording of the signs;

3.2 There had been no problems with anti-social behaviour in the Murrayfield area since the last meeting;

3.3 The Police had set up a number of initiatives to counteract the anticipated seasonal increase in housebreaking; PC Durant encouraged the reporting of any suspicious cold calling to the Police.

4. Councillors' Report

There were no City Councillors present.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 23 October 2012

These were approved. Prop: G McLeod, Sec: R Smart.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Ellersly Road development (Item 4 of Minutes)*

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the developers, S1 Developments, and their architects, CDA, had given a presentation on the new scheme for the site to the last Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") meeting; it had been decided that MCC would object to the planning application for the proposed scheme on the grounds of visual undesirability and the inappropriateness of the proposed new access; local residents had also objected.

R Smart confirmed that he had had email correspondence with the developers about the new access and had been told that a traffic

report had been commissioned. G McLeod confirmed that he had written to the Planning Department about the access but had not received a reply. His own experience of the Ellersly Road/Corstorphine Road junction convinced him that the proposed new access would be problematic.

Mr Forbes, a resident of Ellersly Road, who had been active in scrutinising the various development proposals from the start, explained that he was seriously concerned about the apparent deviation from good practice displayed by the Planning Department in allowing the planning application for the new scheme to be dealt with as a revision to the original application, when in fact the two schemes were significantly different; Cllr Balfour had asked for an explanation and had been told by the recently installed Acting Director of Planning that the new application was being treated in this way because it did not differ substantially from the original. Mr Forbes explained that a consequence of this treatment was that the public consultation process had been shortened to only two weeks. Furthermore, the neighbour notifications issued by the Planning Department had referred erroneously to the original application and many local residents had not, at first, realised how radically different the new scheme was. Mr Forbes asked why the guidelines on development in a Conservation Area, which require high standards of design and the use of appropriate materials, had not been adhered to and urged that the City Councillors keep a watchful eye on the progress of the current application.

G Douglas expressed his concern at the way the development proposals for the site had been handled by the Planning Department.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Development Management Sub-Committee were to carry out a site inspection of the Ellersly Road site and 27 Kingsburgh Gardens on the afternoon of Thursday, 29 November (at approximately 2pm and 2.20pm respectively) and MCC were invited to send a representative. **R Smart undertook to try to attend.**

6.2. *Roseburn Street/Western Approach Road junction lights*

The meeting discussed whether MCC should make representations to CEC to have the traffic lights at this junction reinstated. The Chairman reported that CEC had informed him that the lights were intended for only temporary use while Russell Road was closed, their reinstatement would cost £100,000 and, as traffic levels in Roseburn Street had now returned to normal levels, permanent reinstatement could not be justified. Cllr Balfour had informed an earlier MCC meeting that public opinion was divided as to whether they should be permanent. The meeting decided that **MCC should press CEC for the permanent reinstatement of the lights.**

6.3. *Any Other Matters Arising*

6.3.1 *Roseburn Terrace pavement surfaces (Item 7.1 of Minutes)*

The Chairman reported that he had received no response from CEC to his letter about the accidents to pedestrians which had happened as a result of the state of the pavement outside the Murrayfield Bar. R Smart expressed the view that the whole of the pavement on the south side of Roseburn Terrace needed to be re-surfaced. **The Chairman undertook to contact CEC about both matters.**

A member of the public informed the meeting that he had written to CEC about the re-surfacing of the south side of the main road between Kwik Fit and Murrayfield Road and had been told that such work

would have to be included in CEC's budget for 2013/14.

6.3.2 8 Kew Terrace (Item 9 of Minutes)

G Douglas reported that he and R Smart had discussed the proposal by the owner of this vacant site to develop it with retail units at ground level with townhouses above and behind. Originally he had been of the view that the retail units were undesirable and should be resisted, but the developer's architect had convinced him that the development was not economically viable without the retail units. The architect had designed the development with a stone façade and crow-stepped gables to mirror the existing houses in Kew Terrace. Both G Douglas and R Smart were now agreed that the proposed development was preferable to the vacant site, was well designed and should be supported. G Douglas informed the meeting that Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") was likely to support the developer's planning application and he urged MCC to do the same.

The Chairman asked R Brown whether the Wester Coates residents had a view on the proposal. She was not aware that they did.

7. Planning and Licensing

7.1 Area west of South Beechwood Estate

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the residents of South Beechwood are concerned about Miller Homes' plans for this area, but as yet no planning application has been submitted.

Mr Tait of South Beechwood Residents Association explained that the area in question had been "given" to the South Beechwood residents by Miller Homes for use as amenity ground; the land had been transferred to a different Miller company whose title had not yet been registered in the Land Register; Miller Homes had invited the Residents Association to a meeting to discuss their plans to either build, or sell the land with planning permission for building, a 64 bed nursing home or two storey flats; the residents were very much against these plans; badgers were thought to frequent this area and the Edinburgh Badger Group had been asked to carry out a survey. Mr Tait had hoped to ask Cllr Ross to comment on whether Millers' plans would contravene the designation of the land as open space. The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Ross had said on a previous occasion that they would. R Smart suggested that Mr Tait check the Local Plan.

The Chairman undertook that MCC will monitor this situation.

8. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman reported that Roseburn Street is to be re-surfaced between 7 and 9 December.

9. Reports

9.1 The Treasurer reported that MCC has sufficient funds to finance a modest project and invited suggestions. He confirmed that the annual subsidy from CEC cannot be used for projects.

J Yellowlees suggested a bench. W Amcotts suggested that Old Roseburn Bridge could be hard landscaped for use as a park and the funds could be used for a preliminary feasibility study.

9.2 G Douglas reported that the next DAAA meeting is on 28 November.

9.3 V Forbes of the Friends of Roseburn Park reported that children from Roseburn Primary School have planted bluebells and crocuses in the Park.

The Friends have applied to Awards for All for funding for an outdoor table tennis table and chessboard. They have briefed architects, One Foot Square, on the feasibility study for the toilet block and await their report.

10. Correspondence

The Chairman directed the meeting to the list of correspondence received since the last meeting, which is attached to these Minutes

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 *Flood Prevention Scheme*

A member of the public expressed serious concern at the protracted delay in implementing Phase 2 of the Flood Protection Scheme and the way in which the funding of the Scheme had been handled. He reminded the meeting that the cost of Phase 1 was now double the original estimate; Cllr Edie had been told some time ago that the funding for Phase 2 had been identified, but 3 months later CEC intimated a £10m shortfall in the funding for Phase 2. The speaker had hoped to have the opportunity to press the City Councillors to keep this item at the top of their agenda.

The Chairman stated that he believed that there was a fairly tight statutory time limit for completion of the Scheme and that the Councillors had said at previous meetings that Phase 2 may be completed in stages as funds become available.

11.2 *Bins*

S Holland confirmed that there are now only 5, and not 6, bins parked neatly outside the architect's office on Old Roseburn Bridge.

V Forbes reported that there are fewer bins in Roseburn Gardens than there used to be, but they are still encroaching on the pedestrian crossing. The shops to whom they belong have received letters from the Council, but no action has yet been taken.

11.3 *Trams*

J Yellowlees reported that the overhead power lines for the tramline between the Gogar Depot and the airport are now live.

The Chairman intimated that MCC is now routinely invited to send a representative to the regular West End project meetings with the contractor.

A member of the public, who is a resident of Baird Drive, complained that she and her neighbours had endured months and months of disruption from the tram works but had never been invited to meet the contractor. G Douglas explained that the West End Community Council had been very vocal and persistent in demanding answers regarding the tram project and consequently now received attention from the stakeholder engagement team.

The Chairman undertook to invite the Trams for Edinburgh team to the next MCC meeting.

12. Questions from the Floor

Dr M Park and several other members of the public expressed dissatisfaction with the chaos which had attended the recent changes to bin collections. **The Chairman undertook to write to the West Neighbourhood team about this and to copy the communication to the three local City Councillors.**

G Douglas suggested that **M Crockart MP and M Biagi MSP be invited to the next MCC meeting** and that M Biagi be urged to press hard for the implementation of Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 January 2013 at 8pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Subsequent meetings: 26 February and 2 April 2013.

Minutes approved at meeting of 13 January 2013.

