

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 28 July 2015 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland, D Huckle,
E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 10 members of the public, David Whitelaw, Saughtonhall
Community Association, PC Walter Miller, Sarah Boyack MSP,
Apologies: W Amcotts, N Macdonald, P Sizeland, W Spence, Cllr Balfour, Cllr
Edie, Michelle Thomson MP, M Biagi MSP, Cameron Buchanan
MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and explained that David Whitelaw was standing in for P Sizeland.

The Chairman intimated that (1) the Foo Fighters concert has been re-scheduled to take place at BT Murrayfield on 8 September 2015 and (2) Cameron Buchanan MSP has announced that he will not be standing for re-election to the Scottish Parliament in 2016.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Walter Miller, who is based in South Queensferry, provided a summary of the housebreaking statistics for the period from 1 to 30 June 2015. He reported as follows:-

3.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 5 house breakings and 1 attempted house breaking; Operation RAC has resulted in a number of arrests recently; younger offenders are now being remanded and this development is deterring other youngsters from offending; the 6pm to 3am Police shift specifically targets house breaking;

3.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 5 house breakings; the culprits in the crimes committed in Corstorphine Hill Avenue, Gordon Road and Ladbroke had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

The Chairman and a number of those present informed PC Miller that cycling on pavements is a continuing issue for local residents. PC Miller confirmed that it is illegal and tickets can be issued if the Police witness an offence. He agreed that educating cyclists regarding acceptable behaviour is desirable and something which the Police try to do. **PC Miller agreed to speak to the Community Police Officers for the area and the Council's Traffic Department about the issue.**

S Holland stated that the yellow "No cycling" stencils, which had been re-applied to the pavements in Roseburn in March, are too small and faint and are already wearing off.

The Chairman was at pains to point out that Murrayfield Community Council (“MCC”) is not anti-cyclists, but is concerned about the irresponsible behaviour of a minority.

Two local residents reported that the flower shop, hairdresser’s and coffee shop in Murrayfield Place had been broken into at about 3 a.m. on 28 July. The Police had responded promptly to a phone call.

4. Address by Sarah Boyack MSP

Sarah Boyack MSP dealt first with the issue of cycling. She agreed that education of cyclists is key to deterring dangerous and inconsiderate behaviour. She considered that education should be aimed at those in their 20s and 30s, as they constitute the majority of offenders, and that the Council’s investment in cycle routes should help to ease the conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

Sarah Boyack went on to explain that she has three main roles in which she deals with a range of issues. As an MSP for Lothian she can choose which issues to address in the Scottish Parliament. As a member of the Shadow Cabinet she is responsible for rural affairs, climate change and the environment. At a local level she deals with whatever issues her constituents raise with her.

She reported on the issues which occupy most of her time as follows:-

4.1 Health - The growing population and inadequate resources are putting huge pressure on the Health Board and the situation continues to worsen. The real challenge is in relation to adequacy of resources at Council level for care homes and other services as well as at Health Board level. GP practices have suffered a cut in funds and a quarter of current GPs are due to retire in the next 10 years. There is also huge pressure on A&E services. The main issues raised at her last constituency surgery had been mental health and access to care services.

4.2 Policing - Housebreaking is the main issue across her Central, West and Pentlands constituency. The call centre staff of both the Police and Fire Service are under enormous pressure and many are leaving. There are also issues relating to firearms and the use of legal highs.

4.3 Access to education – Many part time college courses have been lost owing to cuts in funding. There is also a lack of education and resources for young people with autism.

4.4 Rent reform - She has been campaigning on this with some success. There is a shortage of affordable rented accommodation and the private rented sector is essential.

4.5 Statutory Notices - A change has been introduced which allows residents to lobby the Council or local Housing Association to pay a share of the costs of a common repair where a liable resident is refusing or unable to do so.

4.6 New housing - Sarah Boyack asked MCC to lobby her with their views on the new Local Plan and how it addresses the issue of where new houses should be built. New houses are needed for both buying and renting.

4.7 Agriculture and Fisheries – These are not just rural issues. There are many farmers in Lothian who are affected by the current crisis regarding milk prices.

4.8 Community empowerment – She was happy to support the Community Empowerment Bill which gives communities, including urban communities, the right to buy empty or derelict buildings and land for community use.

Sarah Boyack informed the meeting that she sees holding the Scottish Government to account on matters such as health and policing as her main job in the Scottish Parliament over the next year.

R Smart thanked Sarah Boyack for her assistance in drawing to the attention of the Minister responsible for Planning his dissatisfaction with the revised appeals procedure, which had meant that the decision to grant planning permission for the development at the corner of Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes had been reviewed by three Councillors instead of a Reporter.

The Chairman asked for an explanation of the problem regarding the planning permission which has been granted for the new advertising hoardings at Roseburn. G Douglas explained that the Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”) objected to the application on the ground that it did not specify the height of the pedestals on which the boards would be mounted. Nevertheless permission has been granted. Cllr Ross explained that there is a discrepancy with regard to the size of the new boards between the permission which has been granted and the permission which JC Decaux wanted. He believed that the permission specified the height of the pedestals.

Sarah Boyack acknowledged that planning issues are a constant theme.

G Douglas expressed his concern at the lack of continuity in Police attendance at MCC and DAAA meetings and the apparent lack of appreciation of the value of local knowledge.

Sarah Boyack commented that she had campaigned hard to keep the Fire Service control centre at Tollcross and believed in powers being devolved to the local authority and thence to local communities.

The Chairman raised the issue of licensing of events at Murrayfield Stadium. Sarah Boyack informed the meeting that the Licensing Board has just granted 5 new licences in Stockbridge and Comely Bank for 7 day opening until 1 a.m. She acknowledged that the benefits to the city of numerous public houses, a vibrant culture and tourism have to be weighed against the quality of life for local residents.

5. Councillor’s Report

Cllr Ross dealt first with 3 matters outstanding from the MCC meeting of 12 May as follows:-

5.1 BT Signs on BT Murrayfield Stadium – He had received a reply from the Planning Department to the effect that permission for the illuminated signs had been granted under delegated powers on the basis that the signs would have minimal impact on amenity, the nearest property being 85 metres away. He had been advised that a resident affected by the signs would have to raise the matter with the Environmental Health Department. The resident in question informed Cllr Ross that she had done so and had been told that it was a licensing matter and the signs had not required planning permission. The signs are still illuminated until 12.30 at night.

Cllr Ross undertook to pursue this matter and contact the affected resident.

5.2 Traffic lights at Haymarket – **He had received a detailed explanation of the operation of these lights from Traffic Systems and would forward it for inclusion in the Minutes of the current meeting.** (Text of email from Robert Mansell, Project Officer, Traffic Systems dated 26 May 2015 attached.) One of the points made was that traffic from the west benefits from the priority given to the trams. S Holland disagreed and thought that this priority was the cause of some of the problems.

Cllr Ross suggested that it was difficult to remember how the junction had operated before the many changes which had occurred during the tram works. He offered to continue to monitor the situation.

5.3 Lack of westbound bus shelter at Haymarket – He had raised this issue with the new Chair of Lothian Buses, who had replied that the installation of a bus shelter

was a matter for the Council. Cllr Ross confirmed that the Council is looking at this matter as part of the new arrangement with JC Decaux, but it is difficult to see how another shelter can be fitted in.

Two local residents raised concerns about the new eastbound bus shelter at Roseburn, which is close to the kerb and open sided, and the westbound shelter, which has been removed and not yet replaced. Cllr Ross noted both matters.

Cllr Ross reported on one further matter as follows:-

5.4 Boundary changes - Most of the Council's comments on the proposed ward boundary changes have been ignored by the Boundary Commission. The document detailing the proposals which will be put forward for public consultation contains very few changes from the original. **Cllr Ross undertook to circulate the comments made by the Council.** He confirmed that he and Cllrs Balfour and Edie had objected to the proposed changes regarding Roseburn, but to no avail.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 23 June 2015

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

The Chairman reported that he had written to the Bank of Scotland about the closure of the Bank's Murrayfield branch, but had received no reply. He had then visited the Shandwick Place branch where he had been promised a reply, but none had been forthcoming. The Chairman indicated that he intended to pursue this matter.

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *LED Street Lighting*

Cllr Balfour had circulated the briefing he had received from the Lighting Department on the change to LED lighting via email on 28 May 2015. (Copy of briefing attached.)

7.2. *Residents' parking in Henderland Road*

E Robertson explained that the 6 residents' spaces allocated under the Controlled Parking scheme was inadequate for the number of houses given the level of parking associated with St George's School. R Smart suggested that the Henderland Road residents take lessons from the Murrayfield Avenue residents, who appear to have worked out how to use the new system to their advantage.

7.3. *Path from Murrayfield Gardens to Campbell Avenue*

Prior to the meeting J Forbes had circulated an email detailing the concerns of the owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens about MCC's proposal to acquire and upgrade the path. R Smart had commented on these concerns. J Forbes considered all of the concerns to be reasonable and capable of being accommodated. He was of the view that the plan, which had been drawn up 5 years ago, needed updating to show the boundaries of the area to be acquired and a chicane to deal with the danger posed by cyclists using the path. **R Smart undertook to contact the Roads Department to discuss their current requirements.**

7.4. *Telecoms mast in Ellersly Road*

Cllr Ross reported that the application for retrospective planning permission would be heard on 29 July and was likely to be granted on condition that the mast be removed in 5 months.

J Forbes complained to Sarah Boyack that a number of developers, particularly multi-national companies, regularly abuse the planning system without sanction and expressed the fear that the applicant in this case, EE, will ignore the condition requiring removal in 5 months, if permission for a new mast elsewhere has not been granted by then. Sarah Boyack stated that, while some multi-nationals do not worry about sanctions, they do worry about reputation and asked him to provide her with details of this case.

7.5. *Roseburn Advertising Hoardings*

Cllr Ross read out an email, which he had sent R Brown on 15 May 2015 and which had been circulated by her to the other MCC members, confirming that the advertisement consent for the new hoardings specified a maximum level of illumination. The hoardings will be static and back lit by LED illumination. They will not incorporate any digital panels.

7.6. *Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP") acquisition of toilet block*

V Forbes reported that FORP are at the stage of applying for funding for this project. Cllr Ross recommended that they apply without delay to West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") for £5000 of the remaining budget for the current financial year and again for a further £5000 in the next financial year. He informed her that Cllr Edie will chair the next WENP meeting in September. Cllr Ross also recommended applying to Kwik Fit and the two garages which have premises backing on to Roseburn Park for funding. V Forbes reported that Audrey Primrose of the Council had suggested the Airport as a possible source of funds and FORP were also considering applying for a Scotmid Community Grant.

7.7. *Overhanging vegetation at Ormidale Terrace*

Cllr Ross recommended writing to WENP with the address of the offending property. WENP will write to the owners and, if they fail to take action, WENP will do so. J Forbes reported that notifying Clarence also produces results.

7.8. *Overflowing trade waste bin at Roseburn Cliff*

The Chairman reported that he had complained about this on several occasions, but it seemed to be an intractable problem. R Smart stated that no bins, other than the 2 black ones, should be kept there.

8. Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2

V Forbes reported that FORP are not entirely satisfied with the proposals for replacing the trees which will be removed during the flood prevention works in Roseburn Park. They would like the contractor to consider including a wild garden/meadow. She will be attending the next Stakeholders meeting on 11 August. There will be an FORP meeting after that and, later, another public meeting.

9. Roseburn Action Plan

Prior to the meeting Margaret Laing, Team Leader, Environmental Wardens, West Neighbourhood Team, had sent her apologies and emailed an update on the Action Plan, which was as follows:-

“Request for ‘No Cycling’ Stencil at bus stop at Roseburn Terrace

Works currently being carried out at bus stop. Will spray stencils once works completed.

Wooden Planters

Planters sized up on Sunday 26 July 2015. There are two different sizes of these wooden ones, 7 planters:- 100cm (length) x 106.5cm (length) x 59 cm (depth), and 2 x planters 100cm x 106.5cm x 96.5cm.

Waiting on decision on which department will be relocating the planters. John Yellowlees and Robert Smart copied into email sent to Iain MacPhail, Project Manager.

Relocation of the domestic communal containers at Roseburn Bridge

Environment Team instructing CEC Lining Team to mark white lines on the road where containers to be relocated.

Bike Stand at Roseburn Terrace eastbound bus stop -Request for it to be reinstated

The rack was removed as it had corroded at its base and had become detached from one of its footings making it insecure and unsafe.

There are plans to reinstate this rack and replace the one next to it with new stainless steel cycle racks, as part of a programme of cycle rack installations due to start in August. WENP is also looking to include cycle parking at Tesco's at the end of Russell Road.

Bench on Roseburn Terrace at Bridge

A plaque has been ordered for this bench and it can take up to 10 weeks for it to be returned. The workshops team will have the bench in place as soon as they have the plaque and have attached it to the bench.

It will most likely be returned within the next 6 weeks.

Roseburn Terrace – “A” boards causing obstruction to pedestrians

No update from Environment Team. Recommend that Derek Huckle pursue this through the WENP meetings.

Roseburn Crescent – 2 x communal containers

Informed by Waste Team that these bins service Roseburn Court.

Fly posting advertising Xmas trees for sale, and advertising banner outside Tesco's, Roseburn Terrace

Both items removed.

Cycle routes

Darren Wraight is meeting with the cycle team on 29 July 2015 and will mention that MCC would like an update on the proposals.”

R Smart added that the relocation of the rubbish bins currently on the north side of Roseburn Old Bridge should be completed by the next MCC meeting.

In response to questions about maintenance of the proposed wooden planters, R Smart informed the meeting that they will be maintained by local businesses. Concern was expressed that the rumoured closure of the flower shop might make this difficult.

S Holland asked whether MCC could pay for the painting of the railings on the Old Bridge, as they now look shabby beside the railings at Pape's Cottages, which have just been painted. R Smart did not approve this suggestion.

R Smart reported that replacement covers for the lights on Roseburn Bridge had been ordered.

10. Planning and Licensing

10.1 G Douglas reported that planning permission has been granted for the temporary removal of part of the front boundary wall and railings at Donaldson's College to allow access for construction traffic. He added that submission of the main planning application has been delayed until 19 August.

10.2 R Smart reported that he had looked at the planning application by S1 Developments for redevelopment of the former Westerlea School in Ellersly Road as residential accommodation. He was happy with the majority of the proposals, but was seriously concerned about the density of the proposed building on the east side of the site. **R Smart undertook to draft and circulate a letter of objection** and requested that his stance be supported by as many people as possible.

J Forbes reminded the meeting that the deadline for comments is 7 August.

10.3 R Smart reported that the public consultation on the Regional Plan will close shortly. **Cllr Ross undertook to look at this.**

11. Traffic and Transport

11.1 S Holland reported that Russell Road had been reopened exactly 6 months after it had been closed for work on the railway bridge. A number of those present mentioned that the tiled walls of the bridge were still in need of cleaning and **the Chairman undertook to take up this issue with Network Rail.**

11.2 The Chairman reported that the new railway line between Edinburgh and Tweedbank will be opened before the next MCC meeting and distributed copies of the timetable.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 The Chairman intimated that J Forbes will be taking over responsibility for the Western Corner noticeboard from D Huckle.

12.2 G Douglas informed the meeting that Cllr Balfour has now joined Cllr Ross as a member of the Planning Committee and planning matters cannot, therefore, be discussed with either of them. Cllr Ross confirmed that he and Cllr Balfour cannot comment on planning matters.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 September 2015

Subsequent meetings: 13 October and 1 December 2015.

Minutes approved at meeting of 8 September 2015.

Attachments to Minutes of meeting held on 28 July 2015

Item 5.2 Traffic Lights at Haymarket

Haymarket junction itself operates with 4 stages to control the traffic movements. The slip from Morrison Street to Dalry Road is controlled separately. It is not the easiest junction to control due its size and complexity.

Haymarket Junction forms part of the traffic signals network around the Haymarket area. The timings are co-ordinated to keep all the junctions in-step and allow for efficient traffic movements around the network. The signals also need to deal with tram priority requests; note trams get immediate priority through the junctions.

The junctions are all connected to the Council's Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system. This allows us to set the timings centrally and monitor junction operation in the traffic control centre. The key junction that it is linked to is Palmerston Place / West Maitland Street. To manage tram priority requests without causing too much disruption to the co-ordination of the network, the SPRUCE system has been installed. This monitors the positions of the trams on the network and makes alterations to the timings such that when trams arrive at the junctions, they are operating in the correct stage and the disruption of jumping / skipping stages out to service trams is minimised.

Since the tram network was commissioned around a year ago, we have been working hard to improve operations and refine timings of the signals. The last major piece of work was completed in March where in response to long queues on Dalry Road (typically back as far as the Co-op supermarket), we changed operation of the signals to prioritise traffic on Dalry Road. This also addressed concerns of the bus operators who were experiencing long delays on their services on Dalry Road. This has worked well and the network around Haymarket is working much better than it did. This means that when Dalry Road is on green, the signals on West Maitland Street are also at green to avoid excessive queuing on West Maitland Street.

Traffic coming from the west on Haymarket Terrace normally runs well with little delays. It also regularly gets extra green time as the trams also run in the same stage. So whilst the signals are prioritising for the tram, the traffic in this stage benefits from the longer stage time too.

The only problem that we are aware of at the moment is the right turn from Morrison Street to West Maitland Street which can struggle to get round as West Maitland Street is blocked with queuing traffic. We are looking to see if there any improvements we can make to help solve this problem.

Item 7.1 LED Street Lighting.

The Council currently has approximately 63,418 street lights and pays £2.97M for electricity consumption per year.

In October 2012, the Council successfully piloted the introduction of different equipment for street lighting. The pilot project was undertaken in the Gilmerton and Saughton Mains areas of the city. A total of 271 lights were changed and the results from consultation with local households achieved around 90% satisfaction levels.

Following on from this successful pilot project, the Council secured funding to upgrade 7,200 obsolete street lighting lanterns to LED. This programme of change is nearing completion across the city with new lanterns being fitted to each lighting column. In some cases, a "sleeve" is also

being installed to fit the new style of lantern.

With no digging needed for the work, it takes an average time of 20 minutes to upgrade each lighting column and work on the 7,200 lighting columns.

The fitment of 7,200 LEDs will contribute to an estimated annual energy saving of £275,800. Over the 20 year life of the installation the estimated energy saving will equate to £10,504,800, based on an estimated energy inflation of 8% per annum for the first 10 years and 3% per annum for the next 10 years.

LEDs do not require any ongoing maintenance and have a life span of approximately 20 years compared with the three to four year lifespan for a standard lantern.

This project will also contribute to the realisation of a significant reduction in carbon tax commitment costs. This cost, which is £16.40 per tonne, will result in an estimated annual saving of around £23,000.

Over the 20 year life of this project, the estimated saving in carbon tax commitment costs will equate to around £465,000. It is known that this charge will increase in future years however, accurate charging information for the full 20 years is not known at this time.

The new LED lighting is different from the previous lighting. LED light is more targeted on to the roads and footpaths and there is very little light spillage to areas such as driveways and gardens. When the alterations have been completed the level of illumination, or light, on street should be similar and will be in line with the British Standard for street lighting.

for approval