

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 28 October 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, G McLeod, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Edie,  
In attendance: 6 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, Police Probationer  
Paul Brown, Euan Renton of Spokes, Dave Sinclair of West  
Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership, Makaanjuola Adebulehin,  
Waste and Open Spaces Development Officer, City of Edinburgh  
Council,  
Apologies: N Macdonald, P Sizeland, W Spence, Cllr Balfour, 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.

3. Cycling Issues – short debate with Spokes and the Police

Euan Renton of Spokes explained that Spokes has a membership of more than 1,000, but that number does not represent the majority of cyclists in Edinburgh. He confirmed that Spokes encourages responsible cycling and has completed a number of initiatives to that end. There is, however, a limit to what Spokes, as a voluntary organisation with limited resources and no powers of enforcement, can achieve. Euan handed out a Spokes leaflet containing advice on the responsible use of shared paths.

PC Euan Sinclair praised Spokes for the excellent job which the organisation does. He confirmed that there is no legal requirement for cyclists to have bells or wear helmets. It was agreed that speeding cyclists are the most common problem on paths and pavements and that cyclists who jump red traffic lights are particularly dangerous. PC Sinclair explained that the Police use cycle patrols when their limited resources permit and this is usually in conjunction with other initiatives, such as a crackdown on house breaking.

Dave Sinclair, Roads Manager, West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”), agreed that shared paths, which are not wide enough to allow proper segregation between cyclists and other users, present particular challenges. He reported that in the course of completing Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme efforts would be made to widen the Water of Leith Walkway around Pansy Walk to allow segregation.

Cllr Edie commended Spokes’ efforts in educating cyclists about responsible behaviour. In common with other contributors to the discussion he felt that lack of visibility of cyclists is the main issue for drivers. He considered that street

lighting was less effective than it used to be and cyclists' visibility was further reduced when they obscured their reflective clothing with dark rucksacks.

G Douglas expressed the view that the cycle track raises specific issues in the Murrayfield area, particularly at the entrance and exit points on the cycle track. Two of these are near sheltered housing for elderly people, to whom careless cyclists are a particular danger. He petitioned again for stencilling on pavements and more Police intervention.

**D Sinclair** confirmed that the Council has the materials to carry out stencilling and **asked G Douglas to identify the hotspots where stencilling would be appropriate. He offered to accompany him on a walkabout for that purpose.**

V Forbes reported that signs in Roseburn Park asking cyclists to slow down have proved ineffective.

S Holland asked PC Sinclair how many on-the-spot fines had been issued to cyclists and **PC Sinclair undertook to obtain the relevant statistics.**

G Douglas raised the issue of the lane in Russell Road which was to have been delineated to segregate pedestrians and cyclists about a year ago. **Dave Sinclair offered to address this issue and it was suggested by the Chairman that he could do so in conjunction with G Douglas and S Holland.**

**The Chairman requested that the foregoing discussion be summarised on the Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") website and that Marco Biagi MSP be invited to the next MCC meeting on 2 December 2014.**

#### 4. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair introduced his colleague, Probationer Paul Brown, who was observing proceedings.

PC Sinclair apologised for the absence of a Police representative from the previous MCC meeting and asked that PS Annicea Madine be notified of the dates of future meetings. PC Sinclair reported as follows:-

4.1 The crime statistics for the month of September showed an improvement, except in housebreaking, which had increased. There had been two violent crimes, nine thefts and five acts of vandalism. The increase in housebreaking was particularly noticeable in the Ravelston area where sheds and garages had been targeted for bicycles. On at least one occasion the thieves had used a motorbike to carry the stolen bicycle. There had been two arrests last week.

4.2 The Police propose running an operation in December designed to tackle the usual seasonal increase in housebreaking. They will be using high visibility patrols in conjunction with the Council's CCTV van and plain clothes officers.

4.3 A trial of "Smart Water" had been carried out on the south side of the city. PC Sinclair likened Smart Water to liquid DNA and explained that it can be used to identify those who have handled stolen items, as it transfers to the skin and is difficult to remove.

4.4 He alerted the meeting to a recent sighting of suspicious looking men in the Ravelston Park area.

4.5 The usual pre-Christmas drink/driving road safety campaign will be run. The proposed reduction in the permitted level of alcohol in the blood is not yet in force, but PC Sinclair recommended not drinking at all if driving.

4.6 He also recommended having one's car checked for winter road worthiness and keeping emergency supplies, clothes and blankets in the car.

4.7 PC Sinclair advised against using headphones whilst out in winter, as such use reduces awareness of one's surroundings.

4.8 Inspector Christopher Scobie is the new Station Inspector at Corstorphine and is keen to introduce himself at the next MCC meeting. He can be contacted by email or phone at Corstorphine.

In response to a request from Cllr Edie, PC Sinclair undertook to ask the Events Planning Team to contact Cllr Edie regarding the road closures which are put in place on international rugby match days.

In reply to a question from a member of the public PC Sinclair confirmed that Corstorphine Police Station is open on Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and that the station is manned even when the front counter is not. In the case of non-urgent matters he advised phoning 101 to make a Diary Car appointment.

A member of the public asked whether the graffiti artist, who has been busy recently and who signs his work, had been caught. PC Sinclair explained that he could be arrested only if his activities had been reported to the Police and confirmed that some artists can be identified from the tags they put on their work.

## 5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

5.1 The Council's consultation on the 2014/15 Budget has been published. Tough decisions will have to be made to balance the Budget, e.g. huge increases in allotment charges are proposed. Edinburgh Leisure is proposing the closure of Carricknowe Golf Course and a swim centre in order to deal with a 20% cut in grant funding. Cllr Edie encouraged MCC's participation in the consultation, the deadline for which is 19 December. The Budget will be set in February 2015. It was agreed that the Budget proposals would be discussed at the next MCC meeting on 2 December.

5.2 The results of the consultation on the extension of the Controlled Parking Zone to Murrayfield have been analysed. He understood that the majority view is in favour.

5.3 A report on Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme had been submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee that day. He hoped that the required planning application would be submitted soon. The Council has managed to close the funding gap and now has the full amount of £25m available.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Cllr Ross is to report back to MCC on the lack of a bus shelter outside Haymarket Station and Cllr Balfour is to do the same regarding the "A" boards causing an obstruction outside the Roseburn Bar.

G McLeod asked Cllr Edie whether there is any truth in the rumour, which he had heard, that Lothian Buses are to re-route the 100 bus, which currently travels between the airport and the city centre through Roseburn, Murrayfield and Corstorphine, via Queensferry Road and Drum Brae. **Cllr Edie undertook to investigate.**

A member of the public complained about the Council's proposal to save £10,000 by withdrawing the service of marking the white lines on public football pitches. D Sinclair explained that the proposal was not to withdraw the service, but to charge the clubs who use the pitches for this service.

## 6. Roseburn Action Plan

The Chairman asked R Smart to update the meeting regarding the Roseburn Action Plan, which had been drawn up by R Smart with input from local

resident, John Riddell, and covers the Bridge, the Terrace and the advertising hoardings on the Terrace. **R Smart** dealt with these three areas as follows:-

6.1 Roseburn Bridge – He reported that he proposed to amend certain recent changes made to the draft Action Plan by John Riddell and revert to the proposal for three bollards, rather than two, at the ends of the Old Bridge, normal street lighting rather than “conservation” lighting and designer input in deciding on the surfaces to be used on the different sections of the Bridge. **R Smart undertook to issue an updated Action Plan.**

The Chairman suggested arranging a walkabout with Margaret Laing, the Council’s Project Manager for the Action Plan, so that progress could be made on those items on which there is agreement.

V Forbes reported that a number of Mary Erskine pupils had done an excellent job in clearing drains and weeding kerbs at the Old Bridge and in Roseburn Park as part of an exercise in community service.

A local resident asked whether all points of the Action Plan had been agreed and the Chairman explained that they had not. She expressed a preference for planters, rather than bollards, at the ends of the Old Bridge and volunteered to be responsible for maintaining them. R Smart suggested that the local florist might be persuaded to supply plants and maintain them.

In response to a query from the Chairman as to whether the items in the draft Action Plan were likely to be acceptable to WENP, D Sinclair stated that WENP would support items considered appropriate and maintainable and that there would be funding available for environmental projects – about £100,000 for Wards 3 and 6 by April 2015.

S Holland pointed out that the spreadsheet of MCC generated actions provided by Margaret Laing showed certain items, such as overflowing bins, as completed when they were clearly not.

R Smart suggested that **the MCC Action Plan should be posted on the MCC website and noticeboards.**

6.2 Roseburn Terrace – R Smart reported that the Action Plan proposed widening and tidying of the pavements and the banning of “A” boards which impede pedestrian passage. J Forbes expressed the view that widening the pavements was an ambition which was unlikely to be achieved. He suggested concentrating on de-cluttering the pavements by getting the “A” boards and trade waste bins removed, the trade waste bins being allowed on the pavements only on collection days. D Sinclair confirmed that the Council can prohibit the use of “A” boards, if considered appropriate. He understood that the Council is likely to adopt new legislation, which prohibits the storage of trade waste bins on the street except on collection days, and which has recently been trialled on Leith Walk and the High Street. **D Sinclair undertook to update MCC on the steps which can be taken to deal with “A” boards and trade waste bins at the next MCC meeting.**

It was agreed that the overhead-gantry traffic lights are unsightly and redundant and should be removed.

6.3 Roseburn Terrace advertising hoardings – R Smart reminded the meeting that the rear part of this site is earmarked for a tram construction site, should the tram network ever be extended. D Sinclair reported that at one time the Council’s Estates Department was exploring the sale potential of the site, but is currently awaiting the outcome of the proposals by JC Decaux for upgrading the hoardings.

R Brown informed the meeting that JC Decaux's planning application for advertisement consent was to be heard by the Planning Committee on 19 November.

E Robertson urged those present to look at the advertising hoardings near the Murrayfield Sainsbury's supermarket as an example of a prominent style of hoarding.

7. Flood Prevention

The Chairman informed the meeting that the next meeting of the Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group will take place on 25 November 2014.

8. New Waste Strategy

The Chairman invited Makanjuola Adebulehin, Waste and Open Spaces Development Officer based at Murrayburn, to explain the Council's new recycling and waste service. M Adebulehin explained that the new service is being rolled out across the city to 140,000 households which currently have green wheelie bins. The process began in September and will cover 20,000 households in each of the first three phases (September and November 2014 and March 2015) and 40,000 in each of the last two phases (June and October 2015). Under the new system the green wheelie bin will be used for recycling all items currently recycled in the red and blue boxes and blue bags plus a wider range of plastic items (e.g. tubs, yogurt pots, meat trays), and envelopes, but not glass. The blue box will be used for glass, batteries and small electrical items. Textiles will be recyclable in a plastic bag. Households will be issued with a grey wheelie bin, which will be about a third smaller than the green wheelie bin, to be used for all other waste, which cannot be recycled and will have to go to landfill. The Council's target is to recycle 50% of household waste by the end of next year. It currently achieves a recycling rate of 40%. M Adebulehin confirmed that collections of recyclable and other waste will be on the same day of the week on alternate weeks, except for food waste which will continue to be collected weekly. Garden waste will continue to be recyclable in the brown bins and the collection pattern will not change. He confirmed that the Council has no legal obligation to provide a garden refuse collection service.

M Adebulehin referred the meeting to the Council's website for information on the new service and a calendar of the street-by-street roll out of the service. He stated that information will also be posted in libraries and schools and disseminated through personal presentations. Households will receive a guide and calendar before the start of the new service. The first day of the new service will be the last day of the old service. Once the green wheelie bin has been used for the last time under the old service, a sticker will be put on it to indicate that it has become a recycling bin.

M Adebulehin confirmed that the Council's policies on overfilled bins, black bags and contamination have not changed, but will not be enforced rigorously for the first two months of the new service.

He explained that assisted collections will continue, as will larger bins for families of five or more, or with children under three years old, or someone with a medical condition. The communal bins used for tenements will not be changed, but new schemes to increase recycling by tenement households are being trialled.

In response to a comment from S Holland, M Adebulehin confirmed that the Council's Waste Service is aware that there have been problems recently with the food waste collections in the Murrayfield area and the new Waste Manager is keen to sort them out. He asked householders to try the new service for eight weeks and contact his department if they are experiencing problems after that time.

9. 20 mph Speed Limit Consultation

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the consultation period ended on 17 October.

10. Corstorphine Hill Pedestrian Access

The Chairman asked D Sinclair for his view on the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Ravelston Dykes Road opposite the foot of the Corstorphine Hill path. **D Sinclair** explained that a request for a pedestrian crossing would normally be assessed to ascertain demand, potential users and appropriate design and would involve looking at the accident history of the location, counting pedestrians and traffic and applying a national formula to determine need. He was certain that the proposed location would not qualify for a crossing. He **undertook**, however, **to discuss this matter with his colleague, Darren Wraight.**

11. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9 September 2014

These were approved. Prop: G Douglas, Sec: E Robertson.

12. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported as follows:-

12.1 He had looked at eight or nine minor domestic planning applications and the application for the "BT Murrayfield" signs at Murrayfield Stadium.

12.2 The appeal against the refusal of planning consent for a block of flats in place of the existing house at the corner of Ravelston Dykes and Murrayfield Road had been successful. R Smart was very critical of the process under which the appeal had been decided and suggested that MCC write to Cameron Buchanan, MSP and Sarah Boyack, MSP, who are both on the Planning Committee of the Scottish Parliament, with a view to persuading them that legislation to change this process is required.

13. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman informed the meeting that Sustrans had asked for MCC's support for the proposed cycle rack at Haymarket Station. It was agreed that MCC would commend the proposal to the West End Community Council in whose area the station lay.

14. Western Corner MCC Noticeboard

G McLeod reported that he had had a meeting with the owner of the Prego convenience store, who had agreed that the MCC noticeboard could stay where it is on the wall of the store. He had also spoken to Mark Baillie of Baillie Signs and arranged for the noticeboard to be repaired. S Holland informed G McLeod that D Huckle had passed him an invoice from Baillie Signs for £288 for the repair and **G McLeod undertook to ensure that the repair is carried out on**

**that basis.**

15. Youth Representative

It was agreed that this matter should be postponed to the next AGM of MCC.

16. Any Other Reports

The Chairman referred to information received from P Sizeland by email and R Brown confirmed that the email reported that Saughtonhall Community Association had recently held a successful coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

17. Correspondence

There was no other correspondence of note.

18. Any Feedback on MCC Website

There were no contributions on this matter.

19. Any Other Competent Business

G Douglas reported that Cllr Balfour had told him that an announcement on the future of Donaldson's College was imminent.

G Douglas expressed delight on behalf of himself and his MCC colleagues at the return of G McLeod after a period of absence.

E Robertson complained about the size and brightness of the advertising signs used by the car showroom at Roseburn. She was reminded by R Smart and G Douglas that these are commercial premises and have planning permission for the advertising signs.

20. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public, who had seen a street cleaner with a barrow working in the Murieston area, asked D Sinclair why such a cleaner is not deployed at Roseburn. He was told that there are only 14 street cleaners for the West End of the city and resources did not permit this. G Douglas reminded the meeting that surveys of the city had shown that the Murrayfield area is one of the cleanest. D Sinclair explained that the Council does not have a legal obligation to keep the streets clean, only an obligation to clean them within a certain time after a need for cleaning has been reported.

21. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 2 December 2014

Minutes approved at meeting of 2 December 2014.