

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 20 October 2015 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, S Holland, D Huckle,
N Macdonald, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 6 members of the public, James Ogilvie, Saughtonhall Community
Association,
Apologies: J Forbes, V Forbes, E Robertson, P Sizeland, R Smart, Cllr Edie,
Margaret Laing, City of Edinburgh Council, Michelle Thomson MP,
M Biagi MSP, Cameron Buchanan 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. Community Policing Report

3.1 Cllr Balfour reported that the Foo Fighters concert had caused no major problems. The only negative comments he had received related to noise outside the Murrayfield Hotel, which had obtained a late licence, after the concert.

3.2 Councillor Balfour stated that the report in the Evening News that the crime prevention figures recently published by Police Scotland are worse for Edinburgh than for the rest of Scotland is to be treated with caution. He recommended reading the full Police Scotland report on their website.

3.3 The Chairman intimated that the Community Policing Team had not been notified of the postponement of the current meeting from 13 October and he offered sincere apologies for this oversight.

4. Boundary Commission Consultation on Proposed Ward Boundary Changes

The meeting discussed and approved the response drafted by the Chairman which was attached to the Agenda (copy attached). The Chairman undertook to send the response to the Boundary Commission before the deadline of 22 October.

G Douglas confirmed that he would be submitting a similar response on behalf of Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA"). The Chairman intimated that he had been in touch with the Chairman of the West End Community Council, who was also to send a response, but who had a slightly different view from the DAAA. R Brown reported that she had notified the Chairman of the Wester Coates Amenity Society of the consultation and hoped that he would also make a submission to the Boundary Commission.

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

5.1 JC Decaux has submitted a new planning application for the advertising hoardings on Roseburn Terrace because the existing planning consent is for the wrong size of hoarding.

5.2 At the next meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee the Council will be seeking approval for the replacement of the bus lane on the north side of West Coates and Haymarket Terrace with a two-way cycle lane. It is proposed that no parking will be allowed on that side of the road from Roseburn to Haymarket. He expressed concern about the effect this change would have on other traffic, which would no longer be segregated from the buses, and on the shops at Roseburn, if no one can park near them. J Ogilvie, as a cyclist himself, pointed out that there is already a cycle track which runs parallel with the main road closer to the tramline.

Cllr Ross shared Cllr Balfour's concern about the loss of the bus lane and pointed out that a bus lane is used by many more people than a cycle lane. Both Councillors suggested that MCC invite a Council officer to give a presentation on the cycle lane proposal to the next MCC meeting.

The Chairman suggested that the Council give such a presentation at the next meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (see Item 6).

D Huckle expressed the view that cyclists are still causing many problems to traffic and it would be useful to discuss cycling again with a Spokes representative at a future MCC meeting. J Ogilvie reminded him that cyclists are themselves "traffic".

5.3 Cllr Ross reported that he understood that the Enforcement Team is still discussing the illuminated "BT Murrayfield" sign on the stadium, about which a close neighbour of the stadium had complained. The same resident informed him that the sign is now illuminated from 6 p.m. until 12.30 a.m.

6. West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting

The Chairman intimated that the next meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") is to be held in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre on Tuesday, 24 November 2015 at 7 p.m. He expressed the view that the WENP meetings give an insight into the organisation of local government and the integration of services across the City. They also demonstrate how participation has resulted in the Roseburn Action Plan rising up the agenda and he encouraged attendance.

The Chairman asked R Brown to arrange for the Agenda of the next WENP meeting to be published on the MCC website. Cllr Ross informed her that Audrey Primrose is the appropriate contact at the Council.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8 September 2015

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: D Huckle.

Matters Arising

7.1. *Response to SES Plan Main Issues Report*

In the absence of R Smart it was not known whether he had submitted a response to this Report. Cllr Ross conceded that the SES Plan covers a huge area and contains proposals which do not directly affect the MCC area, but he encouraged MCC to think about the impact which, for example, the plans for new housing at Cammo, might have on the infrastructure and transport serving the local area.

7.2. *Charge for replacement of a food waste bin*

Cllr Balfour confirmed that there should be no charge for this. He agreed with a member of the public that there is a charge for a second garden waste bin.

7.3. *Policy on graffiti removal*

Cllr Ross told the meeting that none of the Council officers to whom he had spoken was aware of a change in policy to the effect that non-offensive graffiti would no longer be removed. He understood that this matter was going to be discussed by the Transport and Environment Committee.

7.4. *Redevelopment of Donaldson's College*

G Douglas reported that he had liaised with R Smart with a view to their both making comments, on behalf of DAAA and MCC respectively, on the main planning application for the redevelopment of Donaldson's College, but he did not know whether R Smart had made such comments.

8. Flood Prevention, including plans for Roseburn Park

Cllr Balfour intimated that the next public meeting on Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme will take place at Murrayfield Ice Rink on Tuesday, 27 October at 5.30 p.m. He indicated that there had been no change to the proposals regarding the trees in Roseburn Park.

9. Roseburn Action Plan

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

“Wooden Planters

Information received from Inch Nurseries with regard to maintenance/costs for the planters:-

"Your planters need a complete compost change and filled with a mix of annual and perennial plants, Cost would be £100 per planter. That includes compost and plants.

Watering would be £7.50 per week, 26 weeks in summer and 13 in winter. We can give advice on maintaining plants and they (MCC) can buy plants through our plant sale if they wish to take on the task themselves"

Information on applying for a grant and guidance notes have been passed to John Yellowlees from Audrey Primrose, Partnership and Information Officer. The grant could cover the set up costs which would include gardening equipment, plants etc. MCC has commented that the planters are supposed to be a temporary measure pending full implementation of the Plan, so it would not be justified in incurring set up costs. The same applies to Inch Nurseries' maintenance charges. Therefore MCC would be looking for local volunteers.

J Yellowlees has also contacted John MacDonald, Florist, Bloemen Ecke, who has offered to water the plants. J Yellowlees has written to thank him. His own gardener, David Herd, is willing to keep an eye on the planters and will apply some wood stain to make them last longer and look better.

Task Force contacted on 30 September 2015 to request that this area could be looked at and cleansed if required on a regular basis, as per MCC's request at the last meeting on 8 September."

A member of the public expressed her approval of the planters on the Old Bridge and commented that someone had been planting pansies in one of them. S Holland explained that a local resident, who works in a garden centre, had done this. She suggested that MCC funds could be used to buy water retaining gel for the planters. It was agreed that the combined efforts of the local florist, the garden centre employee and the Chairman's own gardener might suffice to maintain the planters. The Chairman indicated that he had not written to John McDonald at Bloemen Ecke, but would do so.

“Roseburn Cliff – waste issue

Fixed Penalty Notices have continued to be issued with regard to unauthorised disposal of waste. Details of the offenders cannot be disclosed. Area continuing to be monitored by the Environmental Wardens.

Missing Plate Covers – Globe Lights, Roseburn Bridge

Update from Steven Francey, Professional Officer: –

‘Still not done due to specialised pens required to do the detail so it isn't a simple paint, but we are under severe pressure for high profile schemes just now so will try and fit this in.’

Overgrown Hedge - Ormidale Terrace

Notification received from Environment Team to say the overhanging foliage has been cut back.

‘No Cycling’ Stencils

“No cycling” stencils were sprayed at the new bus stop at Roseburn Terrace, foot of Roseburn Cliff on 10 September 2015.”

S Holland again pointed out that the “No cycling” stencils are not sufficiently visible to cyclists – they are too small and faint and the yellow colour wears off quickly. The stencil near the new bus stop at the foot of Roseburn Cliff has been placed in the shadow of the trees.

“Additional litter/dog waste bin at Murrayfield Gardens

Received request from J Yellowlees and a complaint from a member of the public via Cllr Balfour with regard to dog fouling and for an additional bin in Murrayfield Gardens.

Action taken:- Environmental Wardens contacted complainant to gather more information about when offences are happening and Task Force visited and left a card for the complainant to discuss additional signage and possible bin. Cllr Balfour also updated on actions taken.”

Cllr Balfour reported that the member of the public who had contacted him and the Chairman about litter and dog fouling in Murrayfield Gardens is now happy with the action taken.

“Residents’ Recycling Containers – Food bins and Brown bins – Enquiry ref 30002714

Email sent to Waste Team on 30 September 2015 requesting information on the following:-

- Is there a charge to residents if they wish to have a second brown garden waste bin?
- Food waste bins – why is there a waiting time of around 6 – 10 weeks for replacement bins to be delivered?

J Yellowlees also copied into the email and requested that Waste Team also sends a response to him.”

See Item 7.2

“Missing bench on Roseburn Terrace/Bridge

Update from Sarah Fraser, Contracts Officer, Parks and Greenspace :-

‘The plaque has not yet been completed – there were issues at the proofing stage. We will return the bench once the plaque arrives into our workshops. I will let you know once we have the plaque and are able to indicate a time when the bench will be returned.’

Bus Shelters on Roseburn Terrace

At the last MCC Meeting the following questions were asked:-

- The bus shelter heading west bound on Roseburn Terrace was removed and it has not been replaced. Why was it removed and when will it be replaced?
- The new bus shelter at Roseburn Terrace east bound at the bottom of Roseburn Cliff is much smaller. Why is this?
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Response from Graham Atkins, Public Transport Officer :-

‘JC Decaux, is the Council’s new bus shelter contractor and the current design of the new advertising bus shelters belongs to this company, which also provides, installs, maintains and cleans this new equipment at no cost to the Council. The new shelter designs also represent this company’s modern equivalent of the shelters previously belonging to Clear Channel UK Ltd and they are almost identical in their dimensions to the previous shelters, so are not actually any smaller in size than the previous Clear Channel shelters on Roseburn Bridge or at the foot of Roseburn Cliff. Their overall appearance does, however, give the impression that they are slighter and very much lighter in their construction, but they occupy the same overall ground footprint as the previous shelters.

With regard to the delay in installing the new shelter on Roseburn Bridge, whilst every attempt is made to minimise the delay between the shelter removal and its replacement, at this particular location, the footway excavation revealed issues with underlying public utilities, causing a delay. This has meant that a bespoke shelter foundation has had to be designed, which fits around the

utilities, yet holds the new shelter securely against high wind loads. Whilst this was undertaken, the excavation was temporarily backfilled and the new shelter is now installed, but it still awaits the laying of footway slabs and a complete restoration of the footway at this point. Once the cement has been cured sufficiently, the shelter and stop will be reopened in this original location and all the associated traffic management and footway barriers will be removed.”

A number of those present again expressed considerable dissatisfaction with the new bus shelters. A local resident pointed out the new bus shelter at the foot of Roseburn Cliff is open on the side adjoining the road, leaving users exposed to the prevailing south west wind in winter. He also requested that the bus sign be changed to the other end of the shelter. In response to a question from the same person, Cllr Ross confirmed that the contract with JC Decaux involves a large capital receipt by the Council. He agreed that the Council should check that the new shelters have been constructed in accordance with the design and specification approved by the Transport and Environment Committee.

The same local resident repeated the complaint which he had made at an earlier meeting about the lack of a bus shelter in Shandwick Place. Cllr Ross responded that he had already relayed the response from the appropriate Council officer that there was insufficient pavement width for a shelter. Cllr Ross agreed with the Chairman’s suggestion that Graham Atkins of the Council be invited to a future MCC meeting to answer questions on the bus shelters.

“Abandoned brown garden recycling bin – Roseburn Gardens

This bin has now been removed.”

10. Footpath from Murrayfield Gardens to Campbell Avenue

In the absence of J Forbes and R Smart the Chairman reported that J Forbes had informed him by email that the owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens had contacted him to point out that the proposals to upgrade the footpath involved a widening of the path and that they and their neighbours were not happy with the proposal to replace the steps with a chicane. J Forbes proposed to make one last attempt to reach agreement with the owners and proposed that, if unsuccessful, this project should be abandoned.

A member of the public suggested laying chips to improve the muddy surface of the path and was told by S Holland that this had been proposed some years ago, but could not be pursued because the path was privately owned.

11. Planning and Licensing

11.1 The Chairman remarked that completion of the new building on Kew Terrace was now long overdue. G Douglas reported that he had been told some time ago that the details of the lease of the ground floor had yet to be finalised and he was not aware that the situation had changed. Cllr Ross confirmed that the surrounding area will have to be made good once the building has been completed.

11.2 G Douglas and the Chairman mentioned that from time to time the Tesco Express at Roseburn displays advertising banners on the adjoining railings and on the side of the building and they doubted whether Tesco had planning permission to do so. Cllr Ross undertook to get the Planning Enforcement team to look into this and the Chairman offered to provide a photograph.

11.3 G Douglas reported that the Cockburn Association's Doors Open Day had been sponsored by the developers of Donaldson's College, City & Country, and this year's brochure featured a photograph of the College and referred to City & Country's plan to open part of the College to the public on Doors Open Day next year.

11.4 The Chairman reminded the meeting that R Smart had submitted comments on behalf of MCC on the planning application for the redevelopment of Westerlea School, Ellersly Road. The proposed redevelopment was broadly acceptable, but he had criticised the density of housing proposed for the east side of the site. Cllr Balfour reported that, to his surprise, he had not been contacted by any local residents on this issue.

11.5 In the absence of R Smart there was no report regarding other recent planning applications.

12. Traffic and Transport

12.1 S Holland reported that he had accepted the invitation from First Bus to MCC to attend the relaunch in Linlithgow Burgh Halls of their No 38 Bus service, now known as the Royal Route, which connects Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Falkirk and Stirling. First Group had said that they were keen to receive passengers' feedback and to correct the misconception that potential passengers cannot stop and board a 38 bus within the city boundary. First Bus had offered to give a presentation to MCC. The suggestion that they might be invited to the same meeting as Graham Atkins was withdrawn on the basis that MCC would not wish to promote a company in competition with Lothian Buses, from whom the Council receives revenues.

Cllr Ross asked if First Bus's fares are the same as Lothian Buses' and was told by N Macdonald that the adult fares are the same, but a child's fare is 80p instead of 70p. He reminded the meeting that, when First Bus had pulled out of East Lothian and West Lothian, Lothian Buses had stepped in to provide the services.

12.2 A member of the public complained that the machines on First Bus's buses have been responsible for ruining his and other peoples' bus passes so that they do not work on Lothian Buses' machines. He also asked why Lothian Buses' 12, 26 and 31 buses all seem to arrive at Roseburn at the same time. Cllr Balfour explained that the congestion at Drum Brae roundabout and in St John's Road, Corstorphine causes the traffic to back up and the buses to clump together. The Chairman commented that Lothian Buses welcome feedback and suggested raising this issue via their website.

12.3 The Chairman asked if anyone had attended the drop-in session on the Council's draft Parking Action Plan at the Drum Brae Hub on 6 October. It appeared that no one had. Cllr Ross informed the meeting that the consultation is open until 31 October and urged participation in the survey on the Council's website. Cllr Balfour summarised the proposals as relating principally to Sunday and evening parking. **Action all.**

12.4 In response to a question from a member of the public about the roll out of the 20 mph restrictions, Cllr Balfour informed her that a Traffic Regulation Order is required for each change and public notice of these is always given.

12.5 The Chairman referred to the fact that the frequency of the trams has been increased and the start time brought forward. Cllr Ross commented that the trams going to and from Edinburgh Park are now full at rush hour.

Cllr Balfour intimated that the meeting of the Transport Committee in November will discuss the extension of the tramline to the foot of Leith Walk. Cllr Ross expressed the view that Line 1B along the Roseburn corridor has as much potential for passenger numbers as the extension of the existing line to Leith and may also be discussed at the meeting.

G Douglas asked if the Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan still shows the proposed line to the Royal Infirmary and was told by Cllr Balfour that it does, but that this proposal is an aspiration only and is a long way from becoming a reality.

In response to a question from the Chairman Cllr Ross confirmed that the Council's powers to complete the extension of the tramline to Leith expire in 2020. He also stated that a new Bill would be required to give the Council power to promote the line to the Royal Infirmary. At present Network Rail can prevent the Council from using the former south suburban railway line, but the Chairman pointed out that a tram-train trial of joint running is soon to commence at Rotherham.

S Holland asked whether the November meeting of the Transport Committee will discuss the effect of the trams on the buses, traffic congestion and traffic signals. Cllr Ross confirmed that the phasing of traffic lights will not change, the biggest issue being, not the timing of the lights, but vehicles pulling into yellow boxes after the lights have changed. D Huckle expressed the view that the timing of the lights should be looked at again.

A member of the public suggested that electric buses would be more suitable than trams for Line 1B. The Chairman reminded her that trolley buses came to be known as "silent death" and are no longer in service anywhere in the country.

13. Any Other Competent Business

13.1 R Brown asked for comments on a list of proposed dates for MCC meetings in 2016. January was problematic as work was to be done on the boiler in the Church Centre and the Chairman was unavailable at the end of the month. Cllr Balfour advised avoiding the first two weeks of the Council recess at the start of July. It was agreed that the schools' half term week beginning 17 October should also be avoided. R Brown undertook to go back to the Church Office with these provisos with a view to compiling a final list of dates for approval.

13.2 R Brown informed the meeting that the AGM of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils would take place in the City Chambers on Saturday, 28 November 2015 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon and that MCC could take part in nominating office bearers. It was agreed that MCC would not participate.

14. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1 December 2015

Subsequent meetings: Dates to be announced.

Minutes approved at meeting of 1 December 2015

Copy referred to at Item 4 of the foregoing Minutes

DRAFT RESPONSE FROM MCC TO LGBCS
by email to lgbcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

5TH REVIEWS OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Murrayfield Community Council are concerned at the proposed moving of Roseburn, Wester Coates and the Donaldson Area from the Murrayfield Ward to the City Centre Ward for it to become a 4 member Ward.

Our city is defined by its radial routes. We believe that Roseburn is a natural community which belongs with Murrayfield, and that both it and the Stadium should be kept in the Murrayfield Ward. Indeed for Murrayfield Stadium not to be in Murrayfield would be a patent absurdity.

Historically also the Donaldson Area Amenity Association has been more concerned with matters arising to the west of Magdala Crescent than with those in the West End, where the contrasting character of the city produces different issues such as Houses in Multiple Occupation, problems with tenements and numerous licensing applications

There are more important concerns at stake than electoral geography, and the lack of common interest with say the east side of the City Centre Ward could be reflected in voter apathy.

All of this comes at a time when we were just starting to bed down nicely into the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership, with whom our links would be lost. This proposal is no less destructive than the more widely-reported one to split Colinton, and we urge that it be reconsidered.