

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 December 2015 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, S Holland,
D Huckle, N Macdonald, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 16 members of the public, PC Nicola Payne, Allan Hutcheon and
Chris Brace, both City of Edinburgh Council, David Whitelaw,
Saughtonhall Community Association,
Apologies: V Forbes, P Sizeland, 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

The Chairman introduced PC Nicola Payne and repeated the apology, already expressed by email, for MCC's failure to inform the Community Policing Team of the postponement of the previous MCC meeting.

PC Payne explained that her ward is Drum Brae/Gyle and she was standing in for her Murrayfield/Corstorphine colleagues, PCs Sam Davison and Euan Sinclair, who could not attend. She reported that the Community Policing Team had been using high visibility and plain clothes patrols to deal with anti-social behaviour involving youths in Carrick Knowe, along the cycle paths and in Roseburn Park. The juveniles involved in the issue at Carrick Knowe Golf Course had been identified and had been spoken to at school. Problems with dangerous parking near schools were not confined to Roseburn Primary School but were widespread. Hand held speed guns were used by the Police to carry out road safety checks and stop vehicles.

PC Payne reported that the figures for the current period for housebreaking to both dwellings and business premises were down on the figures for the previous month and those for the same period last year. In the Murrayfield/Corstorphine area there had been only 6 housebreakings to dwellings in the period from 13 September to 1 December 2015. She referred to the Community Investigation Unit and Operation RAC, both of which target housebreaking. PC Payne reminded the meeting of the need for extra vigilance in domestic security at this time of year to prevent opportunistic burglaries. She advised removing keys, laptops, mobile phones and other valuable items from sight and checking that all windows and doors are locked.

PC Payne reported that cycling on pavements and at a dangerous speed on the cycle track continued to cause concern.

She mentioned the spread in the West End of graffiti bearing the tags “TEL” and “E2” and requested that anyone who knows who the perpetrators are contact PC Davison or PC Sinclair.

R Smart mentioned that in an area in England, where street lighting had been turned off as an economy measure, a drop in burglaries and traffic accidents had resulted. He **undertook to circulate the research paper detailing this finding.**

D Huckle and a member of the public complained that cyclists continue to present a hazard to themselves and motorists by cycling on pavements, moving dangerously between lanes of traffic and failing to use adequate lights or high visibility clothing.

4. Outcome of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting held on 24 November 2015 in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

The Chairman reported that the recent meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre had been well attended and had provided useful and interesting discussion. He thanked Cllr Edie for suggesting that some of the WENP meetings be held in the Murrayfield area. Cllr Ross thought it likely that this experiment would be repeated. The Chairman also thanked Helen Barbour for initiating a discussion on availability of funding.

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

5.1 The Scottish Government will set their Budget on 16 December 2015. A cutback in funding to Councils is inevitable, but the extent is as yet unknown. The City of Edinburgh Council will set its own Budget two weeks earlier than usual.

5.2 The Council's current Budget proposals are out for consultation but further significant proposals are to be added. The consultation has been extended to 17 December 2015. Both he and Cllr Ross encouraged participation in the consultation by any of the means available – the online survey on the Council's website, the Facebook page, email, phone or post. It was agreed that Twitter was an inadequate forum. Cllr Ross explained that the real uncertainty is in relation to the year after next when the effect of the reduction in the Scottish allocation from Westminster will be felt.

In response to a question from a member of the public as to whether “no more trams” was an option for budgetary restraint, Cllr Balfour stated that the extension of the tramline will be a Council election issue in 2017. A decision on extending the existing tramline will be made by the full Council on 10 December 2015. He explained that there are areas of land which the Council will have to acquire by May 2016, if it is to preserve the ability to extend the tramline, and these acquisitions may well be made. Cllr Ross explained that the economic case for extending the line had been made in relation to the Waterfront and North Edinburgh, but the business case had not been made.

R Smart asked how much underground work had been done in Leith Walk and was told by Cllr Ross that only 60% of the budget had been spent and no contribution had been recovered from the private companies who had benefited from the work. This would have to change if further work were done.

5.3 The gas works forming part of Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme were under way and the main works would begin in January 2016.

5.4 Further planning applications in relation to Donaldson's College are in the pipeline.

5.5 The consultation on the proposal to extend parking charges to Sunday is now closed and a decision will be made by the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2016. He thought that a compromise, e.g. to assist Church attendees, was possible.

R Smart asked whether a review of the local Conservation Area, the character of which had undergone significant change since its inception, was likely. Cllr Ross replied that the Conservation Areas are reviewed periodically and he undertook to find out when a review of the local Area might take place. He referred to the fact that Kingsburgh Road occupies a gap between two adjacent Conservation Areas and should probably be included in one of them. Cllr Balfour remembered that a proposed development in Kingsburgh Road had encountered significant opposition a couple of years ago.

Cllr Ross reported that the illuminated "BT Murrayfield" sign is to be switched off at 11 pm in future. The SRU had offered this concession, but, as the Council had decided at the advertisement consent stage that the sign caused no loss of amenity, he was not hopeful that anything further could be done.

J Forbes raised the following issues:-

1. He had been told by two surveyors working in Ellersly Road that they were looking into the installation of a traffic island to the west of Kinellan Road. He asked whether this was a concrete proposal. Neither **Cllr Ross** nor **Cllr Balfour** was aware of such a proposal. They **undertook to investigate and report back at the next meeting.**

2. EE had been granted planning permission for a new telecommunications mast on Murrayfield Road conditional on their removing the mast on their Ellersly Road site by 3 January 2016. He was concerned that they would not meet this condition. Cllr Balfour explained that the lease to EE of the Ellersly Road site expires on 3 January and, if the mast is not removed by then, the landlord/developer will remove it. He had asked the landlord/developer to confirm this. If the mast is not removed by 3 January the Enforcement Team could be asked to intervene, but was not likely to act swiftly. It was agreed that **this item would be put on the Agenda for the next MCC meeting.**

In response to questions from G Douglas Cllr Balfour confirmed that the Planning Committee did carry out a site visit at Donaldson's College on 26 November 2015. Cllr Ross confirmed that planning consent in principle has been granted and the developer's detailed internal proposals are awaited and will have to be available by February, if work is to start on time next year.

6. Cycle Route Consultations

Chris Brace, Project Officer (Cycling) and Allan Hutcheon, Professional Officer, Projects Development, Transport, City of Edinburgh Council, provided leaflets and plans of the Council's proposals for a dedicated cycle route from Roseburn to Leith Walk. C Brace explained that the proposals are currently the subject of a public consultation, which ends on 5 January 2016. One public drop-in session had already taken place and another was to be held at Haymarket Station on 2 December 2015 between 3 and 8pm. He encouraged participation in the consultation via the drop-in sessions, written questionnaires and online survey.

C Brace explained that the Roseburn to Leith Walk proposals are an important part of the Council's Active Travel Action Plan 2010-2020. There is a good level of cycling in Edinburgh but the existing cycle routes do not link up. Some of the gaps have been closed, but the route coming from the west

through Roseburn Park has gaps in “family friendly” provision. A Quiet Route network is required. In George Street the public realm project includes a trial cycle route, but it lacks good connections. A cycle route is planned for Leith Walk and there are proposals for Picardy Place, St Andrew Square and Charlotte Square. The existing National Cycle Network includes the tramlines at Haymarket Yards, which cause cyclists problems. C Brace reported that different user groups had been consulted widely and the preferred option for Roseburn is a two way cycleway on the north side of Roseburn Terrace and West Coates which involves the removal of the eastbound bus lane.

The Chairman informed him that the impact on bus users was a major concern.

C Brace replied that the decision to remove the bus lane had not been taken lightly, but it was felt that it was not much used along West Coates and, although there would be a conflict between bus users and cyclists at bus stops, physical segregation could be achieved by using a raised kerb and a lowered footway.

A Hutcheon stated that the pavement on the south side of Roseburn Terrace would be widened. R Smart stated that MCC wanted to see a wider pavement on both sides.

Cllr Balfour asked who had been consulted locally and why the existing cycle route from Roseburn Park was considered inadequate. C Brace replied that there had been a stakeholder consultation to which local businesses and MCC had been invited and leaflets had been distributed to local businesses and residents. The existing route is inadequate because (1) it is not obvious to potential users, (2) the height difference between Balbirnie Place and Russell Road causes cyclists difficulty and (3) they find it difficult to cross two sets of tram rails at Haymarket Yards.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the shortcomings of the public consultation and the proposals themselves.

A number of owners of businesses on Roseburn Terrace and local residents attested to having been unaware of the initial stakeholder consultation and to having received no leaflet. A Hutcheon acknowledged that there was an issue with distribution of leaflets.

A number of owners whose businesses are on the north side of Roseburn Terrace made the point that their businesses depend on passing traffic and need street access for loading, both of which will cease completely if a cycle lane is installed on that side of the street. In addition all traffic, including buses, will be channelled into one lane and at the Roseburn Terrace/Roseburn Street/Russell Road traffic lights an eastbound vehicle trying to turn right will halt all eastbound traffic and cause serious tailbacks, particularly at rush hour. The point was also made that quite a large proportion of local residents are elderly and would find it hard to negotiate a two way cycle route and be less likely to use the Roseburn shops in future. The owner of a café expressed fear of a downturn in his business as a result of increased difficulty for drivers and pedestrians in accessing his premises.

A member of the public asked what percentage of cycle travel was for leisure and what percentage for business.

This breakdown was not provided, but C Brace explained that at present 5% of travel in Edinburgh is undertaken by bicycle and the Council’s aim is to increase that to 15%. It is not the Council’s intention to impact negatively on businesses, but to create a better environment to encourage more use.

In reply to a question about the emergency services’ views on the proposals,

C Brace stated that no feedback had so far been received.

A resident of Kew Terrace made the same point about access to the houses there as had been made regarding the businesses on Roseburn Terrace – that the proposed arrangements will prevent parking of, for example, furniture and delivery vans and taxis, even for a few minutes.

A local business owner suggested making Roseburn Place one way for traffic and using the other lane for a cycle route. He was advised by C Brace that this had been considered, but had been dismissed because of the problems at the Roseburn Street/Russell Road junction.

Cllr Edie asked, in view of the fact that Roseburn Terrace/West Coates is one of the busiest arterial routes in the country and is heavily used by bus traffic, what the bus companies' views on the cycle route proposals are. A Hutcheon replied that the proposals had been discussed with Lothian Buses, who were happy with the proposed removal of the eastbound bus lane. Cllr Edie asked for written confirmation to this effect from Lothian Buses.

Cllr Ross referred to the fact that the temporary narrowing to one lane of the westbound carriageway on Kew Terrace, to accommodate the construction work on the ground floor of the new building at 8 Kew Terrace, had caused tailbacks to Haymarket. He asked whether the effect of this change on traffic had been monitored and suggested that that would be a useful exercise in relation to the cycle route proposals.

R Smart reminded the meeting that MCC had been trying to bring about improvements to the area around the foot of Murrayfield Avenue, Murrayfield Place and Roseburn Old Bridge. C Brace reassured him that he was very conscious of MCC's aims, the cycle route proposals were at a very early stage and the detail of the design had been left blank meantime. He was keen that the proposed changes should work for pedestrians too.

S Holland made the point that the Council's aim to increase the percentage of transport users represented by cyclists from 5% to 15% could be viewed as prioritising a minority group over the 95% to 85% of other road users and pedestrians.

G Douglas expressed his serious concern at the Council's failure to consult adequately with local people at either the stakeholder consultation stage nine months ago or the current wider public consultation. He reported that some of his Donaldson Area Amenity Association members had received leaflets, but many had not. He felt that the end of the public consultation on 5 January 2016 did not give those who had only just become aware of the proposals adequate time to comment on them.

C Brace admitted that he was surprised by the level of opposition to the cycle route proposals which had been voiced at the meeting. He indicated that it might be possible to extend the consultation to a later date. The Chairman suggested that this should be after the next MCC meeting in January.

R Smart asked what would happen at the west end of the new cycle route and was told that there would be a toucan crossing for cyclists and pedestrians into Roseburn Park.

G Douglas asked about the taxi rank at Haymarket Station and was told by C Brace that it would be relocated further east towards the traffic lights opposite the Station.

Cllr Ross raised the following issues:-

1. He asked that he and Cllrs Balfour and Edie be provided with a list of all the stakeholders who had been consulted initially;

2. He endorsed the alternative proposal to take the cycle route down Roseburn Street and Roseburn Place and suggested that the issues surrounding the Roseburn Street/Russell Road junction be worked through;
3. He made the point that at present the frequency and timing of the bus service through Roseburn and West Coates is the same in both directions. He asked that, when Lothian Buses did provide comments on the proposals, they be asked to confirm that they are happy with the proposal to reduce the eastbound carriageway to one lane.

A member of the public, who is a cyclist, complained that the design of the proposed route did not take into account the fact that cyclists would want to join and leave it at different points and not just travel along its full length. He referred specifically to the difficulty of turning out of Stanhope Street in either direction.

C Brace replied that he did not think the proposals would have a severe negative impact on buses.

Members of the public raised the issue of funding and were told that the estimated cost of implementing the proposals was £6-9m, of which £1m related to the Roseburn to West End section of the route. C Brace explained that Sustrans and the Scottish Government would provide some of the funding.

A local resident asked the three City Councillors to take up the project on behalf of the local community. She asked if there was a "Plan B" and whether they would vote for or against the project. Cllr Balfour promised that he and his colleagues would keep the local residents informed of developments. He pointed out that the proposals could not be implemented without a number of Traffic Regulation Orders and that there would be another opportunity to comment or object at that stage. If enough people objected, the proposals would have to be reviewed.

C Brace added that the comments received would be analysed and presented to the Council's Transport and Environment Committee. It was hoped to proceed to the TRO stage with everyone on board with the proposals.

The Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

It was agreed that the Roseburn to Union Canal Path Link consultation be considered at the next MCC meeting.

7. Changes to Waste and Recycling Services

Cllr Balfour explained the revised recycling scheme which is being rolled out in the Murrayfield/Roseburn area at present. The green bins are to be used for all recyclable material apart from glass, which is to continue to be put in the blue boxes. The red boxes are now redundant. All landfill waste is to be placed in the new, slightly smaller, grey bins. Recyclable waste and landfill waste will be collected on alternate weeks. Weekly collection of food waste using the grey food bins will continue as before. The use of the brown bins for garden rubbish will continue as before, collections being less frequent during the winter months.

In response to a question from a local resident about separating glass from other recyclable material, Cllr Balfour explained that recycling glass is easier and more cost effective than recycling plastic and other material and it is carried out by a different company under a separate contract.

8. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 20 October 2015

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: G Douglas.

Matters Arising

8.1. *Consultation on ward boundary changes*

No progress was expected within 9 months.

8.2. *“BT Murrayfield” sign*

This had been dealt with at Item 5.

8.3. *Parking Action Plan*

Cllr Edie had referred to this at Item 5.5.

8.4. *Roll out of 20mph Traffic Regulation Orders*

This should take place next year.

8.5. *Tesco advertising banner*

Cllr Balfour reported that a Planning Enforcement Officer had paid a visit to the Roseburn Tesco and the advertising banner on the railings had been removed.

9. Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2

Cllr Balfour confirmed that there was to be no change to the proposals for dealing with the trees in Roseburn Park.

10. Roseburn Action Plan

The Chairman reported that the planters on Roseburn Old Bridge had had little need of water, the bench had been returned to Roseburn Bridge, but the plate covers for the globe lights were still missing.

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:-

• **“Roseburn Cliff – waste issue**

Further enforcement action taken against business in relation to unauthorised disposal of trade waste. Report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for consideration. Unfortunately we cannot disclose the details of the offender(s). Area continuing to be monitored by the Environmental Wardens.

Anticipated date for the Street Scene pilot to start in Ward 6 is April 2016, which will see the removal of trade waste bins from the pavements, with time slots for presentation for uplift by their contractors.

• **Missing Plate Covers – Globe Lights, Roseburn Bridge**

Awaiting update from Steve Francey. Reminder email sent.

• **Missing bench on Roseburn Terrace/Roseburn Bridge**

The bench has now been returned.

• **Wheeled containers located at Roseburn Old Bridge**

Email sent to George Kennedy, Roads Manager, with regard to line marking for the relocation of the wheeled bins at Roseburn Old Bridge. Please note that Darren Wraight, seconded Roads Manager, was previously dealing with this request.

• **Graffiti – pillar at Roseburn Cliff**

Update from Susan Carson, Community Safety Officer:-

“It is the responsibility of the owner of any property to have graffiti removed. Where this is on Council property it is dependent on the departments responsible having budgets available to pay this cost and as such I can only guarantee that offensive graffiti will be removed. I have passed the details to our specialist Graffiti Team who will arrange for a quote for removal.

We are working closely with our colleagues in Police Scotland to identify culprits, who have been targeting a number of areas throughout the city with graffiti, including tags. If anyone is caught, they will be charged with vandalism, however we rely very much on members of the community reporting incidents as soon as they notice them.

It can be very difficult to catch culprits of this type, however the more information we gather with regard to times and areas will allow us to plan our resources where hotspots are occurring and at the most appropriate times.

Can I ask that if you notice any graffiti that you also report this to Police Scotland by telephoning 101.”

- **Road markings at the junction of Roseburn Street, Roseburn Terrace and Russell Road – noted by Alexa Armstrong on 10 November 2015 and also previously reported to the Environment Team on 8 April 2015 after a walk about conducted on 24 March 2015**

Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager, has advised that the Roads Inspector for the area is looking into the issue and will prepare a response for John Yellowlees.

- **Removal of A Boards on Roseburn Terrace**
Email again sent to Dave Sinclair requesting update.”

A local resident reported that the number of bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff appeared to be increasing. She also suspected the workmen in a flat across the road of fly tipping. J Forbes recommended complaining to the Council, who had acted promptly against fly tipping in the past.

R Smart referred to the relocation of the wheeled bins on the Old Bridge and the consequent changes to the parking spaces and remarked that the new road markings for both should be done at the same time, and not separately, as was proposed.

11. **Footpath from 73 Murrayfield Gardens to Campbell Avenue**

J Forbes reported that he had met the owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens a week earlier and had been told that they had decided not to transfer the land occupied by the footpath to Campbell Avenue to MCC for upgrading. They and their neighbours wished to retain the steps, which MCC wished to remove. The owners had decided to upgrade the path themselves, but he did not expect that to happen until after the winter. He intimated that he would not be pursuing this matter any further. In reply to a question J Forbes confirmed that the owners of the path are aware of their public liability.

R Smart expressed the view that the condition of the path had worsened and he advised requesting a Health & Safety inspection if the steps are not improved in due course.

12. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that a number of small domestic planning applications had been lodged in the previous three months. He had not objected to any of them.

13. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman referred to the penultimate item of Margaret Laing's update on the Roseburn Action Plan. He understood that the road markings at the Roseburn Street/Roseburn Place/Russell Road junction would be renewed when resources were available and that the work would be carried out at night.

14. Any Other Competent Business

The meeting approved the following list of proposed dates for MCC meetings in 2016:-

19 January TBC (see below)	19 July
8 March	30 August
19 April	11 October
31 May	29 November

All are to take place on a Tuesday in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre. R Brown informed the meeting that the only part of the Church Centre available on 19 January 2016 is the Dove Coffee Lounge, which can accommodate a maximum of 20 people. It was felt that, as the Roseburn to Leith Walk cycle route proposals had attracted a larger than usual attendance at the current meeting and were to be discussed again at the meeting on 19 January, the Dove Coffee Lounge might prove to be inadequate. **R Brown undertook to try to find a different date the same week when the Upper Hall might be available.**

15. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

16. **Date of Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, 20 January 2016**

Subsequent meetings: Tuesdays, 8 March and 19 April 2016.

Minutes approved at meeting of 20 January 2016.