

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 12May 2015 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, N Macdonald, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 16 members of the public, PC William Telford, Sgt Lynsey Kidd,
Margaret Laing, Helen Stockham and Darren Wraight, all City of
Edinburgh Council,
Apologies: E Robertson, P Sizeland, W Spence, Cllr Edie, 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, subject to moving Item 6 to Item 4.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC William Telford and Sgt Lynsey Kidd, who are based at Corstorphine Police Station, reported on the period from 12 April to 12 May 2015 as follows:-

3.1.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 22 recorded crimes, 7 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter. There had been 5 thefts, 4 housebreakings (1 at the construction site in Kew Terrace) and 1 attempted house breaking, 4 incidents of vandalism and 8 other incidents including a Police assault.
3.1.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 24 recorded crimes, 8 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter. There had been 1 theft, 4 house breakings, 3 incidents involving theft of or from a vehicle, 5 incidents of shoplifting, 4 of vandalism and 7 other incidents.

A number of the housebreaking incidents had involved the theft of car keys and cars.

PC Telford explained that the Police are targeting housebreakers with pro-active patrols on each beat. They are stopping vehicles and checking that curfews imposed as bail conditions are being observed.

In response to a question from a resident of the Ravelston Dykes area about Police presence out of hours, PC Telford confirmed that there are unmarked vehicle patrols until about 3 a.m. and, if a call is received, plain clothes Police usually attend. He confirmed that most housebreakings are opportunistic and keeping windows and doors locked is usually sufficient protection.

Sgt Lynsey Kidd stated that, if a wheelie bin is not put out on collection day, that is a strong indicator that a house is unoccupied. She advised those who are going to be away on holiday to ask a neighbour to put out a bin. She confirmed that the Police operate high visibility patrols 24/7 and gather intelligence on house breaking hotspots. Last month they also used a helicopter and dogs

to provide extra resilience.

Members of the public asked whether a Neighbourhood Watch is an effective deterrent to house breaking and how one is set up. PC Telford confirmed that the sharing of information and experience is always helpful. The Police are no longer involved in setting up Neighbourhood Watches. Advice on doing so can be found at http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/pages/2698/1/Getting_Started.html.

The National Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (details can be found online) will also advise if there are any existing local Neighbourhood Watch Groups. The Police are happy to send a local crime prevention officer to the first meeting of a Group and to email security/crime prevention advice to the Group's co-ordinator.

A number of those present spoke to the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch which had subsequently been abandoned.

Members of the public were advised to phone Clarence to report defective street lighting, as the absence of adequate lighting can encourage thefts from houses and vehicles.

4. Living Landscape Presentation

The Chairman introduced Helen Stockham, Education Officer, Parks and Greenspace, City of Edinburgh Council, who gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Council's Living Landscape project. She explained that Edinburgh Living Landscape is a partnership project between the Scottish Wildlife Trust, City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, Green Surge and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, which aims to transform the city's urban environment. Each of the partners is working on a different aspect of the project. The aims are to improve bio diversity, the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the residents, the resilience of the environment to pollution, educational and recreational resources and economic efficiencies. The Council manages 142 parks (26 to Green Flag standard), 800 hectares of grassland, 12 nature reserves and 638,000 trees. Detailed mapping of these green spaces has been done. Initially the project has looked at green spaces which are under used and where the grass is difficult to cut. In small trial sites sections of the grass have been cut less frequently, wild flower meadows have been established and herbaceous planting has been increased. The Council is investing in new equipment and training of ground staff. It is also promoting the project to the Neighbourhood Partnerships, local groups and schools. Further information is available from the following sources:-

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape

Twitter: @EdinOutdoors

Facebook: EdinburghOutdoors

Email: parks@edinburgh.gov.uk; westteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

Telephone: 0131 529 3030.

In response to questions from the floor Helen Stockham confirmed that the areas where the grass is allowed to grow longer will still be maintained; grass clippings will not be removed, but will be finely chopped and left as mulch.

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to two local "hidden gems" – Roseburn Park and the ground belonging to Saughtonhall Community Association. The Reverend Sue Kirkbride, Minister of Saughtonhall United Reform Church, took the opportunity to tell the meeting that the Saughtonhall Community Fete will be held on the Association's ground on Sunday, 14 June 2015 from 1pm onwards.

V Forbes expressed her unhappiness about the planned removal of 10 trees in Roseburn Park to facilitate the storage of the Flood Prevention contractors' equipment. **Cllr Ross** confirmed that she had raised this issue with him and he **would contact Rob Leech, the Project Manager, and ask him to discuss this issue with the three City Councillors before proceeding further.**

5. Councillors' Reports

5.1 Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

5.1.1 Potential objectors have until the end of May to comment on the retrospective planning application for the telecommunications mast in Ellersly Road. The planning application by the same company for a new mast beside Murrayfield Tennis Club has been approved. There is a 6 month period for negotiations on the detail of that approval.

5.1.2 He had received very positive feedback on the General Election hustings event which MCC had helped to organise.

5.1.3 Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme is on track to start in September with the moving of the gas main. Work should begin in Roseburn Park early next year.

5.1.4 Approval of the Edinburgh Local Plan is imminent. It shows Cammo, Maybury and Currie as areas where development is considered appropriate. He acknowledged that such development would have a knock-on effect on other areas.

5.1.5 The 12 week consultation on changes to the Ward boundaries will begin at the end of May and MCC will be consulted. Cllr Ross added that the Council has already made representations to the Electoral Commission to the effect that their proposals are based on inaccuracies and, for example, do not take account of the location of polling stations.

The Chairman asked Cllr Balfour about the concerns over the Council's introduction of LED lighting and was told that the City Councillors are due to receive a report on this matter in the next few weeks.

J Forbes raised the issue of the bad faith shown by the owner of the Ellersly Road mast in erecting the mast without the required notification, missing the deadline for submission of a retrospective planning application, describing the mast incorrectly and giving inadequate neighbour notification. J Forbes reported that in his private capacity he had lodged an objection to the application for retrospective planning permission and urged MCC to lodge one too. It was agreed that **R Smart would lodge an objection on behalf of MCC.** Cllr Ross reminded the meeting that seven letters of objection are required before an application will be considered by City Councillors instead of being decided by a planning officer under delegated powers.

R Smart expressed strong dissatisfaction with the grant to the owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens of planning permission for a run-in off Campbell Avenue. Other residents of Campbell Avenue expressed similar concern based largely on the fact that the run-in will be opposite a busy junction and will constitute a danger. Cllr Ross requested that this matter be raised in writing with him and Cllr Balfour.

5.2 Cllr Ross reminded the meeting that funding is available to support Community Councils in dealing with planning applications. S Holland pointed out that the Community Council has to state the proposed use of the funds when applying. Cllr Ross said that he had been pleased to see aggressive

bidding for funding by local representatives at the last meeting of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership.

5.3 Cllr Balfour reported that the former MP for Edinburgh West, Mike Crockart, is in the process of handing over his live cases to his successor, Michelle Thomson. He needs the constituent's consent to do so and anyone who has an ongoing case should contact him to give such consent.

The Chairman reminded Cllr Balfour of the concern expressed at the previous MCC meeting about traffic and crowd control at events at BT Murrayfield. Cllr Balfour explained that the licensing of concerts at BT Murrayfield has changed. Previously the SRU had to apply for a licence for each concert and often left this until arrangements were very far advanced, thereby obliging the Council to grant the licence. Under the new system BT Murrayfield is licensed for concerts, but each concert has to be signed off by the Council's Events Planning team two months before the event, otherwise the licence is automatically revoked.

A resident, whose property adjoins the Stadium, reported that she had asked the SRU whether they had planning permission for the large illuminated "BT Murrayfield" sign on the front of the Stadium which shone directly into her rooms and remained illuminated until 2 a.m. She had been told that this was not a planning matter. The illumination is now switched off at 12.30 a.m. **Cllr Ross** stated that advertisement consent is a planning matter and **undertook to investigate.**

The Chairman commented on the continued absence of a bus shelter at Haymarket for passengers of the 12, 26 and 31 buses. **Cllr Ross undertook to raise this at a meeting he is due to have with the new Chairman of Lothian Buses.** G Douglas pointed out that a new shelter had been promised some time ago. Cllr Ross acknowledged the truth of this, but said that he had now been told that there is not in fact enough room for another shelter. J Forbes suggested amalgamating all the stops so that the existing shelter could serve them all.

S Holland raised the issue of the timing of the traffic lights at Haymarket. Cllr Ross responded that he had been told by the City's Transport officials that the delays here were no longer than elsewhere in the city. This statement was greeted with incredulity from a number of those present. **Cllr Ross undertook to raise the issue again with the Transport officials.**

In response to a question from a member of the public Cllr Balfour explained that bus shelters across the City are being replaced as part of the Council's agreement with the advertiser. The new shelters will carry digital advertising.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24 March 2015

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

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *Landscaping of advertising hoardings by JC Decaux*

The Chairman explained that M Smith of JC Decaux had been due to attend the meeting, but had had to send his apologies. Cllr Ross informed the meeting that there is a discrepancy between the advertising hoardings which JC Decaux wish to put up and those for which the Council has granted advertisement consent. The Report which was submitted to the Planning Committee understated the size of the proposed hoardings by 50%. The Chairman of the Planning Committee had assured Cllr Ross that JC Decaux will be held to the consent which has been granted,

but Cllr Ross anticipated that a new Report would be submitted on the basis that the Planning Committee had been misled in making their decision.

A member of the public asked whether the new hoardings would have moving pictures and was told by Cllr Ross that the images would change every 15 seconds. G Douglas pointed out that MCC had been assured that there would be no moving images. Cllr Balfour explained that the images would be static, but would change periodically.

In reply to a question about the advertising hoardings beside Murrayfield Sainsbury's, Cllr Ross acknowledged that those images regularly breach the conditions of the relevant advertisement consent and he regularly contacts the advertiser to remonstrate about this. In reply to a member of the public he confirmed that the proposed development at Haymarket will necessitate the permanent removal of the hoardings there.

Darren Wraight, Roads Manager, City of Edinburgh Council, confirmed that he had carried out extensive research on the impact of advertising hoardings at other locations in the UK; his department had had lengthy discussions with JC Decaux about the impact of their proposed hoardings; the Council has powers under the Roads (Scotland) Acts and the 10 year Agreement which JC Decaux have signed with the Council. **D Wraight undertook to confirm at the next MCC meeting how frequently the images on the hoardings will change.**

7.2. *Roseburn Action Plan*

Margaret Laing, Team Leader, Environmental Wardens, West Neighbourhood Team, and Darren Wraight, having carried out a brief walkabout of the Roseburn area with the Chairman immediately prior to the meeting, provided an update on the Roseburn Action Plan.

D Wraight reported as follows:-

7.2.1 Some minor items identified during the first walkabout last year had been dealt with – weeding, cutting back of the ivy on the Old Bridge – but would need doing again.

7.2.2 The waste bins on the north side of Roseburn Old Bridge are to be moved. The ordinary domestic waste bins will be resited outside 12 Coltbridge Avenue and the recycling bins will be moved to a space near the electricity sub-station. Parking spaces will be lost there, but will be gained where the bins are sited at present. The new road markings, which will be required, will be tied in with the markings for the new Controlled Parking Zone (“CPZ”), for which a Traffic Regulation Order is being progressed.

7.2.3 Replacement of the dilapidated bollards on the Old Bridge with new bollards or planters would be expensive and would have to be part of a larger scheme. In the interim M Laing had contacted the Projects Team in charge of the George Street project and had been offered a number of wooden planters which are superfluous to their requirements. M Laing and D Wraight strongly recommended that this offer be accepted. M Laing undertook to contact Inch Nurseries, who, she was sure, would be happy to plant up the planters. She acknowledged that maintenance was an issue.

S Holland pointed out that MCC had yet to decide whether planters or new bollards were the preferred option. D Wraight explained that the other long term improvements to the Old Bridge area – removing the tarmac and relaying the setts, replacing the slab pavements with natural

dressed stone and removing the traffic light gantry – were affected by the proposals for new cycle routes through Roseburn and would have to be dealt with as part of a newly designed streetscape, the details of which had yet to be decided. He estimated the budget for such a streetscape at between £5,000 and £10,000 and, in the current financial climate, envisaged a 5 year timescale.

R Smart and J Forbes urged acceptance of the offer of wooden planters as an interim solution and the meeting concurred.

Local resident, J Riddell, lamented the fact that the focus on minor achievable improvements to the Old Bridge, which he had initiated 18 months ago and tried to progress, had been swamped by the larger Roseburn Action Plan. He suggested focussing on those improvements and developing the larger scheme later.

M Laing reported as follows:-

7.2.4 Street lamps on Roseburn Bridge

A meeting had been arranged between the Chairman and Steve Francey, Street Lighting, for 9 June at 2 p.m.

7.2.5 Traffic Light Gantry – Roseburn Terrace/Roseburn Gardens

Mark Love, Transport Officer, Traffic Systems, had advised her on 20 April 2015 that there is no confirmed date for the upgrade of the crossing here and it will not take place in the current financial year, unless money becomes available from a development in the area.

7.2.6 Inconsiderate Cycling on Water of Leith Walkway

She is waiting for dates from Police Scotland when they would be available to carry out joint patrols.

7.2.7 Abandoned Biffa Bins on Roseburn Terrace

Enquiries had been carried out by the Environmental Wardens and the bins outside the former Johnstone Smillie premises had been removed.

7.2.8 Pedestrian Crossing at Junction of Roseburn Street/Roseburn Terrace

She had received an email from Mark Love on 20 April 2015 explaining that the bleeper sounds for the first 3 seconds of the green man to alert pedestrians that the green man is on; the green man runs for a total of 6 seconds followed by a 12 second “all red” period. The bleeper and green man are an invitation to cross and are not designed to get the pedestrian across the full width of the road. It is the “all red” period which gets the pedestrian across the road safely. This junction is the same as other junctions in the city.

7.2.9 “No Cycling” stencils

The recent wet weather had prevented the reinstatement of the “No Cycling” stencils, but this would be attended to.

7.2.10 Communal Bins at foot of Roseburn Cliff

A member of the public had contacted MCC about the overflowing bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff beside the Bank of Scotland. These had been emptied and the Environmental Wardens had taken enforcement action against the offenders for fly tipping and were monitoring the situation.

7.2.11 Fly posters on Roseburn Terrace

These had been removed.

A member of the public complained that there was no lid on the communal recycling bin at the junction of Roseburn Drive and Roseburn Place.

M Laing undertook to deal with this.

7.3. *Flood Prevention Scheme*

This item was omitted.

7.4. *Water of Leith Walkway Litter Notices*

M Laing presented J Riddell with four yellow signs, which she had obtained free of charge from the Council's Signs Team. He expressed his thanks and undertook to try them out.

7.5. *Path to Campbell Avenue*

J Forbes reported that he had contacted the owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens, who are agreeable in principle to transferring the path which runs through their property to MCC to enable the path to be upgraded. They had some concerns to which he was sympathetic and which he believed could be accommodated. He noted R Smart's dissatisfaction about the planning permission for a run-in which had recently been granted to the same owners (see Item 5.1.5) but feared that, if MCC pursued a complaint about the planning permission to the City Councillors, negotiation regarding transfer of the path might become more difficult.

D Wraight informed the meeting that in addition to planning permission the owners also need the approval of the Roads Department, who can impose conditions and would not normally approve the construction of a driveway at a junction. He **offered to deal with this matter direct with his colleague, Peter Keggie.**

It was agreed that further discussion regarding the path be carried forward to the next meeting.

8. Planning and Licensing

There were no further issues to discuss.

9. Traffic and Transport

A member of the public complained that in the recently introduced CPZ the number of parking spaces allotted to residents of Kingsburgh Road was wholly disproportionate to the number of residents in comparison with the spaces allocated in neighbouring roads. **D Wraight undertook to raise this issue with Gavin Brown in Parking Enforcement.**

10. Any Other Competent Business

It was agreed that **the start-time for future meetings would be brought forward to 7.30 pm** with a "guillotine" after two hours.

The Chairman proposed a **walkabout of the wider Roseburn area**, to include Campbell Avenue and Kingsburgh Road, **one hour before the next MCC meeting on 23 June 2015. The walkabout will begin in Campbell Avenue at 6.30pm by the footpath to Murrayfield Gardens.**

11. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 23 June 2015

Subsequent meetings: 28 July and 8 September 2015.

Minutes approved at meeting of 23 June 2015.