

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 13 January 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 Edie, Cllr Ross,  
In attendance: 6 members of the public, PC Euan Hair, Margaret Laing, City of  
Edinburgh Council,  
Apologies: G McLeod, E Robertson, P Sizeland, W Spence, M Crockart MP,  
M Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and introduced Margaret Laing, Team Leader, Environmental Wardens, West Neighbourhood Team.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Euan Hair reported on the period from 1 to 31 December 2014 as follows:-

3.1.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 18 recorded crimes, 8 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter. The majority of crimes involved theft from residential and business premises and theft of and from motor vehicles. The Police had received 113 calls from members of the public.

3.1.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 16 reported crimes, 9 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter. Again the majority of crimes involved theft or attempted theft. There had also been five incidents of vandalism. The Police had received 83 calls.

3.1.3 Each foot and vehicle patrol has resources dedicated to combatting house breaking.

3.1.4 The Community Policing Team will be organising a series of public meetings to provide information and advice on home security. Dates and venues have yet to be decided. It would be open to Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") to suggest suitable venues.

3.1.5 The new drink/driving law is being enforced and breath tests carried out when the commission of other offences indicates a possible breach of the new limit.

3.2 PC Hair suggested that recording the incidence of cautions and advice being given by the Police to dangerous and/or irresponsible cyclists would give an indication of the level of this problem.

3.3 In response to a question from a member of the public **PC Hair undertook to find out how many of the 113 calls mentioned above were made to 999 and how many to 101.**

3.4 In reply to a question on housebreaking from J Forbes as to whether extra vigilance is required at particular times of day or on particular days of the week, PC Hair recommended varying patterns of behaviour to combat planned thefts and, to combat these and opportunistic thefts, giving the impression of occupancy by using timers on lights, leaving the radio on and, in periods of prolonged absence, asking neighbours to open and close curtains.

3.5 V Forbes reported that on two occasions recently, while crossing Roseburn Street at the traffic lights opposite Tesco, she had narrowly avoided being knocked down by a car coming round the corner from Russell Road apparently unaware that the traffic lights were red. PC Hair agreed that this issue merited investigation and asked V Forbes to email the Community Policing team at:-

[EdinburghCorstorphineMurrayfieldCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCorstorphineMurrayfieldCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

**Cllr Balfour undertook to raise the issue again with the appropriate team at the Council and to forward an email which he had received explaining the phasing of these lights.**

3.6 D Huckle asked whether the Police deal with internet fraud and was told by **PC Hair** that it can be reported to the Police on 101. If the fraud originates outside Scotland, it should be reported to Action Fraud, which is a centralised Police resource. He **undertook to include contact details for Action Fraud in the next Community Policing Report.**

3.7 J Yellowlees informed PC Hair that a list of the MCC meeting dates for 2015 had been emailed to PC Annicea Madine.

#### 4. Councillors' Reports

4.1 Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

4.1.1 On 15 January the Council's Finance Committee will be looking at ways to save money by de-centralising the delivery of services. Street cleaning and housing are already managed in 6 different areas and customer satisfaction has improved. The same structure is to be put in place for social work and education. It is proposed that 6 areas be reduced to 4 areas of management for the NHS and the Police in order to reduce back office costs. A 10% cut in funding to the voluntary sector is also proposed, but the targets of the cut have not been identified.

4.1.2 At their meeting on 13 January the Transport Committee approved the introduction of the 20mph speed limit. The recent public consultation showed a majority of those who responded were in favour of the proposal. It has been fine tuned to take some local concerns into account.

4.1.3 The Police have now agreed to meet representatives of Donaldsons Area Amenity Association and Wester Coates Amenity Society to discuss the "soft" road closures which are put in place on the days of international matches at BT Murrayfield.

4.2 Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.2.1 The Transport Committee also approved the extension of the Controlled Parking Zone ("CPZ") to Murrayfield.

4.2.2 The planning application for the redevelopment of Donaldson's College has been submitted and a public meeting to display the proposals and gauge public reaction is to take place at the Apex Hotel, Haymarket Terrace on 3 February 2015 between 4 and 8pm.

A member of the public asked about the timing of the extension of the CPZ to Coltbridge Terrace. Cllr Balfour advised that Traffic Regulation Orders

will have to be drafted and processed before the CPZ can be extended and this will take some time. He added that it will take 4 to 5 years to introduce the 20mph speed limit across the city.

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.3.1 The telecommunications mast in the grounds of the former Ellersly House Hotel, about which J Forbes had enquired, does not have planning permission and the Planning Department is investigating whether permission is needed. In the meantime the Enforcement Team has written to the owner requesting its removal. The owner has 21 days in which to reply. If planning permission is required and is applied for retrospectively, the enforcement process will be halted.

A member of the public, who had raised a question about the use of bus lanes at the previous MCC meeting, expressed his dissatisfaction when told by Cllr Ross that he did not yet have a reply from the Council's Transport team, to whom he had sent an email after that meeting. Cllr Ross explained that the legal position is that use of a bus lane in the circumstances described by the questioner is not permitted, but the question raised related to the Council's policy on enforcement.

5. Traffic Calming at Ellersly Road

J Forbes expressed the view that, if the new 20mph speed limit was not to apply to Ellersly Road, the safety issues regarding the poor separation of pedestrians from fast moving traffic, which he had detailed at the last MCC meeting, were of even more concern. Cllr Ross consulted the updated map on the Council website and confirmed that the 20 mph speed limit is to apply to both Ravelston Dykes and Ellersly Road. J Forbes welcomed this information. He reported as follows:-

5.1 The bus stop which was obstructing the narrow pavement has been moved from the middle to the edge of the pavement adjoining the wall and a second bus stop is in the process of being moved;

5.2 Double yellow lines are to be installed at Guardianswood but will not extend further than the end of Kinellan Road – extending them a few metres further east would improve visibility for cars turning out of Kinellan Road into Ellersly Road;

5.3 Cllr Balfour has confirmed that the pavement will not be widened until Ellersly Road is re-surfaced and that will not be done in 2015/16. J Forbes expressed the wish that this work be carried out as soon as possible thereafter.

Cllr Balfour added that, while the future of the former Capability Scotland offices and Ellersly House Hotel has not yet been decided, re-development of these properties would be likely to require road improvements.

6. Roseburn Action Plan

The Chairman invited Margaret Laing to provide an update on the Roseburn Action Plan in conjunction with Robert Smart. The text of their report follows:-

**"Area 1**

**Pavement along north side of Corstorphine Road, between Murrayfield Avenue and the entrance to Roseburn Cliff, requires repaved.**

This section of footway was assessed in March 2014. It currently merits inclusion in the 2016/17 provisional programme for capital funded resurfacing works. Please bear in mind that this is still subject to change as each street is assessed annually and the proposed programme will be presented for approval at a future Transport and Environment Committee meeting.

**Road Bridge Globe Lights - Missing covers and request that they be painted black**

Paul Clarke, Customer Service Officer, Street lighting advises that their workshop section are currently looking at providing a suitable replacement cover and will carry out the painting, weather dependant. They presently have a busy work schedule and this replacement work and painting will take place as and when resources allow.

**Area 2**

**The Old Bridge: Remove the tarmac and slab pavements. Reset the existing Sets and add where missing. On the east side of the bridge, laid at the same level as the Sets, there should be a 1.5m wide slab path or better still Caithness slabs. Walls may require minor pointing and railing repainted black.**

Added to Project Bank for Western Neighbourhood Partnership - who will prioritise projects to be progressed as a NEP for 2015/16. Scope of project to be agreed with MCC. Group to create draft design which would be costed. Date to meet with Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager to be arranged.

**Area 3**

**Bollards - Roseburn Old Bridge. These bollards require replacing, or replaced with planters.**

Added to Project Bank for Western Neighbourhood Partnership - who will prioritise projects to be progressed as a NEP for 2015/16. Scope of project to be agreed with MCC. Group to create draft design which would be costed. Date to meet with Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager to be arranged.

**Area 4**

**Control of vegetation - ivy growing from the river bank should be cut back beyond wall.**

This has been completed, but will require annual attention.

**Area 5**

**Relocate the recycling and domestic communal containers from Coltbridge Avenue.**

Added to Project Bank for Western Neighbourhood Partnership - who will prioritise projects to be progressed as a NEP for 2015/16. Scope of project to be agreed with MCC. Group to create draft design which would be costed. Date to meet with Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager to be arranged.

**Area 6**

**Murrayfield Place: On the north east corner can the pavement be widened to allow the new cafe to have a reasonable number of outdoor tables and allow a screen (glass) at the edge of the pavement to separate from the cars and**

**protect from the wind.**

This request has not been considered as it is not a statutory duty under the Road (Scotland) Act 1984 in order to widen the footway to the benefit of a private company and promote business. The Roads Authority is responsible in providing a safe walking surface and running surface for vehicular traffic in the interests of public safety.

The current table and chairs permit allows for a balance between the available footway width and allows for safe passage of pedestrians.

Additionally from observations monitoring indiscriminate parking as attracted by the business activities on Murrayfield Place, there is no adequate road width that could be given over to footpath widening at this locus. At certain times of the day double parking has been observed at this locus. If the footway was widened in the manner requested with the high risk of double parking emergency vehicle access could be hindered.

**Area 7**

**Roseburn Cliff – recycling and domestic communal containers and trade waste containers**

Added to Project Bank for Western Neighbourhood Partnership - who will prioritise projects to be progressed as a NEP for 2015/16. Scope of project to be agreed with MCC. Group to create draft design which would be costed. Date to meet with Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager to be arranged.

Roseburn Terrace has been identified as one of the key areas/zones which will be tackled for implementing the trade waste pilot that was originally piloted within the City Centre. Approx start date – within the next 18 months. Note in the first 6 months the roll out will concentrate on the World Heritage Site.

**Area 8**

**West side of Bridge to accommodate market stalls**

Road Services - you will require a road closure and parking restrictions if you are intending on occupying the public carriageway. There will be a significant cost associated with this if this is the case.

Licensing/Environmental Health - require a Market Operator's Licence rather than individual Street Trader's Licences. Other things to consider Is there access to electricity? Is there access to water? What design of stalls will be used? There can be problems associated with the design of the stall and the use that it is put to. Will any of the stall holders be providing ready to eat food? (burgers, etc). The licence conditions also place requirements on the licence holder to ensure that the traders are compliant with Health and Safety and Food Safety legislation

**Drainage problem at corner of Roseburn Terrace and Roseburn Gardens, where the pedestrians cross over the road. Build up of water that does not drain away when it rains.**

Following observations during periods of wet weather it has been noted that there is a depression at Speed Table and a Works Order is being raised for repairs. This will be put to a forthcoming programme meeting to establish a timescale for the works.

### **Issues raised during walkabout on 8 January 2015**

Items logged and will be actioned as routine maintenance – Environment Team/SFC Contracts

- Broken pavement/crossing slab at pedestrian crossing, north side of Roseburn Terrace at the Roseburn old bridge side.
- Bulging kerbline at the bottom of Murrayfield Avenue.
- Recurrent flood outside the Bank of Scotland, Roseburn Terrace.
- Missing plaque from pedestrian bench on Roseburn Terrace at the bridge. Also believe that the bench it is not well situated, i.e. looks onto main road and very noisy.

### **Dave Sinclair – addressing the following issues**

- A-boards – request from John Yellowlees for them to be removed from pavement at Roseburn Terrace. Causing obstruction to pedestrians.
- Find out the ownership of the land at the hoardings from the Estates Department.

### **Paul Matthews – Cycling Project Officer**

Request sent to Paul to provide copies of projects for the cycling routes planned at Roseburn.

### **Barrowman**

No resources available.

### **JC Decaux - Landscaping competition**

Spoke with Mr Michael Smith, Director of Regional Development today, 13 January 2014. Informed that the competition is still going ahead, running for one week in February 2015. Michael will be in touch with John Yellowlees about being on the judging panel.

JC Decaux plan to have their hoardings up by April/May 2015, (once Clear Channel remove theirs). They have a preferred contract landscaper, Gala, but will engage (as a safety net) with other contract landscapers. Michael will be willing to come along to a future meeting to look at the designs.

**Corstorphine Hill Pedestrian Access - The feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Ravelston Dykes Road opposite the foot of the Corstorphine Hill path.**

The Environment Team can confirm that they have completed 'SLOW' road markings north of the bend at Ravelston Dykes Road and 'KEEP CLEAR' and 'SLOW' near the school entrance on Ravelston Dykes Road on 16/11/2014."

R Smart expressed his satisfaction with the involvement of M Laing and the Council's other personnel in progressing the Roseburn Action Plan. There was a brief discussion as to whether planters or bollards should replace the existing bollards on Roseburn Old Bridge. R Smart favoured planters and reminded the meeting that the local florist had indicated that he might be prepared to maintain planters, if they were installed. J Yellowlees added his view that planters raise the tone of an area and encourage increased pride in it. J Forbes and others expressed concern about ongoing maintenance of planters.

In reply to a question from M Laing R Smart suggested that the best time to carry out further pruning to the ivy, which has been cut back, would be early summer. S Holland conceded that the railings on the Old Bridge do not require gold paint in addition to black.

In response to a query about wet leaves causing a slipping hazard, M Laing advised phoning the Council on 0131 529 3030.

A local resident informed the meeting that Council staff do respond to phone calls asking for overflowing communal bins and litter to be dealt with. She had recently reported the blocked gullies at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue and had been told that they would be cleared in 7 to 10 days.

During the discussion on litter and bins M Laing confirmed that the Environmental Wardens do check bags of litter left beside communal bins and, if they find any identifying items, they contact the culprit. She also confirmed that all local residents can deposit domestic waste in the communal bins. A member of the public suggested that the bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff could be stored in the recess behind the Bank of Scotland. M Laing and V Forbes were both of the view that bin lorries would have difficulty accessing the recess.

7. Flood Prevention

V Forbes informed the meeting that the next meeting of the Flood Prevention Stakeholder Engagement Group is at Murrayfield Ice Rink on 2 February 2015.

8. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2 December 2014

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: J Forbes.

The Chairman requested that the dates of the 2015 meetings be listed in the Minutes of the current meeting.

9. Planning and Licensing

9.1 G Douglas reported that the issue relating to ownership of part of the development site at Kew Terrace has been resolved and, as the issue was raised in the Evening News, a statement regarding ownership is to be published in the Evening News.

9.2 R Smart reported that the plans for the redevelopment of Donaldson's College are now available and are similar to those originally put forward by Cala.

There were no other planning applications of significance.

10. Traffic and Transport

The 20 mph speed limit and extension of the CPZ had already been dealt with and there were no other relevant issues.

11. The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Secretary of Granton Community Council had invited all the Edinburgh Community Councils to participate in a discussion about the future direction of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils ("EACC"). It was decided that, as MCC did not attend EACC meetings, there was no interest in joining that discussion.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 The Chairman asked for a volunteer to represent MCC at meetings of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership while G McLeod is taking a break from this responsibility. D Huckle's offer was accepted.

12.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received the Annual Report of Sarah Boyack, MSP and correspondence from the Edinburgh Community Mediation Service.

12.3 A local resident complained that the new "Keep Clear" road markings opposite the laundrette in Murrayfield Place do not extend far enough and double yellow lines are required for the prohibition on parking to be fully effective. **M Laing undertook to photograph the relevant area and put the issue to the Environment Team with a view to providing their response at the next MCC meeting.**

12.4 V Forbes reported that the Christmas carol singing in Roseburn Park organised by the Friends of Roseburn Park had been very well attended.

12.5 A local resident reported that conditions underfoot on the re-opened section of the Water of Leith walkway are very good.

12.6 Several residents referred to the reported intervention of Cllr Hinds regarding the proposed closure of Russell Road for 6 months to allow work to be carried out to the railway bridge over it. No one was sure of the result of this intervention. The meeting noted the proposed prolonged closure of this important arterial route with concern.

13. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public asked when Pansy Walk will be closed to allow work on the bridge to be carried out. **M Laing undertook to find out.**

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 24 February 2015

Subsequent meetings:

24 March

12 May (including AGM)

23 June

28 July

8 September

13 October

1 December

Minutes approved at meeting of 24 February 2015.