

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 14 December 2011 at 8pm  
in Saughtonhall Community Association Hall  
Chair: H Ross

Present: R Brown, G Douglas, S Holland, N Macdonald, G McLeod,  
H Ross, R Smart, W Spence, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie,  
In attendance: [9] members of the public, PC J Gittens, M Towers and D Smith of  
McLaren Murdoch & Hamilton, Architects, D Teague of S1  
Developments, A Orriell and A Buchan of Edinburgh Trams.  
Apologies: W Amcotts, E Robertson, Cllr Wheeler, M Crockart MP, M Biagi  
MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed Norma Macdonald as the new nominee of Murrayfield Parish Church to membership of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC"). The Chairman also welcomed those in attendance. D Teague joined the meeting later.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC John Gittens reported as follows:-

3.1 There had been no recent problems with anti-social behaviour. As part of the high profile "Gateway" initiative the Police had been stopping buses from Corstorphine and Murrayfield and deploying patrols at bus stops. 57 buses had been stopped and no complaints of anti-social behaviour had been received from the drivers or passengers.

3.2 The latest Priority Setting meeting had identified the following issues:-

(1) dangerous parking near schools – the problem was particularly bad at Mary Erskine and St George's,

(2) youths buying alcohol from licensed premises and

(3) under age drinking on buses.

The next Priority Setting meeting will be held at the new Drumbrae Community Hub on 29 February 2012.

It was agreed that the Minutes of future Priority Setting meetings will be emailed to MCC and posted on the MCC website.

PC Gittens acknowledged that there had been problems recently in issuing the regular Police newsletters.

4. Ellersley Road (former Balfour Stewart House) Development

Mike Towers of McLaren Murdoch & Hamilton, the architects of the current development scheme for the site of the former Balfour Stewart House, gave a presentation on the scheme. His clients, S1 Developments, propose to build a block of 28 flats at the top of the site and 25 houses modelled on the traditional Edinburgh family home. A significant proportion of the site

will be occupied by landscaping and communal areas and all but two of the existing trees will be retained. New mature trees will be planted. There will be underground car parking providing 1 space per flat, 1 ½ spaces per house and 10/11 visitors' spaces. M Towers is currently refining the scheme to improve the integration of the flats with the houses.

Dan Teague informed the meeting that the planning application will be submitted in January 2012 and S1 Developments' purchase of the site from Northern Trust is conditional upon planning consent being obtained by summer 2012. The application will be considered by the Planning Committee. If planning permission is obtained, work will begin on site in June/July 2012.

R Smart commended the scheme to the meeting. A member of the public, who lives at the Hermitage adjacent to the site, confirmed that the residents of the Hermitage and other neighbours will support the application. G McLeod confirmed that the residents of Western Corner will do likewise. It was agreed that **MCC would write to the Planning Department in support**. R Smart reminded the meeting that the Planning Committee take note of the number of letters of support that are received; MCC's letter will count as only one and as many individual MCC members and members of the public as are in favour of the scheme should write in support. G Douglas also urged a proactive approach.

In reply to a question from Cllr Balfour, M Towers confirmed that, if S1 Developments get planning permission for their scheme, they will pay a commuted sum to Dunedin Canmore Housing Association towards the cost of one of the latter's affordable housing schemes.

5. Alf Orriell, Logistics Relations Manager, Edinburgh Tram Co-ordination Team

Alf Orriell informed the meeting that the Princes Street construction site has been demobilised for the duration of the "Edinburgh Sparkles" festival. The diversion of buses away from Princes Street remains in force. Work will recommence on 3 January 2012 and will involve the closure of Princes Street, Shandwick Place, the east side of St Andrew Square and the area around Haymarket. A revenue producing tram service should be running by summer 2014.

A detailed discussion took place with concerned MCC members and members of the public regarding the timetabling and impact of the tram works affecting Russell Road, the back of Murrayfield Stadium, Roseburn Street, Baird Drive and Balgreen. Alf Orriell referred those concerned to the High Level Construction Plan published by the City Council for details of the construction timetable. In response to complaints from W Spence and S Holland about a lack of prior consultation with residents and a reminder from Cllr Edie that assurances had been given regarding community engagement, Alf Orriell accepted the need to engage with the public.

In reply to questions from members of the public, Alf Orriell confirmed that, once the tram service is operational, only buses, trams, taxis and cycles will run along Princes Street and tram stops will be either on a central reservation where space permits or at the kerbside.

6. Ward Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

6.1 The City Council has rejected the Alternative Business Model for Environmental Services. It will be considered by a special meeting of the Council in January for Management of Property & Estates and Corporate

& Transactional Services, but it is expected to be rejected for them too.

6.2 The Police and the Council are both carrying out investigations into alleged corruption in the Council's property services and a report may be sent to the Procurator Fiscal in January.

6.3 Some money is now available to deal with the problem of dog fouling and members of the public should inform him or Cllr Edie of the particular areas which need attention.

6.4 A planning application has been submitted for the former Kenny Dunn showroom at Roseburn to become a Sainsbury's Local. There is to be a Tesco Metro at Haymarket.

Cllr Edie reported that:-

6.5 The signs dealing with dog fouling which had been reinstated in Baird Drive have been surreptitiously removed.

6.6 The keys to the new Drumbrae Library and Community Hub were handed over to the Council last week. The West Neighbourhood Team and Safer Neighbourhood Team are now based there. The Library will open in the New Year. There will also be a Day Care Centre.

6.7 Cllr Wheeler had passed to him an email confirming that preparatory tracking for the lights on Roseburn Bridge had been installed to the 4 pedestals, but blocked conduits had still to be dealt with and the work was now due to be completed in late January 2012.

6.8 The Scottish Government are to consult on community health care partnerships.

6.7 In the budget settlement with the Scottish Government the City Council has received £27m more than expected.

6.8 He has been re-elected as Convenor of the West Neighbourhood Partnership, which has given £200 to the Honorary Bailiffs of the Water of Leith.

6.9 Management changes are taking place at the Council under the new Chief Executive.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 1 November 2011

These were approved subject to the amendment of Item 5.4 to record that G Atkins is with the City Council and not Lothian Buses.

Prop: R Smart, Sec: J Yellowlees.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. *Dog Fouling*

This issue had been dealt with.

8.2.1 *Post Office at Roseburn*

S Holland reported that he had informed the former newsagent that MCC would support her application for a Post Office licence, but it appears that she has now abandoned this plan and the newsagent's shop is to be relet.

8.2.2 *Murrayfield Gardens Pillar*

R Smart reported that work has now begun to move the Murrayfield Gardens pillar to the edge of the pavement.

8.2.3 *Donaldson's College*

G McLeod reported that he had been shown round the former Donaldson's College by Kevin Whitaker, the managing Director of CALA, and was reassured by what he had seen regarding the maintenance and security of the building.

9. Planning & Licensing Matters

R Smart reported that he had looked at 8 small domestic planning applications, none of which gave cause for concern.

He had written to the Planning Department to ask whether the advertising signs at Western Corner require planning permission. The Department will inspect them and let him know.

H Ross advised that he had received notice of a planning application for a used car showroom at Western Corner and was informed that the relevant property is to the west of the former Prego shop.

There were no licensing issues to be discussed.

10. Traffic and Transport

J Yellowlees reported that he had attended a conference at which a presentation was given on the plans for the rebuilding of Haymarket Station. A public meeting is to be held in St George's West Church on 17 January 2012.

11. Reports

G Douglas and W Spence had attended a Police Safety meeting last week but had nothing in particular to report.

12. Correspondence

The Chairman directed the meeting to the list of correspondence received since the last meeting, which is attached to these Minutes. R Smart has a copy of the Edinburgh Local Plan Main Issues Report.

13. Any Other Competent Business

13.1 A member of the public raised concerns about the effect on Roseburn Park of the Flood Defence Scheme. The Friends of Roseburn Park had been told at a meeting with the City Council that the Park would be closed for 21 months for the flood defence works to be carried out and a further year would probably be required to restore the Park. Cllrs Balfour and Edie expressed surprise at this information and doubt as to whether such a lengthy closure was necessary. They undertook to investigate and report their findings to the Chair and to the next MCC meeting.

13.2 The Chair intimated that a nominee of the Friends of Roseburn Park is to join MCC.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 31 January 2012 at 8pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre.

Subsequent meetings: 6 March and 4 April 2012.

Minutes approved at meeting of 31 January 2012

**Murrayfield Community Council Main Correspondence Received  
Since meeting of: 1 Nov 2011**

27 Oct	CEC	Edinburgh Local Plan Main Issues Report – Representations	27/1
31 Oct	Murrayfield Tennis Club	New coach Andrew Haw seeks links with local community	
31 Oct →	Sarah Boyack MSP	E-newsletters	
-- Nov	DAAA	November 2011 newsletter	
1 Nov	Cllr Edie	Copy corresp: Phase 2 flood defence expected to start late 2012	
1 Nov	Jim Conner (WNT)	Providing area data from WNP on-line survey	
1 Nov	CEC CC Liaison	Scottish Gov. guide to emergency planning for community groups	
2 Nov	CEC Planning	Edinburgh Lighting Strategy - Consultation	31/12
3 Nov	Cllr A Burns	Moving Edinburgh Forward: Labour Group vision and survey	
4 Nov	SESPlan	Strategic Planning Authority SE Scotland – proposed plan	
4 Nov	EACC	Agenda and Minute	10/11
7 Nov	WNP	Advertising meeting of 7 Dec 2011	
7 Nov	CEC Community Planning	West Edinburgh Community Safety Panel event	9/11
7 Nov	CEC Comm. Engagement	Budget consultation event	3/12
8 Nov →	Cllr Wheeler	→ Various Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders (events)	
9 Nov	Cllr Wheeler	Response to question about load-bearing of Baird Drive bridge	
9 Nov	CEC Parks Events	Balgreen Primary School Walking Event	
10 Nov	Cockburn Association	Papers for Civic Forum 29 Nov	
10 Nov	Jim Conner (WNT)	Information on Community Grants Fund	
10 Nov →	Office of Marco Biagi MSP	Holyrood Update newsletters	
13 Nov	J Yellowlees	→ Network Rail public engagement re: Edin. Glasg. Improvements	
13 Nov	ASCC	On-line Bulletin	
14 Nov	Scottish Rugby	Acknowledgement from Chief Executive of CC's welcome	
15 Nov	CEC Licensing	Applications for next Board Meeting	19/12
16 Nov	CEC Libraries	'Word Up' Newsletter	
16 Nov	CEC GI Systems	Copyright information regarding CC boundary maps	
17 Nov	CEC Licensing	Proposed used-car dealership Western Corner	
18 Nov	Merchiston CC	Invitation to Christmas Lights switch-on	26/11
21 Nov	Edinburgh Trams	Response to query about riverside footpath	
21 Nov	Cllr Wheeler	→ Response to a query Roseburn Terrace pavement obstructions	
21 Nov →	Cllr Edie	→ Responses to dog fouling and anti-social behaviour Balgreen	
22 Nov	Conservative Group CEC	Invitation to Christmas Reception	9/12
22 Nov	Milton Park	Suggesting CC acquires Coltbridge Neighbourhood Watch residue	
28 Nov	Evening News	Community Challenge campaign	
29 Nov	Corstorphine CC	Invitation to get-together	21/12
29 Nov	J. Riddell	Copy objections to Windmill Brae creeping development	2/12
29 Nov	ASCC	Online Bulletin	
1 Dec	CEC CC Liaison	Source of funding update	
5 Dec	WNT	Drop in sessions on future delivery of council services	9/12
7 Dec	Lothian & Borders Police	Police Board Newsletter	
10 Dec	EACC	→ Edinburgh Partnership Board papers 15 Dec	
12 Dec	CEC Recycling	Garden Waste Pick up dates for winter	

ASCC = Association of Scottish Community Councils

CC = Community Council

CEC = City of Edinburgh Council

DAAA = Donaldson Area Amenity Association

EACC = Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

MCC = Murrayfield Community Council

SNT = Safer Neighbourhood Team at Lothian and Borders Police

SESPlan = The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland

(T)TRO = (Temporary) Traffic Regulation Order

WNT = West Neighbourhood Team at CEC

WENP = West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership