

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 2 April 2013 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: R Smart

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland,
N Macdonald, G McLeod, E Robertson, R Smart, W Spence,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 13 members of the public, PC Ruth Craig, Sgt Scott Walker, Nancy
Jamieson, The City of Edinburgh Council Planning Department,
Apologies: D Huckle, Cllr Balfour, M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved. The acting Chairman apologised for the absence of copies of the Agenda, the production of which had formerly been undertaken by H Ross, who had recently demitted office as Chairman and whose duties had not yet been fully re-allocated.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Ruth Craig reported as follows:-

3.1 Lothian and Borders Police ceased to exist as at 31 March and policing is now delivered by the new unitary authority, Police Scotland. She confirmed that the same services are delivered by the same officers in the former Lothian and Borders area. The local team are known as the Community Policing Team. The new telephone number for Police Scotland is 101. The emergency number 999 is still valid;

3.2 High visibility patrols focussing on disorder and theft had been carried out in the Ravelston, Kingsburgh and West Coates areas in March;

3.3 There had been thefts from properties in Osborne Terrace and West Coates and the Wanderers' lockers at Murrayfield Stadium and attempted break ins at Murrayfield Parish Church and Traquair Park;

3.3 Thieves had fitted a "Lebanese loop" to the Bank of Scotland and Tesco ATMs at Roseburn, which had captured customers' cards and prevented cash from being dispensed. The thieves were then able to access the cash themselves;

3.4 To reduce youth disorder during the Easter holidays the Police and Murrayfield Ice Rink had delivered a joint initiative to encourage young people to use the Ice Rink and the Police had concentrated their attention on Roseburn Park, the cycle path and the Ice Rink;

3.5 The Police had carried out numerous visits to licensed premises during March and had found no problems.

In response to a question from R Brown, PC Scott Walker confirmed that the local Police newsletter, which had been sent regularly to the Community Council ("MCC") for display on the MCC noticeboards, was no longer being produced. PC Walker directed the meeting to the Police Scotland

website, which is updated regularly.

G Douglas asked when progress could be expected with the promised stencilling of pavements to deter cyclists. PC Walker informed him that the paint had been bought, but he did not know when the work was to be carried out.

PC Craig informed the meeting that PC Durant had been off sick, but expected to return to work in approximately two weeks.

4. Presentation by Nancy Jamieson, Senior Planner, The City of Edinburgh Council

Nancy Jamieson gave a PowerPoint presentation on “How Planners Make Decisions”. She explained that the Council deals with around 4500 planning applications each year, of which about 92% are decided by Council officials in the Planning Department rather than elected Councillors sitting as the Development Management Sub-Committee. Decisions have to be taken in accordance with legislation, are quasi-judicial and can be subject to judicial review on legal grounds. Decisions can also be appealed to the Scottish Government or the local review body, which is made up of Councillors. The majority of appeals go to the local review body, which overturns a high percentage of decisions.

She explained that the planners have to have regard to planning legislation, the Structure Plan, Edinburgh City Local Plan, the Local Development Plan, the Council’s own Planning Guidance and Government guidance. She outlined what constitute material planning considerations, such as use, design, amenity, sustainability and parking, which the planners have to take into account, and non-material planning considerations, such as loss of value or view, absence of ownership, precedent and necessity, which they do not take into account. If more than six representations are received which conflict with the recommendation of the planning officer dealing with the application, the decision has to be made by the Development Management Sub-Committee. Complex applications also normally go to the Committee.

Nancy Jamieson then dealt with the applications for the extension to 27 Kingsburgh Road and the Ellersly Road housing development, both of which had been decided by the Committee and in respect of both of which MCC had expressed serious concern. She explained the factors which were considered and discounted in the case of 27 Kingsburgh Road. She referred to the complicated site history and pre-application public consultation in relation to Ellersly Road and the factors which had led the planners to require alterations to the original scheme. In response to questions from G McLeod, R Smart, N Macdonald and several members of the public as to how so many strong objections from local residents, MCC and other bodies could have been disregarded in both cases, she reiterated that the decisions to grant planning permission had been made by the Committee and not the planners. She pointed out that it is not the number, but the substance, of the objections that is considered.

G Douglas expressed MCC’s serious concern over the decision by the Planning Department to treat the second, radically different, scheme for Ellersly Road as a mere amendment to the original scheme and the consequent lack of consultation and reduced opportunity to comment on it. He suggested that this decision was incomprehensible and the correct procedure had not been followed. Nancy Jamieson replied that the Planning Department would have preferred to go out to consultation on the second scheme, but a decision was taken to advertise it and invite representations.

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

5.1 The waste bins at the corner of the Murrayfield Bar had been moved down the side of the building;

5.2 He did not have a date for the repair of the pavement at the same location;

5.3 Roseburn Primary School had requested more vehicle speed monitoring in Roseburn Street;

5.4 The Controlled Parking Survey had been circulated. He encouraged residents to respond;

5.5 He had received correspondence about the application by Murrayfield Park Guest House for an HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) licence;

5.6 Several months ago the Romanian Ambassador had contacted the Council about building a wooden Romanian church in Edinburgh on one of three possible sites. The only site now being considered was in the Corstorphine Hill Nature Reserve opposite Balgreen Avenue. He was in favour of the church, but considered this site unsuitable.

Cllr Edie reported as follows_;

5.7 A written report on Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme was still awaited by the Transport Committee;

5.8 "Top hatting" of the bins is still going on and a percentage of bins is not being collected; he and his fellow councillors are trying to rectify the situation;

5.9 The proposed downgrading of street cleaning activities in west Edinburgh had aroused strong opposition and was to be considered at a meeting of the West Neighbourhood Environmental Sub-Committee. He was hoping that a barrow beat would be established in Roseburn;

5.10 A resident had contacted him about a proposed cycle rack on Roseburn Bridge. The Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") had objected to the proposal under the misapprehension that the bridge in question was in Roseburn Park. He was not sure whether the bridge was the Old Roseburn Bridge or the newer one.

G McLeod reported that he had asked Cllr Balfour to arrange for the cleaning of the speed camera at Western Corner, two signs and the inside of the bus shelter, all of which had been spray painted with a name. Cllr Edie thought that it would not be difficult to apprehend the culprit.

G McLeod also raised the issue of the HMO Licence application by Murrayfield Park Guest House. Cllr Ross reported that he had referred the matter to the Licensing Board and was aware of the issues. A member of the public, who lives above the Guest House, informed the meeting that the application had not yet been lodged or advertised at the property.

G McLeod asked about the current situation with the advertising signs above the Prego store at Western Corner, for which retrospective planning consent had been refused. G Douglas explained that the appeal against refusal had also been refused and the applicant had six weeks from 7 March to appeal against the last decision to the Court of Session. He understood from Cllr Balfour that, if the applicant did not appeal, the planning enforcement officers were ready to act.

E Robertson reported that there is also advertising for Murrayfield Mews at the same location. She was advised by Cllr Ross to report this to the West Neighbourhood team.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 26 February 2013

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

7. Matters Arising

7.1. *Local Transport Strategy Consultation*

S Holland reported that he and J Yellowlees had responded to the online consultation on behalf of MCC. There had been multiple choice questions and a comments section. They had commented that some of the options were aspirational rather than realistic; walking and cycling should have been treated separately; there were issues with access to Murrayfield Stadium, an extended Sunday bus service and paying for it by charging for city centre parking on Sunday.

Cllr Ross urged participation in the current consultation on city centre traffic, traffic flow, buses on Princes Street and George Street and changes to parking areas.

7.2. *Flood Prevention Scheme*

Cllr Ross confirmed that once the written report had gone to the Transport Committee, he and Cllrs Balfour and Edie would be briefed on it and would report back to MCC.

7.3. *Referendum Meeting*

N Macdonald reported that the Church Hall was available for the proposed Referendum on Independence meeting on a date in September 2013 or April 2014. It was decided that the later date was preferable.

7.4. *Roseburn Park (toilet block)*

V Forbes introduced the Chairman of FoRP, Don Wilkie, who explained that the feasibility study commissioned by FoRP had been passed to the Council's Parks and Green Spaces department, by them to Property Management and then to the Estates Surveyor, all of whom were in favour of the proposed scheme. The Estates Surveyor, however, had informed FRP that the site of the toilet block was "common ground" and could not, therefore, be leased to FoRP. Don Wilkie understood that the Council would have to apply to the courts to have this designation changed. He asked for MCC's support for the scheme and R Smart confirmed that MCC continued to support it.

V Forbes reported that Roseburn Park now has a table tennis table and chessboard and a raised flower bed.

7.5. *Community Empowerment Bill*

A member of the public, P Gregson, reported that, as authorised at the last MCC meeting, he and D Huckle had done some research and discovered that a survey was done last summer into the involvement of Community Councils in community empowerment and how representative and accountable they are. The Bill has been drafted but has not yet been presented to the Scottish Parliament.

7.6 *Any other matters arising*

A member of South Beechwood Residents Association mentioned that Millers have now registered title to the area of open ground which they propose to develop.

8. Planning and Licensing (Market at Murrayfield)

8.1 R Smart reported that he had looked at 12 domestic planning applications, none of which excited comment.

8.2 He and G Douglas were keeping track of the planning application for 8 Kew Terrace, which had been lodged last week and would appear in the next list of applications.

8.3 R Smart mentioned two recent licence applications for a Sunday market of 50 stalls at Murrayfield Stadium. Cllr Ross was not aware of the application. Cllr Edie assumed it was for a farmers market. **R Smart asked the Councillors to investigate.**

9. Traffic and Transport

9.1 R Smart stated that letters had been sent to local residents about the proposed extension westwards of the controlled parking zones. G Douglas explained that the scheme proposed for the Ravelston/Murrayfield area is a different and cheaper version of the existing schemes and is designed to deal with commuter parking. A similar system is already in force in the Grange and Newington. Cllr Edie confirmed that public meetings had demonstrated a lot of support for such a scheme. He would like more detailed feedback on what residents want.

9.2 S Holland reported that MCC had received an invitation to visit the Tram Depot and, as one member had expressed an interest in doing so and a reply was required by 28 March, he had asked for two places to be allocated to MCC on a Wednesday in September and the date had yet to be confirmed.

10. Reports incl. Review of Community Councils by 12 April

10.1 R Smart understood that the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils would lodge comments on the Review.

10.2 The Treasurer reported that MCC's public liability insurance had been renewed with effect from 1 May 2013. The Council had arranged cover for all Edinburgh Community Councils through Zurich and deducted the proportion of premium applicable to MCC from the Council's annual grant to MCC.

10.3 E Robertson reported that she had received a supply of leaflets from the Council explaining the new procedure, effective from 25 March 2013, for making complaints to the Council. The leaflets were available at the meeting.

11. Donaldson Area Amenity Association

G Douglas reported that the Association's AGM will take place on Tuesday, 30 April 2013 and an invitation had been issued to MCC.

12. Correspondence

S Holland reported that he had been monitoring the email traffic addressed to the Chairman and Secretary, which had previously been dealt with by H Ross. He had received communications on the following matters:-

12.1 Elections to Community Councils are scheduled to take place in October 2013. MCC has to appoint a Returning Officer and notify the Council by 22 April. The meeting authorised **S Holland to ask Cllr Balfour to act as Returning Officer;**

12.2 Changes to the way in which the public can access Council services based at Drum Brae;

12.3 Notice of a meeting entitled “Influencing the Council” to be held in the City Chambers on Tuesday, 30 April at 6.30 for 7pm. W Spence intimated that he intended to attend.

13. Any Other Competent Business

13.1 Cllr Edie was asked whether any changes to the West Neighbourhood partnership were proposed and he confirmed that a review is ongoing.

13.2 J Yellowlees asked whether there was to be a Water of Leith clean up this year. No one had an answer.

13.3 R Smart reminded the meeting that the next MCC meeting on 14 May includes the AGM.

14. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public asked whether there are any plans of the Flood Prevention Scheme and was advised by R Smart that they are available in libraries and from the Council offices at Waverley Court.

15. Date of Next Meeting (including AGM): Tuesday, 14 May 2013 at 7.30 pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Subsequent meetings: 25 June and 30 July 2013.

Minutes approved at meeting of 14 May 2013