

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Wednesday, 20 January 2016 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland,
N Macdonald, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie,
In attendance: 30 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, Graham Atkins, City
of Edinburgh Council, Margaret Laing, City of Edinburgh Council,
David Spaven, Living Streets Edinburgh Group, David Whitelaw,
Saughtonhall Community Association,
Apologies: J Forbes, D Huckle, P Sizeland, Cllr Ross, Michelle Thomson MP,
Marco Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cameron Buchanan 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 the postponement of Item 3 until the arrival of PC Euan Sinclair, who was attending a meeting of Corstorphine Community Council.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair reported that in the Murrayfield area since 1 December 2015 there had been 13 housebreakings, 2 drug related offences, 6 incidents of violence and 12 of anti-social behaviour, 7 thefts and 6 miscellaneous offences. 44 crimes had been solved. He reported that he and a colleague, both dressed in plain clothes, had visited a number of residential areas entering gardens and drives in December. He was disappointed that their activities had not given rise to any phone calls to the Police reporting suspicious behaviour. He urged residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious on 101. Anything requiring urgent attention should be reported on 999. Operation RAC is still running and a number of offenders have been caught and are now subject to curfews.

Operation Catchline has targeted drug use on licensed premises. Two premises in the Murrayfield area have been identified. The Licensing Board has been notified and the licensees will be offered advice on how to deter drug use on their premises.

PC Sinclair reported that the annual drink/driving campaign over the festive season had resulted in a significant number of drivers being taken off the road. Shoplifting patrols in Corstorphine and the Gyle had led to a reduction in shoplifting.

PC Sinclair informed the meeting that as a temporary measure Inspector Scobbie has taken on the role of Chief Inspector and Susan Morris has assumed his role as Inspector.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.1 The Council would set its Budget for 2016/17 on 21 January 2016. Cutbacks would be required in some areas including the Council's workforce.

4.2 Work on Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme was due to start in Roseburn Park soon.

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

4.3 The Scottish Government had granted planning permission for a care home at South Beechwood after permission was refused by the Planning Committee. He understood that the Reporter was influenced by the fact that the home would create jobs. He expressed disappointment that the case against planning consent, which had been made by local residents, had been unsuccessful and the Planning Committee's decision overruled.

4.4 The decision on extending the tram network has been delayed until after the Council elections. Some related land acquisitions will be completed before then.

4.5 The proposal to introduce charges for parking on Sundays has also been delayed.

4.6 The roll out across the city of the 20 mph speed restrictions will begin in July 2016.

5. Cycle Route Consultations

5.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that the Council officers who had attended the previous meeting, at which the Council's proposals for a dedicated two way cycle track from Roseburn to Haymarket had been discussed at length, were not present at the current meeting, but were considering the feedback received to date and would attend a future meeting with revised proposals.

He referred to the drop-in session, which had been held in Roseburn Primary School on the evening of 18 January and had attracted a public protest, which had been reported on the front page of the Evening News. The Chairman summarised the criticisms made by those against the proposals as "unsafe, unfair and unsustainable".

5.2 Cllr Balfour confirmed that those who had responded to the public consultation had expressed concern about (1) the effect of the proposals on the businesses in Roseburn, (2) the safety of pedestrians, particularly the elderly and schoolchildren and (3) the concentration of traffic and its effect on air pollution. He commended the business owners for showing understanding that cycling is important. He intimated that he and Cllrs Edie and Ross felt that there was a compromise solution. He reminded the meeting that any changes to the road layout would necessitate Traffic Regulation Orders, which would provide a further opportunity for objections.

5.3 Cllr Edie reported that he and Cllr Ross had met the previous week with local traders and had been impressed by their measured tone. He appreciated that access to the Roseburn shops is vital to their survival. He expressed serious concern about the possible loss of the bus lane, which he felt should be in force at rush hours, but was not so important at other times of the day. Cllr Edie proposed a compromise solution to bypass the shops at Roseburn and Haymarket - that the cycle track from Roseburn Park be taken along Roseburn Place, instead of Roseburn Terrace, then behind Tesco onto West Coates and thence into Magdala Crescent. He appreciated that the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") might not be keen on this solution.

In answer to a question from the Chairman as to whether Roseburn Terrace was as polluted as St John's Road, Cllr Edie indicated that St John's Road is particularly bad because of the prevalence of high sided buildings and the fact that the number of pedestrian crossings slows the through put of traffic.

5.4 The Chairman invited Peter Gregson to address the meeting.

P Gregson thanked Cllr Balfour for getting the time limit for the public consultation extended from 5 January to 1 February 2016. He referred to the initial failure to publicise the proposals adequately and informed the meeting that he had procured flyers detailing the proposals and the objections to them, which had been delivered to every business from Roseburn to Haymarket. He urged participation in the written and online petitions against the proposals which he had set up.

P Gregson reported that the evening meeting at Roseburn Primary School, which had been covered by the Evening News, had involved a heated discussion between business owners and cyclists. The cyclists contended that cycle lanes can be beneficial to businesses. In his view there was insufficient space at Roseburn for this benefit to be felt.

P Gregson criticised the Council for not carrying out traffic modelling before drawing up the proposals and for failing to consider the impact of the proposals on retail businesses.

P Gregson expressed the view that Cllr Lesley Hinds has to be convinced that the proposals are not acceptable. She is of the opinion that they would help less confident cyclists. He acknowledged that Haymarket Yards present a challenge to less confident cyclists. Cllr Edie interjected that his solution would avoid that problem.

P Gregson urged as many people as possible to attend at the City Chambers on 3 February at 3pm when his written petition will be handed to Cllr Hinds. He hoped that the event will be covered by the media.

P Gregson asked for help in (1) delivering flyers, (2) contacting 400 people who had signed the petition but not supplied email addresses and (3) contacting Sir Chris Hoy.

A resident of Kew Terrace reported that he had carried out a traffic survey and had logged fewer than one cyclist every 5 minutes during the afternoon and fewer than one cyclist every minute during rush hour. He had counted 34 buses per hour during rush hour and calculated that the proposals favoured fewer than 40 cyclists over more than 2000 bus and car passengers in the same period.

5.5 The Chairman invited David Spaven, Convener, Living Streets Edinburgh Group, to address the meeting.

D Spaven explained that Living Streets campaigns for better conditions for everyday walking. 35% of journeys are made on foot and a further 18% by bus. Walking is a socially inclusive form of transport and very important to Edinburgh's economy.

D Spaven reported that he and a colleague had paid a two and a half hour site visit to the local area. He explained that his organisation would normally support any measure which supports sustainable transport. They are in favour of segregated cycle routes, but are concerned by the proposed loss of bus priority, which they regard as a retrogressive step.

Living Streets Edinburgh Group has almost completed its draft submission to the Council. It is in favour of a number of the proposals which will improve conditions for walking, but thinks the scheme is very expensive. They will argue for retention of the eastbound bus lane at least as far as Coates

Gardens and see no need for a cycle route on the north side of Roseburn Terrace. The Group is concerned about the width of the footways on Roseburn Terrace, their view being that improving walking conditions leads to improved footfall to businesses and shops.

D Spaven expressed the hope that a sensible compromise which benefits everyone could be found.

5.6 There followed further general discussion. P Gregson suggested improvements to the existing set up. He urged the Council to repair potholes, fix the Tesco junction at Roseburn, install a crossing for cyclists from Roseburn Street to Russell Road, improve signs to the existing cycle route, attempt again to introduce a congestion charge and promote car sharing.

R Smart expressed the view that the current proposals required the input of town planners and not just road engineers. He felt that walkers, users of public transport, buses and finally cars and bicycles should be prioritised in that order. He reminded the meeting that MCC advocates that both pavements in Roseburn Terrace are widened by two feet.

E Robertson was of the view that cars should be stopped from using Roseburn because of the high level of pollution and walking should be encouraged. She was in favour of wider pavements to improve the walking experience.

S Holland asked how the arguments which had been put forward were going to be translated into an effective tool to stop the proposed scheme.

5.7 The Chairman invited a cyclist to address the meeting. He spoke to the issue of traffic congestion and pollution and asked what sort of place people want Roseburn to be. He argued out that there is no safe cycle route from the City Centre to the west side of the city – the existing route via Russell Road and Balbirnie Place is not wide enough, is not direct and involves negotiating the tramlines at Haymarket Yards. He felt that a visible cycle route via West Coates would persuade more people to cycle and change Roseburn for the better.

A Roseburn shop owner argued that cyclists do not use his shop and a cycle route through Roseburn would not improve it. He was in favour of improving the existing route. The cyclist countered that a protected cycle route would encourage cyclists to travel beside other traffic.

Cllr Edie expressed confidence that a solution can be found which leaves the shopping parade at Roseburn intact. He reiterated that retaining the bus lane is important to avoid worsening congestion, which will make travelling by bus less attractive.

In response to S Holland's question it was agreed that **R Smart would lead the formation of a group, for which E Robertson volunteered, to draft a further submission to the Council on behalf of MCC.**

G Douglas reported that the DAAA was holding a committee meeting the following evening and would finalise its detailed comments on the proposals. In response to a question from the Chairman he **agreed that someone from DAAA might liaise with MCC on their submission.**

G Douglas went on to urge residents in the Murrayfield and Roseburn area to form more community associations. He suggested that the shopkeepers and residents of the tenements might form separate associations to pursue their particular interests and to exercise vigilance in planning and other matters on behalf of the community.

S Holland, a former Chairman and Secretary and current member, of Roseburn Maltings Residents' Association, recommended levying a

membership subscription on the basis that those who have paid will take an active interest, while those who have become members automatically on buying a particular property are unlikely to take much interest.

6. Bus Shelters

The Chairman introduced Graham Atkins, Public Transport Project Officer, City of Edinburgh Council, who addressed complaints about the new advertising bus shelters which are being installed across the city.

6.1 G Atkins explained that, as in most large cities, the bus shelters in Edinburgh are provided partly by the local authority and partly by advertising companies. When the previous arrangement with Clear Channel expired, the contract was put out to tender and was won by JC Decaux. 450 bus shelters belonged to Clear Channel and were cleaned and maintained by them. JC Decaux are taking over and replacing 330 of these, leaving a shortfall of 120. JC Decaux have found that they can increase the commercial value of advertising panels using scrolling of screens and digital imaging. They offered the Council two designs, both with open fronts. In both designs the advertising unit is the principal part. The advertising funds the cost of the shelters and the Council derives income from these shelters.

G Atkins explained that the design of the shelters is constrained by the need to comply with Disability Discrimination and Equalities legislation, providing more space for wheelchair users, space for “kneeling” buses and greater clearance for wing mirrors at the kerb edge. He pointed out that bus shelters with open fronts and advertising panels at right angles to the kerb are the norm in Glasgow and many other cities.

6.2 G Atkins admitted that the lack of a shelter at the bus stop for westbound passengers at Haymarket Station was a difficult problem to solve. He explained that the tram platform and stop are constructed on a bridge over the station car park with very little clearance below the platform for utilities such as fibre optic cables. It would be difficult to fix a structure to the tram platform without damaging the utilities. He conceded that the canopy over the tram stop was “feeble”. He had raised the issue of a bus shelter with the Chief Engineer of the trams who felt that extending the canopy would breach the clearances required by the Railway Inspectorate.

A member of the public asked whether the bus stop could be moved, but was told that the bus operators wished to keep it as close to the tram stop and the station as possible and would not agree to move it.

G Douglas complained that the design for the redevelopment of Haymarket Station had made no provision for taxis and G Atkins agreed that this had been overlooked. He had arranged for the taxi stance in Rosebery Crescent to be moved to Haymarket Terrace.

6.3 G Atkins then addressed the issue of bus shelters in Shandwick Place. He informed the meeting that there had been 3 bus shelters on the south side, but shop owners had complained about waiting passengers blocking shop doorways and they had been removed. On the north side the footway is constructed on archways and there is no sound base for structures.

6.4 In response to questions raised by members of the public, G Atkins confirmed that (a) the issue of the uneven pavement surface near the new eastbound bus shelter at Roseburn had been raised with the contractor and would be attended to; (b) the bus shelter in Princes Street which is near Castle Street is temporary and may be moved further from the junction; and (c) the

Council is looking at displaying bus tracking information digitally inside bus shelters.

7. Changes to Recycling and Waste Service

The Chairman referred to a report in the Evening News that complaints about the waste collection services are at their highest for 4 years.

8. Removal of Telecomms Mast at Ellersly Road

J Forbes had confirmed by email prior to the meeting that the telecommunications mast at Ellersly Road had been removed.

9. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 1 December 2015

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: N Macdonald.

10. Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2

P Gregson, in his capacity as Chairman of the Friends of Roseburn Park, accepted an invitation from the Chairman to give a presentation to a future MCC meeting on the Friends' vision for the Park, but not before April.

P Gregson took the opportunity to explain that the imminent flood prevention works would involve the felling of 30 trees. He had been trying to persuade D Sinclair of the Council to allow a number of these trees to be left on site and converted into play equipment. This request had been refused because of the Council's potential liability if children were injured while climbing on the trees and the high cost of providing a safe surface. P Gregson asked for MCC's support in pursuing this matter. The Chairman suggested that he escalate it to the City Councillors.

11. Roseburn Action Plan

11.1 The Chairman reported that attractive plates had been restored to the globe lights on the main Roseburn Bridge.

11.2 Prior to the meeting Margaret Laing, Team Leader, Environmental Wardens, West Neighbourhood Team, had emailed the following update on the Roseburn Action Plan (but had had to leave the meeting before Item 11 was reached) :-

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

Installed on 9 December 2015.

• **Wheeled containers located at the old Roseburn Bridge**

Robert Smart has contacted Dave Sinclair and requested to meet with him to discuss the road markings at Murrayfield Place for the new position of the bins and possible parking areas.

• **Graffiti – pillar at Roseburn Cliff**

Note it was removed on 30 December 2015.

• **Road markings at the junction of Roseburn Street, Roseburn Terrace and Russell Road. Enquiry 3000188**

20 January 2016

Update given to John Yellowlees by email on 30 November 2015 from Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager:-

Dear John,

I refer to the emails below regarding line markings at the Roseburn Terrace/Roseburn Street/Russell Road junction.

The Roads team are aware of the issue and will arrange road markings when appropriate resources are available in co-ordination with colleagues in the Council's Roads Services team who carry out line marking on our behalf.

As this location is traffic sensitive and incorporates the junctions of several roads, it has not been possible to carry out the required working during normal routine day-works.

Therefore we are currently looking at a programme of night working to facilitate the required works.

We do not have a night-shift in place for the line marking squad, so we are working with our Roads Services team to establish availability.

I will ensure that the Community Council and our Ward 6 Elected Members are advised when this is to be carried out, as I am aware this has been raised several times by local residents.

Kind regards,

Dave

Further email sent to Dave Sinclair for update.

- **Reinstatement of bike stand on Roseburn Terrace**
Email sent to Allan Tinto, Transport Officer, requesting update for replacement of bike rack. (See Item 11.5 below)
- **A Boards**
No update from Environment Team. They have been sent emails for updates.
- **Dog fouling at Roseburn Park & Speeding Cyclists issues**
Environmental Wardens carrying out a joint operation with Police Scotland on 9 March 2016.
- **Suggestion for walk about to be arranged.**

11.3 M Laing also notified the meeting of the following:-

Western Edinburgh Environment Sub Group Meeting - 28 January 2016 at 7 pm in the Clermiston Room at the Drumbrae Library Hub, 81 Drum Brae Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 7FE, (the Clermiston Room can be accessed at the side entrance to the Hub via the car park).

11.4 In an email following the meeting M Laing reported that she had raised the following issues with the relevant teams:-

Task Force/Environment Team

- 1) Debris left over from Xmas Trees and general litter at Roseburn Cliff.
- 2) Bag containing duvet at Coltbridge Avenue next to recycling containers.

Waste Team

- 1) Abandoned contaminated brown wheeled bin on pavement at Roseburn Cliff.
- 2) Newspaper recycling container at Coltbridge Avenue – requires to be emptied, overflowing.
- 3) Large green domestic bins at Roseburn Gardens – the new recycling phase has been introduced in this area and new stickers have been stuck to the existing large recycling bins, but residents are unsure what to put in them.

BIFFA Waste Services

Notification of a possible abandoned BIFFA 360 litre bin at Roseburn Cliff. Request for removal.

11.5 As there had been no time at the meeting to discuss the following issue, the Chairman requested the inclusion in the Minutes of the following information received from Allan Tinto, Transport Officer (Cycling), City of Edinburgh Council, prior to the meeting:-

“Removal of bike-stand at Roseburn Terrace eastbound bus stop

I can confirm that the cycle rack that was removed at the bus stop is due to be reinstated. I also propose to replace the existing cycle rack outside the shoe repair shop on Roseburn Terrace, and install new cycle racks at Tesco at the same time.

I understand that you have a Community Council meeting this evening and would appreciate if this could be discussed and agreement reached on the proposals. I would be happy to discuss alternative/additional locations.

I would propose to have these installed before the summer as part of a large scale cycle rack installation I am currently procuring.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me back.”

12. Planning and Licensing

R Smart confirmed that he had looked at 8 minor domestic planning applications and taken no action.

He proposed that MCC should apply for grant funding to preserve and maintain the stonework of the houses and garden walls of the properties adjoining Donaldson's College, as he felt that the owners could not be relied upon to do so.

13. Traffic and Transport

It was agreed that there were no further topics to discuss.

14. Any Other Competent Business

The Chairman informed the member of the public, who had raised the issue at a previous meeting, that the dead trees which had been in Atholl Crescent Gardens for some time, had been removed.

15. Questions from the Floor

A local resident complained about the maintenance of drains and gullies in Roseburn and Murrayfield and identified a number of locations where these are choked. He reported that the gullies had not been sucked out since January 2013 and requested MCC's help in getting a planned maintenance programme put in place. The Chairman suggested that he email the relevant locations to M Laing for action. G Douglas advised that the issue should also be raised with the three local Councillors (Cllrs Balfour and Edie had had to leave the meeting by then). **The Chairman undertook to forward to M Laing, and copy to Cllrs Balfour, Edie and Ross, the email which the local resident had sent him prior to the meeting.**

The same resident complained that the new LED lighting was inferior to the old sodium lighting. He appreciated that it had a longer life and was cheaper. R Smart advised him that, if the lighting is to British Standards, the Council will not change it. The Chairman proposed that this be raised again at a future meeting.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 March 2016

Subsequent meetings: Tuesdays, 19 April and 31 May 2016.

Minutes approved at meeting of 8 March 2016.