

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 23 June 2015 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland,  
D Huckle, E Robertson, P Sizeland, R Smart, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie,  
In attendance: 6 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, Sgt William Rennie,  
Rob Leech, City of Edinburgh Council,  
Apologies: J Forbes, N Macdonald, W Spence, Cllr Ross, Margaret Laing, City  
of Edinburgh Council, Michelle Thomson MP, Marco Biagi MSP,  
Sarah Boyack MSP, Cameron Buchanan MSP, Alison Johnstone  
MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had accompanied D Huckle to a meeting of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) on 17 June. He had noted that a number of community grants had been awarded to the Corstorphine area, but none to Murrayfield or Saughtonhall. The WENP meeting had been told that there was £12,000 of grant money left and he urged the Saughtonhall Community Association (“SCA”), Friends of Roseburn Park and Murrayfield Community Council (“MCC”) to consider applying for grants to fund suitable projects.

P Sizeland reported that SCA had received £5,000 in grants last year and planned to apply for further funding for improvements to SCA’s hall and garden, which are to be used by Roseburn Primary School.

R Smart thought that MCC’s proposal to acquire and improve the footpath between the top of Murrayfield Gardens and Campbell Avenue would be a suitable project for a grant application and urged progress on establishing and dealing with the owners’ concerns.

Cllr Edie reminded the meeting that there will be another WENP meeting in September and there is still time to apply for a grant. He expressed the view that it would be helpful if WENP gave more notice of their meetings and held more of them in the Corstorphine/Murrayfield area.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair from Corstorphine Community Policing team introduced Sgt Willie Rennie, who has recently joined the team and is keen to learn which issues are of local concern.

PC Sinclair reported on the period from 1 to 31 May 2015 as follows:-

3.1.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 19 recorded crimes, 2 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal. There had been 3 thefts, 9

housebreakings (2 to dwellings and 7 to non-dwellings), 1 theft from a vehicle, 4 incidents of vandalism, 1 assault and 1 communications offence.

3.1.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 18 recorded crimes, 2 of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal. There had been 5 thefts, 4 house breakings (2 to dwellings and 2 to non-dwellings), 2 incidents involving theft of or from a vehicle, 2 incidents of vandalism and 5 other incidents.

PC Sinclair reported that the Police have made a number of arrests for housebreaking and several individuals have been charged with more than one offence.

Operation RAC continues to target housebreaking with high visibility and plain clothes patrols. The number of housebreakings has declined. Operation Coulville targets named suspects in the local area.

PC Sinclair replied to questions from the Chairman and a member of the public to the effect that the reduction in the number of housebreakings is a consequence of the re-introduction of the housebreaking team and the imprisonment of a number of persistent offenders. The housebreakers come from all parts of the city and operate throughout the city in organised groups, rather than gangs.

V Forbes and a member of the public complained that the pavement in Roseburn Street is frequently obstructed by parked cars. PC Sinclair confirmed that enforcement of parking regulations is the responsibility of the Council's traffic wardens, unless the parked vehicles constitute an obstruction, in which case the Police will intervene.

The Chairman reported that he had been given the email address and phone number to which members of the public should report a parking issue. They are [parkingoperations.customercare@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:parkingoperations.customercare@edinburgh.gov.uk) and 0131 496 3915.

It was agreed that the whole Roseburn area needed to be assessed and Sgt Rennie undertook that the Police will continue to monitor the situation.

D Huckle complained that cycling on pavements is still a problem. The Chairman pointed to the practice of some cyclists of crossing from the pedestrian crossing in Roseburn Street to the pavement adjoining the eastbound bus stop in order to access the entrance to the Water of Leith Walkway.

G Douglas pointed out that the Environmental Wardens are too visible to be able to catch people in the act of cycling dangerously or allowing their dogs to foul public places. PC Sinclair explained that high visibility patrols are intended as a deterrent.

#### 4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.1.1 He had promised to get more information on the new design of street lights that is being rolled out across Edinburgh and had circulated an email regarding this to MCC members on 28 May 2015.

4.1.2 The Foo Fighters concert scheduled for 23 June had had to be cancelled because one of the band members had broken his leg. There were no other concerts planned.

4.1.3 There had been a few teething issues, but feedback on how the extension to the Controlled Parking Zone ("CPZ") was working had been generally positive. Local residents had worked out how to use the new regime to best advantage and felt that commuter parking had decreased. He encouraged further feedback and asked for it to be emailed to him.

E Robertson stated that the CPZ was working well in Henderland Road, but the residents felt that more residents' spaces were needed.

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

4.1.4 The new bus shelters, which were gradually replacing the existing shelters across the city, were part of the contract which the Council had signed with the new advertiser, JC Decaux. He conceded that the new shelters do not hold as many people as the old ones, but he assumed that the size of the shelters had been specified in the tendering process. Cllr Balfour confirmed that the shelters are paid for by JC Decaux.

G Douglas pointed out that the meeting had expected to be updated on the advertising hoardings at Roseburn by Darren Wraight. Cllr Balfour confirmed that there had been no developments since the discovery that the planning consent was based on incorrect measurements of one of the boards.

A member of the public, who was concerned about speeding cyclists on the cycle track, asked who polices it. **Cllr Edie** replied that it might be the Council, as the track is not a road, for which the traffic wardens would be responsible. He **undertook to ask the Transport Department to look at the issue**. P Sizeland intimated that the Council has an Active Travel Co-ordinator to whom this issue would be of interest.

R Smart added that the Roseburn Action Plan contains a proposal to put back into the cuttings on the track some of the material which was removed some time ago. This would widen the base of the cuttings and allow for better segregation of pedestrians from cyclists. He reminded the meeting that he had attended a meeting about cycling proposals for Roseburn a few months ago. One of the proposals involved a two way cycle lane on the north side of Roseburn Terrace, which would take up a lot of space and prevent the widening of each pavement which MCC wished to see.

It was agreed that the issues, which arose at the last meeting and which were to have been progressed by Cllr Ross, should, in his absence, be carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12 May 2015

R Brown intimated that she had omitted to document in the draft Minutes that apologies had been received from Cameron Buchanan MSP.

The Chairman queried whether the reference to Roseburn Bridge in Item 7.2.4 of the draft Minutes was to Roseburn Old Bridge or the main Roseburn Bridge and suggested that it was a reference to both.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: R Smart.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Landscaping of Advertising Hoardings at Roseburn Terrace*

Cllr Balfour had already reported that there had been no developments since the last meeting. The Chairman reminded the meeting that, had **Darren Wraight** been present, he was to have reported on how frequently the new images will change. **The Chairman undertook to contact him.**

6.2. *Roseburn Action Plan*

The Chairman reported that Margaret Laing, Team Leader, Environmental Wardens, West Neighbourhood Team, had sent her apologies and emailed an update on the Action Plan, which was as follows:-

- 'No Cycling' Stencils - Renew stencils in Roseburn Terrace

Stencils sprayed in both directions on pavements week ending 15 May 2015.

- **Missing lid of recycling bin on corner of Roseburn Drive**  
Notified to Waste Team – email sent 25 May 2015, also requesting response to be given to John Yellowlees.
- **Overgrown gardens all the way down Roseburn Street leading to primary school and overgrown hedge on Roseburn Place**  
Notified to the Environment Team – email sent 25 May 2015, also requesting response to be given to John Yellowlees.
- **Obtain sizes of wooden planters for Roseburn Old Bridge for Darren Wraight, Roads Manager. Also organise the Council nurseries to fill planters with plants prior to being located at the bridge.**  
Planters can be collected from 2 September onwards. Still to obtain sizes, but pictures provided. To confirm with Darren Wraight for uplift and delivery.
- **Relocation of the domestic communal containers at Roseburn Old Bridge**  
Road markings requested by Waste Team before bins can be relocated. Passed to Darren Wraight for update.
- **Missing street litter bin at bus stop in Corstorphine Road, opposite Ormidale Terrace junction**  
Request sent to the Environment Team 18 May 2015, enquiry reference 162941. Confirmation received from the Environment Team on 26 May 2015 that a litter bin had been installed.
- **Bike Stand at Roseburn Terrace eastbound bus stop - Request for it to be reinstated**  
Notification sent to the Project Officer (Cycling), Waverley Court. Still awaiting a response. Reminder sent.
- **Overfilled/Top-hatted CEC trade waste bin at Roseburn Cliff**  
Issue reported to Waste Team. Update from Recycling and Resources Manager:-  
“The crews have been spoken to about the excess waste in the containers on collection days; the container has this problem from time to time with extra waste. They do not have problems collecting from this site normally and we have not had any complaints of missed collection reported on the confirm system.”  
  
Request sent to the Recycling and Resources Manager to have the crews monitor the collection going forward and to see if there is a problem with the quantity of waste produced, for the Trade Waste Team to speak to the customer and to get back to her (M Laing) with their findings.
- **Request for removal of fly posting sign – “Xmas Trees for Sale” – at Osborne House**  
Poster removed 5 June 2015.

- **Request for ‘No Cycling’ stencil at eastbound bus stop at Roseburn Terrace**  
Request received 21 June 2015. Still to be actioned.

R Smart reported that he had met with someone from the Council’s Lighting Team. Replacement covers for the lights on the main Roseburn Bridge had been ordered. The lights on the Old Roseburn Bridge would be dealt with after the repaving had been carried out to avoid the risk of damage to the new lights. **R Smart** considered that a landscape architect should be commissioned to design the new paving and the rest of the streetscape for the Old Bridge area, but the Traffic Team were reluctant either to design it themselves or to use an architect. He **undertook to contact M Laing to set up a meeting.**

In reply to a question from V Forbes, R Smart confirmed that the wooden planters would be installed as a temporary measure and in addition to the existing bollards on the Old Bridge.

The Chairman intimated that he had forwarded to M Laing photographs of the overflowing trade waste bin at the foot of Roseburn Cliff and of a garden in Ormidale Terrace where the vegetation overhung the pavement.

### 6.3. *Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2*

The Chairman introduced Rob Leech, Project Director of Phase 2, who distributed a handout containing the bullet points of his presentation and maps and photos showing the proposed flood prevention works in Roseburn Park.

He confirmed that agreements have been signed with the Scottish Rugby Union and Scottish Gas Networks; diversion of the gas main is due to start in August/September and take 20 weeks; tenders for the main works are due to be received on 26 June, the contract awarded in November and the main works started in Spring 2016. An Open Day is to be held in August on a date to be decided. A member of the public suggested that it be held in Roseburn Park and R Leech considered that this suggestion had merit, but also cost implications. P Sizeland offered the use of SCA’s hall and, if the Park were used, a number of marquees belonging to SCA.

R Leech addressed the concern of local residents over the planned removal of a number of trees from Roseburn Park as part of the Phase 2 works. He explained that some of the trees are in the way of either the excavation and pile driving, which will have to be carried out, or the walls and embankments which are to be erected. There is no scope for altering the line of the planned flood defences. Other trees, which are not actually in the way, are likely to be damaged by the works. He explained the works in detail with reference to the maps and photographs. He confirmed that the trees which are removed will be replaced with semi-mature trees, in the case of one area on a ratio of 2:1.

In reply to questions from members of the public, R Leech advised that the works are estimated to take 18 months; it will take about 12 months for the new landscaping to improve the appearance of the Park; the rose garden, half of which will be affected by the works, will be reinstated; access for construction traffic will be taken along Roseburn Place, which will be one way; the pile driving will be significant, but will be limited as to time and noise levels; pre-condition surveys of neighbouring houses will be carried out; MCC will be advised when a full programme of works is available and the contract will contain provision for liquidate damages in the

event of delay.

6.4. *Water of Leith litter notices*

In the absence of J Riddell an update could not be provided.

6.5. *Path to Campbell Avenue*

In the absence of J Forbes an update could not be provided.

**R Smart requested that J Forbes be asked to email details of the concerns expressed by the owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens, to which he had referred at the last meeting.**

The Chairman reported that these owners had already begun the construction of a drive in to their property from Campbell Avenue.

6.6. *Telecomms mast at Ellersly Road*

In the absence of J Forbes an update could not be provided.

**R Smart** reported that he had complained about the planning application, but had received no response and **would write again.**

6.7. *Friends of Roseburn Park acquisition of former toilet block*

V Forbes reported that the terms of the lease of the toilet block are still being adjusted. Meanwhile the building is deteriorating and a decision will have to be made as to whether its acquisition and refurbishment are still viable. If the acquisition were to go ahead, it could be the subject of applications for Lottery and other grants, such as a Community Grant.

7. Closure of Bank of Scotland's Murrayfield branch

W Amcotts complained about the serious downgrading of Roseburn, in which the planned closure of the Bank of Scotland branch and the loss of the ATM were a factor. He suggested that MCC should send a letter of complaint to Bank of Scotland. It was agreed that the closure was unlikely to be reversed, letters having already been sent to customers and a "For Sale" board erected. **The Chairman undertook to write to Bank of Scotland querying whether the Shandwick Place branch was a satisfactory alternative, particularly for older customers with mobility issues.**

8. Planning and Licensing

8.1 G Douglas reported that the development at Kew Terrace is nearing completion, but will miss the target for completion this month. The legal provisions of the lease for the ground floor are nearly agreed.

S Holland expressed the view that the building is grossly oversized in comparison to the surrounding buildings. G Douglas reminded the meeting that the site had been vacant for 14 years and the new building had to be financially viable for the developer.

8.2 R Smart reported that he had looked at 8 planning applications. He had objected to one by Miller Homes for an extra house on the site at the bend in Ellersly Road.

8.3 R Smart reported that the planning application for the new townhouses behind Donaldson's College had just been submitted. He asked whether, if it coincided with the proposals displayed at the public exhibition held by City & Country and Cala, it should be supported by MCC.

G Douglas elaborated on the current position. He reported that the planning application for the redevelopment of the main building was to be submitted on 26 June. Two minor applications for the temporary breach of the front boundary wall to provide access for construction traffic and for minor

alterations to the two lodges had been submitted and did not give rise for concern. He was of the view that MCC and Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”) should comment on the main application. He made the following points:-

1. The east and west drives are to be adopted roads. As Historic Scotland is opposed to double yellow lines along the drives, the prohibition on parking will be advertised by notices;
2. The developer is consulting as to a suitable style of lighting for the drives;
3. The crescent serving the townhouses has been moved from the back to the front of the townhouses so that the new buildings are further away from the existing listed building, in particular the chapel to the rear;
4. The anticipated construction period is 5 years;
5. The volume of traffic in and out of the completed development will be an issue.

R Smart and G Douglas agreed to liaise regarding comments to be made on the main planning application.

9. Traffic and Transport

R Smart referred to the aforementioned meeting about cycling proposals for Roseburn and asked **the Chairman to email M Laing to see whether she could provide details of the alternatives proposed by the cycling consultant at the next MCC meeting.** G Douglas mentioned that he understood one of the proposals was to take the cycle route through Haymarket Yards.

10. Any Other Competent Business

The Chairman intimated that Sarah Boyack, MSP hoped to attend the next MCC meeting on 28 July and Michelle Thomson, MP the one after that on 8 September.

11. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public complained about the dirtiness of the pavements in Roseburn and asked for the return of the old road sweepers. Another local resident reported that a cleaning team and supervisor had responded to a request from a member of the public and had cleaned Roseburn Crescent and part of Roseburn Place the previous Sunday. The Chairman suggested raising this issue with M Laing at the next MCC meeting and, perhaps, showing her photographs of the pavements.

A member of the public asked when the bench, which had been removed from the south side of Roseburn Bridge for renovation, would be returned. **The Chairman undertook to ask M Laing.**

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 28 July 2015 at 7.30pm

Subsequent meetings: 8 September, 13 October and 1 December 2015.

Minutes approved at meeting of 28 July 2015.