

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 24 February 2015 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland,
N Macdonald, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Edie,
In attendance: 9 members of the public, PC Ryan Murphy,
Apologies: D Huckle, P Sizeland, W Spence, Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross, Margaret
Laing, City of Edinburgh Council, M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP,
Sarah Boyack MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. George McLeod

The Chairman expressed his sadness and that of his colleagues on Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") at the passing of George McLeod at the age of 76. He referred to G McLeod's origins in Glasgow, his long and varied career and his commitment to MCC. The Chairman commended George's attending the meeting on 28 October 2014 despite his failing health and reminded the meeting of George's success in bringing about considerable improvements to Western Corner and his custodianship of the noticeboard there. The Chairman offered MCC's condolences to George's widow, Pat, and his sons, Andrew and Graham.

The Chairman also expressed MCC's sadness at the death David Salton, former Chair of Corstorphine Community Council and the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

3. Order of Business

This was approved, subject to the addition of a contribution from N Macdonald regarding an election hustings event (see Item 14).

4. Community Policing Report

4.1 PC Ryan Murphy reported on the period from 1 to 31 January 2015 as follows:-

4.1.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 32 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. There had been 2 incidents of vandalism and 4 of assault. The housebreakings and attempted housebreakings had occurred in Succoth Court, Easter Belmont Road, Kingsburgh Road, Pembroke Place, Garscube Terrace, Donaldson's College, Belmont Gardens, Corstorphine Road, Murrayfield Road and Wester Coates Place.

4.1.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 64 recorded crimes, 22 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 been 17 incidents of

vandalism and 15 of assault. The housebreakings and attempted housebreakings had occurred in Riversdale Crescent, Saughtonhall Drive, Saughton Crescent, Corstorphine Hill Gardens, Belgrave Gardens and Caroline Terrace.

4.2 In response to a question previously posed by a member of the public PC Murphy reported that it is not possible to find out how many calls from the public are made to 999 and how many to 101.

4.3 PC Murphy provided contact details for ActionFraud, the UK's national fraud and internet crime reporting centre, as follows:-

www.actionfraud.police.uk; contact number: 03001232040.

ActionFraud should be contacted where the point of benefit of the crime is likely to be outside Scotland. If the point of benefit is likely to be within Scotland, the Police should be contacted on 101 or at a Police station.

4.4 In response to a question posed at the previous MCC meeting PC Murphy reported that there is no set pattern to housebreaking. It occurs at all times of the day, but is less likely in the morning. Houses which appear to be unoccupied or have access at the rear are at higher risk.

4.5 PC Murphy referred to recent housebreakings in the St Leonard's, Drylaw and Cramond areas. It is suspected that the culprits are two males, apparently with ID, who have been going door to door claiming to be reformed young offenders selling cleaning products.

4.6 PC Murphy drew the meeting's attention to an event to be held in Davidson's Mains the following evening to provide the public with information and advice on home security. He left a supply of booklets on the topic.

The Chairman asked that MCC be given more notice of such events and suggested that one be held in the Roseburn/Murrayfield area.

4.7 The Chairman reported that MCC had been asked to respond to a survey on local policing and that he would do so.

A member of the public, who had raised a question about using bus lanes to undertake when the right hand lane is blocked, reported that he had received a response from Cllr Ross to the effect that this is not allowed. He asked what the response from the Police to such conduct would be. PC Murphy replied that he had power to issue a ticket in such circumstances, but he would not normally do so.

Cllr Edie commented upon the increased crime figures for January, in particular those for the Corstorphine beat. He had noticed that a number of people on social media had been flagging up break ins in the Corstorphine and Murrayfield areas and asked whether there had, in fact, been a significant increase in such crime. **PC Murphy** acknowledged that there had been a spike in the figures about a year ago when the housebreaking teams were disbanded, but they had since been reinstated. **He undertook to obtain firm statistics on this issue.**

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie reported as follows:-

5.1 The Council has set its Budget for 2015/16. Substantial cuts in spending have been made. Edinburgh Leisure's funding has been cut by 25% and Drum Brae Leisure Centre, Dalry Swim Centre and Carrick Knowe Golf Course may close. It is likely that most of the cuts will become effective next year. A further £10m has been allocated to roads, but this is not enough to remedy the widespread damage arising from historic underfunding.

5.2 Consideration of the Local Development Plan has been "continued", meaning that it will not now be discussed until after the General Election.

5.3 He had recently attended one of the regular meetings between the SRU and local residents, to which he and two representatives from Wester Coates had been invited in order to discuss the “soft road closures” on international match days. Those at the meeting had gained the welcome impression that the SRU intended to adopt a more pragmatic approach to these in future. He and V Forbes agreed that the SRU’s approach to local issues is “fairly constructive” at the moment.

It was agreed that an issue relating to traffic lights, which Cllr Balfour is pursuing, be carried over to the next meeting.

In Cllr Balfour’s absence J Forbes updated the meeting on the communications mast in the grounds of the former Ellersly House Hotel. He reported that the Planning Department has ruled that the mast, although temporary, does require planning permission. EE has not yet submitted an application. Cllr Balfour had also informed J Forbes that the lease for the mast will expire in January 2016. In response to a question from J Forbes about enforcement, Cllr Edie admitted that the Planning Department’s powers of enforcement are relatively weak and are not exercised very effectively. He stated that, if a planning application is pending, enforcement action will be on hold. He referred to the risk that, in the absence of a new building on the site to which a smaller mast could be attached, the temporary mast might become permanent. He agreed that there would be no harm in local residents pushing for enforcement action. A member of the public suggested that involving the media in a campaign of “commercial embarrassment” of EE would be more productive. In reply to a local resident Cllr Edie confirmed that the risk to health from radiation is not a planning concern, but the external appearance of property in a Conservation Area is. J Forbes concluded that he would contact other local residents and, if he decided to involve the press, he would do so in a private capacity. The meeting agreed that he could state that MCC had considered the matter and shared his concerns.

A member of the public asked for her disappointment at the delay in moving the gas main prior to the start of Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention works to be recorded.

6. Landscaping of Advertising Hoardings

The Chairman reported that the advertising hoardings on Roseburn Terrace have been dismantled and the site is currently bare. M Smith of advertiser, JC Decaux, hopes to attend the next MCC meeting on 24 March. He had advised the Chairman that the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (“ESALA”) may no longer be able to hold a competition for a landscape design for the site and M Smith has, therefore, asked two firms of landscape architects to submit proposals.

Cllr Edie suggested that the site be used for a community garden, but cautioned that, while there is much demand for such gardens, they are expensive to set up and ongoing maintenance is an issue. E Robertson was enthusiastic about this suggestion, but only if the hoardings were not reinstated. R Smart suggested that the Economic Development Department of the Council be asked to earmark the whole of the Council owned site for future development. He reminded the meeting that the advertiser has a 15 year lease of the front half of the site and planning permission for advertising for 5 years. Two persons made the point that advertisement consent is usually renewed automatically after 5 years and the new hoardings may well last longer than 5 years.

A member of the public suggested that R Smart monitor the erection of the new hoardings to ensure that they comply with the planning permission.
It was agreed that MCC would await M Smith's proposals for landscaping.

7. Roseburn Action Plan

In the absence of Margaret Laing of the Council's West Neighbourhood Team, R Smart read out her update on the Roseburn Action Plan, as follows:-

Bollards - Roseburn Old Bridge.

Email sent to Iain MacPhail, City Centre Programme Manager, enquiring into availability of planters that have been used in George Street, Edinburgh after study/project ends this year.

Update

The planters were commissioned by the George Street project and there are 40 metal, 16 plastic and a number of wooden planters.

The 40 metal planters were made in Edinburgh by apprentices and skilled craftsmen at the Inch Nursery, using traditional construction techniques and recyclable materials, while the plastic ones were purchased by the City Centre Programme budget. All of those have been earmarked for use round the city centre at the project end and wouldn't be available.

However, the wooden ones were gifted to the project, and they could be gifted onto Murrayfield Community Council if they wished. This would be from 8 September 2015.

Action: - to cost metal planters - M Laing to contact Inch Nurseries. MCC possibly to apply for grant for costs. Also provisionally book the wooden planters.

Relocate the recycling and domestic communal containers from Coltbridge Avenue.

Site meeting with Lucas Lukasz Dzielski, Waste, M Laing, Project Manager, Robert Smart, MCC and local resident, John Riddell, on 17 February 2015. New location for domestic and recycling containers at Coltbridge Avenue identified. Map completed by Robert Smart 20/2/15. Details passed to Darren Wraight, Roads Managers.

Roseburn Cliff – unable to remove domestic communal containers. Roseburn Terrace has been identified as one of the key areas/zones which will be tackled for implementing the trade waste scheme 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.

Cycle Rack – Roseburn Terrace

Report from Allan Tinto - Transport Officer, Strategic Planning

Although the position of the cycle racks does not meet the minimum requirements laid out by the draft Street Design Guidance, they are existing street furniture which are used by cyclists visiting the shops on Roseburn Terrace. Unless the desire to remove these racks is linked to a complaint regarding access or potential hazard, I would recommend that the racks be retained. To remove them would potentially be detrimental to these shops as cyclists who cannot find secure parking within 25m of their destination are less likely to stop and shop.

Additional cycle parking could be installed at the bus stop by the Bank of Scotland. However, due to its distance from the shops, it is not recommended that these be replacement racks, but rather additional cycle parking to cater for businesses at the west end of Roseburn Terrace.

We have already received a number of requests for cycle parking at the Tesco and it is proposed that racks be installed on the Russell Road side before the end of March. Initially, we intend to install 2 racks here, although this may increase should demand require it.

JC Decaux Hoardings

Old hoardings have been removed. Michael Smith, Director of Regional Development, has been invited to MCC meeting on 24 March 2015 with update. Land Behind Hoardings :- Dave Sinclair confirming with Estates if CEC Land. It was held under the Trams Act. Further update to follow.

Question raised about signage around the new 20mph speed limit

Copy of the frequently asked question which gives some light on the road signage sent to Chair of MCC. The new arrangements are due to come into effect on a phased basis from late 2015 onwards and feature a 20mph speed limit on residential and shopping streets with a network of 30mph and 40mph maintained for key arterial routes.

A detailed implementation plan, including costings, will be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee in March.

Replacement of street lamp posts on Roseburn Old Bridge with black posts with crown on top and white lighting.

Information requested about the possible change of street lights CMP01, & 02. Can these be changed to lights that are black posts with a crown on top and white lighting. Request for costs. Should not be able to replace lights then request to paint lamp posts black and replace to white lighting.

Update from Paul Clark , Street Lighting – costs = £3,000 each for Cast Columns. Would not be looking to paint existing posts or change to white lighting.

Cycle Facilities - Russell Road Footpath

17 February 2015, meeting/site walkabout with Dave Sinclair, Environment Manager, Chris Brace, Project Officer (Cycling), Stephen Holland, MCC and Maltings Residents Association.

Update

Chris Brace reported that the footway on the east side of Russell Road is redetermined for shared use between the Roseburn Path access and the service road to the south of the rail bridge. There have been shared use signs in place in this area previously and these should be replaced if missing. They have plans to improve the link between the Roseburn Path and Roseburn Park for cyclists (and pedestrians) as part of the roll-out of the Council's 'family friendly' cycle network. This is expected to utilise the wide footway on the north side of Russell Road and a revamp of the 'redundant' cycleway at the junction with Roseburn Street. Design work is planned for 2015/16 with implementation in 2016/17. They plan to discuss these proposals with local

representatives with a view to understanding any concerns and identifying any potential opportunities once they initiate the design process.

Murrayfield Place - double yellow lines are required for the prohibition on parking to be fully effective

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) prepared to put double yellow lines in around the island.

Darren Wraight, Area Roads Manager

Darren will be attending the MCC meeting on 12 May 2015. Darren will update the members on the proposals put to him for the improvements, alterations, etc from the Roseburn Plan.

Other

Broken pavement/crossing slab at pedestrian crossing, north side of Roseburn Terrace at the Roseburn Old Bridge side

Action – reported twice to Environment Team. Second report marked as urgent and for response to be sent directly to J. Yellowlees, MCC Chair.

A-boards causing obstruction to pedestrians – Roseburn Terrace

Environment Team monitoring. No significant problems when area visited. To possibly introduce ban when introduction of trade waste pilot in area, (removal of trade bins).

'No Cycling' Stencils

Environmental Wardens have had stencils sprayed on Friday 13 February 2015 at 3 locations identified.

Edinburgh Living Landscapes

Invitation sent to Lindsay Grant, Senior Development Officer (or representative) to present the Edinburgh Living Landscapes presentation to MCC on 24 March 2015.

The Edinburgh Living Landscape is a long-term programme made up of a range of projects that will create, restore and connect green areas of the city to make attractive and biodiverse landscapes, enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Issues raised by MCC members at the meeting on 13 January 2015

Kinellan Road - flytipped wood

Environmental Wardens visited area at approx 1430 hours on 14 January 2015. No flytipped materials found in street.

Roseburn Crescent - 2 x Communal Litter bins, one with missing lid.

Bins should only be placed for Murrayfield events at this location and then removed. Requested Environment Team to monitor.”

Issues arising from the update were then discussed.

S Holland referred to his meeting at Russell Road with Dave Sinclair and explained that the installation of monoblocks in the middle of the double width section of path had created the false impression of segregation for pedestrian and cycle use where only pedestrian use was intended.

The Chairman pointed out that the painting of the lamps on Roseburn Road Bridge and the replacement of the missing cover-plates had still not been done.

A local resident expressed her disappointment that nothing had been done about the communal bins at Roseburn. A distinction was made between the bins in Roseburn Place and those at the foot of Roseburn Cliff beside the Bank of Scotland. R Smart reminded the meeting that the former are to be relocated once new parking spaces have been created. The roll out of the new trade waste scheme should deal with the trade waste bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff, but the communal domestic bins will have to remain. The same local resident and V Forbes discussed whether the overflowing bins were the result of under capacity or fly tipping.

J Riddell stated that the request for new lamp posts on Roseburn Old Bridge had been misunderstood. He had not proposed expensive cast columns, but a more modest type of “conservation” lamp post. He **undertook to clarify this with M Laing**.

In reply to a question from S Holland re Roseburn Old Bridge, R Smart conceded that MCC had not decided in favour of planters instead of new bollards. G Douglas pointed out that costings for both should be obtained. In response to a member of the public who pointed out that planters need a lot of upkeep, R Smart replied that the Parks Department would be primarily responsible for them and maintenance by the local flower shop would be the “fallback” arrangement.

The Chairman proposed a further Roseburn walkabout with M Laing at 6.30pm prior to the next MCC meeting on 24 March.

8. Donaldson’s Consultation

G Douglas confirmed that he had attended the recent public information event on the development proposals for Donaldson’s College. The developers’ planning application has not yet been finalised. He had been pleased to note that the current proposal is for the access road for the new crescent of town houses to be at the front, instead of behind, the townhouses, thus leaving more space between them and the rear of the existing building.

The Chairman expressed concern over the possible effect of building the crescent on the stability of the slope down to the Water of Leith. He confirmed that he had raised this concern with the developers by email.

In reply to a question from V Forbes G Douglas confirmed that the development proposals do not involve access to the College site from Magdala Crescent.

9. Flood Prevention

V Forbes reported that she had attended the recent meeting of the Flood Prevention Stakeholders Engagement Group. Phase 2 has been finalised, but the start date has been put back 5 months. Work on moving the gas main will now start in September 2015 and will take 20 weeks. The main work will start in February 2016. G Douglas urged that the reason for this delay should be sought and

V Forbes undertook to email Rob Leach to this end.

10. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13 January 2015

These were approved. Prop: G Douglas, Sec: N Macdonald.

11. Planning and Licensing

11.1 R Smart reported that he had looked at five or six small domestic planning applications and had not objected to any of them. The issue of the Ellersly Road communications mast had already been dealt with.

11.2 R Smart informed the meeting that he had written to Sarah Boyack MSP and Cameron Buchanan MSP about the review by three or four Councillors of the refusal of planning permission for the development at the corner of Ravelston Dykes and Murrayfield Road. He had not appreciated that the appeals procedure had been changed and was not in favour of appeals being dealt with by Councillors. G Douglas pointed out the distinction between review and appeal and shared R Smart's concern that the review of planning decisions by Councillors with no specialist knowledge and with potential conflicts of interest was undesirable. The previous procedure of referral to a Scottish Office Reporter had avoided both of these pitfalls. He also drew a distinction between the causes of concern in the case of the above development – (1) the review procedure itself was undesirable and (2) the correct procedure had not been followed in that MCC and other objectors had not been notified of the review.

R Smart informed the meeting that Sarah Boyack is to take the matter up with Cabinet Secretary, Alex Neil.

12. Traffic and Transport

It was agreed that the closure of Russell Road was causing considerable inconvenience and the length of time which the repair to the rail bridge is scheduled to take was lamented. R Smart pointed out that the white ceramic tiles which line the inside of the arch of the bridge need cleaning. A member of the public expressed the view that the same thing applied to the rail bridge at the junction of Roseburn Street and the Western Approach Road. **The Chairman undertook to pursue this matter.**

13. Water of Leith Litter Notices

The Chairman congratulated J Riddell on his success in persuading Scottish Power to erect a fence around the electricity sub-station beside Roseburn Old Bridge. J Riddell said that it was hoped that the fence would eventually be covered by ivy. The Chairman invited him to speak to the meeting about a further proposal:-

J Riddell proposed the placing of "carefully worded" signs along the Water of Leith Walkway to dissuade the public from depositing litter. He estimated that three signs each costing £98 including VAT would suffice. S Holland confirmed that MCC could bear a cost of that order. It was agreed that **J Riddell would draft some careful wording for consideration at the next MCC meeting on 24 March.**

14. Any Other Competent Business

14.1 The Chairman invited N Macdonald to elaborate on the request from Reverend Susan Kirkbride of Saughtonhall United Reform Church for MCC's help in holding a General Election hustings in conjunction with Murrayfield Churches Together. N Macdonald reported that she had enquired about the availability of the Main Hall in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre and the

only available evenings were Thursdays, 9 and 16 April. It was decided that the hustings should be held on 16 April and **N Macdonald undertook to book the Main Hall and ask Reverend Kirkbride to chair the event.** She was advised by G Douglas that all the parties fielding a candidate would have to be invited to participate. **N Macdonald undertook to do this and report on progress at the next MCC meeting.** R Smart advised that the event would need advertising and that two or three MCC representatives would be required to collect questions at the door. The Chairman suggested that questions could be tabled on the MCC website.

14.2 The Chairman reported that he had attended the Valentine's Day tea party held by Saughtonhall Community Association and that the Association will be holding monthly fundraising events with a view to safeguarding the area of land to the rear of their Hall, the lease of which expires in 2017.

14.3 S Holland reported on the meeting with the SRU referred to at Item 5.3. He informed the meeting of the following forthcoming events at BT Murrayfield:-

Saturday, 28 February at 2.30pm – Scotland v Italy rugby international
Saturday, 21 March at 2.30 pm – Scotland v Ireland rugby international
Tuesday, 23 June – Concert by the Foo Fighters supported by Royal Blood
Saturday, 29 August – Scotland v Italy (warm up match for World Cup)
There are to be no autumn test matches.

With reference to newspaper reports that the SRU have been approached about holding international football matches at BT Murrayfield, S Holland reported that Graham Law of the SRU had confirmed that the SRU has not been approached by the SFA, but would consider such an approach, if made.

A member of the public asked if the practice of diverting buses on international match days would continue and was told by S Holland that it would.

S Holland understood that there is to be another meeting between the SRU and local residents before the concert on 23 June.

14.4 R Smart asked whether, following the death of G McLeod, **J Forbes would assume responsibility for contacting the new owners of 73 Murrayfield Gardens about the path to Campbell Avenue which is within their property.** J Forbes agreed to do so and requested a briefing on the history of this issue from R Smart.

15. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 24 March 2015

The Chairman reminded the meeting about (1) the Roseburn walkabout before the next meeting and **undertook to request M Laing's attendance;** and (2) the attendance at that meeting of M Smith of JC Decaux and Lindsay Grant, Senior Development Officer (or another representative) to give the Council's Living Landscapes presentation.

It was agreed that Graham Law of the SRU and a representative of Living Streets should be invited to a future meeting.

Subsequent meetings: 12 May (including AGM) and 23 June 2015.

Minutes approved at meeting of 24 March 2015.