

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 29 July 2014 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland,
D Huckle, N Macdonald, E Robertson, P Sizeland, R Smart,
J Yellowlees,
In attendance: 3 members of the public, PC Euan Hair, Michael Smith, Director of
Regional Development, JC Decaux,
Apologies: G McLeod, W Spence, Cllrs Balfour, Edie and Ross, M Crockart MP,
M Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Order of Business

This was approved with the addition of a presentation from Michael Smith of JC Decaux at Item 5.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Euan Hair provided crime statistics (which included Corstorphine) for the previous month. Out of 68 recorded crimes 21 had already been solved. There had been 7 crimes of violence and 2 drug related crimes. The majority of the crimes had been thefts and attempted thefts from premises and vehicles and of vehicles.

3.2 In answer to a question about the Celtic v KR Reykjavik football match which had taken place at Murrayfield Stadium on 22 July, PC Hair stated that the Police had so far received no reports of disruption or other concerns.

A resident of Roseburn Crescent complained that on the day of the match he had asked two policemen, who were in the area, about the parking arrangements and whether the side gates to the Stadium would be used for access, but they had been unable to give him any information. PC Hair explained that the Events Planning Team organise manpower centrally and the local police are not necessarily aware of the arrangements which have been put in place. He conceded that his colleagues should have been able to obtain this information for the resident.

The Chairman asked whether the same arrangements will apply to the next match between Celtic and Warsaw on 6 August and was told that, if there had been no problems at the last match, they would.

J Forbes commented that the post-match dispersal of traffic had been much better than after the One Direction concert. D Huckle had noted that the parking at Western Corner had been organised by a private company and not the Police.

S Holland reported that he had attended a residents' meeting with the Events Planning Team before the Celtic v KR Reykjavik match at which the residents had been told that it was estimated that 10,000 of the 60,000 who attended the One Direction concert had travelled by tram.

V Forbes expressed the view that more manpower will be required to police the Celtic v Warsaw match, as there are likely to be many more Polish supporters present on 6 August than there were Icelandic ones on 22 July.

4. Councillors' Report

This item was omitted, there being no City Councillors present. Some disappointment was expressed, as was sympathy for their heavy workload.

5. Roseburn Advertising Hoardings and Outcome of pre-meeting to discuss Roseburn Action Plan

5.1 The Chairman introduced Michael Smith, Director of Regional Development, JC Decaux, who gave a presentation on his company's plans for the site of the advertising hoardings in Roseburn Terrace. In answer to questions he confirmed that the City of Edinburgh Council have granted JC Decaux a 15 year advertising contract which covers bus shelters and billboards across the city. The company has been granted a 15 year lease of the Roseburn site (which does not include the stone wall) and plans to invest £30,000 in improving the site. Mr Smith handed out copies of "before and after" site plans and photographs showing the proposal to replace the existing billboards with three new boards to be placed one at either end of the site and one opposite the end of Roseburn Street. He also supplied specifications of the proposed new boards. He explained that there will be no moving images, the advertisements will be changed every two weeks, the boards will be internally illuminated and it may be possible to improve local amenity by switching off the illumination during certain hours of darkness.

During the discussion of the proposals Mr Smith confirmed that the horizontal "landscape" board to be located at the west end of the site is the same size and in the same location as the existing board. V Forbes expressed the view that it appears more dominant than the existing board, perhaps because it is raised above the site on a single central support.

A member of the public was concerned that the landscape board to be located opposite the end of Roseburn Street would prove dangerously distracting to motorists at a very busy and difficult junction. Mr Smith replied that the Council's principal concerns are public safety and visual amenity and the Roads Department has not so far expressed any concern about road safety.

A number of those present expressed concern about the disproportionate dominance of the vertical "portrait" board to be located at the east end of the site and pointed out that it is to be much closer than the existing boards to both the road and the adjoining Victorian bridge over the road and is much higher than the existing boards, the bridge and the two proposed landscape boards. Mr Smith conceded that he might be agreeable to having only two new boards on the site, but in that event he would want to omit the middle one and keep the portrait board at the east end. In response to questions as to whether he would be prepared to alter the portrait board to a landscape one and move it further up the site, he stated that he wished to utilise the full width of the site to maximise visibility of the advertising and the trees and the planners particularly like the proposed portrait board.

In answer to a comment from S Holland on the "after" photographs Mr Smith informed the meeting that every outdoor display is designed to be assimilated in two seconds and he confirmed that future displays at the Roseburn site will be image based and contain few printed words.

E Robertson intimated that she had understood from the City Councillors at earlier Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") meetings that it was not inevitable that this site would continue as an advertising site and she

summarised her concerns over its effect on the amenity and image of Roseburn. J Forbes reminded the meeting that opinions among the Community Councillors and local residents on this topic are not unanimous.

Mr Smith confirmed that JC Decaux has not yet applied for advertisement consent for the site which, if granted, will last for 5 years.

He informed the meeting that his company has arranged for Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture to run a competition for the School's students to design a landscaping scheme for the site. The application for advertisement consent will be run concurrently with the competition, which will be judged in February 2015, the intention being to carry out the landscaping next spring. Landscaping will not be part of the application but will be a condition of any consent. In answer to a member of the public Mr Smith confirmed that JC Decaux will maintain any landscaping on the site.

Mr Smith confirmed that he would be happy for MCC to be represented on the judging panel of the competition with the Council and JC Decaux. He is also willing to discuss his company's proposals further and to meet interested parties on site.

5.2 The Chairman asked R Smart to summarise the outcome of the pre-meeting on the Roseburn Action Plan, which had been attended by the Community Councillors who had taken part in the Roseburn walkabout with Henry Coyle and Dave Sinclair of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") on 24 June.

R Smart reported that the following improvements to Roseburn Old Bridge and the surrounding area had been proposed:-

5.2.1 Resiting the bins from the north end of the Old Bridge to a recess among the parking spaces opposite the shops;

5.2.2 Restoring the setts, if they are all still under the tarmac;

5.2.3 Relaying the pavement on the north side of the main road from the bottom of Murrayfield Avenue to the bus stop to match the pavement on the south side of the main road;

5.2.4 Cutting back overhanging vegetation;

5.2.5 Establishing a market on the Old Bridge one morning a week; and

5.2.6 Siting planters and/or new bollards in place of the existing bollards.

R Smart undertook to draft an Action Plan for submission to Henry Coyle and Dave Sinclair of WENP and circulate it before the next MCC meeting on 9 September.

R Smart expressed the view that the bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff and on Roseburn Terrace also need to be dealt with.

6. Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2

V Forbes reported that she had attended a meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Group on 1 July. It had been confirmed that, in addition to a new wall, a 30 metre stretch of the Water of Leith will be widened to provide further protection to the SRU land; the protection for the Baird Grove properties will be less than originally proposed; the play park is to be moved to the other side of Roseburn Park; a soft play area may be installed at the current location of the play park; and a further £5.5m of funding will have to be found before the scheme can be put out to contract.

In reply to a resident of Roseburn Crescent who wishes to prevent the relocation of the play park and is against the installation of a soft play area, V Forbes confirmed that the parents whose children use the Park want these changes. The Chairman informed the meeting that the next public exhibition and consultation on Phase 2 takes place on 30 July and the next meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Group is on 26 August.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meetings held on 13 May and 24 June 2014

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May were approved. Prop: G Douglas, Sec: V Forbes.

J Forbes referred to Item 3.10 of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June and stated that he was not aware of any speed signs in Murrayfield Road. R Smart informed him that they are located at the top of the road near Murrayfield Golf Club. The Minutes were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: N Macdonald.

8. Matters Arising from Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24 June 2014

8.1. *Coltbridge Canter Plaque*

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Coltbridge Canter plaque should be installed on Roseburn Old Bridge shortly.

8.2. *Corstorphine Hill pedestrian access*

R Smart confirmed that he has not yet received a response from the Secretary of Murrayfield Golf Club and **undertook to pursue this matter**.

8.3. *Donaldson's Hospital*

G Douglas confirmed that he has heard nothing further from Savills about a press release on the future of Donaldson's Hospital.

8.4. *New Waste Strategy*

It was agreed that **MCC should** take up Henry Coyle's suggestion and **invite the Waste Officer of WENP to brief the next MCC meeting on the new waste strategy**, which it will be WENP's responsibility to implement.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 R Smart reported that he had objected to the following recent planning applications:-

9.1.1 Site at the junction of Ellersly Road and Belmont Drive – proposed dwelling house comprising linked towers on different levels. He had objected on the grounds that the proposed development involved the removal of trees, damaged visual amenity and was inappropriate in a Conservation Area. P Sizeland confirmed that a number of local residents are keen to prevent the development. There are 8/9 days left in which to comment on the application.

9.1.2 1 Abinger Gardens – proposed run-in for a car with access from Murrayfield Gardens. This is also in the Conservation Area. The concern is that the grant of permission for this change would set a dangerous precedent and lead to a detrimental change in the character of the area.

9.2 R Smart reported that there was no news on the proposed development at the corner of Ravelston Dykes and Murrayfield Road, to which he had objected some time ago.

9.3 The Chairman asked whether MCC should be concerned about the application, which he had noticed, for HMO consent for a house in Roseburn Drive. R Smart felt that it is a cause for concern.

9.4 R Smart reported that he had attended a meeting in the City Chambers on the South East Scotland (“SES”) Plan, which proposed that large areas of Green Belt land in Edinburgh be set aside for new housing. In the face of scepticism the Scottish Government stood by their method of calculating future housing need.

R Smart reminded the meeting that, if the SES Plan is approved, it will not be possible to contest anything in the Local Plan which reflects the SES Plan.

10. Traffic and Transport

A resident of Roseburn Crescent asked why Roseburn is not included in the current consultation on the extension of the controlled parking zone. R Brown explained that Cllr Balfour had reported at an earlier MCC meeting that the initial consultation had included Roseburn and the responses had indicated that there was no demand in Roseburn for controlled parking.

11. Proposed public meeting on the Independence Referendum

The Chairman announced that, as there are currently no organisers or speakers for this event and no apparent appetite for it, the proposed Independence Referendum meeting will not take place.

12. Reports

12.1 The Chairman intimated that Roseburn Park Fun Day will take place on Sunday, 31 August.

12.2 P Sizeland intimated that the Saughtonhall Community Association Late Summer Barbecue will take place on Sunday, 24 August.

12.3 D Huckle reported a problem with the owner of the Prego store at Western Corner who was unhappy about the MCC noticeboard close to the store. D Huckle asked about an alternative location and was told by R Smart that this had been considered some time ago, but an alternative could not be found. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting for further discussion.

13. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to be discussed.

14. Any Other Competent Business

14.1 The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of Queensferry and District Community Council and learnt that a pupil of Queensferry High School was on the Community Council. A brief discussion ensued as to whether MCC should try to reintroduce a youth representative. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next MCC meeting for further discussion.

14.2 The Chairman noted that a section of the Water of Leith Walkway, which had been closed because of a landslip two years ago, is still closed and members of the public are now ignoring the barrier and climbing over it. E Robertson thought that legal issues are holding up resolution of this problem. The Chairman reported that he had been advised to speak to Caroline Paterson of the Council and he intends to do so. J Forbes suggested that, as the affected land is within the West End Community Council area, that Community Council should be kept informed of MCC’s actions.

15. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 September 2014

Subsequent meetings: 28 October and 2 December 2014.

Minutes approved at meeting of 9 September 2014

for approval