

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 30 August 2016 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Brown, J Forbes, S Holland, N Macdonald, E Robertson, R Smart,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie,
In attendance: 20 members of the public, PC Sam Davison, Steven Kerr,
Corstorphine Community Council,
Apologies: W Amcotts, D Huckle, P Sizeland, Cllr Ross, Margaret Laing, City
of Edinburgh Council, Miles Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP,
Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil Findlay, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP,
Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy Wightman, MSP, Michelle Thomson,
MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed PC Sam Davison, Steven Kerr, Chairman of Corstorphine Community Council, and all others in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Davison explained that he is one of two Community Police Officers for the Murrayfield area and works with PC Euan Sinclair. He apologised for the fact that his shift patterns had not allowed him to attend previous MCC meetings.

He reported that in the preceding month reported crimes were down from 35 in the same period last year to 23, largely because of a drop in acquisitive crime. There had been three house breakings in Murrayfield Gardens, Murrayfield Road and Ravelston Dykes. Across the City there had been fewer house breakings than in the same period last year. He attributed this success to the dedicated house breaking teams, Operation RAC and plain clothed patrols.

PC Davison reported that the majority of house breakings in the local area were achieved by breaking in through sash windows. He stressed that if home owners have the original catches on their windows, these need upgrading, as they are easy to force. Sash windows can be secured with modern locks or by wedging a block of wood between the top of the lower sash and the top of the window. PC Davison reported that he had carried out a letter drop warning residents about the vulnerability of sash windows and he was considering delivering the same letter to a wider area. He produced a pile of leaflets on Home Security and his contact details and reminded the meeting that the Community Policing team are happy to carry out security surveys for householders.

PC Davison reported that there had been no serious assaults in the past month and only one minor assault outside the Murrayfield Bar. Speed checks had been

carried out in Balgreen Road and Saughtonhall Road in response to complaints and the Police had investigated the use of quad bikes on Kinellan Road.

PC Davison reported that he had been targeting bad parking around Roseburn Primary School and would be moving on to St George's School next.

There had been only 2 thefts compared with 11 in the same period last year.

There had been problems with cyclists using the path in Riversdale Crescent, the carriageway of which had been closed to accommodate large items of equipment being used in the flood prevention works. The Police had received complaints about cyclists failing to dismount and the contractors had deployed their liaison officer to tackle the cyclists.

PC Davison responded to the points which had been raised at the last MCC meeting as follows:-

3.1 Noisy behaviour in Roseburn – He asked whether this behaviour had been reported at the time and was told that it had not. He advised phoning 101 and said that the Council's Noise Team would respond, unless the noise came from a party, in which case it would be investigated by the Police. V Forbes said the disturbances complained of arose from people shouting rather than partying.

3.2 Graffiti – This comes under the heading of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, but it is very difficult to catch the culprits, as no one ever sees the crime being committed. The majority of graffiti is on public buildings. Private individuals whose property has been defaced should report it. PC Davison reported that the graffiti artists are beginning to target the trams and it may be possible to catch them on CCTV. Once a person has been identified in connection with a particular tag (such as "TEL"), he or she can be tied to other graffiti bearing the same tag.

V Forbes asked if the Police know who "DK" is and was told that they do not.

3.3 Operation Rigoletto – PC Davison explained that in each Ward there are two Community Police Officers who are funded by the Council. Because of pressure on the Response Team they have often been taken away from community duties to help with response. The number of Community Police Officers has been reduced, but they will no longer be linked to the Response Team. Their shift patterns are to change and from October the situation in community policing should improve.

The Chairman of Roseburn Maltings Residents' Association raised three issues:-

- (1) He reported that the bike shed there had been broken into twice recently and asked whether bike thefts are a citywide problem. PC Davison confirmed that valuable bikes are targeted by thieves and secluded locations can be targeted repeatedly. There have been fewer bike thefts this year than last.
- (2) He complained that the road markings for cyclists on Russell Road are not clear or are in the wrong place and residents there have been hit by cyclists. He was advised by PC Davison to take this up with the Council, as road markings are the Council's responsibility.
- (3) He complained about parked cars on the bend of Roseburn Street near the Primary School. He was told by PC Davison that double parking is a matter for the Traffic Wardens and the Police are liaising with them with a view to stopping this practice. Dangerous parking is a Police matter and should be reported on 101.

A member of the public asked where the businesses in Roseburn Street stand as regards parking in the street. PC Davison explained that a resident whose access is blocked by a parked vehicle can phone the Police on 101 and the culprit can be fined £50. Cllr Balfour confirmed that the businesses

can park vehicles in the street but cannot conduct their business there.

A resident of Coltbridge Terrace complained about the congestion there caused by cars parking on both sides of the street and thoughtless parents of pupils at St George's School. She reported that she had written to the Council about it and had been told that the situation was under review.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.1 There had been complaints about work on the surface of Ravelston Dykes and a road in Corstorphine which had been carried out recently by Balfour Beattie. They had employed a traditional method, which had not been used for some years, and which was intended to extend the life of the road, but it had left the surface covered in fine grit and very dusty. He explained that there was a problem with the quality of the materials used and the lack of rain. He reassured the meeting that the situation would improve and that it did not pose a risk to health. An investigation is under way.

4.2 He apologised for the fact that no Councillors had been able to attend the previous MCC meeting, at which some dissatisfaction with the planning process had been expressed, with particular reference to the proposed development of the former Capability Scotland site at Westerlea in Ellersly Road. He informed the meeting that all three local Councillors had emailed a response to the Chairman since the last meeting.

Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that, if MCC or an individual has a major concern about a planning application, they should lodge an objection, but also contact their local Councillor. If sufficient concern is expressed, the application can be "called in" and the Planning Officer can be required to give a presentation to the Committee and answer questions. The application can also go to a full hearing at which objectors are given the opportunity to speak.

R Smart expressed astonishment at the extent of development which has been permitted in Ellersly Road, which is in a Conservation Area.

J Forbes acknowledged that the planning process may be democratic but felt that in the case of Westerlea it had not been transparent. The three local Councillors had known that the planning application was of concern to MCC, but no feedback from them had been received either during the planning process or after the grant of planning permission, giving the impression that these concerns had not been taken into account.

4.3 Cllr Balfour paid tribute to P Gregson, R Smart and the owner of the Art et Facts Gallery on Roseburn Terrace, all of whom had spoken at that day's meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee at which the proposed Roseburn to Leith cycle track had been debated. The Committee had approved the track in principle, but had decided that more work needed to be done and that a Working Group comprising representatives from all the different interest groups should be set up to fine tune the proposal. Cllr Lesley Hinds will chair the Group. No timetable for its deliberations has been fixed. As regards the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the proposed track Options A and B are still on the table, but it was recognised that there are problems with Option A.

Cllr Edie pointed out that, in a scheme covering more than 2 miles, only a small section presented a problem and he was confident that something workable could be found to satisfy all interested groups.

Cllr Balfour stated that the Roseburn Action Plan should also be considered with a view to making Roseburn Terrace a more pleasant place.

The owner of the Gallery asked whether the Roseburn shop owners could be part of the Working Group and was told by Cllr Balfour that the Transport officers had been instructed to draw up a list of stakeholders and the shop owners should be included.

R Smart referred to the longstanding issue of the inappropriate phasing of the traffic lights at Roseburn. Cllr Balfour hoped that this would be looked at by the Working Group, which has to perform a fine balancing act in catering for cyclists, cars, buses, older people, disabled people and shop owners. He added that the taxi rank at Haymarket also requires improvement.

In answer to a question from P Gregson as to whether the Roseburn Vision could be looked at again, Cllr Balfour explained that there were practical and economic issues with it, but it might be adopted in part.

The Chairman pointed out that the Morrison Street development will have implications for the Haymarket section of the proposed track.

4.4 Cllr Balfour publicised the Bake Off in Roseburn Park being organised by the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FORP”) on Sunday, 2 September from 2 to 4 pm.

4.5 He referred to the flood prevention works in Roseburn Park and to the discussions about the improvement and use of the Park once the works are completed. He mentioned Edinburgh Wanderers and the fact that Cllr Ross had been trying to further discussions on their wishes for the future use of the Park. He suggested that **Wanderers be invited to give the next MCC meeting a presentation on their proposals.**

The Chairman reported that at the meeting of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) on 23 August FORP’s bid for funding to further their vision for the Park had been deferred. P Gregson expressed the view that plans for the Park should be progressed while the contractors are still on site and can be used to implement them. **He asked whether MCC would write to WENP to support this view and the Chairman agreed to do so.**

In answer to a member of the public who asked whether there are bye-laws restricting drinking in parks, Cllr Balfour confirmed that drinking alcohol in parks in Edinburgh is permitted (the situation in Glasgow is different), but that the sale of alcohol in a building in a park would require a licence and would be strictly monitored.

4.6 He reported that the recent meeting of the Licensing Board had considered the proposal by Live Music Edinburgh that the hours within which the playing of live music is permitted be extended to 1am when bars close. No decision had been made. He urged anyone concerned about this proposal to contact their Councillors. R Smart confirmed that he had made comments on behalf of MCC.

The owner of the Art et Facts Gallery on Roseburn Terrace gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Roseburn shop owners to the City Councillors, Community Councillors and everyone else involved in the cycle track action.

4.7 In answer to a question from S Holland as to whether the Transport Committee had discussed Lothian Buses, both Cllr Balfour and Cllr Edie confirmed that reports in the press of a proposal to privatise Lothian Buses are erroneous and none of the political parties wants to see that happen.

P Gregson asked whether there was any likelihood of “more money going from buses to trams”. Cllr Balfour stated that extending the tram line to Newhaven would be a decision for the next City Council. A City Deal under which

money could come from the Scottish Government and Westminster was being discussed. Cllr Edie thought that the line would be extended to Newhaven and the Royal Infirmary eventually.

Cllr Balfour confirmed that Line 1b, which was to utilise the former railway line to Granton, was not being considered. The Chairman explained that the recession had halted the planned development at Granton and put paid to Line 1b for the time being.

4.8 Advertising Hoardings at Roseburn – The Chairman reported that Cllr Ross had confirmed in an email that these were to go ahead, but he was not sure when the work would be completed. S Holland pointed out that the 3 week period mentioned in Cllr Ross's email of 11 July was now well past.

4.8 Parking in Roseburn Street – Cllr Balfour expressed the view that extending the Controlled Parking Zone to Roseburn needs to be considered again, although the residents are not in favour of it.

4.9 In response to a member of the public who complained about the smell, **Cllr Balfour undertook to find out whether the communal food recycling bins are cleaned by the Council.**

4.10 Two residents complained that the yellow lines near the bridge on Russell Road had been removed allowing three cars to be parked on the bend near the bridge.

5. Boundary Commission Proposed Changes to Ward boundaries

Cllr Balfour reported that a decision on the proposed changes to Ward boundaries was expected by the end of September and he expected the changes to be approved.

6. Community Council Elections

At the Chairman's request R Brown outlined the process for election to the Community Council of elected representatives and those nominated by local interest groups, the maximum numbers of which are 12 and 6 respectively. She confirmed that the nomination period runs from 5 to 26 September and nomination forms can be downloaded from the Council's website, which contains all the relevant information. E Robertson produced the leaflets and posters which had been sent to her by the Council's Liaison Officer.

At the next MCC meeting on 11 October Cllr Ross, as the Returning Officer, will initially take the chair.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9 August 2016

The Chairman reported that the draft Minutes should have given the date of the last WENP meeting as 23, and not 24, August. Subject to this change the Minutes were approved.

Prop: J Forbes, Sec: R Smart.

8. Matters Arising

It was noted that there had been no progress on the relocation of the glass recycling bin from the corner of Roseburn Gardens and Roseburn Drive. All other matters arising from the Minutes had already been discussed.

9. City Council decision on Roseburn- Haymarket cycle track

This had already been discussed.

10. Murrayfield Wanderers' proposal for Roseburn Park

It was agreed that Murrayfield Wanderers should be invited to the next MCC meeting on 11 October 2016.

11. Flood Prevention Progress

This had already been discussed.

12. Roseburn Action Plan

R Smart complained that progress on the Roseburn Action Plan had been halted by the cycle track proposal. Over the past year the bollards on the Old Bridge had been replaced with planters, the lights and the bench on the main bridge had been refurbished and the bins at Roseburn Cliff had been removed. New road markings are required in Murrayfield Place to deal with the relocation of the communal bins. In response to a suggestion that a team of volunteers is required to look after the planters, H Barbour volunteered. It was suggested that water for the plants could be obtained from the hairdresser or the florist.

13. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that he had looked at a planning application to alter the new building at 8 Kew Terrace by installing a large door in the side wall so that the commercial premises could be used as a car showroom. The architect of the building was of the opinion that consent to change of use for this purpose was not likely to be granted.

J Forbes asked whether any change of use was proposed for the large empty car showroom on Corstorphine Road. R Smart had heard a rumour that it might become a Rolls Royce showroom. A member of the public said that he had heard that it and 18 and 26 Roseburn Terrace were all to become offices and Cllr Balfour was to take over the former Spar premises at Roseburn as his office.

14. Traffic and Transport

There was nothing further to be discussed under this heading.

15. Any Other Competent Business

15.1 P Gregson informed the meeting that the AGM of FORP will be held in the Dove Lounge of Murrayfield Parish Church Centre on 21 September 2016. He intimated that FORP need more committee members.

15.2 J Forbes asked for the assistance of Corstorphine Community Council on a matter of mutual interest. He reported that the pavement on Corstorphine Road between Roseburn and the Zoo, which is used by many visitors to the City, is in a state of disrepair and is strewn with litter. He felt that a concerted effort by both Community Councils could effect a change. **Steven Kerr confirmed that he would be happy to write a letter to the Council on behalf of Corstorphine Community Council urging the Council to remedy this state of affairs.**

16. Questions from the Floor

A resident of Roseburn asked why Corstorphine has a barrow man and Roseburn does not. She was told that attempts had been made to get the same service for Roseburn but without success. **The Chairman suggested**

raising the issue again with the Councillors at the next MCC meeting.

In response to a question about litter picking P Gregson informed the enquirer that the Community Rehabilitation team in Grindlay Street can be asked for help in such matters. FORP had been allocated offenders on the rehabilitation scheme to help with painting the railings in Roseburn Park.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 11 October 2016
Subsequent meeting: 29 November 2016.

Minutes approved at meeting of 11 October 2016.

for approval