

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 31 May 2016 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Brown, S Holland, N Macdonald, E Robertson, R Smart,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 20 members of the public, PC Laura Addison, Sgt Alison
Whelpdale, Phil Noble, City of Edinburgh Council,
Apologies: W Amcotts, J Forbes, D Huckle, P Sizeland, 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 those in attendance. He informed the meeting that D Huckle had stood down as Vice Chairman of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") for health reasons, but would review this decision before the Community Council elections later in the year.

2. Order of Business

This was approved. The Chairman intimated that Cllr Ross would provide a report on the Boundary Commission's deliberations on Ward boundary changes.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Laura Addison introduced herself and Sgt Alison Whelpdale and explained that they are both based at Corstorphine Police Station, which serves a large area including South Queensferry, Newhaven, Leith and Drylaw as well as Murrayfield and Corstorphine. She explained that she had attended the AGMs of Wester Coates Amenity Society and the Donaldson Area Amenity Association, but that she and Sgt Whelpdale are not as familiar as PC Sam Davison is with the local area.

PC Addison reported as follows:-

3.1 House breakings in the area have generally declined, but there had been 4 incidents in Garscube Terrace in the previous week. The dedicated house breaking team is working on the assumption that the incidents involved the same culprits. PC Addison explained that a common motive for house breaking is to steal keys to high value cars, which are then used to commit further crimes elsewhere. The cars are then usually abandoned. Recently, however, there have been more thefts of motorbikes and scooters than cars. This is a particular problem in Drylaw;

3.2 There has also been a decline in incidents involving bogus workmen. A local resident referred to one such incident involving a neighbour, who had not reported it to the Police. PC Addison urged the reporting of all incidents by phoning 101. She explained that the Police have a specialist team focussing on bogus workmen and all information received is added to their database;

3.3 There has been a decline in anti-social behaviour by youths, a common problem being the theft of motorbikes and scooters by youths, who ride them dangerously without wearing helmets.

PC Addison encouraged participation in the “Your View Counts” survey, which can be found on the Police Scotland website.

4. Councillors’ Report

4.1 The Chairman thanked Cllr Ross for his clarification, after the last MCC meeting, of the position regarding the size of the advertising hoardings at Roseburn.

In response to questions from a member of the public and S Holland, Cllr Ross confirmed that the advertising hoardings to be erected at Roseburn will measure 6m x 3m, as approved by the Planning Committee, or be slightly, but not significantly, larger.

R Smart reported that he had received a three page reply from the Head of Planning to his written complaint about the way in which the planning consent for the hoardings had been handled and the reply acknowledged that there had been an element of human error.

4.2 Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.2.1 Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme is behind schedule as a result of delay in completing the relocation of the gas main. He had been told that there is some slack in the timetable and the delay could be made up.

4.2.2 He confirmed that the advertising hoardings at Roseburn are to be the size approved by the Planning Committee, and not the size specified in the planning permission granted by the Planning Department.

4.2.3 As the Council’s proposals for a dedicated cycle track from Roseburn to Leith were to be discussed as a separate item, he would refrain from comment until then.

4.2.4 He is to be the Returning Officer for MCC at the Community Council elections due to take place in October and will issue nomination forms at the start of the process in September. He reminded the meeting that recognised local organisations can nominate a representative to serve on MCC.

P Gregson suggested contacting all local organisations to make them aware of this opportunity.

4.2.5 Scottish Ministers are considering the Boundary Commission proposals on changes to the local authority Ward boundaries and will consult on these until 7 July. Cllr Ross and Cllr Edie reported that under the current proposals Wester Coates, the Donaldson area and Forrester Park will be removed from Ward 6, while the whole of Craigeith to Stewart’s Melville School, both sides of Ravelston Dykes and Wester Broom will be included in Ward 6. Cllr Edie expressed satisfaction that Roseburn and, consequently, the BT Murrayfield Stadium will remain in Ward 6. Cllr Edie confirmed that the Community Council boundaries will not change.

4.3 The Chairman congratulated Cllr Balfour on his election as an MSP for the Lothians.

4.4 In the absence of J Forbes the Chairman asked for clarification on the planning permission granted for the redevelopment of the former Capability Scotland premises in Ellersly Road. Cllr Balfour confirmed that planning permission as sought, i.e. for the whole development, had been granted. Cllr Edie explained that J Forbes’s concern was that the Council’s Planning Portal did not

show the full extent of the consent.

4.5 The Chairman asked whether there had been any progress regarding the application for HMO consent for a property in Murrayfield Park and was told by Cllr Balfour that a hearing date was awaited.

4.6 V Forbes asked why a communal bin for recyclable glass had been sited in a residential street (at the corner of Roseburn Gardens and Roseburn Drive) where the noise caused by people using the bin constituted a serious disturbance. **Cllr Ross undertook to investigate.**

The Chairman noted that the bins at the foot of Roseburn Cliff, about which there had been many complaints, had been removed.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 19 April 2016

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

6. Roseburn to Haymarket Cycle Route Proposals

The Chairman introduced Phil Noble of the City of Edinburgh Council, who gave the meeting an update on the Council's proposals for a dedicated cycle route from Roseburn to Haymarket. He explained that the Council has considered more than 2,000 responses to the extended consultation, has carried out additional surveys and traffic modelling of the junction at Roseburn Street and Roseburn Terrace and hopes to publish a report online in two weeks. The Council is reviewing the design of the scheme and a number of changes will be made. The Council team intends to organise a walkabout with MCC and local business representatives and to call in person on individual businesses to discuss the changes and their potential impact. The team will also consult again with other stakeholders, including cycling and pedestrian groups which form part of the Active Travel Forum. On conclusion of these discussions a report will be submitted to the Transport Committee, which is due to meet on 22 August and 1 November 2016.

A member of the public expressed concern that reducing the traffic to two lanes would make it impossible for ambulances to pass in the event of a traffic jam. P Noble responded that for most of the route there would be more than two lanes of traffic.

The Chairman proposed that the date of the planned walkabout be published on MCC's website.

R Smart pointed out that the Roseburn Action Plan promoted by MCC proposes widening the pavement on both sides of Roseburn Terrace by two feet. R Noble replied that the Council's scheme involves widening the pavement on the south side by two to three feet and laying the two-way cycle track on the other side.

In response to a member of the public P Noble explained that the Council team uses design criteria laid down in Transport Scotland's "Cycling by Design" report and guidance from Sustrans.

A cyclist in the audience urged P Noble to hold the walkabout during the rush hour so that he could see that cycling through Roseburn at that time is "a nightmare".

Cllr Balfour asked P Noble three questions:-

- (1) Are the changes to the scheme significant and, if so, will further consultation be required?
- (2) Will the report be ready for the August or the November meeting of the Transport Committee?

- (3) If the revised scheme is approved, will TROs then be required and, if so, how long will they take?

P Noble replied as follows:-

- (1) The changes are not likely to be significant, but that depends on whether the route continues to use Roseburn Terrace. The changes should not require further consultation, but should address the concerns which have been voiced.
- (2) He hoped that the report would be ready for the August meeting, but could not guarantee it.
- (3) TROs will be required and take a minimum of 9 months, but could take a year if more detailed design is required.

A local resident and cyclist, Henry Whaley, referred the meeting to a new website which has been established by a group of local people – www.roseburncyclerroute.org.uk – which takes an evidence based approach to the proposed cycle route and seeks to explore what benefits there would be for Roseburn, its community and its shops.

R Smart expressed the view that the Council's scheme is ill conceived and should be redone.

A number of those present expressed the view that the scheme is not suitable for the restricted space available and comparisons with schemes in European cities and America are not appropriate. Concern was expressed about the use of Roseburn Terrace by HGVs. The problems with the junction at Roseburn Terrace and Roseburn Street were raised again. P Noble suggested discussing these during the proposed walkabout.

In response to the assertion made by some members of the public that cyclists form only a small percentage of transport users, the point was made that the scheme is designed with an anticipated increase in population of 20% in the next 20 years in mind and one of its aims is to increase significantly the number of journeys made by bicycle.

Business owners again expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of communication and consultation early in the process and repeated their concerns about the possible effect of the scheme on their businesses.

P Gregson summarised the concerns of those against the scheme and gave a presentation on an alternative vision, the Roseburn Vision, which had been drawn up and publicised by a local group led by him. Comments on the Roseburn Vision had been sought via an online survey. He urged those who had not yet taken part in the survey to do so at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/roseburn.

P Gregson explained that the alternative scheme would be refined in the light of the comments received. He reported that he had been trying to persuade the SNP group on the Council to put forward a motion to have the Roseburn Vision costed by the Council.

At the end of a lengthy and lively discussion Cllr Ross urged those present to look at all the information and proposals from the different sources:- (1) the consultation between the Council, local businesses and other stakeholders,

(2) the new website referred to by H Whaley and (3) the Roseburn Vision drawn up by the group led by P Gregson. He suggested that consideration of other people's opinions and a sensible compromise are required.

Cllr Ross informed the meeting that the Roseburn Vision will be costed by the Council and considered as a separate option in the consultation.

The Chairman closed the discussion and invited those present to return to the next MCC meeting on 19 July for a further exchange of ideas.

P Noble offered to speak to people, who wished to make their views known to him, after the meeting and take their contact details.

7. Roseburn Action Plan

R Smart advised the meeting that, largely as a result of staff changes at the Council, there had been little progress on the Roseburn Action Plan. M Laing of the Council had reported prior to the meeting that the Council's trade waste pilot scheme had been introduced into Ward 6 on 27 May 2016.

R Smart felt that MCC should endeavour to attend other forums such as the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership to make MCC's views and aims better known.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park update

8.1 P Gregson, the Chairman of the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP"), P Gregson, the Chairman of the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP") reminded the meeting that Murrayfield Wanderers Rugby Club, having surrendered the Club's lease from the SRU and been compensated by the SRU, now wishes to secure the use of pitches in Roseburn Park. He considered this to be an important issue for all users of the Park and urged them to attend a meeting between FORP and the Club to be held at Murrayfield Ice Rink on Thursday, 23 June.

8.2 P Gregson reported that, after consultation with local residents on FORP's Vision for Roseburn Park, some changes are proposed. The residents of Murrayfield View are to be consulted. Discussions are taking place with Roseburn Primary School and work continues regarding the toilet block.

8.3 FORP have a vacancy and seek a new committee member.

9. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that there were no new planning applications which caused him concern.

He was, however, concerned about the Licensing Board's proposal to change their policy on amplified live music to apply a test of whether such music constituted an "audible nuisance" to neighbouring residential properties rather than whether it was simply audible in such properties. He acknowledged that there were no instances specific to the MCC area.

10. Traffic and Transport

There were no further issues to be discussed.

11. WENP meeting on 8 June 2016

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") will hold its next meeting in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, Upper Hall on Wednesday, 8 June 2016 at 7pm and he encouraged attendance.

12. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

13. Questions from the Floor

13.1 A member of the public asked whether the rumour that the SRU has bought land opposite the tram stop at Murrayfield on which to build a hotel is correct. Cllr Ross confirmed that the SRU intends to develop the land at the front of its ground and the back pitches and had campaigned to get the Flood Prevention Scheme in order to increase the value of this land. He had seen speculative plans showing a hotel built over the top of the entrance gates opposite the tram stop. He reminded the meeting that the SRU will require planning permission for such a development and MCC is a statutory consultee in such cases.

13.2 A member of the public asked whether the Council has any plans to repair the roads in Edinburgh and was told by Cllr Ross that it has an ongoing programme of repairs based on grading scores, which are available online. He confirmed that the Council has spent approximately £70m on road repairs in the last 4 years.

A local resident complained about the length of time that it had taken to repair two deep holes in a street in Roseburn. Cllr Ross conceded that speed of response is a separate issue.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Subsequent meetings: Tuesday, 30 August and 11 October 2016.

Minutes approved at meeting of 19 July 2016.