

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 15 August 2017 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland, H Ross,  
R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Gillian Gloyer,  
In attendance: 4 members of the public, PC Julian Peukert, John Kerr,  
Apologies: A Anderson, R Beavis, N Macdonald, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen  
Doran, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr  
Alasdair Rankin, Cllr Frank Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Miles  
Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil  
Findlay, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP,  
Andy Wightman, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Order of Business

2.1 This was approved, subject to the Chairman's suggestion that the meeting discuss the news that Heart of Midlothian Football Club is to play its home matches in September and October 2017 at BT Murrayfield. The Chairman understood that this arrangement was necessary because Hearts had failed to order seats for their new stand at Tynecastle. The Secretary advised the meeting that the SRU had offered to meet MCC to discuss this arrangement on a date to be agreed. MCC intended to raise the lack of toilet facilities at major events.

PC Julian Peukert informed the meeting that the Police had received emails from a number of residents expressing concern over the football fixtures and he had forwarded the emails to the Events Planning team at Fettes. In response to R Smart's comment that in the past there had been little trouble from football crowds at BT Murrayfield, PC Peukert confirmed that there is a stronger Police presence at football matches than rugby matches.

The Secretary pointed out that the larger capacity of BT Murrayfield means that visiting teams such as Glasgow Rangers can offer their supporters more seats.

2.2 The Chairman intimated that a local resident, well known to MCC as a regular attender of MCC meetings, who had been unwell, was on the road to recovery.

2.3 The Chairman intimated that Lindsay Young from Musselburgh, who in 2010 stitched Panel 49 of the Prestonpans Tapestry, was delighted to hear that MCC had adapted her work in the form of a bronze plaque on the Old Bridge at Roseburn and on 1 August had come to see the plaque for herself. A photograph recording the visit had been posted on MCC's Facebook page.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Julian Peukert reported on the month of July 2017 as follows:-

There had been 129 recorded incidents, of which 39 became recorded crimes. 8 had been solved and enquiries are ongoing regarding the rest.

The Community Policing team continue to patrol roads, streets and cycle paths regularly both on foot and on bikes. There has been a very positive public response to the new bike patrols.

There had been no thefts by house breaking to houses, one attempted theft by housebreaking where access had not been gained, and no thefts by breaking and entering to business premises.

There had been an increase in thefts from garages. Bikes had been stolen in Roseburn, Ormidale Terrace and Roseburn Maltings. There had been a decrease in thefts of motorbikes.

There had been no serious assaults but one incident of stone throwing on the cycle path above Roseburn Terrace had been recorded.

PC Peukert also referred to thefts of a car, cash, items from an insecure building site, items from 2 unlocked vehicles and number plates. There had been shopliftings of alcohol and meat from Tesco and the Co-op at Roseburn.

There had been 6 Road Traffic offences such as driving without a licence, driving without insurance and dangerous driving.

PC Peukert informed the meeting that his team had carried out motoring speed checks with speed guns. He reminded the meeting that the 20 mph speed restrictions would apply to the local area from 16 August 2017. He confirmed that the Police will respond to complaints about breaches of the new speed limit.

PC Peukert referred to two reports of anti-social behaviour by youths near Cauldron's Weir on the Water of Leith walkway. In answer to a question from the Secretary he confirmed that he had been into Tesco and the Co-op to speak to staff about the sale of alcohol to under age purchasers and to leave posters for them to display. He referred to the Community Alcohol Partnership with whom the Police have regular meetings.

4. Ellersly Road traffic issues – outcome of walkabout on 15 August 2017

The Chairman reported that he, the Secretary, J Forbes, R Smart and David Spaven of Living Streets Edinburgh had met Peter Keggie of the Council for a walkabout in Ellersly Road at 5pm that evening. P Keggie had described the narrow pavements, the lack of a pedestrian crossing, the curious dual carriageway in part of Ellersly Road and the tight right angled corner as a “streetscape issue”.

J Forbes reported that D Spaven had found the visit to be “an eye opener”, having previously been unaware of the heavy traffic and meagre provision for pedestrians. J Forbes was of the view that MCC's primary concern should be to reclaim Ellersly Road for pedestrians. D Spaven had measured the pavements and found that they were between 1.1 and 1.5 metres wide. The minimum width for a new pavement is 2 metres.

J Forbes reported that the Secretary had taken notes during the walkabout and these would form the basis of his submission to the Council.

He intimated that P Keggie had identified some “quick wins” which could be implemented without much difficulty. These were the removal of two grit bins, one of which blocks half of the pavement, and the removal of a redundant road sign and the “No Entry” sign at one end of Ellersly Road. The major issues could only be addressed through a streetscape design which would involve many groups within the Council and require a sizeable budget. R Smart reckoned the required budget would be at least £320,000 to £350,000. J Forbes thought that it could be as high as £500,000 and the project was, therefore, a long term one. He felt that MCC had some leverage with both the City Councillors and Living

Streets Edinburgh, who have a good working relationship with the City Council. J Forbes intended to speak to Cliff Hutt at the Council to find out how to progress the matter to Committee and P Keggie had undertaken to pursue the issues raised and report back to MCC. D Spaven had confirmed his support for MCC.

H Whaley commented that there had not been a problem with parking in Ellersly Road until the workmen involved in the recent housing developments had begun to park there. He felt the situation would improve when the developments are completed. J Forbes was sceptical on the basis that the new developments are gated communities with inadequate parking on site and the extra cars and all delivery vehicles will have to park in Ellersly Road.

PC Peukert confirmed that the Police have received complaints about the sharp bend in Ellersly Road and the tailback of vehicles from the traffic lights on Corstorphine Road. The lights do not have a filter for traffic turning right, most of which goes straight across Corstorphine Road and takes the first road on the right off Saughtonhall Road. The residents of that road complain about the heavy traffic.

H Whaley expressed the view that Ellersly Road needed a wider cycle track on the uphill section.

**PC Peukert** stated that the junction at the bottom of Murrayfield Road is difficult for drivers and many divert to Ellersly Road to avoid it. He **undertook to carry out speed checks on Ellersly Road and noted J Forbes's point that the rush hour is not the time when speeding occurs.**

**Cllr Gloyer** apologised for being unable to attend the Ellersly Road walkabout and **undertook to speak to P Keggie about the issues raised.**

#### 5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

5.1 The Council has formed an administration and held its first proper meeting the day before the month long summer recess, which ended two weeks ago. The Transport and Environment Committee met in the week beginning 7 August and the Education, Children and Families Committee met on 15 August.

5.2 The Transport and Environment Committee is trying to find a better way to manage and maintain the city's roads. A paper on parking strategy has been prepared with proposals for changing the system of charging for residents' parking which may involve a surcharge for diesel vehicles. There will be consultation on controversial issues.

5.3 The Council is considering the democratic governance of localities. At present governance is only by Council officials. Four cross-party working groups have been formed to work out a strategy for governance of each locality. The working groups reflect the political composition of the Council. The Liberal Democrats and others would prefer them to reflect the political composition of each locality. They want a formal role for community councils within the locality committees. The final strategy will attempt to merge the views of all four working groups.

Cllr Gloyer confirmed that she sits on the Transport and Environment Committee and the Licensing Board.

In reply to a member of the public who asked why diesel vehicles were to be penalised when they have low emissions, Cllr Gloyer explained that not all diesel emissions are low. She stated that Lothian Buses are investing heavily in upgrading their fleet to meet environmental standards, mainly by using hybrid vehicles. These have a GPS system which could in future be used

to switch the engine automatically to electric power when a bus enters an area with poor air quality.

S Holland asked where neighbourhood partnerships fit into the new locality arrangement and was told by Cllr Gloyer that there are four localities and many more neighbourhood partnerships. There is currently a debate about how many layers of government to have and whether to retain neighbourhood partnerships.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the locality arrangement brings in other disciplines such as the Police and NHS Lothian.

The Secretary suggested that, if the Council has identified neighbourhood partnerships which work effectively, it would be better to spread their practices to other neighbourhood partnerships rather than invent a new body.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 27 June 2017

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: R Smart.

6.1 Matters Arising

6.1.1 *Graffiti removal kits*

H Ross reported that he had contacted the relevant person at the Council and felt that the graffiti removal kits, which remove graffiti from only metal surfaces, are a good idea. It was agreed that **H Ross would make an application to the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership for funding to purchase a graffiti removal kit.** The Treasurer confirmed that, if copies of MCC's accounts have to be submitted with the application, he can provide these. The Neighbourhood Partnership's next meeting is on 31 August 2017.

6.1.2 *Heavy traffic on Saughtonhall Drive*

In the continued absence of Cllr Frank Ross **Cllr G Gloyer undertook to pursue this matter.**

6.1.3 *Felling of Corsican pine, Ellersly Road*

J Forbes reported that he had not received a reply from the Planning Department, but Cllr Gloyer had received one denying that planning policy discriminates against non-native species of trees. J Forbes found this reply reassuring, but concluded that the decision to permit the felling of the Corsican pine in Ellersly Road had, therefore, been made in error. He urged continued vigilance in relation to such decisions.

The meeting agreed that **J Forbes should lodge an objection on behalf of MCC to a recent application for permission to fell a spruce tree in Easter Belmont Drive** on the basis that there is no information on its precise location, whether the tree is healthy or whether there is any other issue with it and there has to be a good reason to fell a mature tree in a Conservation Area.

6.1.4 *MCC Facebook page*

H Ross confirmed that MCC now has its own Facebook page. He reported that he had posted a copy of J Forbes's proposals for pedestrian improvements to Ellersly Road on the page and this had generated a significant response within a few hours. He suggested to the meeting that the key issues for MCC are who will post information on Facebook, who will edit the input and how will MCC be informed about the responses.

The Secretary and H Whaley both expressed a willingness to be involved in posting information on the Facebook page.

H Ross urged all Murrayfield Community Councillors who have their own Facebook page to “follow” the MCC page.

S Holland suggested a sub-group of three people to oversee the Facebook page. H Ross agreed that three or four people could undertake to monitor the page and report to each MCC meeting on the responses which it had generated.

The Chairman asked about Twitter. H Ross confirmed that MCC has been on Twitter for some time and this is a forum which is popular with the cycle lobby. H Whaley expressed the view that Facebook is easier to follow than Twitter.

#### 6.1.5 *MCC website*

H Ross reminded the meeting that MCC’s current website is no longer fit for purpose and could cease to function at any time. Having previously circulated an email and video showing the differences between a tailor made website from a company called Albany and a standard Wordpress one, he confirmed that the former is more expensive but easier to use. The set up cost would be about £1100 for the former and £600 for the latter. The hosting fee for both should be less than £100 per year.

The Chairman asked M Stevens whether the Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”) has a website and was told that it does not, as the population of the area is insufficient to justify one.

MCC agreed that doing nothing about the website was not an option and voted unanimously in favour of a tailor made website from Albany.

The Secretary asked H Ross whether managing the website is an onerous task and was told that it is not. He expressed the view that more Murrayfield Community Councillors should be involved in contributing content.

H Whaley suggested that lessons could be learned from Corstorphine Community Council (“CCC”), which is further ahead with its website. Cllr Gloyer intimated that she would be attending the CCC meeting the following evening and would try to make contact with the person responsible for the website.

#### 6.1.6 *Barrowman for Roseburn*

The Chairman commented that the cleansing person at the Council, to whom the request for a barrowman for Roseburn had been put, had acknowledged that there is a problem with street cleaning in Roseburn. Two members of the public, who are Roseburn residents, confirmed that there is a problem and that weeds too have not been removed.

Cllr Gloyer explained that the relevant team at the Council do not deal with weeds and are under-resourced, there being only two people to cover the area from South Queensferry to Inverleith. They respond to complaints about specific locations but in so doing are diverted from routine cleansing. She asked for a note of the worst affected streets and this information was supplied by the Roseburn residents.

### 7. CCWEL - Progress towards Traffic Regulation Orders

In response to a question from the Chairman Cllr Gloyer explained that CCWEL stands for City Centre West East Link.

The Secretary reported that she, S Holland, H Whaley, P Gregson, Barbara Knowles of the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) and Jeff Raynor of DAAA had met three Council officers on Friday, 21 July 2017 to go over the draft plans for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the cycle track. The plans are not going to be made public. After the meeting the Secretary submitted MCC’s comments to the Council and received responses similar to those made to MCC’s original representations prior to the Council’s decision in favour of Option A.

H Whaley explained that the detailed plans were worked up before that decision was taken and the Council is not looking to make any significant changes to them. The Secretary confirmed that MCC had asked for more parking spaces and loading bays but the Council considered the provision of both to be adequate.

She added that, when Roseburn Street had been closed recently, she had witnessed drivers doing a U turn in Roseburn Terrace to avoid the tailback of traffic and on one occasion she had seen an eastbound driver drive up the wrong side of the Terrace to turn right down Roseburn Gardens. Consequently MCC had suggested an extended traffic island opposite the Murrayfield Bar to prevent this behaviour in future. The Council had explained that this would not be possible because it would restrict the turning space required by bin lorries. MCC has asked for a “No U Turn” sign instead.

The Secretary confirmed that there will be a further consultation towards the end of this year when the Traffic Regulation Order (“TRO”) process begins. H Whaley added that the Council has undertaken to do leaflet drops and organise public events before the formal consultation.

S Holland commented that the Council officer who had visited the owners of businesses on Roseburn Terrace after the meeting on 21 July had not spent much time with any of them. **The Secretary undertook to raise this with the Council.**

R Smart made a case for the planting of more trees at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue.

P Gregson complained about the removal of six parking spaces from Murrayfield Place opposite the florist’s.

The Secretary and S Holland added that at the meeting on 21 July concern had been expressed about the additional traffic which would be generated once the redevelopment of Donaldson’s College has been completed. The two sets of gate pillars, which are the responsibility of Historic Scotland and cannot be removed, are a particular concern, as rush hour traffic seeking to enter or leave the development will impact both the pavement and the cycle track.

8. Roseburn Action Plan

R Smart reiterated that the Roseburn Action Plan has been superseded by the CCWEL, at least for the time being. He initiated a discussion on minor improvements to the Roseburn area by suggesting that the bench on the main Roseburn Bridge is little used and badly sited. Local residents disagreed. R Smart also suggested that a couple of benches could be added near the Police box in Murrayfield Avenue. The Chairman suggested that MCC might fund the purchase of a bench. It was also suggested that the Council may have surplus benches which could be acquired.

H Whaley stated that minor improvements which do not impact the TRO proposals can be put forward and Cllr Gloyer encouraged MCC to pursue their requests with the appropriate Council officials. **The Secretary undertook to progress this.**

H Whaley suggested that, as the Roseburn Action Plan is now three years old, it should be re-assessed and re-affirmed by the current MCC. The Secretary agreed. A member of the public commented that there are no longer “No cycling” signs on Roseburn Old Bridge and MCC should seek to have these reinstated. H Whaley warned that that may not be possible, as the CCWEL proposals may involve cyclists using that route.

**The Secretary** intimated that she **will enquire of the Council whether the planters on Roseburn Old Bridge are to be retained under the CCWEL proposals**, as this is not clear from the draft plans.

In reply to a member of the public P Gregson confirmed that there is to be a cycle track through Roseburn Park.

9. Roseburn Park issues

H Ross invited everyone to the AGM of FoRP on 26 September 2017 at 7.30pm at the Dove Lounge in the Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, where the future of the Park will be discussed, including Murrayfield Wanderers and other current issues.

H Ross reported as follows:-

9.1 In response to a concern expressed at the previous MCC meeting he had established from the flood contractors that they do not put traffic on the path through the Park between 8-9am and 3-4pm during term time, the recent use has been temporary, and current traffic is around the pedestrian bridge for lighting installation.

9.2 Murrayfield Wanderers are beginning to discuss with Edinburgh Leisure the booking of the pitches on the west side of the Park that will come back into use after the flood works.

9.3 The proposed café (former toilet block) is currently delayed in planning.

9.4 The Council is appointing a quantity surveyor for the new play park with a view to contractors being on site in the late autumn.

9.5 FoRP have been speaking to Council Officers to clarify the tree-planting scheme, and to create signage to reduce cycling speeds coming off the new ramps at the south and east entrances to the Park.

10. Planning and Licensing

10.1 R Smart reported that he had looked at a number of small domestic planning applications and did not propose to object to any of them.

10.2 R Smart intimated that he had recorded a television programme on Jane Jacobs and her influence on the streetscape of New York and he proposed to show the recording, if there was sufficient interest in it.

10.3 The Chairman invited John Kerr, a resident of Pinkhill, to address the meeting on the planning application for the redevelopment of the site of the former office block at 33 Pinkhill. J Kerr explained that the proposed development is a six storey block containing 75 flats which will tower above the surrounding single and two storey properties. He was concerned that the inadequate parking provision within the development will result in a significant increase in parking on the neighbouring streets and that the grant of planning permission for a six storey building will set a dangerous precedent for other developments in the city. J Kerr asked for the support of both MCC and individual Community Councillors in objecting to the planning application.

11. Traffic and Transport

There were no other traffic and transport issues to be discussed.

12. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10 October 2017

Subsequent meetings: 5 December 2017.

Minutes approved at meeting of 10 October 2017.

for approval