

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonough, S Macpherson, E Robertson, M Stevens, H Whaley,
J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson,
In attendance: Rurighd McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Liam Browne,
Balfour Beatty, 10 members of the public,
Apologies: D Dawson, N Macdonald, D MacLennan, Cllr Margaret Graham,
Cllr Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy
Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysol
Choudhury, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Angus Robertson, MSP,
Lorna Slater, MSP, Sue Webber, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. John Lennon plaque unveiling and event

The Chair reported that P Gregson had recently attracted attention on social media by actively promoting his views on a particularly sensitive issue, namely the situation in Gaza. It was felt that this activity was potentially in breach of Paragraph 3.4 of the Scheme for Community Councils which obliges a Community Councillor to desist from conduct likely to bring the Community Councillor and/or the Community Council into disrepute. The office bearers had taken the decision to ask P Gregson to resign. He had refused and on the advice of the Governance Team at the City Council the office bearers had lodged a complaint, which would be determined by an independent panel and a decision given within 40 working days.

The Chair reminded the meeting that at the last MCC meeting MCC had confirmed its support for the unveiling of a plaque commemorating John Lennon's association with Murrayfield and an associated event at Murrayfield Ice Rink which P Gregson was organising. The Chair proposed that the plaque unveiling and associated event be postponed until the panel's decision had been given. P Gregson protested that he had already ordered flyers and arranged other elements of the event and had incurred significant expense. The meeting voted 7 in favour of postponement, 3 against, with 1 abstention, and the proposal was carried. P Gregson was asked to liaise with the Treasurer about his expenses.

3. Communal bins review

3.1 Murrayfield Avenue – R McMeddes and L Browne confirmed that the housing for the new communal bins at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue would be installed the following week. The Chair reminded the meeting that it had

been agreed that, if the location of the bins proved to be unsatisfactory, MCC would approach the Council's Waste Team to have them moved to a more suitable location.

A resident of Murrayfield Avenue stated that more than 200 residents of Murrayfield Avenue and Place are actively campaigning to have the bins removed altogether. They are considered unnecessary because the residents of Murrayfield Avenue have their own bins and there are other bins serving Murrayfield Place outside numbers 11 and 12. The resident reported that the new communal bins are being used for fly tipping by people from outside the local area, who park on double yellow lines to offload their rubbish, cause an obstruction and make a mess. He can produce photographic and video evidence of this activity. He called for the installation of the bin housing to be halted.

R McMeddes explained that the number of communal bins to be provided and their locations were dictated by the Council's citywide Waste Team, who had conducted a communal bins review. More recycling points were to be provided. The bins at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue are for the use of the properties on the north side of Murrayfield Place. He undertook to pass on the residents' comments to the Western Cleansing Team.

In response to a question from J McDonough about locking the bin housing R McMeddes confirmed that the housing will be on only 3 sides, the front being open.

3.2 Roseburn Crescent – Cllr Beal reported that he had made no progress so far in asking Hanover Housing Association to consider reinstating a communal bin store within Roseburn Court.

3.3 Coltbridge Avenue – The Chair advised that the resident of Coltbridge Avenue, who had spoken at the last MCC meeting about bins outside her house, had reported that the small glass recycling bin about which she had complained had been replaced with a larger one. Cllr Davidson confirmed that he was continuing to pursue this issue on her behalf with the appropriate person at the Council.

R McMeddes advised that the email address for correspondence with the Council about bins is waste@edinburgh.gov.uk.

4. CCWEL completion

R McMeddes reported as follows:-

4.1 Planters – 4 planters which were surplus to the Newhaven Trams project will be collected next week. He will contact Jane Geddes and circulate a layout plan for the planters and benches to be installed at Roseburn. It had not yet been possible to organise a tap for watering the plants but a water bowser would be provided.

4.2 Traffic queuing on Roseburn Street – R McMeddes acknowledged that he had received a considerable amount of correspondence complaining about the effects of the traffic sequencing here. He stated that the rat running via Roseburn Place and Gardens which had previously been a safety issue, had been addressed by the change in priority from Roseburn Street to Russell Road. The new arrangement was working as anticipated, but queue lengths would be monitored and adjustments considered. He thought that the new pedestrian crossings were the primary cause of the delays to traffic.

M Stevens made the point that the lengthy queues are not limited to rush hours. R McMeddes confirmed that monitoring is not due to be concluded until next year but the issue might be looked at sooner.

S Macpherson requested additional signage on Russell Road to show that the widened pavement there is to be shared by pedestrians and cyclists. **R McMeddes** was not sure that this area is officially for cyclists but **undertook to investigate**.

4.3 Bus shelters – M Stevens confirmed that the bus shelter has been installed at Stanhope Street. The one at West Coates has also been installed.

M Stevens reported that the section of the A8 near Stanhope Street where the westbound carriageway changes from two lanes to one lane is causing chaos and motorists are often to be seen driving westwards on the eastbound section. He requested that this issue also be reviewed earlier than planned. R McMeddes thought that additional arrows had been added to the carriageway and would check.

4.4 Temporary closure of A8 - In answer to a question from the Chair L Browne confirmed that the A8 would be closed overnight from 6 November to enable resurfacing work to be done.

4.4 Repairs at Wester Coates Terrace and Road – D MacLennan had reported prior to the meeting that the new road surface at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace was a significant improvement.

4.5 Rubbish bins – D MacLennan had also repeated his plea for the reinstatement of the ordinary rubbish bins which had been removed from Roseburn Terrace and the foot of Wester Coates Terrace during the CCWEL works. R McMeddes informed L Browne that there had been three such bins.

4.6 Miscellaneous

In response to a complaint from a resident of Ormidale Terrace **R McMeddes undertook to look at installing an additional “No Right Turn” sign on the A8 at Murrayfield Gardens**.

Another resident pointed out that the signs for temporary road closures would be more useful if they specified the hours during which the road would be closed. **L Browne undertook to take this up with Traffic Management**.

In reply to a question from M Stevens R McMeddes confirmed that the lights opposite the Bible Society building on West Coates would be operational after the repair work at the foot of Wester Coates Road had been completed. This would not now happen until the New Year because of storm-related delays to the work at Wester Coates Terrace.

R McMeddes thought that the lights at Stanhope Street, which M Stevens reported are still indicating that crossing by cyclists is prohibited, might be wrong.

R McMeddes undertook to liaise with L Browne about the dilapidations at the north end of Balbirnie Place, which M Stevens had raised before, but of which L Browne was unaware.

5. Ellersly/Kinellan traffic calming and road safety

John Bishop, a resident of Westerlea Gardens on Ellersly Road, reported that signatures from more than 40 households had been appended to the letter to the City Council about traffic calming and road safety. They were aware that no progress would be made in the current financial year but thought there

was a chance that something would be done in 2024/25. The residents had received excellent support from the City Councillors and Angus Robertson, MSP. The latter had carried out a site visit on 23 October and they had established that the priorities are:-

1. Immediate traffic reduction measures - 20 mph roundels on the carriageway and electronic speed indicators,
2. A crossing point from north to south on Ellersly Road, probably towards the Murrayfield Road end (type to be discussed), and
3. Widening of the pavement on the north side of Ellersly Road.

J Bishop added that, if the residents' proposals were to be updated, they would need to be submitted to the Council by December in time for the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee ("TEC") in January or February.

J Forbes paid tribute to J Bishop and Don Page for their leadership of the residents' group. He understood why in times of budgetary constraint in 2023/24 the Council had been able to implement low cost measures, such as the new roundels which had recently been installed in Lennel Avenue, while delaying more expensive measures such as those which are required at Ellersly and Kinellan Roads. He urged TEC to make the appropriate level of funding available in 2024/25 for a co-ordinated physical traffic calming scheme for Ellersly and Kinellan Roads and made the point that improving one and not the other would exacerbate the problems of the other. J Forbes explained that a degree of synergy could be achieved in 2024/25 with the planned pavement widening in Ellersly Road and further road safety measures, particularly if combined with carriageway resurfacing, as is currently planned. He asked the three City Councillors to relay his comments to the appropriate manager at the Council

J Forbes undertook to send a transcript of his comments to the three City Councillors.

Cllr Beal reported that the three City Councillors would be meeting the re-constituted Road Safety Team.

6. Relations with Scottish Rugby

The Chair reported that he and D Dawson had met Graham Law and colleagues at Scottish Rugby on 2 November. They had learned that Scottish Rugby has 150 neighbours including some serial complainants on their database. G Law invited MCC to notify him of MCC's meetings calendar so that he might provide input. He accepted the suggestion of a debrief meeting after each batch of events to which MCC and other local stakeholders might be invited. The Chair said he had commended the AGM of the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") as a useful annual event. M Stevens, the Chair of DAAA, replied that he had been waiting for three months for a response to his email to G Law requesting a meeting and was considering a formal complaint about the lack of response. He was aware that Scottish Rugby, the Council and the Police had met to discuss the impact of the measures which had been put in place for the summer concerts. **The Chair** pointed out that it is not always Scottish Rugby who request the measures such as road closures. Advice had also been taken from the people managing the rock concerts. He **undertook to remind G Law that DAAA is still awaiting**

feedback regarding the concerts and the powers under which the roads had been closed.

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Community Council Scheme and boundary review - **J Forbes** reminded the meeting that at the pre-statutory stage of the review he had made the point that it is more important for Community Councils to represent actual communities than follow arbitrary political boundaries. He **would make the same point in responding to Phase 1 of the public consultation. M Stevens undertook to do the same on behalf of DAAs.**

7.2 Balgreen noticeboard – The Chair reported that this is now up and attracting attention. J Forbes offered his thanks to the Treasurer for arranging the refurbishment of the Western Corner noticeboard including the introduction of magnets instead of drawing pins.

7.3 Balgreen Tunnel mural – The Chair reported that Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network had provided funding to the local Arts Group for this.

8. Councillors' reports

8.1 Cllr Beal reported that he had contacted the appropriate team at the Council about reinstating the white line at the junction of Coltbridge Terrace and Avenue which makes clear that Coltbridge Terrace has priority.

8.2 The Chair reported that he had received a reply from the parking team at the Council about the request for double yellow lines in Western Gardens.

This area is completely unrestricted so there is little which can be done about obstructive parking from an enforcement perspective. Residents are advised to report any dangerous parking or vehicles causing an obstruction to Police Scotland on 101.

8.3 MCC's request that the bin on the south side of Roseburn Bridge be moved, so that it does not obscure the plaque there, had at last been actioned.

8.4 Cllr Beal reported that he had been told that the signs which St George's School displays about access through the school grounds are legal. E Robertson repeated her view that the School seeks to hide the fact that there is a public right of way through the grounds. She urged the City Councillors to pay a site visit.

8.5 Cllr Beal said that there is no timetable for a review of parking in Roseburn.

8.6 Cllr Davidson referred to the improvement in drainage and lighting at Balgreen Tunnel.

8.7 He had been dealing with problems with waste collection at the Murrayfield View flats.

8.8 Craighleith Drive – Cllr Davidson said the speed limit at the bridge where the narrow road is used by pedestrians should be lower.

9. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 3 October 2023

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: M Stevens.

10. Friends of Roseburn Park

B Knowles reported as follows:-

10.1 The Friends of Roseburn Park held their AGM on 25 October. A number of the committee had stayed on. The next ordinary meeting will be in early December.

10.2 Help in planting 3,000 bulbs in the Park would be appreciated.

10.3 The Rosebean Cafe is open for business but is closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday every week.

11. Planning updates

J Forbes reported as follows:-

ROSEBERY HOUSE, 9 HAYMARKET TERRACE: The Reporter's decision in the appeal is expected in the week beginning 13 November.

37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD: It is now 17 months since the Scottish Ministers gave "Notice of Intention" to grant planning permission. Cllr Davidson obtained from Senior Planner, Lynsey Townsend the following information on status as of 20 September:

"We had been waiting on the District Valuer Assessment of the commuted sum value as these details are required to be included in the Section 75 Agreement. This information has now been provided and is now with our legal team to progress. I am afraid that I am unable to give a date of when this will be, but can update when I have this information."

MCC will await the promised update.

SHORT TERM LET (STL) APPLICATIONS: Increasingly J Forbes is seeing applications being refused for change of use of residential properties to short-term let. Recent examples include 26 Riversdale Crescent and 6 Coltbridge Gardens. Reasons for refusal include detrimental effect on living conditions and amenity of nearby residents and loss of a residential property. As STL applications are in the main householder developments, MCC will normally refrain from objection unless broader community issues are involved.

A Anderson mentioned that she had contacted J Forbes on behalf of a neighbour about a planning application for change of use from a lock up to a house. J Forbes had advised that if the property was going to be a STL, permission may or may not be refused.

12. Licensing updates

In the absence of D MacLennan J Forbes reported as follows:-

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE, MURRAYFIELD ICE RINK: At a Licensing Sub-committee meeting on 13 October David MacLennan presented MCC's objection to a 24-hour Public Entertainment Licence. He proposed attaching a condition that public entertainment events other than sporting activities would not be permitted between the hours of 23:00 and 07:00. The Sub-committee did not accept this condition on the basis that it was not "evidence-based". The applicants did, however, give certain undertakings, including that they would liaise with MCC on all late night events of the sort that MCC might object to (viz. non-sporting and non-ice related), where possible with 14 days' notice. These undertakings do not appear in the written decision to grant the licence.

PROVISIONAL PREMISES ALCOHOL LICENCE, 1-5 OSBORNE TERRACE: J Forbes represented MCC at a Licensing Board meeting on 30 October as

objector to an alcohol licence for the hotel under construction at Osborne House. Also present as objectors were Ron Smith of DAAA and Martha Dickson, a neighbouring resident. He presented MCC's proposed conditions under which any licence should be granted. The Board decided that such conditions were inappropriate for a provisional licence in not being "evidence-based". In the notice of grant issued on 6 November most of the conditions J Forbes proposed appear as "terms" to which the licence is subject. "Terms" include but are not restricted to:

- closure of the outdoor terrace at 22:00;
- amplified music and vocals controlled so as not to cause audible nuisance to neighbouring residential premises;
- "undertaking to consider" closure of the terrace or use of door stewards on Murrayfield match and other event days.

J Forbes had also demanded control of video and TV displays so as not to cause visual nuisance. The applicant's agent gave "reassurance" that no video screening would take place on the terrace. The hotel is not expected to open until early 2026.

M Stevens was pleased to note that there were no seasonal variations in the Licence terms and the Festival period would be subject to the same restrictions.

J Forbes stated that D MacLennan had done some research and could find no legal basis for the Council's refusal to impose conditions because they were not evidence-based. M Stevens expressed the view that it was absurd to ask for evidence on something which was not yet in existence. He requested that MCC write to the Council to challenge their stance. **J Forbes undertook to ask D MacLennan to summarise his research for the benefit of MCC at the next meeting.**

13. Police Report

The Chair referred to certain items in the Police report received by email prior to the meeting.

13.1 On 7 October before the Hearts v Hibs football match various pyrotechnics were set off on the fan march down Russell Road. Police officers with cameras were deployed, so follow up enquires could take place to identify offenders. The Chair pointed out that, as most of the offenders were wearing balaclavas, identifying them was likely to be difficult.

Two local residents spoke to the fear which the behaviour of the fans engenders. One pointed out that the fact that on these occasions the Murrayfield Hotel sets up a bar selling cans does nothing to improve the situation. The other suggested that road closures should be put in place as they are for the rugby matches and concerts at Murrayfield stadium and that the Police should use their "stop and search" powers.

Cllr Beal said that the issue is primarily one for the Police. He suggested that MCC could object to the Hotel's licence application. **J Forbes undertook to discuss with D MacLennan whether MCC could apply to have a condition placed on the Hotel's licence preventing the opening of the cans bar on match days.**

The Chair undertook to report the substance of this discussion to the Glasgow University academic who is studying the link between politics and football.

13.2 On 8 October the Police apprehended two people caught using spray paint on the rail bridge at Russell Road.

13.3 On 19 October a vehicle crashed on Ellersly Road damaging a lamp post. The driver tested negative for alcohol and drugs. The Council attended to the lamp post and oil spillage on the road.

13.4 On 20 October a male was rescued from the Water of Leith. He appeared to have entered of his own accord.

13.5 On 25 October the Police received reports of two males (white, with a north east England accent) selling household cleaning products door to door in West Catherine Place and stating that they were on prison rehabilitation. These were bogus callers.

13.5 On 28 October a Range Rover was stolen without keys in Murrayfield Gardens, but has now been recovered.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that MCC's opening balance on 1 October was £2,011.87 and after expenses of £35 for hall rental the closing balance for October was £1,976.87.

15. Social Engagement

J McDonough confirmed that the lights on the Christmas tree at Roseburn will be inaugurated on 30 November at 4.30 pm. Carol singing and refreshments will accompany the event.

16. Any Other Competent Business

At the request of A Anderson **Cllr Davidson undertook to contact R McMeddes about the ponding on the Old Colt Bridge which is adversely affecting cyclists.**

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Subsequent meetings: **Proposed dates for 2024 to be circulated by R Brown.**

Minutes approved at meeting of 12 December 2023.