

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 9 January 2018 at 7.30pm  
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre  
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland,  
N Macdonald, H Ross, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Frank Ross,  
In attendance: 5 members of the public, PC Martin Crow, PC Aidan Dowds,  
Ryan Montgomery, Corstorphine Emergency Response,  
Rurighd McMeddes and Anna Rowell, City of Edinburgh Council,  
Apologies: A Anderson, R Smart, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Scott  
Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr  
Alasdair Rankin, 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

This was approved subject to the addition of a presentation by Ryan Montgomery,  
Corstorphine Community First Responder.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Martin Crow explained that he normally covers the Drum Brae and Gyle  
area and was standing in for his colleagues, PC Sam Davison and PC Euan Sinclair,  
neither of whom was on duty that evening.

PC Crow reported that in the month of December 2017 there had been three  
incidents of vandalism (at the Roseburn Bar, at BT Murrayfield and in Roseburn),  
four assaults (one in Ravelston, one in Roseburn involving two drivers and two at a  
BT Murrayfield Christmas party). PC Crow confirmed that the theft of pedal cycles  
is on the rise with the culprits targeting sheds and houses where cars with cycle  
racks can be seen. He advised making cycles secure, identifying them with marks  
and removing cycle racks from cars when not in use. There had been two thefts of  
motor vehicles in the Coltbridge area, several thefts from motor vehicles and one  
house breaking in the Ravelston area.

PC Crow informed the meeting that Sgt Richard Holm was leaving the Corstorphine  
Murrayfield team on 9 January and was to be replaced by Sgt Scott Kennedy from  
the West End team.

3.2 The Chairman asked whether there was any further information about the  
incident in which the Secretary's car had been hit by a coach while parked in  
Murrayfield Place. **PC Crow undertook to pass this query to PC Sam Davison.**

3.3 M Stevens reported that someone has taken to parking a motorbike on the  
pavement opposite the Bible Society premises on West Coates. **PC Crow  
undertook to pass this information to PC Sam Davison.**

3.4 At the Chairman's invitation Ryan Montgomery explained to the meeting that in April 2017 he had set up the Corstorphine Emergency Response service, which uses the GoodSAM (Good Smartphone Activated Medics) mobile phone app. He now has ten Community First Responders in his team, which covers Corstorphine, Pinkhill, Western Corner and a little beyond. The team provides services similar to those of the Ambulance Service and regularly provides cover at community events such as the Corstorphine Christmas Fair. They will be providing cover at the Zoo for the Chinese Lanterns events. They are trained in First Aid by St Andrews Ambulance and by the Scottish Ambulance Service and carry similar kit to the Ambulance Service, including defibrillators. Ryan explained that the team often fill the vacuum between a call for medical assistance and the arrival of the Ambulance Service. The First Responders usually arrive within 5 minutes and the Ambulance Service within 8 minutes of an emergency 999 call. The team are all volunteers and are funded solely by donations. They operate from the Corstorphine Dower House. Ryan can also be contacted through Craigmount High School. In answer to questions from N Macdonald and J Forbes Ryan confirmed that his team undergo in-house training and practice sessions in addition to their initial training and are registered and fully insured.

4. Councillor's Report

Cllr Frank Ross reported as follows:-

4.1 Roseburn Primary School has been included in the review of catchment areas in the west and south west of the city because Craigmount High School is one of the secondary schools under consideration. Cllr Ross has contacted the Chair of the Roseburn Primary School Parent Council and the parents' views will be taken into account.

4.2 There are approximately 50 vacancies for "lollipop" persons across the city. The Council has difficulty in filling these posts. J Forbes suggested that the vacancies could be advertised on MCC's noticeboards and asked if a suitable poster is available. **Cllr Ross undertook to send the Secretary a link to the appropriate section of the ScotJobs website and an advertising pack for the noticeboards.** He confirmed that the posts are paid and training is provided.

4.3 With regard to the proposal that Twickenham style parking be introduced for match days at BT Murrayfield the Parking Department, having fairly recently reviewed parking in the Murrayfield area, do not intend to review the current arrangements on match days. Cllr Ross has asked the Events team to look at whether the proposed arrangement could be made a condition of the licence which is required for such events. The SRU would have to be involved in any change. In reply to a question from J Forbes Cllr Ross explained that the Twickenham scheme allows spectators to pre-book parking when they purchase their tickets.

**Cllr Ross undertook to update Cllr Scott Douglas on this issue** so that the latter could reply direct to the resident of Ormidale Terrace who had raised the issue.

4.4 The Council will publish its Budget for 2018/19 on 22 February 2018. The information collected during the consultation process will be collated and published. In answer to a question from P Gregson about the scale of the Budget cuts Cllr Ross stated that there had been a reduction in funding from the Scottish Government of 1.9%, which was less than last year. He confirmed that the current administration is supportive of free music tuition across the whole school estate and the music school at Broughton High School will not be closed.

The Chairman commented that some interesting ideas for the future of public libraries had been put forward recently. Cllr Ross admitted that opening hours had been reduced in some city libraries, but that open access to libraries was being considered. This would involve libraries being open, but not necessarily manned, round the clock. Peterborough has tried this arrangement for the past two years and has found that it works well. In particular, library use by the under 16s has increased significantly. Security is achieved by a combination of registration, swipe cards and CCTV. Cllr Ross reported that the Council will be trialling open access in five libraries. In reply to a question from the Secretary he confirmed that the libraries would continue to be staffed, but the additional opening hours would be unmanned. He also referred to the move towards establishing community hubs where a number of services are combined in one building.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 5 December 2017

R Brown apologised for a mistake in the draft Minutes and advised the meeting that **the date of the next MCC meeting is Tuesday, 27, not 28, February 2018.**

The draft Minutes were approved, subject to this amendment.

Prop: J Forbes, Sec: H Ross.

5.1 Matters Arising

5.1.1 *Ellersly Road quick wins and streetscape project*

J Forbes reported that he had not yet heard from the relevant Council official with a timetable for the start of work on the “quick wins”, but would chase her for this. The streetscape project would require a significant budget and Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer have been working on achieving consent to the project. **J Forbes** felt that the introduction of the 20 mph speed restriction had improved the situation in Ellerlsy Road a little, although the speed limit is often ignored by drivers. He **undertook to press all the Councillors for progress regarding the streetscape project.**

5.1.2 *Heavy traffic on Saughtonhall Drive*

Cllr Ross had no information on this issue, which Cllr Gloyer had taken up. He was of the view that the issue arose mainly from the fact that traffic volumes in the city have increased and lorries have become bigger and heavier. Saughtonhall Drive is the north - south route for all traffic. He felt that traffic officials are unlikely to agree to an Environmental Traffic Order, which restricts the size and weight of traffic using a particular route, because Saughtonhall Drive is exceptionally wide and there is no suitable alternative route. The bigger question is whether heavier lorries should be banned from the city and how their loads could be dealt with, if they were.

5.1.3 *Tree policy – update on 17/04403/TCO and 17/04485/TCO*

J Forbes reported that Cllr Douglas had received a clear explanation from the Planning Department regarding their policy on trees, including those in Conservation Areas. He had been advised that the process with regard to trees is different from other planning applications. The process is one of notification rather than application for consent and neither the public nor Community Councils have the right to comment on notifications of proposed tree management or felling, even in Conservation Areas. The notices are available for inspection but comments on them are not taken into account.

Nor do the planning officials have the right to object except where a Tree Preservation Order is concerned. The decision is delegated to an official.

J Forbes repeated his concern that mature trees are under threat from ongoing development in the Murrayfield area.

Cllr Ross suggested that MCC lobby the Planning Department for a change in policy. J Forbes replied that it is a national Scottish Government policy, rather than a Council policy. **Cllr Ross undertook to speak to the Chair of the Planning Committee and suggest that Community Councils should be consultees in the case of tree works in Conservation Areas (TCOs).**

*5.1.4 Graffiti, including Balgreen tunnel*

The Secretary confirmed that MCC's application to the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") for funding to acquire two graffiti removal kits will be considered at the WENP meeting on 24 January 2018. Cllr Ross was confident that the application would be approved.

The Chairman referred to the complaint by a local resident about the condition of the Balgreen tunnel, which was worse in wet weather. Cllr Ross stated that he had been informed that a structural inspection had been carried out in February 2017 and no structural issues found and the tunnel had been cleaned in October 2017.

*5.1.5 MCC website and social media accounts*

H Ross reported that no comments had been made on MCC's website since the last meeting, but, as H Whaley pointed out, feedback had not been actively sought.

**6. Participatory Budgeting Champions**

The Secretary reported that she had received an email from the Council inviting participation in two and a half days of free training in February and March to inform Community Councils about the budgeting process and how they can involve local people more in deciding how their areas can be improved. Those who undertake the training may be asked to "spread the word". **The Secretary undertook to forward the email to all MCC members.**

Cllr Ross confirmed that the current city administration is committed to increasing locality funding and participation in the allocation of funds. He referred to the "Leith decides" initiative in Leith and the role of WENP in the north west.

**7. Rejuvenating Roseburn – Community Engagement Update 7**

Rurighd McMeddes, City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street Improvements Project ("CCWEL") Stakeholder Liaison Officer, gave a presentation on the project to rejuvenate Roseburn in conjunction with delivery of the CCWEL and the community engagement which he and Anna Rowell had conducted in autumn 2017. He explained that they had decided on a co-production format whereby the rejuvenation project would be designed with and for the end user. They had worked closely with MCC to decide on the method of engagement. They had had early discussions with local residents and businesses, attended the two previous MCC meetings, undertaken a three day engagement with Roseburn Primary School, conducted two separate day long public consultations on site (displaying three separate design options at the later one), and consulted St George's School and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. They had received a wide range of comments, not all of which were compatible, and would be developing the designs further over the next two months. The feedback received had covered traffic, parking for cars

and bikes, the impact of major events at BT Murrayfield, the pedestrian experience, green spaces, space for public events such as a farmers' market, reinstating the cobbles on the Old Coltbridge, places to sit and play, lighting, signage and artwork, relocating and hiding bins and incorporating access to the Water of Leith by breaking the wall around it. Ideas for celebrating the natural environment and history of the Roseburn area had been put forward. Concerns had been raised regarding the dominance of traffic, anti-social behaviour and ongoing maintenance. R McMeddes described the interaction with Primaries 1, 5 and 7 of Roseburn Primary School and the two on-site consultations in detail.

His colleague, Anna Rowell, a landscape architect, described the three design Options which had been displayed at the on-site consultation on 5 December 2017 (see the Minutes of the MCC meeting on the same date). She confirmed that Option 3 had received the most support but aspects of all of the designs had met with approval.

R McMeddes informed the meeting that he will launch the finalised design at the next MCC meeting on 27 February, it will be published and there will be a full public consultation on it.

He raised three issues for consideration by the Roseburn community:-

- (1) Maintenance of the rejuvenated streetscape – would the community be willing to help with this?
- (2) The final design will include space for some kind of market and a strategy needs to be developed to restrict its use to desirable activities. A licence to trade would be required, as is the case now, and a stated strategy would give more control over users. What kind of market activity should be allowed?
- (3) Incorporating access to the Water of Leith in the design would be technically difficult and very costly. Would the community be willing to seek funding for this work from, for example, WENP?

With regard to the first issue Cllr Ross described low maintenance living seats, which have been installed in Glasgow and which comprise a bench with a wall made of moss. The seats draw pollutants out of the atmosphere and collect rain water which waters the plants.

H Ross asked whether the next set of drawings will identify the locations of new signs and the removal of existing signs. R McMeddes replied that the aim is to de-clutter Roseburn and ultimately the technical drawings will go into great detail on the road surface, curbs, pavement height, signage, road markings and utilities. These drawings will be given to the contractor, but will not be available for the public consultation at the end of February.

In answer to a question from a member of the public about the work which is currently being done to the former Police box in Murrayfield Avenue, R McMeddes explained that the Police had transferred the box to the Council, who had sold it to a private individual. He did not know what work was being carried out.

The Secretary asked whether, given the timetable for the CCWEL and Rejuvenating Roseburn project, it would be appropriate for MCC to apply to WENP now for funding for a new MCC noticeboard at Roseburn. R McMeddes promised to discuss this with her after the meeting.

The Chairman thanked R McMeddes and A Rowell for their presentation and mentioned that the proposal to incorporate the Water of Leith in the rejuvenation project raised safety, as well as maintenance, issues.

8. CCWEL – draft Traffic Regulation Orders (“TROs”)

The Chairman intimated that MCC had held a private meeting the previous evening, 8 January, to discuss the draft TRO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL, about which they had been consulted in late November 2017. They had taken as the basis for their discussion the preliminary comments which J Forbes had drafted and the Secretary had emailed to Holly Robertson at the Council on 21 December 2017 (copy attached).

The Chairman stated that these comments required amendment in two respects:-

(1) there is currently only one pedestrian crossing on Roseburn Terrace and

(2) the parking bay on the south side is in fact designated as short stay.

The Chairman reported that the private meeting had discussed the proposal to change the unrestricted public parking at the Maltings to short stay parking and had decided that this change would need to be clearly advertised. The meeting felt that the sequencing of the traffic lights at the re-designed Tesco junction would be crucial to the success of the new layout. H Ross added that the same applied to the re-designed crossing at the other end of Roseburn Terrace and the amount of time allowed for crossing at both points was also crucial. RMcMeddes agreed, the aim being to synchronise both crossings to slow down the traffic and minimise the volume of traffic standing in the narrow canyon of the Terrace. H Whaley thought that the traffic would have to wait longer for the lights to change but would flow better.

R McMeddes explained that public drop-in events will be held at Roseburn and Haymarket to allow members of the public to view the draft TROs. Leaflet drops will also be carried out in the area. He will be issuing the latest Project Update at the end of January.

9. Roseburn Park Update

H Ross reported as follows:-

9.1 The Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) have planted 1,000 bulbs at the Roseburn Place entrance to the Park.

9.2 Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme is coming to an end. Barbara Knowles of FoRP is tying up the loose ends. She is to undertake a walkabout with Council officials on 17 January to finalise the signage in the Park.

9.3 It is not yet clear what will happen with the stone planter at the central path junction of the Park.

9.4 FoRP have planning permission for the redevelopment of the toilet block and one tender for the work. They need two more tenders.

9.5 The start date for construction of the new play park has drifted to March 2018.

9.6 There is no news regarding Edinburgh Wanderers’ plans. Cllr Ross has offered to arrange another meeting with Wanderers.

The Chairman asked about progress in obtaining the bench for the Park to which MCC have contributed and was told by P Gregson that the sculptor is working on its design.

A member of the public asked whether the water fountain could be re-instated and was told by P Gregson that concerns about Legionnaire’s Disease meant that this is unlikely.

Another member of the public said that he had been trying to get the Council to do something about the graffiti in the Park for years. He considered that removing it regularly would eventually deter repetition and have more environmental impact than other things which are being done.

P Gregson replied that FoRP had also made repeated representations to the Council. They had suggested that the new flood defence walls are vulnerable to graffiti and had suggested that wires for climbing plants be attached to them, but the Council would not agree to this.

The meeting discussed painting over the graffiti and adding murals to deter further graffiti. It was noted that the existing Friends of Roseburn mural has not been defaced.

10. Planning and Licensing, including 33 Pinkhill and former Tor Nursing Home

There was no up to date information about 33 Pinkhill.

J Forbes reported that the deadline for determination of the planning application for the redevelopment of the former Tor nursing home had passed but the application had still not been determined. Eight objections had been lodged, but he did not know whether the application would go to the Planning Committee, whose next meeting is at the end of March. If the application were to go to the Planning Committee, he believed that a representative of MCC should request the opportunity to address the Committee meeting.

11. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman intimated that ScotRail are going to alter the Haymarket Depot to accommodate high speed trains. He undertook to obtain details and circulate these.

12. Any Other Competent Business

The Secretary reported as follows:-

12.1 She had been informed that a meeting will be held on 17 January 2018 to discuss the Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan.

12.2 The Planning Department have asked for MCC's views on the proposal to abolish email as a method of submitting comments on planning applications. Submission via the Council's planning portal is the preferred method.

12.3 MCC has applied to WENP for funding for two graffiti removal kits, a new MCC noticeboard at Roseburn and plants for the planters on the Old Coltbridge. The last two items would be for the limited period up to completion of the CCWEL and the project to rejuvenate Roseburn. J Forbes had also suggested applying for funding to plant a tree on the site of the advertising hoardings on Roseburn Terrace to symbolise MCC's determination to champion the retention of mature trees.

12.4 She had received notice of two public exhibitions for planning applications to extend the Gyle Shopping Centre and redevelop the vacant units at 181-195 St John's Road as a mixed use development.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 27 February 2018

Subsequent meetings: 1 May and 26 June 2018.

Minutes approved at meeting of 27 February 2018.