

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 May 2018 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, P Gregson, S Holland,
N Macdonald, H Ross, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 25 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, PC Lesley Anne
Brown, Rurigdh McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council,
Apologies: A Anderson, J Forbes, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen Doran, 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

This was approved. The Chairman intimated that enquiries had been received regarding a parking survey conducted some time ago and contact details for South Beechwood Residents' Association and these enquiries would be dealt with in the course of the meeting.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair introduced himself and his colleague, PC Lesley Anne Brown, who covers Drum Brae and the Gyle. He confirmed that notwithstanding recent staff changes he and PC Sam Davison remain the first points of contact for the MCC area.

3.1 PC Sinclair reported on the period from 27 February to 31 March 2018 as follows:-

There had been 29 reported crimes, 5 of which had been solved. This represented a slight rise on the same period last year. There had been 6 house breakings, 10 thefts (3 of bicycles), one assault and 10 miscellaneous crimes.

In the month to 29 April 2018 there had been 16 reported crimes, 4 of which had been solved. This represented a slight drop on the same period last year. There had been 4 housebreakings, 4 thefts (one of a bicycle), 2 assaults, one of vandalism and 5 miscellaneous crimes.

The level of housebreakings had remained fairly consistent, many offenders now being on bail or in prison. Of the 10 housebreakings 4 had been the result of lapses in security. PC Sinclair reminded the meeting of the importance of basic security measures such as locking doors and windows. He also repeated that the Police are happy to carry out crime prevention surveys for householders.

Of the 3 assaults 2 related to the same domestic situation. The third was an attack on a man who had remonstrated with someone tinkering with a motor bike on

the cycle track between Roseburn and Drylaw. PC Sinclair admitted that motorbikes on the cycle track pose a problem and asked that anyone seeing a motorbike there report it to the Police on 101, if possible with a description of the driver and a registration number.

3.2 PC Sinclair reported that the Police are engaged in initiatives across the city to try to tackle dangerous parking by parents near schools.

3.3 Speed checks with a speed gun had been suspended while his unit's speed gun was being repaired but would re-commence shortly.

3.4 Thefts of bicycles in the local area are not as high as in other areas of the city.

3.5 At the start of April the Police had held a West Edinburgh week of action targeting the proxy purchase of alcohol for under-age drinkers. This had been successful and the decrease in anti-social behaviour had been maintained.

A second week of action against acquisitive crime concentrating on Ravelston and Murrayfield and involving Trading Standards will be undertaken in the last week of May.

In answer to questions which had been raised at the last meeting **PC Sinclair** replied as follows:-

1. The Police are in contact with schools with a view to tackling the issue of graffiti.
2. The question as to whether the cost of removing graffiti applied by Hibs supporters should be met by Hibernian Football Club is for the Club, CEC and the SFA, but he **would try to get an answer.**
3. Full policing will be in force for the Rolling Stones concert at BT Murrayfield on 9 June 2018.
4. Neither he nor PC Sam Davison had ever seen a red motorbike parked on the pavement of West Coates. **M Stevens undertook to send him a photo of it.**
5. The installation of signs warning HGVs against using Coltbridge Terrace is in hand.

A member of the public asked whether the Police had been involved in the traffic management required by the current roadworks on Corstorphine Road. PC Sinclair replied that the Council put TROs in place to deal with such temporary changes and the bus lanes still apply but are difficult to enforce.

In connection with Item 4 above R Smart asked whether an electric bike comes within the definition of a motor vehicle. PC Sinclair confirmed that a motorbike does, but an electric bike does not. H Whaley explained that the latter requires pedal power to engage the motor.

4. Councillors' Report

4.1 Cllr Gloyer said that she understood that since the last MCC meeting Peter Keggie of the Council had undertaken a walkabout in Ellersly Road with MCC's Secretary and had undertaken that the "quick wins" would be completed as part of the current roadworks at Western Corner. The Secretary added that (1) the island in Ellersly Road and the pavement are to be re-surfaced with tarmac; (2) because the signage which MCC wished to be removed has lighting attached to it, Scottish Power will be asked to remove the lighting and the Council will then reposition the signs. This should take 6 weeks and 1 month respectively; and (3) the damage caused by tree roots in Saughtonhall Drive will be repaired before the road re-opens. Cllr Douglas reported that he was to have a meeting with P Keggie and his supervisor the following day. He understood that they were recruiting to replace two members of staff and were prioritising urgent matters.

4.2 Both Councillors had attended the second meeting of the North West Locality Committee in the City Chambers last week. Questions remain about its authority. Its purpose is to devolve Council funds to the locality and the authority of Councillors is required for this. The failure to invite the relevant Community Councils to the meeting was regrettable given that one of the main aims of the Localities is community engagement. There is discussion about whether the meetings should be held in the City Chambers, in which case webcasting is compulsory, or in a local venue. The latter would make webcasting more expensive. Cllr Douglas agreed that the current rules for the conduct of meetings, which do not allow participation from the gallery/floor, are not helpful to community participation.

Cllr Gloyer added that the Convenor of the North West Locality Committee is keen to allow Community Council representatives to speak at meetings. They would have to sit at the table in order for webcasting to be possible. It was arguable that meetings in the City Chambers may be more accessible than those held in a more remote location. Webcasting does allow the proceedings to be viewed at times convenient to individuals.

In answer to a question from the Chairman Cllr Gloyer confirmed that the Neighbourhood Partnerships are statutory bodies which will continue to exist (and interact with the Locality Committees) unless and until the Council votes to disband them.

4.3. Cllr Douglas reported that the Council is installing 36 benches along the North Edinburgh path network. Concerns have been expressed about the benches encouraging loitering and anti-social behaviour. A map of the proposed locations is on the Council website. **Cllr Douglas undertook to email the map to the Secretary.**

4.4 Cllr Gloyer stated that she had contacted the Planning Officer about the application for redevelopment of the former Tor Nursing Home on Corstorphine Road and asked that the Planning Committee consider the application and carry out a site visit. She had not received a response. The Secretary confirmed that the Planning Portal still shows the application as “awaiting assessment”.

4.5 Cllr Gloyer reported that the Culture and Communities Committee is setting up a Graffiti Working Group to tackle the problem at source by, for example, working with schools. The Group’s first meeting should take place in a couple of weeks.

4.6 A report on winter maintenance is to be submitted to the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee to be held on 17 May 2018 and will be available on the Council website on 4 May 2018. Cllr Gloyer felt that winter maintenance should be the responsibility of the Locality Committees.

4.7 Cllr Gloyer reported that during a three month trial of road markings for bicycles in Roseburn Park two incidents of cyclists swearing at and threatening pedestrians had been reported. A member of the public who walks his dog in Roseburn Park every day confirmed that such incidents are a daily occurrence. Cllr Gloyer asked that such incidents be reported to her. P Gregson said that the Friends of Roseburn Park would also like to know about them. The same member of the public asked whether the Water of Leith walkway is a cycle path as well as a walkway and was told by P Gregson that it is. It was felt that the removal of the SLOW sign and the installation of markings for cyclists in Roseburn Park may give the impression that cyclists have priority.

R McMeddes stated that it is an offence for a bicycle shop to sell a bike without a bell, but it is not a requirement that a cyclist keeps a bell on a bike. He also

reported that the North Edinburgh Railway Path network is trialling courtesy signs asking all users to respect each other. If successful, such signs should be rolled out elsewhere.

The Chairman commented that the Council's decision to drop the proposal to change the secondary school for Roseburn Primary School from Craigmount to Tynecastle was in line with current policy on the 4 new localities. Cllr Gloyer said that the decision might be re-visited at a later date. She pointed out that other schools have catchment areas which span 2 localities.

R Beavis asked about the rumour that a "mini stadium" might be built at BT Murrayfield on the practice pitches on the west side. Cllr Douglas said that there is a proposal that Edinburgh Rugby move back into BT Murrayfield, but this is at a very early stage. He and Cllr Gloyer had met with Edinburgh Rugby. He reassured R Beavis that there would be consultation with the community via MCC about this proposal. In response to a comment from P Gregson Cllr Gloyer said that Edinburgh Rugby would not be displacing Murrayfield Wanderers. H Ross said that he had met with Wanderers and understood that while Wanderers had not been told by the SRU that they were being displaced from the training pitches or pavilion by Edinburgh Rugby, they nonetheless thought the Edinburgh Rugby move diminished the prospects of Wanderers' lease running on for a second year beyond its termination. He understood that SRU determination on the latter was awaited and imminent. Cllr Gloyer said that it would be beneficial for the two clubs to speak to each other. She understood that Edinburgh Rugby's plans did not affect Wanderers' facilities. P Gregson asked whether the Council could arrange a meeting with both clubs and the SRU. He explained that the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") are under pressure to accommodate Wanderers' plans for a new building in Roseburn Park, which would result in a loss of amenity. The Councillors felt that such a meeting was down to the SRU, not CEC. **Cllr Douglas undertook to contact the SRU.**

The Chairman intimated that Wanderers' AGM will be held on 24 May 2018 and asked whether the desired meeting could take place before then. H Ross said the relevance of 24 May was simply that Wanderers would be taking internal decisions at that time, it being their AGM.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 27 February 2018 and Matters Arising

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: M Stevens.

S Holland reported that at the last meeting between the SRU and local residents the residents had been told that an audience of 55,000 ranging in age from the late 20s to the 70s is expected for the Rolling Stones concert at BT Murrayfield on 9 June 2018. Part of the stadium will be opened at 2pm and the rest at 4pm. The support acts will begin at 5pm and it is anticipated that the concert will end between 10.30 and 10.45pm. Setting up for the concert, including sound checks, will be done in the week beginning 2 June. Local residents will be informed of the arrangements by a letter drop in the week beginning 14 May.

6. CCWEL Traffic Regulation Orders

Rurighd McMeddes, City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street Improvements Project ("CCWEL") Stakeholder Liaison Officer, distributed handouts about the public consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Orders which are required to implement the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL and reminded the

meeting that the consultation ends on 18 May 2018. He reported that objections and letters of support had been coming in since the consultation opened on 20 April. The Transport and Environment Committee will decide what happens next at its meeting on 20 June. Cllr Gloyer confirmed that that meeting will be open to the public and proceedings will be webcast.

R McMeddes then went over the changes to the design which had been made since the original public consultation in 2015 and summarised the current proposals. There was some discussion about the proposal to relocate the bins which are currently on the north side of the Old Coltbridge to the area adjoining the gable end of the laundrette building at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue. RMcMeddes admitted that this decision had been taken without adequate consultation with the affected residents and was now being reconsidered. There are two options being considered - to relocate the bins there but further out from the gable end or to leave them roughly where they are. R McMeddes confirmed that the bins are for use by the residents of Coltbridge Terrace and Murrayfield Place.

P Gregson asked how many parking and loading spaces would be lost if the current proposals were implemented and was told that this information would be in the report to be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee. RMcMeddes stated that not many spaces would be lost in Murrayfield Avenue and Murrayfield Place and there would be an increase in short stay parking in Roseburn. There was to be no change to the parking in Roseburn Gardens. There was much discussion about parking and loading and the enforcement of restrictions.

R McMeddes reassured the meeting that similar changes to parking and loading in other towns had had a beneficial effect on retail activity in those places. He also confirmed that predicted traffic flows had been extensively modelled and the proposed changes were expected to increase journey times by about one minute. A member of the public pointed out that in addition to the dedicated cycle track the designs also showed shaded areas for cyclists on the road itself.

A disabled member of the public complained about the loss of loading bays outside the optician's, dentist's and hairdresser's premises.

In answer to a question from RSmart RMcMeddes confirmed that the pavements are to be widened by between one and two feet along the length of Roseburn Terrace.

R McMeddes also stated that the traffic lights at either end of Roseburn Terrace are to be synchronised so that the standing time of cars in the Roseburn Terrace canyon is minimised. This may have the effect of increasing waiting times at the crossings. He confirmed that the changes in traffic will be monitored both 6 and 12 months after the introduction of the cycle track; the baseline data will be collected in the autumn of 2018; and, if the cycle track gets the go ahead, construction will begin in autumn 2019.

H Whaley drew the attention of the meeting to a set of the TRO drawings which the Roseburn Cycle Route Support Group had annotated to assist understanding of them and which could be found on the Group's website – www.roseburncycleroute.org.uk.

The Chairman confirmed that MCC would hold a private meeting to formulate their response to the draft TROs.

7. Rejuvenating Roseburn

R McMeddes reported that work on the designs for the Rejuvenating Roseburn project continues. There will be a public consultation on the final proposals before

the end of May and it will run for 6 weeks. He referred to two ideas which had arisen from views expressed during the earlier consultations and drop in sessions. The railings on the east side of the Old Coltbridge could be dipped in the middle to improve the view of the Water of Leith. A viewing platform could be installed on the west bank of the Water of Leith near the electricity sub-station. Local architect, Iain Gaul, had provided a preliminary design on a *pro bono* basis and incorporated it in a short video, which R McMeddes showed to the meeting. R McMeddes confirmed that the proposed platform had not been costed, but the architect thought that it would not be too expensive. R McMeddes cautioned that the Council could not deliver all of these improvements, but if MCC supported them, the Council would work with MCC to identify sources of funding.

The Chairman asked about the fate of the air raid shelter.

8. Roseburn Park update

H Ross reported as follows:-

8.1 He had met with Murrayfield Wanderers and understood that in their recent quietness they had been awaiting decisions: from the SRU about any run-on to their lease and/or continued use of training pitches; from other local providers about training facilities; from Edinburgh Leisure about leasing the Roseburn Park west pitches for games and the use of the current pavilion changing facilities; and from their prospective funders about whether their bids were successful. These decisions were imminent and they would then present their plans internally to their AGM on 24 May. H Ross estimated that Edinburgh Leisure would re-establish a lease for the pitches on the west side of the Park and that one or two rugby pitches would be used there for weekend games in the coming season. And that subject to positive news about their grant applications, a planning application for a clubhouse was also likely to appear over the summer.

8.2 FoRP had painted over some of the graffiti in the centre of the Park using MCC's graffiti removal equipment;

8.3 The carved tree bench, part-funded by MCC, was complete and was being dried prior to oiling, would be ready in a fortnight, and would be installed by the Council's contractors at some point thereafter;

8.4 Contractors to build the new play park had been appointed and were expected to start imminently. A member of the public asked if there was any additional parking provision following the re-siting of the play park and H Ross said there was not.

A member of the public asked about gate access for maintenance to a fenced, grassed area at the northeast corner outside the Park. P Gregson said that FoRP had asked for a gate there, and had been advocating for a whole list of other things following completion of the flood works.

9. Update on winter maintenance of roads, pavements and cycle ways

This had been dealt with at Item 4.6.

10. Planning and Licensing (including the Tor and 33 Pinkhill)

10.1 R Smart had nothing to report on the planning applications for redevelopment of the former Tor nursing home and the office building at 33 Pinkhill for housing. He was aware that Cllr Douglas is supporting the residents of Pinkhill who oppose the latter application. Cllr Douglas confirmed that he is going to ask for the planning application to be called in for review and for the Planning Committee to decide if

a site visit is necessary. He hoped it would be possible for the residents to appear before the Committee and explain that they are not against all development, just this proposal which would increase the local population by about one third.

10.2 M Stevens informed the meeting that a planning application has been lodged for the conversion of Osborne House at the corner of Devon Place into a 150 bed hotel. The proposal involves building two 3 storey extensions and removing all parking and constitutes a major issue for the Donaldson Area Amenity Association. The developer has met with the Association, is to meet the West End Community Council and has requested a meeting with MCC.

10.3 The Secretary reported that she had received a request for information on how to contact South Beechwood Residents' Association. R Brown thought she might be able to find some contact details from several years ago.

10.4 A member of the public reported that he had just received notice of a planning application for the construction of a 3 or 4 storey building of 20 apartments at 37 Corstorphine Road.

11. Traffic and Transport

11.1 A member of the public who had earlier contacted MCC by email expressed her concern that residents of Roseburn are finding it increasingly difficult to park in Roseburn. She cited commuter parking, the increase in double yellow lines and the number of businesses which do not have customer parking. She had contacted the Council about extending the controlled parking zone to Roseburn and had been told that a survey conducted several years ago had shown no desire for this. The Council had told her that a review of parking in connection with the Murrayfield tram stop is to be conducted but she did not know whether there was going to be any public consultation on this. She asked for MCC's help in persuading the Council to look again at priority parking for residents in Roseburn. **Scott Douglas undertook to look into this and the Secretary said she would forward the relevant emails.**

11.2 A member of the public who sits on Roseburn Primary School's Parent Council said that the School had been accepted for the Safer Routes to School scheme, but participation was to be postponed until after completion of the CCWEL.

11.3 The Chairman mentioned that following a visit with R Beavis and S Holland to Haymarket Depot on 14 March 2018 at the invitation of ScotRail work was beginning on installation of a shore electrical supply which will remove the need for stationary high speed trains to keep their engines running and, consequently, reduce the noise from the Depot.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 Rosie Bell handed out a leaflet of a walking tour of Roseburn which she had compiled and asked for feedback on it. The Secretary confirmed that Anna Rowell of Sustrans had said that she could help in providing a better map for inclusion in the leaflet.

12.2 The Secretary reported that a video on the work of American-Canadian Jane Jacobs and her influence on urban design was to be shown in Murrayfield Parish Church Hall on 29 May 2018 at 6.30pm.

12.3 The secretary had received notice of a Spatial Quality workshop to be held in the City Chambers on 9 May 2018 between 6 and 8pm.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 26 June 2018

Subsequent meetings: 14 August, 9 October and 4 December 2018.

Minutes approved at meeting of 26 June 2018.

for approval