

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 10 October 2017 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 30 members of the public, PC Sam Davison, Callum Smith, Rurighd McMeddes and Anna Rowell, all City of Edinburgh Council,
Apologies: N Macdonald, H Ross, 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

The Chairman explained that the main item on the evening's Agenda was Item 6. The three representatives of the City Council would be holding a workshop to gather ideas for the improvement of the area comprising the Old Coltbridge, Murrayfield Place and the lower part of Murrayfield Avenue. It was hoped that the rest of the Agenda could be dealt with expeditiously to allow sufficient time for the workshop.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Sam Davison explained that his colleague, PC Julian Peukert, who had attended a number of MCC meetings in his capacity as a Community Policing Officer, had moved to the Drum Brae Hub. PC Sam Davison and PC Euan Sinclair remain with the local Community Policing team.

PC Davison reported that in the month of September the Police had received 130 calls. There had been two recorded break ins, one to a house and one to a garage. There had been no assaults or robberies, one incident of shoplifting and one theft of a bicycle. There had been a spike in thefts from cars which had been left unlocked.

The Chairman asked whether speed checks had been carried out in Ellersly Road, as requested at the last MCC meeting. PC Davison replied that this request had not been passed to him. He had, however, carried out speed checks in Roseburn Street, Murrayfield Road and Garscube Terrace. J Forbes requested that speed checks be carried out in Ellersly Road (at a time other than rush hour) before the next MCC meeting on 5 December.

The Chairman, P Gregson and a member of the public all spoke to a noticeable increase in graffiti in the Roseburn area, the most blatant

example of which was along a 15 metre stretch on the new flood defence wall in Roseburn Park.

PC Davison explained that it is difficult to trace the graffiti artists who usually operate alone. He urged members of the public to report any incidents as soon as possible.

P Gregson reported that the City Council had been asked to take action but do not normally do so unless the graffiti is racist.

The Chairman reported that H Ross had applied to the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) for a grant to buy a graffiti removal kit.

H Ross had also noticed that telecoms cabinets are often the target of the graffiti artists and had suggested that an inventory of the affected cabinets be passed to the telecoms companies to action.

PC Davison confirmed that BT does usually respond within 48 hours.

4. Councillor’s Report

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

4.1. The Locality Improvement Plans and the structure and governance of the new localities are still a work in progress. Community Councils have been asked for their input in the development of the Improvement Plans. The Council’s Culture and Communities Committee will consider the draft Improvement Plans at its next meeting in November. The Scottish Government has been told that its deadline for production of the Improvement Plans will not be met and it is hoped that there will be some flexibility on timing.

4.2. There has been some progress on dealing with weeds. The Council has kept on the additional temporary staff which it employs during the Festival and is to deploy them in cleaning out the cracks in roads where weeds grow and putting down weed killer.

Cllr Gloyer asked whether the two streets in Roseburn which had been mentioned at the last MCC meeting had now been sprayed. She was told by a local resident that they had been cleaned but not sprayed.

In response to a member of the public who asked about the type of weed killer to be used, Cllr Gloyer explained that the Council is trying to reduce its use of glyphosate weed killer and other aggressive chemicals as it has a duty of care to its staff. Glyphosates are no longer thought to be carcinogenic but are ineffective in wet weather.

In reply to a question from J Forbes **Cllr Gloyer** confirmed that she had twice emailed Peter Keggie at the Council about improvements to Ellersly Road but had received no response. She **undertook to escalate the enquiry.**

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received an email from a Julie Milne about the deplorable state of the Balgreen tram stop tunnel between the top of Baird Drive and the Pansy Walk entrance. She complained of graffiti, mould, flooding, smelly stagnant leaves, water running down walls, dog fouling and lights full of water and not working. He had passed her complaint to Cllr Frank Ross who had taken it up with Council officials. **The Chairman intended to add it as an item to the next MCC Agenda.**

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15 August 2017

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

Matters Arising

5.1. Heavy traffic on Saughtonhall Drive

Cllr Gloyer reported that she had raised this matter with the appropriate official but had received no response. She hoped that the imposition of the 20mph speed limit would make Saughtonhall Drive less attractive to heavy vehicles.

5.2. Tree policy - proposed removal of spruce at 16 Easter Belmont Road

J Forbes confirmed that he had lodged an objection on behalf of MCC.

He expressed concern that a pattern was emerging of disregard by the Planning Department for the preservation of trees in the Murrayfield Conservation Area. He cited two recent examples of planning applications which gave no details of what was proposed regarding the trees mentioned and for which permission had been granted before the expiry of the time limit for the lodging of objections. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to investigate.**

5.3. MCC website

The Chairman reported that H Ross had appointed a web designer to build the new website and S Holland confirmed that he had paid a deposit of £396 to the web designer. H Ross expected the website to be ready before the next MCC meeting on 5 December.

5.4. Graffiti removal kit

This had been dealt with at Item 3.

5.5. Barrowman

The Chairman stated that a barrowman for Roseburn remained a strongly held aspiration.

6. CCWEL progress and interaction with Roseburn Action Plan – City Council Workshop

The Chairman gave the floor to the three Council representatives involved in the City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street Improvements Project (“CCWEL”).

6.1 Callum Smith introduced himself as the Project Manager and referred to the work which had been done with MCC in December 2016 in relation to the Roseburn section of the cycle track. He was aware of the Roseburn Action Plan formulated by MCC and saw the CCWEL as an opportunity to see what the Council could deliver in the way of streetscape improvements.

C Smith confirmed that a large part of the scheme had been fixed last December. These aspects (parking, the route of the track, pavements etc) would be incorporated in a Traffic Regulation Order (“TRO”) or Orders which will be advertised in January 2018 after public engagement events. There will be an opportunity to comment on the TROs.

6.2 Anna Rowell introduced herself as a landscape architect employed by Sustrans but “embedded” in the Council. She referred to streetscape schemes which had been implemented in Dunblane and Kirkintilloch where there had been a lot of public consultation. Examples of what had been done in these locations were displayed on the walls for the MCC meeting to consider.

6.3 Rurighd McMeddes introduced himself as the CCWEL Stakeholder Liaison Officer and commented that he had already met a number of those present. He had introduced himself to the Roseburn businesses, private individuals and other interested parties. He repeated C Smith’s view that the CCWEL was an opportunity to provide significant improvements to the Old Coltbridge,

Murrayfield Place and the lower part of Murrayfield Avenue (“the area”) as part of the overall project.

R McMeddes announced that in addition to that evening’s workshop he and his colleagues would be holding a three day consultation with the children of Roseburn Primary School, indoor and outdoor public consultation events and a public exhibition of the resulting designs in December. He explained that he and his colleagues had pinned to the walls A1 printouts of the area showing the proposed changes under the CCWEL, aerial photos of the area as currently used and posters showing the types of street furniture, artwork and paving which had been used elsewhere and could be used in the project. He asked those present to add different coloured Post Its to the displays indicating what they liked and disliked about the current arrangement and making suggestions of what they would like to see in the way of improvements and new uses. Copies of a handout entitled “Rejuvenating Roseburn”, which included photos of what had been done in Dunblane and Kirkintilloch, were available.

After about 45 minutes R McMeddes drew the workshop to a close. He reported that while speaking to the contributors he had gathered that there were concerns about parking for customers of the businesses in Roseburn Terrace and Murrayfield Place. He informed the meeting that the CCWEL team is looking into creating further spaces in Murrayfield Avenue and altering some of the parking in the Maltings site to short stay parking.

P Gregson took issue with the statement made earlier by Callum Smith that the City Councillors had passed the current design of the road layout last December. He pointed out that the design which had been passed then provided for 12 parking spaces in Murrayfield Place whereas the current design had reduced the number to nine. This reduction had not been passed by the City Councillors and amounted to a decision on changes to the public realm without consultation.

The Chairman asked how the views and suggestions set out in the Post Its would be analysed.

R McMeddes replied that he would group them into themes and look into designs to implement them. There would then be public consultations on site in November which would be advertised via the MCC noticeboard and his mailing list. He would also take advice from MCC on other ways to consult more widely.

R McMeddes confirmed that any changes to the proposed road layout would have to be dealt with via the TRO process.

C Smith stated that, if there were a substantial number of objections to a TRO, the Transport and Environment Committee might decide that it should not go ahead.

H Whaley informed the meeting that Cllrs Gloyer and Douglas sit on that Committee.

7. Consultation on Low Emission Zones

The Chairman directed the meeting to the consultation on the Transport Scotland website on the establishment of Low Emission Zones. H Whaley added that it had just been announced that the first such zone was to be in Glasgow. The Chairman felt that it was important for MCC to feed in its views with regard to Edinburgh.

8. Ellersly Road streetscape project – “quick wins”

J Forbes confirmed that he had been no more successful than Cllr Gloyer in eliciting a response from P Keggie at the Council about the minor changes to Ellersly Road which had been identified during the walkabout on 15 August.

9. Friends of Roseburn Park AGM

P Gregson reported on the AGM of the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) held on 26 September as follows:-

9.1 There had been no change to the composition of the board.

9.2 Edinburgh Wanderers are seeking funds to enable them to improve the drainage of the rugby pitches. The Council and Edinburgh Leisure are not planning to re-let the west pitches in the winter after the flood prevention works are completed.

9.3 Planning permission has been granted for the toilet block/café project; two builders’ estimates have been obtained and one more is sought.

9.4 Four Winds have been commissioned to convert one of the felled trees into a seat for the Park. WENP has awarded a grant of £1000 towards the cost.

S Holland confirmed that he had paid over MCC s’ agreed contribution of £1000.

9.5 FoRP have objected to the Council’s proposed sale of approximately 100 square metres in the north east corner of the Park to adjacent residents.

9.6 The cycle-walk solution which was trialled in the centre of the Park awaits TROs as part of the wider scheme.

A number of members of the public spoke about ongoing drainage problems in the Park. Some suspected that boulder clay, which does not drain, had been used for infilling as part of the flood prevention works. They reported that a strange new drain has been installed on the north side of the Park, but the residents there are unhappy with the situation. It was agreed that **the Secretary would invite Darren Wraight of the Council to the next MCC meeting and copy in the local Councillors. The Secretary undertook to photograph the areas of ponding in the Park.**

A member of the public confirmed that neither Eleana Caldwell from the contractors nor Rob Leech of the Council is still connected with the flood prevention project.

In reply to a question from a member of the public P Gregson confirmed that Edinburgh Wanderers still have ambitions to build a clubhouse in Roseburn Park, but are now looking at the pavilion instead of the Armoury. FoRP have written to both Edinburgh Leisure and the Head of Parks, David Jamieson, to express their concern over the proposed increase in the use of the Park for sport.

10. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that recent planning applications comprised only a number of minor domestic applications.

The Chairman asked about the planning application for the redevelopment of a former office building at Pinkhill as a six storey block of flats, which had generated a number of objections. R Smart stated that he did not know the current position.

11. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman referred to the recent list of proposed TROs which included proposals for 24 hour parking restrictions and loading prohibitions at

Pinkhill, Roseburn Maltings and Roseburn Street, to which objections had to be lodged by 27 October. **The Secretary undertook to forward the emailed list of TROs to all MCC members.**

H Whaley suggested that the TROs could be published on MCC's website. The Secretary felt that the decision to do so would depend on the comments received.

The Chairman reported that former MCC member, E Robertson, had raised with him a concern that the proposed changes to Murrayfield Avenue as part of the CCWEL would result in an increase in speeding. It was felt that the imposition of the 20 mph speed limit would negate this concern.

A discussion on the effect of the 20 mph speed limit ensued. The general view was that in time it would result in improved driving.

The Chairman referred to the traffic jams which were being caused by the diversion on Haymarket Terrace necessitated by the replacement of the water main. Estimates of the duration of the work varied from eight weeks to nine months.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 The Chairman offered belated congratulations to M Stevens on receiving the honour of Commander of the Order of Bath for services to science in the 2017 New Year Honours List.

12.2 The Chairman reminded the meeting that 2017 is the Scottish Government's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and intimated that 2018 is to be the Year of Young People. He wondered whether anything could be gained for Roseburn Park from the latter.

12.3 The Secretary reported that there is an opportunity to hear some of the Councillors speaking about the CCWEL at Spokes' autumn meeting in the Augustine United Church on 9 November at 7.30pm.

12.4 R Brown reminded the meeting that MCC meeting dates for 2018 have yet to be fixed and undertook to liaise with the Secretary in arranging these.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 5 December 2017

Subsequent meetings: [] and] 2018.

Minutes approved at meeting of 5 December 2017.