

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 13 December 2022 at 7.30pm
on Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonagh, D MacLennan, S Macpherson, E Robertson,
M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Frank Ross,
In attendance: Paul Wakefield, CityFibre, Rurighd McMeddes, City of Edinburgh
Council, Scott Ritchie, Balfour Beatty, 7 members of the public,
Apologies: J Forbes, N Macdonald, 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 everyone to the last meeting of Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") in 2022. He relayed an urgent request for help from Tommy McLean of the Corstorphine Community Service Partnership, which has expanded its service to Murrayfield and Roseburn and is supporting 15 families with children at Roseburn Primary School ("RPS"). T McLean was looking for drivers to uplift packages from St Thomas's Church Hall, Gyle for delivery to RPS the following morning, Wednesday, 14 December.

2. CityFibre

The Chair introduced Paul Wakefield of CityFibre, who explained that City Fibre is a privately funded company formed in 2011, whose aim is to make full fibre broadband available to 8m homes and 800,000 businesses by 2025. CityFibre own and operate their broadband lines (which are fibre end to end and contain no copper) but CityFibre do not provide the service. The unique feature of CityFibre is open access. They have a contractual arrangement with an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") or a number of ISPs. In Edinburgh there are seven ISPs and, therefore, choice for the customer, albeit Vodafone has an exclusivity agreement with CityFibre for the initial 12 months.

P Wakefield described building the CityFibre network in Edinburgh as challenging and said that it is a struggle to find sufficient space under the pavements with all the other utilities. CityFibre have two build partners in Edinburgh, IMS (Scotland) and Glenevin Construction Limited, and also have 25-30 of their own staff involved full time on the project.

He acknowledged that the CityFibre build has attracted some negative press and that there is room for improvement. He explained that their activities are heavily regulated and their work is inspected by their own build assurance engineers and by the Council. CityFibre have funded one Council inspector and have offered to fund two more, but the Council is having difficulty recruiting. In reference to complaints from residents of repeated excavation of pavements he stated that CityFibre do collaborate with other utilities and have been liaising with Balfour Beatty in relation to the CCWEL works in Murrayfield and Roseburn and Morrisons in relation to the extension to the tram line in Leith. P Wakefield said that the CityFibre build has been completed in large parts of Murrayfield. They will return to complete some work once the CCWEL works have been completed.

In response to complaints about the standard of work and the debris which has been left behind in specific streets, **P Wakefield undertook to have Wester Coates and Ormidale Terrace inspected.**

In reply to a question from a resident of Ormidale Terrace who explained that the current BT cables are laid along the back of the building there, P Wakefield explained that CityFibre would run the cable from the pavement to a small black Toby box at the front of each property.

In reply to a question from M Stevens about the possibility of competing network providers coming together, P Wakefield explained that CityFibre sometimes share BT ducts, provided they are in good order, but are unlikely to compete with BT where the latter already has a dominant position.

The Chair asked about the best point of contact for future CityFibre enquiries. P Wakefield undertook to deal with any issues escalated to him. After the meeting he provided the following information:-

For general issues regarding construction, call **0800 083 6160** or fill in the online form. For service incidents and emergencies, call **0800 298 6267**.

3. CCWEL update

R McMeddes confirmed that the construction of the cycleway on Roseburn Terrace had been completed on 2 December and work is now progressing eastwards along West Coates.

S Ritchie reported that Balfour Beatty are still working in Murrayfield Place and the intention is to complete as much as possible to enable the barriers to be removed before Christmas. He added that the current exceptionally cold weather has caused delays. Work is ongoing on the A8 footway to the west of the Roseburn Christmas tree and along West Coates in front of Donaldson's. He is trying to get the lining contractor to amend that work schedule to complete the prioritisation at the Tesco junction of Russell Road over Roseburn Street before Christmas*. Delay in obtaining the necessary equipment means that the new pedestrian crossings there will not be installed until the New Year.

The Chair interjected that there was to be a site meeting with R McMeddes, PC Sam Davison, Cllrs Beal and Davidson and representatives of MCC to assess

the new arrangement at Roseburn Gardens on the following day, 14 December. D MacLennan then raised several issues, which were dealt with as follows:-

1. A number of the newly laid slabs on the raised part of the Copenhagen junction at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace are unstable and many are already cracked. Is this bad design or poor workmanship?

R Mc Meddes said that he is looking into the issue with Marshalls, the manufacturers, to ascertain whether there is an issue with the product or the deterioration has been caused by the heavy construction vehicles. The wobbling slabs will be re-laid and the cracked ones replaced. S Ritchie said Balfour Beatty hope to replace the cracked slabs before Christmas, weather permitting, but if not will install temporary steel plates and these will be inspected daily during the Christmas holiday. He will confirm the position on 23 December.

Balfour Beatty will not be working from close of business on 23 December to 9 am on 9 January.

2. The extended kerbs at the same location are still a problem, although temporarily marked by cones.

R McMeddes confirmed that there are no plans to change the kerb layout, the narrowing of the carriageway at this point being designed to slow traffic and made crossing easier for pedestrians. The extended kerbs will eventually be marked by permanent bollards.

In reply to questions from local residents R McMeddes confirmed that the right turn for eastbound traffic from Roseburn Terrace into Roseburn Street at Tesco will be reinstated at the same time as the road resurfacing and (if not done before Christmas)* the installation of new lines to prioritise Russell Road over Roseburn Street. The resurfacing will be done in January. The extended pavement at that end of Roseburn Street is not intended for parking, which will be inhibited by the installation of bollards and seating.

There will be a loading bay for lorries servicing the Roseburn Bar close by.

M Stevens pointed out that the traffic calming ramp on Roseburn Terrace is twice as high on the north side as on the south side.

R McMeddes confirmed that the bus stop on the north side of Roseburn Terrace will be reinstated once the road and footway resurfacing has been completed.

S Ritchie reported that he is liaising with JC Decaux regarding reinstatement of the bus shelter, which should be done in January.

Cllr Beal asked whether the long queues currently seen on Russell Road are being monitored. R McMeddes explained that the traffic light phasing has been altered slightly to prioritise the flow of traffic along West Coates. The changes at the Tesco junction detailed above should improve the situation but some queuing is to be expected.

In reply to comments from a Roseburn trader R McMeddes explained that the positioning of the temporary traffic lights on Roseburn Terrace is governed by legislation and cannot be altered, but he could look at the loading bay situation before Christmas.

S Ritchie confirmed that the position regarding the bin which had been removed from the south side of the Terrace had not changed – the original bin had been damaged when it was removed and the replacement which had been ordered had not yet arrived.

D MacLennan raised the following further points:-

1. The potholes on the north side of West Coates are so large that they need proper reinstatement and, in the meantime, a temporary repair.

R McMeddes explained that the road resurfacing will be done in January and access for temporary repairs is difficult, but he **undertook to have a look at the potholes.**

2. A number of the kerb stones on the newly laid footway and cycleway below the advertising hoardings are marked with white crosses which appear to indicate damage to the stones. S Ritchie confirmed that these kerb stones will be replaced.
3. The road surface at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace has been seriously damaged by Balfour Beatty's construction vehicles. S Ritchie confirmed that the surface will be repaired once Balfour Beatty have finished work in the spring or early summer of 2023.

In reply to a question from the Chair S Ritchie confirmed that all of the Short Stay Parking signage has been installed outside House of Hound and in Russell Road. One of the signs has gone missing but will be replaced.

M Stevens was told by S Ritchie that the new crossing on West Coates at the top of Stanhope Street will be installed at the end of January 2023.

The Chair referred to the Council's consideration of a proposal for compensation to the Roseburn Terrace traders of up to £3,000 each on certain conditions and noted that Murrayfield Place is not mentioned. He reported that a deputation led by Niall Menzies of Roseburn Shoe Repairs would be made to the full Council meeting to be held online on Thursday, 15 December at 10 am. Cllr Davidson informed the meeting that the Liberal Democrats' amendments to the Council's Report include Murrayfield Place.

In reply to a question from P Gregson about the traders' chances of success Cllr Ross cautioned that the Report is for noting only and does not require the Council to make a decision. It will be necessary to wait and see the consensus or otherwise on the amendments. Cllr Beal felt that the identification of a potential pot of money for compensation is a step forward.

The Chair raised the issue of the monitoring of the effect of the CCWEL, which is due to take place after 6, 12 and 24 months.

P Gregson made the following points:-

1. The baseline data was gathered during the Covid crisis and does not present a true view of the situation before the CCWEL works began, as many people were working from home at that time.

R McMeddes replied that this data is additional data required by SYSTRA, who will be carrying out the monitoring, and is only one element of the monitoring plan. There is an enormous amount of data from third parties which has already been collected at different times.

2. There is no data on the cycle count on Roseburn Terrace.
R McMeddes replied that there has been an automatic cycle counter on the A8 since 2014 and there are video surveys of the load share on Roseburn Terrace. The number of cyclists is only one element of the monitoring which will include business, household and pedestrian surveys.
3. There is no air quality monitoring. Air quality was at the legal maximum before the works began and is bound to become worse once the westbound traffic has been moved 3 metres closer to the buildings on the south side by the removal of the parking bays. The air monitoring device has been relocated behind the parked cars in the layby.
R McMeddes said that air quality monitoring data had already been collected. He was not aware of a change in the location of the device but **would speak to Environmental Health and consider a bespoke assessment.**

4. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8 November 2022 and Matters Arising
 - 4.1 The Chair referred to the Council's consultation hub and noted that there are currently six consultations including a new one about Edinburgh's cultural aspirations. B Knowles referred to one on Green Spaces in Council plans to take Edinburgh up to 2050:-
"Edinburgh's Thriving Greenspaces 2050: A Vision and Strategy for the City of Edinburgh Council's public greenspaces". This consultation runs until 31 December 2022.
 - 4.2 The Chair reported that the organiser of the Christmas events at Roseburn was very pleased with how they had gone so far. Forthcoming events are:-
15 December, 1.30-2.00pm Roseburn Primary P1 Nativity songs;
16 December, 1.30- 2.15pm St. George's Junior School Choir Carols; and
18 December, 4.00pm Church of the Good Shepherd Advent Service.
 - 4.3 There was no one present who could update the meeting on the recent concern over access for emergency vehicles during BT Murrayfield events.
 - 4.4 The Saughtonhall tree adoption scheme will now begin in Spring 2023.
 - 4.5 The request for a sign directing tram passengers alighting at the Murrayfield stop to the Ice Rink has been referred to Transport for Edinburgh.
 - 4.6 P Gregson pointed out that there had been no response to the letter which MCC had sent to Council Leader, Cammy Day, about Cllr Scott Arthur's exclusion of P Gregson from a meeting without any reason being given. **The Chair undertook to escalate this complaint to Chris Peggie at the Council.**

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

5. Roseburn Park
 - 5.1 The Chair addressed the issue for which the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") have been seeking a solution for several years, namely the dangerous "S" bend near the café (the former toilet block) where pedestrians and

cyclists are likely to collide. It is feared that the likelihood of an accident will be significantly increased once the café opens.

P Gregson explained that FoRP had sought funds from Sustrans to carry out a feasibility study of the three options – (1) separate cyclists and pedestrians with road markings, (2) divert cyclists round the back of the building or (3) install sleeping policemen. Sustrans had refused funding unless the Council committed to funding the outcome of the feasibility study and the Council had said they had no funds to do that.

Cllr Beal declared in favour of separating cyclists and pedestrians. P Gregson countered that surface markings already do this. He is in favour of sleeping policemen as a cost effective solution but H Whaley said that they raise the problem of disabled access.

The Chair asked whether the two new Councillors, Cllrs Beal and Davidson, could suggest a new approach to this issue. **Cllr Davidson said that he had contacted the Council's cycling team but had not received a reply and would chase them.** He warned that next year's budget cuts mean that funds are unlikely to be available.

5.2 B Knowles reported that the completion of the conversion of the former toilet block into a café has been delayed because the café contractor installed the wrong render on both the inside and outside of the building and it will all have to be replaced.

5.3 There have been two attempted break ins at the Armoury and a strong security grille has now been installed over the door.

5.4 Planting of the bulbs has been delayed by the recent cold weather.

6. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Davidson reported as follows:-

6.1 He and Cllr Beal are meeting the Council's Traffic Team next week to discuss the design of traffic calming measures for Kinellan and Ellersly Road and a number of other locations.

6.2 The first phase of the bin hub installations started on 12 December and the second phase is due to start on 9 January 2023. The glass recycling bin at the foot of Roseburn Cliff will not be adjacent to Pape's Cottages.

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

6.3 He has been working with the Police regarding parking on pavements in Belmont. The Chair referred to a recent report that the Council may introduce a complete ban on pavement parking in Edinburgh.

6.4 There have been problems with blocked culverts across his Ward.

The Chair reminded the meeting that Cllr Ross (who had had to leave the meeting by then) was keen for RPS to find someone to manage their landscape project.

7. Traffic and Transport

The Chair reported as follows:-

7.1 The Scottish Government has made available funding to develop bus prioritisation. He had submitted his personal view that bus lanes should operate all day and every day and understood that this view was supported by Cllr Scott Arthur's 7/7/7 campaign, which would be considered at next week's meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee.

7.2 Cllr Arthur has proposed an alternative route for the tram extension from Haymarket to Granton to go via the Dean Bridge and Orchard Brae, a route which presents significant structural challenges.

8. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes had circulated an update on planning matters by email prior to the meeting as follows:-

8.1 9 KINELLAN ROAD: Application 21/05580/FUL for a 14-home development on this ecologically sensitive site was REFUSED by the Planning Officer. Reasons included excessive density and scale for the West Murrayfield Conservation Area, damage to the wider townscape, loss of trees contrary to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), unacceptable flood risk and failure to make provision for affordable housing.

This is a very good result for the Murrayfield community as a whole. Through engagement of MCC with local residents, 61 objections were submitted. The imposition of a TPO following MCC's complaints of unauthorised tree removal was helpful to the case.

Two local residents expressed their gratitude to MCC and J Forbes, in particular, for their support in rejecting this application.

MCC will continue to watch for an appeal of the decision or a new revised application.

8.2 37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD: Status on planning portal still "unknown".

8.3 TELECOM INSTALLATION BY 11 SUCCOTH GARDENS: Status still "awaiting assessment". Cllr Beal added that it had not yet been referred to the Development Management Sub-Committee.

8.4 SIGNAGE AT TESCO EXTRA: The advertising consent for new signage does not constitute Listed Building Consent (LBC). The expected LBC application has now been filed (22/05955/LBC) and is open for public comments until 6 January 2023. J Forbes will review in the coming days.

8.5 13 RAVELSTON PARK: In accordance with its usual practice for householder developments MCC has not submitted an objection to a two-storey extension at this address in the Dean Conservation Area. The application (22/05474/FUL) has attracted 32 objections, including, it is believed, one from the Dean Village Association, who consider this to be "quite a significant development in a conservation area".

If the Planning Officer is minded to grant the application, MCC may consider submitting comments at the Committee stage.

8.6 "ECOHOUSE" PROPOSAL, SAUGHTONHALL AVENUE: An ambitious plan for development of a site adjacent to the Water of Leith floodwall at the end of Saughtonhall Avenue to provide a 2-storey "eco house" can be

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viewed on the Planning Portal at 22/06009/FUL. The application is open for public comments until 29 December 2022.

D Dawson added that the proposed house, while admirable in concept, is very close to the floodwall and is certainly no more than the minimum permitted distance of 15 metres away. He understands that the Water of Leith Conservation Trust has serious reservations about the proposal.

The Chair undertook to ask J Forbes to have a close look at the application.

9. Police Report

There was no update on the relocation of the speed camera on Glasgow Road requested by one of J McDonaugh's neighbours. **The Chair undertook to go back to PC Davison about this.**

10. Treasurer's Report

10.1 The Treasurer reported that there had been no income and no expenditure in the month of November, the balance in MCC's account remaining at £2,072.43. The anticipated expenditure for December is approximately £30 for costs associated with the Christmas tree at Roseburn.

10.2 P Gregson reported that he had received a favourable response from the Minister of Murrayfield Parish Church, Reverend Keith Graham, to the suggestion that a plaque commemorating John Lennon's association with Murrayfield be attached to the Church hall in Ormidale Terrace. The Chair expressed "surprise" given John Lennon's widely reported assertion that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ!

11. Social Engagement

D Dawson confirmed that he had put a database of local organisations and points of contact on MCC's website and had emailed everyone on the database to inform them of this and to invite them to put a link to the MCC website on their own. The response so far had been disappointing.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 D Dawson reported that he had received a request from a Saughtonhall resident that MCC install a noticeboard at the south end of Balgreen Tunnel on the border of the MCC area to raise awareness that MCC represents Saughtonhall and Glendevon. J McDonaugh asked him to provide a brief for them to discuss and look at funding.

12.2 P Gregson reminded the meeting that (1) the full Council meeting on 15 December at which the proposal for traders' compensation will be discussed will be webcast and (2) the FoRP disco will be held the same day.

12.3 P Gregson reported that the shopping event put on by the Roseburn traders on 8 December had been a success. He suggested that the final completion of the CCWEL works in Roseburn and Murrayfield next year be marked by a celebratory event.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 24 January 2023
Subsequent meeting: 7 March, 2023, both online.

Minutes approved at meeting of 24 January 2023.