

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 August 2018 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson,
S Holland, N Macdonald, R Smart, M Stevens, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 11 members of the public, PC Lesley Anne Brown, Rurighd
McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Steve Kerr, Corstorphine
Community Council,
Apologies: R Beavis, H Ross, H Whaley, 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 and invited Steve Kerr, Chair of Corstorphine Community Council, to make himself known to the meeting.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Lesley Anne Brown apologised for the absence of a Police representative from the previous MCC meeting on 26 June 2018.

PC Brown provided crime statistics for June and July, the principal of which related to thefts, house breaking and assaults. In June there had been 9 thefts, 3 housebreakings and 4 assaults and in July 18 thefts, 9 housebreakings and 4 assaults. Some of the house breakings had arisen from a lack of security, but others had involved forced entry. PC Brown reported that the thieves are targeting cash and jewellery. She reminded the meeting of the importance of basic security measures and offered home visits from the Police for advice on security.

A fight at the Roseburn Bar had resulted in a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

PC Brown was pleased to report that two persistent thieves had been detained and a curfew imposed on them.

The Police have been pursuing a number of initiatives under the Road Traffic legislation dealing with issues such as speeding, driving without a licence, driving without an MOT and failing to stop after an accident. They have been using Twitter to advertise their use of a speed gun with a view to reducing speeding in certain areas.

While there had been a reduction in bike thefts there had been an increase in thefts from motor vehicles.

One race crime had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

There had been a reduction in anti-social behaviour in part due to high visibility patrols on the cycle path and in Roseburn Park.

The Chairman raised two issues from the previous meeting. He asked whether PC Sinclair had ascertained whether the cost of removing graffiti applied by Hibs fans could be recovered from the Club. **PC Brown undertook to obtain a written answer.**

The Chairman asked for an assessment of the impact of the Rolling Stones concert at BT Murrayfield and PC Brown replied that it had caused no significant problems. The Secretary mentioned that on the day of the Hearts v Celtic match at Tynecastle the Tesco at Roseburn had closed early. S Holland thought that this measure was to prevent thefts from the front of the shop. **The Secretary** said she understood from the manager that the Police had ordered the closure because of concerns about the sale of alcohol. She also mentioned the problem of spectators urinating in public places and **proposed writing to Hearts Football Club to ask whether the Club would consider funding portaloos for match days.** Two Roseburn residents contributed to the discussion about such behaviour at both rugby and football matches.

J Forbes thanked the Police for continuing to monitor speeding on Ellersly Road and mentioned the outstanding request for additional 20mph roundels on the road. He pointed out that the data on motorists' conduct collected while high visibility Police are present is not necessarily accurate and he hoped such data would not affect any decision on the roundels.

4. Councillor's Report

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

4.1.1 She had put a question to the last full Council meeting about the lack of progress on both the "quick wins" and the long term improvements to Ellersly Road, the latter agreed at a walkabout, at which the Council and Living Streets were both represented, a year ago. She had received a discouraging response from the Transport Convener to the effect that the North West Roads Team had been prioritising road repairs and intended to action the outstanding "quick wins" over the summer. With regard to the long term improvements he had stated that further design time was required to assess feasibility and retrieve accident data.

J Forbes suggested rebooting the idea of a streetscape project making the improvement of Ellersly Road for pedestrians a priority.

The Secretary suggested that the Council should be more open about realistic timescales to avoid wasting other people's time and causing unnecessary anxiety.

4.1.2 Cllr Gloyer had emailed the Planning Officer in charge of the application for redevelopment of the former Tor nursing home at 30 Corstorphine Road to request that the application be considered by the Planning Committee and a site visit made. She had put the same request in respect of the planning application for redevelopment of 37 Corstorphine Road. In that case there had been so many objections that she was confident that the application would go to Committee.

4.1.3 Cllr Gloyer had no news regarding the planning application for 33 Pinkhill other than that its refusal had been appealed. S Kerr reported that John Kerr, who had been co-ordinating the objections, had kept Corstorphine Community Council up to date and had informed them of the name of the Reporter who will hear the appeal. Cllr Gloyer reminded the meeting that all objections to the original application will be put before the Reporter.

R Smart expressed satisfaction that the appeal will be heard by a Reporter rather than three Councillors.

4.1.4 The North West Locality Committee had held a meeting with the relevant Community Councils to discuss their interaction which she hoped had been useful. She repeated that the powers and workings of the Committee are still being developed. The next meeting of the Committee on 11 September 2018 will consider (1) an update of the Locality Improvement Plan, (2) looking more strategically at parking restrictions, and (3) the roads capital investment programme. The Committee will consider a report from the Transport Committee on the second and third issues, both of which she felt should receive input at Locality level.

4.1.5 The citywide roads repair programme does not contain much good news for Murrayfield, but some pavement repairs are scheduled.

A member of the public complained about the standard of some recent repairs in Roseburn.

4.2 The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting referred to at Item 4.1.4 at which a paper by Cllr Campbell on community planning and the interaction of the Locality Committee and Community Councils had been discussed. There was to be a further meeting on 30 August 2018. S Kerr added that there had been discussion about the shape of future Community Council involvement and he would like to see some finance and limited budgetary and decision making powers devolved to Community Councils.

4.3 In response to a question from a member of the public Cllr Gloyer stated that Lothian Buses are responsible for the display of information at bus stops, but the technology in use is quite old and there are plans to replace it with new displays inside the bus shelters. New equipment will also be required in the bus station.

The Chairman reported that he had emailed Ewan Kennedy at the Council to ask for the display at the eastbound bus stop on Roseburn Terrace, which had been out of action for two months, to be repaired.

The Secretary reported that First Bus use contactless payment and expressed surprise that Lothian Buses do not. Cllr Gloyer explained that Lothian Buses had trialled contactless payment on the airport buses, but had decided not to roll it out to the rest of the fleet because they had found it did not work well on a moving bus and the commission payable for the service made it uneconomic.

4.4 P Gregson thanked Cllr Gloyer for her support in putting a motion to the Transport Committee proposing that the cycle track plans be halted until the public hearing on some of the objections had been held. Her motion had been defeated.

4.5 S Kerr provided an update on the Scottish Government's plans for Low Emission Zones. He had had a meeting with Council officials and had gained the impression that the city centre option was the preferred one. He was unhappy with this because it would not address the fact that Corstorphine is the most polluted part of the city. Cllr Gloyer replied that no decision has yet been made. There is to be a public consultation on the proposals beginning on 28 September 2018. S Kerr said that Corstorphine Community Council will be submitting a robust response to the proposals and will share their response with MCC.

4.6 P Gregson urged Cllr Gloyer to suggest to Lothian Buses that they consider the carrying of bikes on the front of buses to enable cyclists from outside the city to undertake part of their journey by bike and part by bus. He quoted Seattle as an example of such a scheme. Cllr Gloyer replied that Lothian Buses would take the view that such a scheme is an operational matter and not one for Councillors.

A Anderson complained about the unfairness of the diesel surcharge on residents' parking permits. Cllr Gloyer explained that its aim was to equalise the cost to owners of petrol and diesel cars, which are equally polluting in different ways.

4.7 Several Roseburn residents complained about the increasing difficulty which they experience in trying to park in Roseburn. They were told by Cllr Gloyer that many areas of the city are demanding priority parking schemes, but the issue was looked at in Roseburn several years ago and will not be revisited in the foreseeable future.

There followed a discussion on how Council decisions are made and implemented. S Kerr was of the opinion that government by a cabinet overseen by committees was the best option and the one which had been used until it was abolished by the Liberal Democrat administration in 2007.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 26 June 2018

These were approved. Prop: J Forbes, Sec: S Holland.

6. Matters Arising

The Chairman asked Rosie Bell whether she had received any feedback on the draft of her walking guide to Roseburn and was told that she had spoken to the owner of Roseburn House about the photograph of that building which was to be used and had agreed that for reasons of security the front of the building would not be shown, only the view of the House from Roseburn Street..

7. CCWEL TROs, Toucan crossings and Rejuvenating Roseburn

Rurighd McMeddes, CCWEL Stakeholder Liaison Officer, reported as follows:-

7.1 CCWEL Roseburn to Haymarket section - There is to be a mandatory public hearing on those objections to the TRO which related to parking, loading bays and closing roads. An external Reporter has been appointed. The Council will appoint a Programme Officer not connected with the CCWEL project to liaise between the objectors and the Reporter. A different process applies to the RSO, the objections to which will be considered by the Scottish Government in the form of Transport Scotland.

7.2 MCC's objections to both the TRO and the RSO requested that the design of the toucan crossings at Roseburn Terrace/Gardens and West Coates/Stanhope Street provide clarity as to the shared use of the crossings by pedestrians and cyclists. A meeting had been held with representatives of MCC and the Donaldson Area Amenity Association ("DAAA") and further work had been done on the designs. RMcMeddes displayed the original and reworked designs for both crossings and explained how the designs had been modified to allow for parallel areas of crossing designated separately for pedestrians and cyclists.

In the subsequent discussion on the Roseburn Terrace/Gardens crossing

R McMeddes confirmed that westbound traffic will still be able to turn left from Roseburn Terrace into Roseburn Gardens; there will be a zebra crossing at the top of Roseburn Gardens to enable pedestrians walking west to east to cross the cycle track; there will be an island (smaller than the current one) in the middle of the Terrace to prevent drivers from attempting a U turn at that point; and there will be a new "No Right Turn" sign facing the eastbound carriageway.

The Chairman asked about the pedestrian crossings at the Tesco/Roseburn Bar junction and was told that they would be pelican crossings – pedestrian stages on a signalised junction.

J Yellowlees and J Forbes reported that they had paid separate visits to the toucan crossing at Rankeillor Street to observe its operation. J Forbes made the point that the demographic of the Rankeillor Street population is different from that of the Roseburn and Stanhope Street residents, who are largely older, slower and to a degree infirm. His concern was more about the fear which such people have about sharing a crossing with cyclists rather than the actual risk of accidents. He and J Yellowlees had both noticed that where there was a right angled bend in the pavement or cycle track both pedestrians and cyclists cut across the corner. J Forbes noted that there will be a blind spot at the top of Roseburn Gardens which will make such behaviour dangerous. R McMeddes replied that the pedestrian crossing will be delineated with studs and the cycle crossing with “elephant’s footprints” (large white squares).

In response to a suggestion that different coloured road surfaces could be used R McMeddes explained that different materials are required for this as a coloured layer on top of tarmac wears off.

M Stevens of DAAA welcomed the Council’s willingness to revisit the design of the crossings. While he was still not happy with the revised proposal for Stanhope Street, it was nonetheless an improvement on the previous proposal.

7.3 Rejuvenating Roseburn – The final stage of public consultation will take place in the autumn. The Council has appointed an external team to prepare the streetscape design and construction drawings.

In response to a question from A Anderson R McMeddes confirmed that the Council is aware of the location of the utilities.

P Gregson expressed the view that the Reporter’s decision should be awaited before money is spent on design. R McMeddes replied that amendments could be made after the decision, if required.

J Yellowlees was pleased that the original design of the lighting on the north side of the Old Bridge can be replicated. R McMeddes intimated that his team are still trying to find out where the original light on the south side was located.

8. Murrayfield Wanderers

P Gregson reminded the meeting that Murrayfield Wanderers are going to be homeless in two weeks’ time. In his view they have been pushed out of their facilities on the back pitches at BT Murrayfield by the SRU to enable Edinburgh Rugby to build a mini stadium there.

He reported that a recent newspaper article had stated that Wanderers were to work with the Friends of Roseburn Park (“FoRP”) to build a clubhouse in the Park. As FoRP are in fact opposed to this proposal, he had written an article himself refuting this statement and published it on FoRP’s Facebook page. This had provoked a storm of invective against him. Wanderers now see FoRP as obstructive.

P Gregson hoped to involve Ruth Davidson, MSP in the issue on the basis that in removing Wanderers the SRU are withdrawing support from grass roots rugby and misusing public funds.

9. Other Roseburn Park issues

P Gregson reported that:-

9.1 The carved log bench will be inaugurated by the Lord Provost on 25 August 2018 at 10am and all are welcome to attend the ceremony.

9.2 FoRP are holding a Bake Off and Daft Games event on Sunday, 2 September 2018 from 2 to 4pm. There will be a raffle with excellent prizes from many of the local businesses.

9.3 FoRP are trying to get Fields in Trust status for Roseburn Park as it would provide some protection from development for the Park. He intimated that Cllr Gloyer had offered her support, but Cllrs Douglas and Ross were non-committal. He asked for MCC's support. **The Secretary requested that he email her written details of what the bid and status involve so that MCC can take a decision before the next meeting on 9 October 2018.**

There followed a discussion with several Roseburn residents on whether a two storey clubhouse with an alcohol licence would be a suitable addition to the Park. The question of whether the Council has the right to sell common good land was raised.

9.4 FoRP will hold their AGM in Murrayfield Parish Church Hall on 12 September 2018 at 7.30pm. H Ross will be standing down as Treasurer and will be a great loss to FoRP, who would welcome applicants for the post of Treasurer and new ordinary members.

9.5 The graffiti removal kit had been used to good effect on the service box at the entrance to the Park.

9.6 The new play park on the west side of the Park is to be completed by 18 October 2018. It will be suitable for children up to the age of twelve.

9.7 A public consultation had resulted in a proposal to install outdoor gym equipment in the old play park and FoRP had been liaising with the Council about this. An objection had been lodged by a resident of Roseburn Court. FoRP wish to put in a bid for money from the Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP").

9.8 FoRP have been unable to find a builder who is willing to undertake the redevelopment of the toilet block. A local resident has expressed an interest in buying it and converting it into a café. FoRP have withdrawn their interest in it and are trying to persuade the Council to sell it.

A Roseburn resident expressed her opinion that this proposal is no better than the proposal for Wanderers to build a clubhouse in the Park and raises the same issue as to whether the Council has the right to sell the land. P Gregson disagreed and felt that the café proposal, which would include a condition to maintain a public toilet, was materially different.

10. Planning

10.1 M Stevens reported that DAAA had lodged an objection to the planning application for the conversion of Osborne House into a 157 bed licensed hotel on the grounds that (1) parking provision is to be reduced to almost nothing, thereby exacerbating the existing problems caused by overflow parking from the Apex Hotel; (2) the height is to be increased by at least one floor, thereby impacting the privacy of adjoining houses and gardens; (3) outdoor dining and drinking will have a similar impact and (4) large delivery lorries will have to use Devon Place and Stanhope Street, which are already declared to be unsuitable for HGVs.

He thanked MCC, and J Forbes in particular, for their support in lodging a similar objection and noted that there had been more than 50 objections in total.

M Stevens reported that he was to meet Ruth Davidson, MSP the following day to discuss the proposal.

J Forbes asked what approaches had been made to the Councillors in the City Centre Ward and was told that they had been contacted and had indicated their support. The West End Community Council had also been contacted by DAAA, but there had been no response from them. It was reported that their Chairman had stood down.

10.2 Pansy Walk – The Chairman reported that MCC had written to the local Councillors to support the idea of converting the site used for the tram project back to allotments rather than changing its use to housing. The Chairman noted that the site no longer contains tram related materials. R Smart repeated the view that the site is unsuitable for housing because of the regular noise from the adjacent railway line and school.

10.3 Trees – J Forbes reported that he had made representations on behalf of MCC to the Planning Department about a large mature lime tree in the West Murrayfield Conservation Area which was under threat because its roots had been damaged by development work on the adjoining site. Cllr Frank Ross had supported MCC's view and had asked the Planning Department about enforcement action against the developer, but the Planning Officer, who is an arboriculturist, had decided that the tree should be felled. J Forbes confirmed that the Planning Department has no power to require the developer to plant a replacement. It was decided that, nevertheless, **J Forbes should write on behalf of MCC to request that a replacement tree be planted.**

11. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman was pleased to report that Scottish Water had completed their works on Haymarket Terrace. Cllr Gloyer intimated that further works will be started by Scottish Gas at Roseburn shortly and at Haymarket in September.

12. Any Other Competent Business and Questions from the Floor

12.1 A Anderson and others complained about missed bin collections and the failure to empty overflowing bins in Roseburn Park. Cllr Gloyer agreed that the refuse collection service is unsatisfactory. She informed the meeting that normal refuse lorries cannot access the city's parks and the bins are to be moved to locations outside the parks. It was agreed that this would require members of the public to be more responsible about the disposal of litter.

The Secretary referred to the Rapid Response Team which is deployed to deal with litter at and after major public events. She asked whether there is a minimum number of spectators required before deployment is authorised. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to find out.**

12.2 **The Secretary** informed the meeting that the deadline for spending the grant from WENP for a new MCC noticeboard at Roseburn was about to expire and she **would ask for an extension. She would also email the Community Councillors details of the various options so that a decision could be made.**

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 October 2018

Subsequent meetings: 4 December 2018.

Minutes approved at meeting of 9 October 2018.