

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 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, B Knowles, N Macdonald, R Smart, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 32 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Miles Thompson, Aecom,
Apologies: 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, Apologies and Youth Representation

1.1 Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and mentioned that some items on the Agenda would be dealt with earlier to allow some members of the public to leave.

1.2 The Secretary reported that through Murrayfield Parish Church she had been in touch with a young person who is interested in joining MCC and hopes to attend the next meeting on 25 June 2019.

2. Community Policing Report

2.1 PC Euan Sinclair reported that in the month of April there had been 29 reported crimes – 4 house breakings, 5 thefts, 4 assaults, 2 crimes of disorder, 4 incidents of vandalism, 2 road traffic offences and 8 miscellaneous crimes. 10 crimes had been solved. These figures compared favourably with the figures for the same period last year. There were no reported hate crimes in the area in April.

The current priorities for the Police are house breakings, antisocial behaviour and road safety.

Two of the house breakings took place in the same communal stair in Roseburn Maltings. The front doors of the flats were forced and jewellery stolen. There was a further house breaking in Craigleith View and an attempted break in in Hampton Terrace. The culprit in the former has been caught.

The 4 assaults all related to a single incident of juveniles fighting on Corstorphine Hill.

The Police have been running a number of road traffic initiatives in the area and two drivers have been reported for driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.

2.2 At the last MCC meeting the Police were asked to investigate reports of performance cars speeding on Corstorphine Road. PC Sinclair explained that the speed gun had been out of operation but this matter would now receive attention.

All of the thefts related to motor vehicles. PC Sinclair reiterated the importance of removing all items of value from view and ensuring that vehicles are locked.

2.3 PC Sinclair reported that during the Easter holidays a large operation against antisocial behaviour had been mounted by officers from the Community Policing team, the plain clothes Licensing and Violence Reduction unit and the national Safer Communities task force. The issues which had been experienced in the past were greatly reduced, crime reporting was minimal and the feedback from the community had been very positive.

2.4 Operation Shut Out Scammers had seen the Police work with Trading Standards to target scammers. A number of drop-in clinics had been held. PC Sinclair urged anyone who sees anything suspicious to call the Police.

2.5 On 29 May 2019 the SRU will hold a meeting with local residents about the Spice Girls concert on 8 June. The Police hope to send a representative.

2.6 PC Sinclair referred to the vandalising between 29 and 30 April of the posters displayed on the Old Coltbridge as part of the Rejuvenating Roseburn consultation. His enquiries are ongoing. He urged anyone with information to contact him on 101 and quote the crime reference number CR/31245/19.

P Gregson reported that his bike had been stolen from outside the Chinese Embassy and asked PC Sinclair whether the Embassy would have any CCTV footage. He was advised to raise this query with the officer responsible for the case.

R Beavis reported that there had been a further break in to a top floor flat in Roseburn Maltings and the residents there no longer feel safe. He intimated that the residents are holding a meeting on 12 June 2019 at Beechwood Bowling Club and he requested that the Police send a representative.

2.7 The Chairman raised the issue of the march of Hibs fans along part of Corstorphine Road on 6 April 2019 at which green flares had been used. The march had caused considerable alarm among local residents. PC Sinclair's colleague explained that these marches are organised by the fans, not the Clubs, and are not cleared with the Police or the Council. Policing such marches is challenging, as the fans' human rights, including the right of free assembly, have to be considered. The Police have had meetings with the Council and Hibernian and Heart of Midlothian Football Clubs. The Green Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds encourages the Clubs to take responsibility for their fans' behaviour outside the stadiums. He thought that there might be a change of location as a result of the Murrayfield Hotel's banning of the marchers, who have been in the habit of congregating there.

A member of the public stated that on social media the Hibs fans say that they have made arrangements with the Police.

In answer to a question about whether the flares are dangerous the Police representative said that most just emit smoke, but some burn at a very high temperature.

R Beavis spoke about flares bouncing off the ground floor windows of the flats in Roseburn Maltings. He felt that, while the policing of Russell Road on match days had improved, the behaviour of fans at category A matches had deteriorated.

Another member of the public complained that the Murrayfield Bar has a licence from 9am to 1am seven days a week and the new owners have applied for variations to their licence to allow amplification of music and seasonal changes. She feared that the seasonal changes would be longer opening hours during the Festival. She felt that the Licensing Board does not listen to residents' concerns.

The Police representative confirmed that the Police are advisers to the Licensing Board and agreed to update MCC at a later meeting.

A Anderson reported that the licensing notice displayed outside the Murrayfield Bar does not comply with regulations and is not signed. The Police undertook to visit the premises with a Licensing Standards officer.

3. Scottish Gas works in Roseburn Terrace

Matt Ferguson of SGN advised the meeting that Scottish Gas would begin the replacement of a major gas main below Roseburn Terrace on 20 May 2019 and that the work would last 12 weeks. For the first 6 weeks the traffic will be managed with two way traffic lights from 6.30am to 6.30pm. The pedestrian crossings and bus stops will be moved. Parking will be at a premium. He had spoken to Tesco and Scotmid and was setting up a WhatsApp group for all the business owners. They were invited to provide their contact details at the meeting or at the Conservative Party office on Roseburn Terrace. An information session was to be held in the Dove Lounge at the Church Centre the following day. M Ferguson said that he expected there to be significant disruption for the first two days of work but the situation should improve once motorists find alternative routes.

H Whaley felt that it would be important to monitor bus lane compliance during the first two days and the Police undertook to look at that.

In answer to a question from P Gregson M Ferguson confirmed that SGN have a loss of business scheme and details are available on their website. Certain criteria have to be met.

A Anderson asked whether St George's School had been notified and **M Ferguson** said that he would be visiting the School the following day.

He intimated that the second 6 week phase would involve the removal of the two way lights and use of only one lane. SGN are under pressure to complete the works by the start of the Festival embargo on 27 July 2019. He **undertook to provide an update at the next MCC meeting on 25 June 2019.**

4. 37 Corstorphine Road, pop-up bar

The Chairman reported that Cllr Norman Work, the Convenor of the Licensing Board, had replied to his email about the procedures under which the licensing applications for the pop-up bar had been decided and had undertaken that the City Councillors would be informed of any future applications. The Chairman ascertained that no one at the meeting knew of any plans for future applications and confirmed that MCC would remain vigilant.

5. Emergency Motion to Transport & Environment Committee

P Gregson proposed that MCC put to the meeting of the Transport & Environment Committee on 16 May 2019 an emergency motion calling upon the Council to commission an independent study analysing the likely impact of the CCWEL on pollution in Roseburn Terrace. He showed the meeting a 7 minute video entitled "The Roseburn Plume" which referred to research by retired SEPA consultant, John Lamb, and forecast increased pollution on the south side of the Terrace as a result of the removal of loading and parking bays and the traffic being moved closer to the buildings on that side.

The meeting discussed the way in which emissions are measured in Roseburn Terrace and whether the measurements are accurate, whether the introduction of electric vehicles is leading to a downward trend in harmful emissions, the Council's proposals to introduce Low Emission Zones, the City Centre Transformation and whether the pollution caused by diesel engines at Haymarket Depot should be

included in the Roseburn Terrace issue. J Lamb, who was present at the meeting, expressed the view that activity at Haymarket Depot does not affect air quality in Roseburn Terrace.

Cllr Gloyer reported that she had forwarded J Lamb's report to the Convenor of the T&E Committee and had asked whether the Council had commissioned research on the effect of the CCWEL on pollution, but she had not yet received a reply. She **undertook to raise this question again in a public forum.**

A vote was taken. Two members of MCC abstained, 11 voted in favour of the emergency motion and **the Secretary undertook to communicate with the T&E Committee.**

Cllr Gloyer warned that for the motion to be heard at the T&E Committee meeting on 16 May, it would have to be ruled as urgent by the Convenor and the Convenor would not be willing to give such a ruling.

6. Roseburn Petitions

Cllr Douglas referred to two petitions lodged with the Council:-

1. The petition by George Rendall on behalf of the Roseburn Terrace traders and residents calling on the Council to commission independent research into the effect of the CCWEL on pollution in Roseburn Terrace – the wording has been amended twice at the Council's request, but the petition is currently classed by the Council as invalid, hence the emergency motion to the T&E Committee referred to above.
2. The petition by the Roseburn Terrace and Haymarket Terrace traders asking the Council to set up a compensation scheme to protect the traders against economic loss as a result of the CCWEL both during the construction phase and afterwards. This petition was heard by the T&E Committee on 5 March 2019. The Committee agreed that Council officers would meet with traders to discuss the options for supporting businesses through the construction period only, looking at the example of the recent promotional campaign to support businesses in Brighton Place.

Cllr Douglas reported that the traders had not yet been contacted by Council officers. R Ahluwalia-McMeddes apologised for this oversight and confirmed that the process of contacting the traders is now underway and there is plenty of time for consultation before construction begins.

The Chairman confirmed that he and George Rendall would present a further deputation to the T&E Committee at the meeting on 16 May 2019.

P Gregson, speaking on behalf of the Roseburn Vision group, advised the meeting that he was organising a rally in the quadrangle in front of the City Chambers prior to that meeting and hoped to interest the Evening News in reporting it. He was also launching an online pollution petition which would go live on 22 May 2019.

P Gregson intimated that there is to be a further meeting of the T&E Committee on 20 June 2019 and Cllr Douglas confirmed that the deadline for submission of motions for that meeting is 29 May 2019.

7. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gloyer reported as follows:-

7.1 At the meeting on 16 May 2019 the T&E Committee would receive two major reports:- (1) on the City Centre Transformation proposals, which if approved will go out to consultation, and (2) on the proposals to introduce Low Emission Zones,

starting with the City Centre and banning cars, buses and commercial vehicles, then widening the zone but banning only commercial vehicles from the outer ring. Cllr Gloyer stated that the Liberal Democrat Councillors fear that not including cars in the outer ring ban will lead motorists to try to park their cars in areas such as Roseburn and Corstorphine. The public consultation will run from 17 May to 4 July 2019.

7.2 Neighbourhood Networks are replacing the Neighbourhood Partnerships. The Locality Committees have been abolished. The new Networks will be very broad and include a large number of local organisations such as churches, arts groups, sports organisations and community councils. She feared that they would be rather unwieldy.

The Chairman confirmed that he would attend the inaugural meeting of the local Network on 22 May 2019. He was aware that some Community Councils were worried about dilution of their influence.

Cllr Douglas reported as follows:-

7.3 He and Cllr Gloyer had met a licensing official and local residents to discuss the pop-up bar at 37 Corstorphine Road and Cllr Work had been made aware of the strength of feeling that his delegated decisions had engendered. Cllr Douglas was confident that any similar licensing application would go to the Licensing Board.

7.4 The Evening News had reported the results of a survey of Edinburgh residents showing that Corstorphine and Murrayfield residents are the least satisfied as regards roads and pavements. The Chairman interjected that another survey showed them as the third most satisfied group of Edinburgh residents.

8. Traffic and Transport

8.1 Noise from Haymarket Depot – R Beavis spoke again about the problems which the residents of Roseburn Maltings are experiencing with unacceptably high levels of noise and air pollution from recently arrived high speed trains at Haymarket Depot which are parked in a siding with their engines running while they undergo cleaning and maintenance. The residents of the Maltings have raised this issue with the management team at the depot, the Head of Environment at ScotRail and the Scottish Transport Secretary, Michael Matheson MSP. They have also contacted the Council whose officers have been out three times to measure the noise level and have confirmed that it is unacceptably high. It is hoped that modifications to the depot will improve the situation.

R Beavis explained that the air pollution is caused not just by nitrogen dioxide but also by particulates and he had hoped that the monitoring which is being requested for Roseburn Terrace could have included Russell Road and Roseburn Street.

J Lamb suggested asking ScotRail to provide monitoring equipment outside the depot.

The Chairman intimated that the shore supply at the depot would start on 25 May 2019 and would deal with the noise issue but not the pollution.

R Beavis asked for the support of Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer. Cllr Gloyer explained that the Council's powers are limited and suggested that the solution lay with ScotRail, who should be asked to provide particulate monitors.

8.2 Ellersly Road – J Forbes informed the meeting that the proposed widening of the pavement on the north side of Ellersly Road by 1.8 metres would allow enough road width for pedestrian crossings at Guardianswood and the Murrayfield Road junction (“Ben’s crossing”). Cllr Gloyer said that there would be insufficient

room for buses to turn at Ben's crossing. It was possible that a crossing could be put across Murrayfield Road instead, but this was not a perfect solution. She was following this issue up with Dave Sinclair and the Road Safety team at the Council.

9. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

9.1 Osborne House appeal – The developer has appealed against the refusal of the first planning application. J Forbes and M Stevens will attend the site visit by the Reporter.

9.2 30 Corstorphine Road, the Tor appeal – The developer has appealed and MCC have submitted representations to the Reporter countering the developer's points. The Reporter has intimated that he will carry out a site inspection without inviting the objectors to attend.

J Forbes asked why the two site visits are not being dealt with in the same way and was told by Cllr Gloyer that it is up to the Reporter to decide how to proceed.

J Forbes undertook to request that MCC be allowed to attend the Tor site visit and Cllr Douglas offered to provide the reporter's email address.

9.3 9 Kinellan Road – The tree report is now on the planning portal having been submitted long after the deadline for comments on the planning application. **Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer confirmed that MCC's comments on the report should be made to the Case Officer and requested that they be sent a copy. J Forbes undertook to do this.**

A neighbouring owner referred to inconsistencies in the tree report, which was written in 2013, and concerns about the probity of the author, who had been sacked from her post for professional misconduct around that time. J Forbes agreed to touch on this in his comments on behalf of MCC.

R Smart pointed out that the owner of the site is the developer and the person who commissioned the report.

10. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2 April 2019

These were approved. Prop: M Stevens, Sec: J Forbes.

Any matters arising had been, or were being, dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

11. CCWEL, TROs, RSOs and Rejuvenating Roseburn consultation

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes reported as follows:-

11.1 TROs and RSOs – There was nothing new to report. The public hearing will take place towards the end of the summer.

11.2 Rejuvenating Roseburn consultation – The results of the consultation had been circulated to MCC and to everyone who had responded.

R Smart and B Knowles intimated that they had responded but had not received the results. **R Ahluwalia-McMeddes undertook to remedy this omission.**

M Thomson of Aecom went over the results of the consultation. 2000 leaflets had been distributed and 295 responses received, 74% of which were from the MCC area.

Taking only these responses, there was a clear majority in support of the overall proposals associated with Rejuvenating Roseburn;

A clear majority were of the opinion that this would enhance both Roseburn, and the Water of Leith;

There was a slim majority in support of the viewing platform and a clear polarisation of strong views on this matter, and;

In terms of the detailed design options there were clear majorities for:

- o Locating the bins at the bottom of Murrayfield Avenue
- o Constructing the large planter with curved walls
- o Installing a tree at the north end of the Old Coltbridge.

19 respondents said that they would be happy to help look after the planters.

A member of the public asked whether the responses had been analysed according to the age of the respondents and was told by town planner, Katie Britten, that they had not.

The Chairman read out an email from Helen Brown, the Manager of the Water of Leith Conservation Trust, in which she explained the Trust's reasons for objecting strongly to the viewing platform. R Beavis reported that he had also received an email from a Trust member in similar terms.

Those present expressed views both for and against the viewing platform. Vandalism, litter, antisocial behaviour, burglaries, visual impact and maintenance were sources of concern.

The meeting also discussed the changes to parking and the proposed locations of bins and new trees.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes confirmed that the CCWEL project team propose to continue to develop the designs for Rejuvenating Roseburn to be included as part of CCWEL Section 1. As regards the viewing platform, given that the results showed only a slim majority in favour, he asked for MCC's opinion on it.

The Chairman suggested, and it was decided, that MCC members would vote by email to the Secretary and she would inform R Ahluwalia-McMeddes of the result.

A member of the public asked whether it was certain that planning permission for the viewing platform would be granted and was told by M Thompson that the Conservation Officer at the Council had expressed no initial reservations.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm.

12. Roseburn Park

B Knowles of the Friends of Roseburn Park had hoped to inform the meeting of a public consultation on the proposed mural for the Armoury and to intimate that the Armoury has been listed (Category B) as a building of special historical or architectural interest.

13. Any Other Competent Business

There was no time for any other competent business.

14. Questions from the Floor

There was no time for further questions from the floor.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25 June 2019

Subsequent meetings: 13 August, 24 September, 5 November and 10 December 2019.

Minutes approved at meeting of 25 June 2019.