

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 19 February 2019 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, S Holland,
B Knowles, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
In attendance: 34 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, Alasdair Crawley,
Steven Sims Cavaliers Foundation, Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes,
City of Edinburgh Council, Miles Thompson, Aecom,
Apologies: A Anderson, N Macdonald, R Smart, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen
Doran, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, 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. The Chairman paid tribute to the late Bill Amcotts, who had served the community as a member of MCC for many years.

2. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair apologised for the absence of a Police representative from the last MCC meeting. He reported as follows:-

2.1 There had been 24 reported crimes in January - two housebreakings, one attempted house breaking, six thefts, four motor vehicle thefts, eight incidents of vandalism, one road traffic offence, one break-in to a motor vehicle and one miscellaneous offence.

On 27 January 2019 thieves had targeted two businesses on Roseburn Terrace, 3D Cakes and the Turkish barber. They had gained entry at the back of 3D Cakes, but had failed to gain entry to the barber's.

PC Sinclair urged continued vigilance regarding security and phoning the Police about anything suspicious.

He also pointed out that, although the number of incidents of vandalism seemed high, most were in fact related to a single incident in which a row of cars in Balbirnie Place had been targeted.

2.2 Careless and dangerous parking by parents at schools continues to be a problem and the Community Policing team are experiencing difficulty in responding to the increasing number of road traffic incidents.

PC Sinclair introduced Ben, a pupil at Stewarts Melville School, who had written to him to explain that the very busy junction at the foot of Murrayfield Road, which Ben has to cross every day on his walk to school, is dangerous. Ben asked for a zebra crossing to be installed. This request had been passed to Cllr Frank Ross and by him to Dave Sinclair at the Council.

2.3 PC Sinclair highlighted the fact that the theft of motor vehicles in the Ravelston and Murrayfield areas was often due to their being left unlocked. He reminded the meeting that leaving the engine running while waiting indoors for the car to defrost is not a good idea!

2.4 The mobile incident van would be running a drop-in session in Murrayfield Place on Thursday, 21 February between 3 and 3.45 pm and the Community Policing team runs drop-in sessions at Costa Coffee on St John's Road on the third Monday of every month.

2.5 The cut of £500,000 in Council funding to the Police is likely to affect the Community and Family Support services.

2.6 Plans are in place to deal with any civil unrest which might follow Brexit.

2.7 A road traffic accident at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue on 7 February in which a pedestrian had been injured had resulted in the driver being reported for careless driving.

The Chairman referred to the fact that three of the railway bridges in the local area are among the top ten most frequently struck by motor vehicles in Scotland and asked whether the Police could help with regard to the addition of barriers or signs. PC Sinclair replied that such measures are the Council's responsibility.

P Gregson asked how the request for a zebra crossing at the foot of Murrayfield Road could be progressed. PC Sinclair replied that initially Dave Sinclair would assess its feasibility. The Secretary suggested that Cllr Ross, having responded promptly to the initial request, should be kept informed

The meeting discussed the traffic island at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue, which has been hit by vehicles four times in the last two years, the need for an island at the foot of Ormidale Terrace near the bus stop and pedestrian safety in Ellersly and Kinellan Roads.

J Forbes confirmed that the feasibility study into pedestrian safety in Ellersly Road does not include Kinellan Road. PC Sinclair expressed the view that pavement widening would improve pedestrian safety and was requested by the Secretary to confirm this view by email.

P Gregson referred to the fact that the florist on Haymarket Terrace and eight others had been burgled around Valentine's Day.

A member of the public asked whether the special parking permits issued to the nurses and doctors at the medical practice near Riversdale Crescent entitled them to park there all day. PC Sinclair explained that the permits are supposed to make visiting patients easier. He confirmed that, if cars are parked dangerously or are causing an obstruction, the Police can act.

3. Councillors' Report, including waste collection, budget and locality issues

In the absence of any Councillors the Chairman commented that:-

3.1 the waste collection service had improved since Christmas;

3.2 the Council had received a harsher financial deal from the Scottish Government than expected and it looked as though funds would be reduced for Marketing Edinburgh, but might be augmented by a tourist tax;

3.3 the Locality Committees had been abolished and would not be missed; the Neighbourhood Partnerships are to be renamed Neighbourhood Networks.

4. DMSC hearing on 20 February 2019 about planning application for 30 Corstorphine Road (former Tor nursing home)

J Forbes reported that he would represent MCC at the hearing of the Development Management Sub-Committee ("DMSC") on 20 February at which the planning application for the redevelopment of the former Tor nursing home at 30 Corstorphine Road would be discussed. MCC had lodged an objection to the proposal on a number of grounds. J Forbes handed out a copy of the five minute

presentation which he had prepared for the hearing and went over the principal points. He added that Neil McKerrow would also speak at the hearing on behalf of the residents of Westerlea and would make additional points relating to amenity.

In answer to a question from a member of the public J Forbes confirmed that Cllrs Douglas, Gloyer and Ross all support MCC's stance.

The Chairman reiterated that MCC accepts that development is necessary but also wishes the essential character of the West Murrayfield Conservation Area to be protected.

5. Planning application for 9 Kinellan Road

J Forbes reported that since the last MCC meeting a planning application had been lodged for a sizeable residential development at 9 Kinellan Road. There was a strong feeling in the community that the development is undesirable. The deadline for comments was 22 February and 12 objections had so far been lodged. There had been no comments in support. He hoped that MCC would decide to lodge an objection.

J Forbes explained that the secluded site at 9 Kinellan Road has a small loch and many beautiful mature trees which contribute to air quality. It is an exceptional wildlife habitat. The proposal would involve filling in the loch and covering a large percentage of the site with concrete and asphalt. This would have an adverse effect on drainage. J Forbes and two members of the public whose properties adjoin the site spoke to the fact that a number of trees have already been felled without the requisite consent. The owner of 7 Kinellan Road reported that he had not received notification of the planning application.

J Forbes agreed that a number of items, which should have been included, were missing from the application. He felt that an audit of the natural environment should be required.

The owner of the property to the west of 9 Kinellan Road advised that she had contacted the Planning Department a number of times about tree felling and been told that nothing could be done. She had also consulted her solicitor about the fact that the drawings of the development showed a run-off for drainage crossing her land or communal land and had been told that such an arrangement would require the consent of the owner(s).

J Forbes handed out a list of bullet points to include in an objection and urged anyone concerned about the proposed development to lodge one.

A member of the public asked how many objections are required before a planning application is referred to the DMSC and was told by M Stevens that it is either 20 or 25.

6. Pop up bar at 37 Corstorphine Road for the Six Nations fixtures

The Chairman gave the floor to Alasdair Crawley, who introduced himself as the Chair Trustee of the Steven Sims Cavaliers Foundation. He explained that the charitable Foundation had been set up in memory of his friend, Steven Sims, who had been a Stewarts Melville pupil, a St Andrews University student and a keen rugby player and had died at the age of 23 from an undetected bleed in the brain. The Foundation has partnered with the SRU and Edinburgh University in initiatives relating to rugby injuries. He had seen an opportunity to raise funds by setting up a temporary bar in partnership with Malone's Bar on the vacant part of the site at 37 Corstorphine Road and had secured the owner's permission to proceed with this. The bar was to operate over the weekends of the Six Nations fixtures (home and

away), but the Foundation had failed to get temporary licences for the weekends of 2 and 9 February and the bar had not yet opened. A Crawley admitted that mistakes had been made in failing to communicate adequately with residents and MCC and in beginning the setting up of the bar before the licence applications had been heard. In response to concerns expressed by members of the public he confirmed that the opening of the bar on 28 February would be for a trial weekend for it to be assessed as to live music and opening on Sundays. All safety concerns had been covered off with the Police and the Council's Road Safety team. He said that the Foundation hoped that at the Licensing Committee meeting on 25 February the Foundation would be granted licences for the remaining Six Nations weekends and for the Edinburgh v Munster match on 30 March and he hoped that the local community would support the applications.

7.1 Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8 January 2019

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: H Barbour.

7.2 Matters Arising

7.2.1 *Airbnb*

The Chairman reported that the Scottish Government is looking to introduce appropriate powers for local authorities to enable them to deal with the problems associated with the increasing number of Airbnb lets.

7.2.2 *Match day residents' parking permits*

The resident of Stair Park who had raised the issue of residents' parking on match days at BT Murrayfield at the last MCC meeting, reported that she had attended a useful meeting with the SRU who had "passed the buck" to the Council. She had been impressed by the efficiency of the two Council officers who were dealing with the issue, but it might take two years for a scheme for residents' permits to be introduced

7.2.3 *Graffiti removal*

The Secretary reported that she had not yet been able to speak to the appropriate person at the Scottish Premier League about responsibility for the removal of graffiti resulting from the Hearts v Celtic football match held at BT Murrayfield.

7.2.4 *Ellersly Road*

The Secretary and J Forbes had been in touch with Cllr Ross and Dave Sinclair and Peter Keddie at the Council about the feasibility study for Ellersly Road and awaited news of its completion. J Forbes reported that the leaning wall was being demolished and would be reinstated.

7.2.5 *Traders' compensation scheme*

P Gregson reported that the petition which the Roseburn and Haymarket traders had submitted to the Council for a compensation scheme to cover any economic losses suffered as a result of the City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street Improvements project ("CCWEL") was now to be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee on 5 March, instead of 28 February. He urged supporters of the petition to write to their Councillors.

H Whaley pointed out that, while MCC supported the petition, it did not support the apocalyptic photos used by the petitioners on their poster or the emotive statements on their website.

S Holland countered with an expression of concern for the future of the local community and thanked P Gregson for his initiative in setting up the petition.

P Gregson intimated that he was unable to attend the meeting on 5 March and hoped that MCC would send a representative to speak in support of the traders' petition.

8. CCWEL TROs, RSOs and Rejuvenating Roseburn consultation

8.1 Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, CCWEL Stakeholder Liaison Officer, reported that the public hearing on objections to the parking and loading elements of the TRO and RSO for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL will be held in the summer of 2019. All those who lodged objections will be notified of the date.

8.2 R Ahluwalia-McMeddes introduced Myles Thompson, Landscape Architect with Aecom, the Engineering and Environmental Consultancy based at Haymarket appointed by the Council to develop and finalise the designs for Rejuvenating Roseburn. M Thompson enumerated the various specialists who will be involved in the project and went through the presentation which had been emailed to MCC members before the meeting.

He explained that since the last MCC meeting an ecological survey had been carried out which had identified otter activity under the main bridge and bat roost potential. A desktop geotechnical study and additional topographic survey of the area of proposed decking had been done and the Council's Trees and Woodlands Officer had been consulted regarding tree management and new planting.

Although the findings of the flood survey which had been done in 2003 did not take account of the effect of climate change since then, Aecom had concluded in consultation with the Council that flooding did not pose a risk.

The Chairman advised the meeting that, contrary to what some people believed, the decking proposal had not come from the architect, Iain Gaul, whose office is in Murrayfield Place. R Ahluwalia-McMeddes confirmed that Iain Gaul had merely offered *pro bono* assistance in providing drawings to take proposals from the public consultation forward.

M Thompson went over the various options for tree planting, paving and seating. He admitted that the underground utilities will cause difficulties.

The meeting discussed the pros and cons of the proposed decking/viewing platform.

M Thompson set out the timeline for public consultation on the project as follows:—
March 2019 – Aecom meeting with MCC to discuss the consultation documentation,

MCC public meeting on 2 April 2019 – Aecom to present detailed designs and launch consultation,

2 April to 7 May 2019 – public consultation available online,

MCC public meeting on 14 May 2019 – Aecom to report on consultation results.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, if the decking proposal meets with approval, MCC will be responsible for sourcing funding for it.

9. Roseburn Park issues, including award of funding for toilet block

B Knowles of the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") reported as follows:-

9.1 The stile giving access from Roseburn Crescent over the floodwall to the new playpark has been completed;

9.2 FoRP have used the funding which they were awarded to make the toilet block wind and watertight;

9.3 FoRP have obtained funding of £800 from the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership and the Parks Department to replace four damaged trees near the Ice Rink;

9.4 The Botanics have donated spruce trees to be planted between the toilet block and the pavilion;

9.5 The beech tree near the Roseburn Place entrance to the Park is diseased and has been crown pruned;

P Gregson reported that:-

9.6 FoRP need a JCB to install two boulders in the playpark;

9.7 They have applied for a grant of £2,500 to commission a mural on the Armoury of “squaddies on bikes”;

9.8 It is thought that the Armoury might achieve “B” listing; and

9.9 An application is to be made to Sustrans for funding to sort out the issues between pedestrians and cyclists in the Park.

10. Other Traffic and Transport issues

The Chairman reported as follows:-

10.1 The bus tracker at the eastbound bus stop at Roseburn has been repaired but shows only Lothian Buses’ services, as the other bus operators have installed new technology which is not compatible with it;

10.2 There has been some improvement in repairs to street lights; and

10.3 R Beavis wished to raise **the issue of nuisance from ScotRail’s Haymarket depot** and this **would be put on the agenda for the next MCC meeting.**

10.4 The Secretary reported that she had received notice of TROs for red lines around corners in Garscube Terrace, Succoth Gardens, Coltbridge Terrace and Upper Coltbridge Terrace and yellow lines in Balgreen Road.

11. Other Planning and Licensing issues, including trees policy and City Plan 2030

11.1 M Stevens reported that the developer of Osborne House has two more weeks within which to lodge an appeal against the refusal of planning permission and is expected to do so; The Donaldson Area Amenity Association had lodged a complaint about the way in which the planning application had been handled and M Stevens was to attend a meeting with the Senior Planning Officer later in the week.

11.2 J Forbes mentioned a new planning application for a granny annexe to the new house which has been built at the junction of Ellersly Road and Belmont Drive. Some of the neighbours are concerned about the proposal but he felt that MCC should not take a position on it unless it raised issues of concern to the community. There is no threat to trees.

11.3 P Gregson asked for **the agenda for the next MCC meeting to include the replacement of the trees outside the Murrayfield Medical Practice which were felled during the flood prevention works in Roseburn Park.**

11.4 The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting on the City Plan 2030 which he had expected to be a consultation but which had turned out to be an engagement.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 The Chairman reported that he was to attend a meeting about the review of the Community Council Scheme, one of the issues being how to attract a younger demographic. He suggested contacting the local Member of the Scottish Youth

Parliament. **The Secretary** reported that Murrayfield Parish Church has recently appointed a youth officer and she **undertook to contact the Church's youth officer and the MSYP to encourage the participation of two young people.**

P Gregson reminded the meeting that a further aim of the review of the Community Council Scheme is to include the creation of a complaints procedure.

12.2 The Secretary reported that she and R Brown had met the designer of MCC's new Roseburn noticeboard on site; he had issued an initial invoice which had been passed to the Treasurer and a risk assessment and method statement had been prepared. The Council is aware of the current position.

13. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public asked who is responsible for cutting back overhanging trees which block pavements. J Forbes recommended reporting the problem via the appropriate section of the Council's website. He said that the Council would issue a notice to the owner requiring the trees to be cut back and that this process was usually successful.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 2 April 2019

Subsequent meetings: 14 May (includes AGM), 25 June, 13 August, 24 September, 5 November and 10 December 2019.

Minutes approved at meeting of 2 April 2019.