

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 2 December 2014 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, J Forbes, V Forbes, S Holland,
D Huckle, N Macdonald, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 8 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair,
Apologies: G McLeod, E Robertson, P Sizeland, W Spence, Cllr Edie,
M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Cameron
Buchanan MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

3.1 PC Euan Sinclair informed the meeting that future Police briefings would follow a new format. He reported on the period from 1 to 30 November as follows:-

3.1.1 On the Murrayfield beat (Roseburn/Ravelston/Wester Coates) there had been 28 recorded crimes, four of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The majority of crimes involved theft from residential and business premises and theft of and from motor vehicles;

3.1.2 On the Corstorphine beat (Saughtonhall/Riversdale/Balgreen) there had been 33 reported crimes, eight of which had been solved and the culprits reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Again the majority of crimes involved theft or attempted theft. There had also been one incident of fire raising, five incidents of vandalism and five of threatening or abusive behaviour;

3.1.3 The Community Policing Team will seek to provide targeted patrols at relevant times to combat the theft of personal belongings from homes and vehicles;

3.2 In response to a question raised at the last Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") meeting about the number of tickets issued by the Police to persons caught cycling on pavements, PC Sinclair reported that since 1 April 2014 four tickets had been issued across the whole of Edinburgh Division and none had been issued in the Murrayfield area.

3.3 PC Sinclair informed the meeting that the Police had been contacted by the manager of the Nissan garage at 1 Corstorphine Road, who suspects that cars belonging to the garage, which have been parked in Murrayfield Gardens and have been damaged whilst there, have been targeted by residents who are unhappy about their presence. PC Sinclair confirmed that the cars are all taxed and insured and residents cannot prevent the garage from parking them on a public road. The manager is, however, aware of the pressure on parking spaces in Murrayfield Gardens and has asked that any resident who has an issue

with a particular car contact him, Andrew Oag, on 0131 278 3165. He will be carrying out a letter drop in the area giving residents these contact details.

3.4 PC Sinclair reminded the meeting that the reduction in the drink-driving limit, from 35 to 22 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, will come into force in Scotland on 5 December. He recommended that, as the effect of alcohol consumption varies from person to person, the only safe course of action is not to drink at all if driving. He also warned that drinkers may still be over the limit the morning after a night out.

3.5 PC Sinclair reminded the meeting that the local Community Policing Team can be contacted, in non-urgent cases, by phone on 101, by email to EdinburghCorstorphineMurrayfieldCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk or in person at Corstorphine Police Station.

A member of the public asked whether a driver who is stuck behind traffic waiting to turn right, can use the bus lane to avoid the queue. PC Sinclair was not sure that this was a Police matter. **Cllr Ross** confirmed that it is a Council matter and **undertook to report back after enquiry**.

D Huckle asked whether the Green Cross Code, which had been mentioned on television recently, was going to be reintroduced. PC Sinclair advised that the safety instructions in the Code are rehearsed with children when the Police visit schools, but the Code itself has not been re-introduced. He also confirmed that there has been no recent increase in the number of collisions involving pedestrians.

PC Sinclair asked that PC Madine be informed of the MCC meeting dates for 2015 so that she can arrange for a Police representative to attend.

4. Councillors' Report

4.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Edie had emailed him to confirm that, contrary to the rumour mentioned at the last MCC meeting, Lothian Buses have no plans to divert the airport bus via Queensferry Road.

4.2 Cllr Balfour reported that:-

4.2.1 Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme is on schedule for work to start in autumn 2015 after the gas pipe has been moved next summer. Positive discussions have been held with the SRU and it is hoped that an agreement will be finalised early in 2015.

4.2.2 A report on the results of the consultation on the extension of the 20mph speed limit will go to the Transport Committee on 13 January 2015. If any resident has a view on a particular proposal, he or she should let one of the three local City Councillors know and they will make representations accordingly. Cllr Balfour expressed the view that the speed limit on Ravelston Dykes should remain at 30mph.

4.2.3 A report on the results of the consultation on the extension of the Controlled Parking Zone ("CPZ") will also go to the Transport Committee on 13 January 2015. The report will be available on the Council's website on 6 January and the City Councillors should be notified of residents' views on the report.

4.2.4 As announced recently, Donaldson's College is to be re-developed jointly by CALA Evans Restoration Limited and City & Country Group. CALA have sold the building to City & Country, who will re-develop it as flats, and CALA will build townhouses on the land to the rear, which they are retaining. Nothing will be built in front of the building. It is hoped that planning permission will be granted in spring 2015 to allow work to begin on site in autumn 2015.

4.2.5 Work on the Kew Terrace site has been delayed pending resolution of a problem with ownership of an area of land to the rear of the site. The parties involved are in discussion and it is hoped the problem will be resolved soon.

4.3 Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.3.1 Comments on the extension of the CPZ to Murrayfield have been received from Roseburn residents, who are concerned that the parking issues currently affecting Murrayfield will be transferred to Roseburn. The relevant Council officers have been asked to keep an eye on Roseburn once the extension of the CPZ comes into force.

4.3.2 City & Country have “a fantastic track record” and he is confident that they will make an excellent job of re-developing Donaldson’s College.

4.3.4 A new contract for bus and tram stop advertising has now been signed and the installation of a bus shelter outside Haymarket Station is a priority. A temporary shelter will be installed first, the permanent one not being built until March 2015.

In reply to a member of the public who complained about the lack of a shelter in Shandwick Place, Cllr Ross informed him that a proposal to cantilever a cover off the buildings there is currently being considered.

4.3.5 Contrary to the comments made at the last MCC meeting, the Council’s Budget proposals for 2015/16 do not involve the closing of any Edinburgh Leisure facilities.

4.3.6 The Council has received more than 1500 responses to its online Budget consultation. A recent meeting chaired by the Editor of the Evening News had increased participation.

4.3.7 Cllr Ross informed the meeting that from the start of 2015 verbatim records of the proceedings of every Council committee will be available on the Council’s website.

4.4 With reference to the discussion on speed limits the Chairman invited J Forbes to put forward his proposals for the improvement of traffic and pedestrian safety in Ellersly Road. J Forbes talked the meeting through a handout showing a plan of Ellersly Road and detailing these proposals. He is in favour of the speed limit being reduced to 20mph. He reported that significant improvements have already been made to the north/south section of the road – the Council has made a beautiful job of fixing the narrow uneven pavement; attractive new street lights, which do not block the pavement, have been installed and the overhanging vegetation has been cut back. His proposals for the east/west section are as follows:-

4.4.1 painting double yellow lines on both sides of the road,

4.4.2 improving the pavement on the north side at the west end and widening the whole of the pavement to at least 1.8m to provide greater segregation of pedestrians from traffic,

4.4.3 relocating streetlights and bus stops at three locations from the kerb/middle of the pavement to positions adjacent to the wall,

4.4.4 installing a refuge island, as previously proposed, but in a different location, to the west of the foot of Kinellan Road.

J Forbes asked the Councillors about the current status of the proposal for a refuge island and **Cllr Balfour undertook to report to the next meeting on this point.**

Cllr Balfour explained that the sites formerly occupied by Capability Scotland and the Ellersly House Hotel are likely to give rise to planning applications for housing developments, which will necessitate a full traffic assessment.

That would be the time to raise the issues which concern him. J Forbes replied that he had raised these issues at the time of the planning application for the major residential development at the foot of Ellersly Road.

He reiterated his view that the speed limit in Ellersly Road should be reduced to 20 mph. He agreed with R Smart that Ravelston Dykes is an important route into the city centre and the current 30 mph speed limit should be retained, as there is excellent separation between pedestrians and traffic there.

A member of the public asked whether reducing the speed limit to 20 mph would reduce emissions and was told by Cllr Ross that results from elsewhere indicated that it would.

J Forbes and others expressed doubts about the enforcement of the 20mph limit. Cllr Ross explained that the thinking on enforcement is that, if there is a 30 mph speed limit, people drive at 35 mph and, if there is a 20 mph speed limit, they will drive at 25 mph.

4.5 R Smart raised the issue of street cleaning in the Murrayfield and Roseburn areas with specific reference to the seasonal problem of fallen leaves. Cllr Balfour reported that the removal of leaves had been carried out a few weeks ago. He appreciated that this job would have to be repeated.

G Douglas, the Chairman of Donaldson Area Amenity Association (“DAAA”), reminded the meeting that MCC asked for the reintroduction of a barrow beat in Murrayfield and Roseburn some time ago and that Cllr Edie has been trying to bring this about. DAAA has also made, and continues to pursue, this request and he urged MCC and local residents to do the same. **The MCC Chairman undertook to write to West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership (“WENP”) to repeat the request for a local barrow beat.**

Cllr Ross advised the meeting that the best way to report the need for street cleaning in a specific case is by phone to the Council, as recorded calls are directed straight to the street cleaning vehicles.

4.6 S Holland raised the issue of the waiting time at the traffic lights between Haymarket Terrace and Princes Street, which has been increased to accommodate the trams and causes tailbacks of traffic. He was advised by Cllrs Balfour and Ross that traffic signalling throughout the city is currently being re-appraised.

A member of the public commented on the re-introduction of belisha beacons to George Street. R Smart reported that he and G Douglas had attended a meeting of the Civic Forum at which the experiments, such as pedestrianisation and street cafes, which are being conducted in George Street until September 2015 had been discussed. He informed the meeting that on Saturday, 6 December 2014 there will be a display in the Assembly Rooms of the current proposals and the Council is keen to gauge public reaction to them.

5. Roseburn Action Plan

R Smart reported that he had met Margaret Laing of WENP to discuss the Roseburn Action Plan and she had taken steps to deal with a number of the points which he had raised. He was satisfied that most of the issues which had been raised regarding the area around Roseburn Old Bridge were being addressed. M Laing had asked a member of staff to look into the types of planter which are available. He had spoken to the owner of the nearby flower shop, who had indicated a willingness to maintain any planters which might be installed. He acknowledged that some local residents favour bollards over planters and a final decision is yet to be made.

He reported that M Laing wanted to participate in a walk around Roseburn with MCC representatives in the New Year and he would arrange a date. The Chairman suggested that it should be before the next MCC meeting in January.

The Chairman reported that M Laing had confirmed by email that progress was being made regarding stencils to prohibit cycling on pavements and delineation of cycle lanes. She had also reported that a new regime for the management of trade waste, which had been trialled in the High Street, is to be introduced across the city.

Two members of the public complained about the “A” boards on Roseburn Terrace, particularly the three outside the Murrayfield Bar. S Holland reminded the meeting that at the previous walkabout the WENP representative had undertaken to write to the owners of the “A” boards asking them to remove them and had said that, if that was not done, there would be legislation coming into force in September 2014 which would enable the Council to take enforcement action. G Douglas asked why this had not been done. Cllr Ross told the meeting that he had just emailed the relevant person at the Council asking for an update on this issue.

A member of the public suggested that the refuse bins at the foot of Roseburn Terrace should be concealed or moved. She was in favour of holding the relevant Council officials accountable for implementing the various works of improvement in the Action Plan according to an agreed timetable. Another resident proposed storing the said refuse bins in the recess behind the Bank of Scotland.

R Smart requested that M Laing be notified of the MCC meeting dates for 2015.

S Holland suggested that the next walkabout be conducted according to a pre-arranged agenda.

6. Flood Prevention Scheme

The Chairman reported that he and V Forbes had spoken to Cllr Lesley Hinds about the impact of the Phase 2 works on Roseburn Park. Cllr Hinds was satisfied that the damage caused by the works would be repaired naturally over time. V Forbes remained to be convinced. She was particularly concerned about the hole which was to be made in the wall at Roseburn Place and which was likely to destroy the two cherry trees adjacent to it. V Forbes confirmed that work on Phase 2 will start at Roseburn Crescent and Place in autumn 2015 and will reach the Park in spring 2016.

7. Outcome of 20mph speed limit consultation

This had been dealt with at Items 4.2.2 and 4.4.4.

8. Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice online survey

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to PC Sinclair about youth crime before the start of the meeting and had been told that it was not a serious issue for the local area. He **undertook to respond to the online survey.**

9. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 28 October 2014

These were approved. Prop: R Smart, Sec: V Forbes.

10. Matters Arising

10.1. *“No cycling” stencilling on pavements*

G Douglas reported that Dave Sinclair of WENP has been given a map showing the locations where DAAA consider that stencilling is required to prohibit cycling on pavements, but ultimately his team and the Council's environmental staff will decide on the locations.

10.2. *Corstorphine Hill access*

It was agreed that, as a response was awaited from Darren Wraight of WENP regarding the feasibility of a crossing, this matter would be left until the more urgent issues at Ellersly Road had been dealt with.

10.3. *Western Corner noticeboard*

J Forbes asked who was responsible for the noticeboard at Western Corner, which had recently been repaired but was displaying only one notice. He offered to assume responsibility for it. D Huckle replied that he held one key to the board and believed the other one was with Baillie Signs, who had carried out the repair.

11. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported as follows:-

11.1 He had lodged an objection on behalf of MCC to the planning application for a care home at South Beechwood Park. He expected the local residents to put up strong opposition to this proposal, which would have a serious impact on a quiet residential cul-de-sac.

11.2 He had been contacted by a neighbour about the planning application by the owner of 73 Murrayfield Gardens for a run-in from Campbell Avenue and had lodged an objection on behalf of MCC. He had no objection to the proposed alterations to the house at that address.

11.3 He had also been asked by a local resident to intervene regarding the McCarthy & Stone redevelopment of the Tower Nursing Home to try to get the new entrance moved, but he considered that this was unnecessary and could not be achieved, as planning permission had been granted.

N Macdonald and R Smart referred to an email from the owner of the bungalow on the northwest corner of Kingsburgh Road. The bungalow has deteriorated and the owner wishes to demolish it and build a new house on the site. He has been consulting the planners but has experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining their agreement to his proposal. The Council's planning portal discloses no planning application for this property at present.

12. Traffic and Transport

This had been dealt with at Items 3, 4 and 10.

13. Any Other Competent Business

13.1 **The Chairman** informed the meeting that Marco Biagi MSP has been appointed as Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment and **undertook to write a letter of congratulation on behalf of MCC.**

13.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received an invitation from Corstorphine Community Council to attend their Christmas party and would be pleased to attend. There was a brief lighthearted discussion about whether MCC should hold its own Christmas party.

13.3 A Roseburn resident expressed concern about the suggestion from a member of the public (minuted at Item 4.1 of the Minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2014) that opening the path at the eastern side of Murrayfield

Stadium (BT Murrayfield) to the public would improve access for Murrayfield residents to the tram stop opposite the Stadium. He and other local residents expressed fears that the use of this path, which is currently gated at one end, would lead to breaches of privacy and security and would be unsafe at night. They attested to “quite a lot of local opposition” to the proposal and it was agreed that Cllr Ross would not pursue the opening of the path with the SRU.

14. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 January 2015

R Brown undertook to email the Community Councillors a list of meeting dates for 2015.

Minutes approved at meeting of 13 January 2015.

for approval