

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

- Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonagh, N Henderson, E Robertson, M Stevens, H Whaley,
J Yellowlees,
- Ex officio:* Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Cllr Frank Ross,
- In attendance: Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council, Scott
Ritchie, Balfour Beatty, Virginia Munoz Rucian, Anturas
Consulting, E Catterall on behalf of Foysof Choudhury, MSP,
16 members of the public,
- Apologies: R Beavis, J Forbes, N Macdonald, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Claire
Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Jeremy Balfour, MSP,
Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP,
Angus Robertson, MSP, Lorna Slater, MSP, Sue Webber, MSP,
Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome, Apologies and Format

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance, in particular Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes. Senior Project Manager - Active Travel, City of Edinburgh Council ("CEC"), Scott Ritchie, Balfour Beatty and Virginia Munoz Rucian, Anturas Consulting. He intimated that, as these three were in attendance to answer questions on the impact on Roseburn of the works associated with the City Centre West to East Link ("CCWEL"), that issue would be dealt with first.

2. CCWEL and Rejuvenating Roseburn

2.1 The Chairman reminded the meeting that the merits of the CCWEL were not up for discussion and suggested that anyone who wished to make their views on that subject known should do so via the CEC elections in May.

The meeting spent an hour discussing the impact on the businesses on Roseburn Terrace of the CCWEL works which had begun on 7 February. R Ahluwalia-McMeddes explained that the period of 74 weeks which had been quoted for the duration of the works applied to the whole of the A8, not just the Roseburn section. More detailed signs had now been put in place explaining the timetable for the section from Murrayfield Gardens to Wester Coates Road. That section would be completed in three stages – the Old Colt Bridge and Murrayfield Place, then junction works at Roseburn Street followed by junction works at Roseburn Gardens.

S Ritchie of the contractors, Balfour Beatty, presented a series of slides containing drawings and timetables of the works. He explained that the pedestrian island in Roseburn Terrace had been removed first to provide enough road width for the two-way contraflow system now in place on the north side of Roseburn Terrace. All the new footways will be completed before construction of the carriageway. The first phase of the works will cover Roseburn Street to Balbirnie Place, the second phase Roseburn Street to

Roseburn Gardens and the third phase the main stretch of the A8 on the north side of Roseburn Terrace. Plans are currently being developed for the later works which will take place in the three months from mid July.

S Ritchie explained that it had been necessary to suspend parking and loading bays, but that trolleys and other types of help could be provided to the businesses affected by these changes.

S Ritchie told the meeting that all of the traffic management arrangements and construction drawings are available on the CCWEL website – www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ccwel. He **undertook to forward a copy of his presentation to the Minutes Secretary.**

The Chairman commented that a number of motorists had been ignoring the new signs forbidding eastbound traffic from turning right into Russell Road and Roseburn Street. S Ritchie replied that additional signs and posts have been installed to reinforce this ban, which is set out in the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (“TTRO”). He acknowledged that motorists had been ignoring the diversion signs which would take them up towards Haymarket and some had been executing three point turns at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace (now closed) and Wester Coates Road.

M Stevens reported that he had seen someone doing a U-turn across all 4 lanes. The Chairman also raised concerns about the narrowness of the temporary footway which goes under the former railway bridge and is considered by some to be dangerous, particularly at night. S Ritchie confirmed that this footway meets the minimum requirement of 1.2 metres in width and is designed to give both the traffic and the contractor’s workmen sufficient room. The issues of the suspension of parking and loading bays, the reallocation of some of these spaces, the installation of double yellow lines and the use of loading bays by Balfour Beatty and their sub-contractors for parking their vehicles were discussed at length.

Several owners of businesses on Roseburn Terrace complained that their takings were down by between 20% and 70%, depending on the day, as a result of customers being unable to reach their shops because of the changes to the parking and loading arrangements on Roseburn Terrace and in Murrayfield Place.

S Ritchie reported that double yellow lines were about to be installed and should improve the situation.

S Ritchie and R Ahluwalia-McMeddes explained that double yellow lines permit loading, but not parking, and that customers will be able to stop temporarily at the shops to drop off or pick up sizeable items or passengers.

The business owners, supported by P Gregson, were adamant that their customers understand double yellow lines to prohibit stopping completely. P Gregson emphasised that the removal of parking spaces from Murrayfield Place was particularly unhelpful and, in his view, difficult to justify.

S Ritchie and R Ahluwalia-McMeddes undertook to consult the traders further before installing double yellow lines and to ensure that the traders and their customers understand the implications of these measures. S Ritchie said that his Social Impact Advisers would be on site on 24 February and would visit all the businesses at appropriate times during the day.

Cllr Ross undertook to ask the parking officers to ensure that, once the double yellow lines have been installed, they are regularly policed.

S Ritchie and R Ahluwalia-McMeddes also undertook to review the current signage to see whether it could be improved.

N Henderson's suggestion that the shop owners make their own signs explaining the meaning of the new arrangements was dismissed by the traders on the ground that signage in these circumstances is the responsibility of the Council, a view with which Cllr Douglas concurred.

In reply to a member of the public S Ritchie confirmed that the "No Right Turn" into Russell Road and Roseburn Street will be in place until late summer 2022. He agreed that it would be worth considering the four-way traffic light sequence which had been used by City Fibre during their recent works at Roseburn.

The Chairman asked S Ritchie and R Ahluwalia-McMeddes to provide an update on all of these issues to the next MCC meeting on 29 March.

P Gregson asked Cllrs Douglas, Gloyer and Ross to revive support for his 2019 petition to the Council for financial compensation for the Roseburn traders. Cllrs Gloyer and Douglas recalled resistance to this from the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee, who had been of the view that a social media campaign and appropriate "business as usual" signage would suffice, at least in the first instance.

In reply to a question about the difficulty which some less able-bodied pedestrians experience using temporary ramps S Ritchie confirmed that asphalt ramps have been installed at the temporary pedestrian crossing which replaces the former island and elsewhere yellow plastic ramps are in use. Consideration is being given to using longer ramps to assist people who use a mobility aid.

S Ritchie acknowledged a comment from a member of the public that the temporary pedestrian crossing is too slow.

A Anderson pointed out that there is a "closed" sign in the eastbound bus stop by the Old Colt Bridge but no signage to indicate that the temporary bus stop is near Abinger Gardens.

2.2 The Chairman asked about the current state of play regarding the Rejuvenating Roseburn project.

R Ahwalia-McMeddes confirmed that this is still an integral part of the CCWEL. As a result of a value engineering exercise some changes have been made. Precast concrete slabs will now be used instead of sandstone, but there will still be cobbles and heritage lighting on the Old Colt Bridge. Part of the proposed planting scheme has been revised to avoid underground utilities and there will be more above ground planters than originally planned.

In reply to a member of the public he confirmed that all of the revised drawings are available on the CCWEL website. He **undertook to send the link to the Minutes Secretary.**

N Henderson asked why there is a gap in the bollards which are designed to prevent both eastbound drivers from turning right into Roseburn Gardens and drivers exiting Roseburn Gardens from turning left. S Ritchie explained that a gap is needed to allow larger vehicles to exit the contraflow system at that point.

S Ritchie referred the meeting to Balfour Beatty's website and press office for any queries and said that Balfour Beatty aim to respond with 2 hours and will definitely do so within 24 hours.

3. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18 January 2022 and Matters Arising

The Chairman addressed the following matters arising from the previous MCC meeting:-

3.1 Six Nations road closures - He hoped that the information on the road closures accompanying the Six Nations match on 5 February which MCC had posted on their website had proved useful. The information for the forthcoming match on 26 February would be posted as soon as it was received.

3.2 "No Right Turn" into Murrayfield Gardens – H Whaley reported that PC Sam Davison has been issuing tickets to drivers who ignore this sign. A member of the public suggested tying the prohibition to the times when the bus lane restrictions apply. **Cllr Ross undertook to ask the traffic officers to look at this.**

3.3 Parking at Murrayfield Court – N Henderson reported that she had received no response from AMA to her last communication about inconsiderate parking by their staff and others working on the Tor development. A resident of Murrayfield Court reported that she had met PC Davison, who had been helpful and had suggested contacting Cllr Douglas with a view to getting double yellow lines on one side of the street. She understood, and Cllr Douglas confirmed, that this could take a long time. Cllr Douglas asked her to forward her correspondence to him and Cllrs Gloyer and Ross.

3.4 Water of Leith Walkway closure – The Chairman expressed disappointment that no action had been taken to allow pedestrians whose progress was impeded by the closed footbridge behind the Britannia Hotel to leave the Walkway via the Hotel car park. D Dawson said that he understood from the Chair of the Water of Leith Trust that the Hotel own the land and are in discussion with CEC about this. Cllr Ross said he was not aware of any discussions. **The Chairman undertook to forward previous correspondence from the Council's Senior Natural Heritage Officer to Cllr Ross.**

The Chairman referred to the longstanding closure of the Walkway further down the river which was due to a landslip. Cllr Gloyer said she understood that CEC had reached agreement with the landowner and repair work was about to start. A Roseburn resident added that she thought the work was already under way and was due to be completed in March.

3.5 33 Roseburn Terrace – In the absence of J Forbes there was no update regarding the application for retrospective planning permission for a tiny flat.

3.6 MCC and Saughtonhall Community Association ("SCA") – D Dawson reported that he is invited to the next meeting of SCA in March and would find out more about the potential for a closer link with MCC. SCA normally holds a summer fete.

3.7 Hustings – The Chairman thought that the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils might do something about holding a hustings event before the CEC elections in May.

3.8 Christmas events at Roseburn – The Chairman confirmed that the applications for the necessary CEC permits have been made.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J McDonough, Sec: J Yellowlees.

4. Councillors' Reports

4.1 Roseburn Terrace pavement repairs – The Chairman acknowledged that repair of the pavements damaged by the recent City Fibre works has been superseded by the CCWEL works.

4.2 Henderland Road pavement – Cllr Ross reported that the CEC Officer in charge is still discussing the damage caused by tree roots with the Parks team.

4.3 Low Emission Zone - Cllr Ross suggested that the Chairman contact Steve Kerr, the Chair of Corstorphine Community Council, to discuss a joint response to the consultation which closes on 1 March 2022.

5. Abinger Gardens issues

The Chairman reported that the new co-ordinator of Abinger Gardens Residents' Association had advised him that the trees and boundary wall have both been surveyed. 16 trees have been identified as requiring to be felled. The boundary stone wall is generally in good condition but requires some work including new coping stones and additional weep holes at the east end of the wall. The work on the wall will be carried out once the tree felling, which is scheduled for 8 and 9 March, has been completed.

N Henderson asked whether the bus lane would be closed during the tree felling. She pointed out that this would exacerbate the problems caused by the CCWEL works at Roseburn. Cllr Gloyer replied that a road occupation permit will be required and the permit holder will be required to take into account the road conditions at the time. **The Chairman undertook to raise this point with the co-ordinator.**

In their email exchange prior to the meeting the co-ordinator had raised with the Chairman the increase in "rat running" eastwards along Abinger Gardens which he had observed since the start of the CCWEL works. The Chairman reported that he had raised this issue with PC Davison and asked if he could carry out speed monitoring.

6. Other Roads and Traffic issues

6.1 Ellersly and Kinellan Roads – The Chairman advised that Rob Cormie had received an update from Andrew Easson at CEC but there had been no material change. He asked the three Councillors to continue their efforts to support MCC's push for safety measures.

6.2 Trams – The Chairman referred to the fact that the tram service now terminates at the West End pending completion of the Leith Walk extension of the tramline.

7. Planning and Licensing

The Chairman relayed the report which J Forbes had provided by email prior to the meeting as follows:-

9 Kinellan Road - No change. Application 21/05580/FUL for development of 14 homes is still "awaiting consideration"; no new documents have yet been filed.

37 Corstorphine Road - A report has now issued from the Reporter to the Scottish Ministers, but is not available on the DPEA portal and it is not

possible to determine whether the recommendation is to allow or refuse consent to the proposed 20-flat development. J McDonagh confirmed that he had no further information.

65 Ravelston Dykes Road - MCC's demand for a full tree report including replacement planting proposals has been accepted. The tree report submitted on 26 January 2022 provides all the necessary information and should allay MCC's concerns. 21/03298/FUL and parallel LBC applications are still "awaiting decision"; no further action by MCC is envisaged.

9 and 11 Corstorphine Road - Parallel, virtually identical applications 22/00338/FUL and 22/00339/FUL have been filed, proposing to convert the pair of existing Victorian vernacular 1.5-storey cottages to a 2.5-storey contemporary building. MCC has submitted objections to both applications, deploring the proposed destruction of a rare remnant of the Victorian village of Coltbridge.

37 Roseburn Street - A licence is being sought for a booking office for Private Hire transport. There is no reason for MCC to object.

8. Community Policing Report

The Chairman summarised the report which PC Sam Davison had emailed prior to the meeting as follows:-

8.1 There had been a number of thefts of catalytic converters from cars. PC Davison had provided a leaflet offering advice on preventing such thefts.

8.2 After the Calcutta Cup match two arrests had been made and one ticket for careless driving issued.

8.3 Since his last report there had been no housebreakings.

8.4 There had been two common assaults and one Police assault.

8.5 The Police support the Keep Safe Scheme which works with businesses and community buildings to provide a network of safe spaces (shops, cafes etc). It has been designed with disabled people but is open to anyone who feels vulnerable at any time.

9. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

9.1 The Friends of Roseburn Park would be meeting the following evening to decide about the award of the contract for the conversion of the toilet block to a café.

9.2 The artificial cricket wicket will be repaired in March.

9.3 Work continues on the planters

J McDonagh added that the DAFS Cricket Club have plans to increase the size of the practice nets opposite the Armoury.

10. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there had been no financial activity in January. £330 had been spent in February leaving a closing balance of £1700.

The Chairman confirmed that the brass plaque commemorating two sculptors has been installed at Ravelston Elms in Murrayfield Road. He added that Listed Building consent has been sought for a plaque commemorating the Coltbridge horse drawn tram. He also referred to the stones at the Maltings marking

the site of the former Heriot Brewery. The Chairman suggested that a plaque near the site of the former Murrayfield Railway Station might be appropriate.

11. Social Engagement

The Chairman admitted that a Twitter correspondent had queried MCC's enthusiasm for plaques. He felt that they commemorate local history and might generate interest in local projects and social engagement.

P Gregson regretted that the proposal for a plaque commemorating John Lennon's connection with Murrayfield had not come to fruition. He **undertook to forward previous correspondence about commemorating John Lennon to the Chairman.**

N Henderson pointed out that members of both the Men's and Women's Olympic curling teams have strong connections with Murrayfield Curling Rink. She suggested that MCC write to both teams congratulating them on their recent medal success at the Winter Olympics in Beijing. **The Chairman undertook to do this. J McDonough offered to provide contact details.**

N Henderson and A Anderson thought that MCC might be able to get some coverage of this in the Evening News and Murrayfield Grapevine.

12. Any Other Competent Business

The meeting discussed whether MCC should return to physical meetings. It was decided that a confidential survey of members would be undertaken and a decision made at the next MCC meeting on 29 March, which would be held on Zoom and would be the last meeting before the CEC elections in May.

The Chairman referred to the fact that Cllrs Douglas and Gloyer will not be standing for re-election. He hoped that MCC would see all three Councillors for one last time on 29 March.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Subsequent meetings: 10 May, 28 June, 30 August 2022.

Minutes approved at meeting of 29 March 2022.