

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
J McDonagh, N Oldroyd, E Robertson, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 8 members of the public,
Apologies: A Anderson, D Dawson, N Macdonald, M Stevens, Cllr Karen
Doran, Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr
Alasdair Rankin, Cllr Frank Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Sarah
Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysol Choudhury, MSP, Alison
Johnstone, MSP, Angus Robertson, MSP, Lorna Slater, MSP, Sue
Webber, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Floodlighting in Henderland Road

The Chairman reported that E Robertson had alerted MCC to the recent application by St George's School for planning permission for eight 8m high floodlighting masts around two multi use games pitches adjacent to Lansdowne Lodge.

E Robertson explained that the pitches are to be used for netball and hockey. She understood that the pitches will be used by local and national teams and expressed doubt about the School's statement that they will be made available to the community. She explained that the residents of Henderland Road are dismayed at the proposal and object strongly to it on the grounds of light pollution, increases in noise (from spectators and referees' whistles), traffic and nuisance parking and causing disruption to previously quiet evenings and weekends. These consequences will also affect Garscube Terrace, Coltbridge Terrace and Murrayfield Avenue. The floodlighting masts are considered to be inappropriate within the curtilage of a listed building in a Conservation Area. There is also disquiet at the lack of consultation with the residents and the adjacent Tennis Club.

J Forbes advised the meeting that the deadline for lodging objections is 9 July. He had drafted a letter of objection on behalf of MCC and asked that comments be sent to him by 7 July to enable him to finalise MCC's objection. Notification of the planning application had been made to ten neighbours and most of them had already commented on it.

He felt that to lodge a credible objection MCC should adopt a dispassionate factual approach. The application includes data on the illuminance from the proposed floodlights and shows the light reaching the north side of Henderland Road but not the houses. It would, therefore, be difficult to allege

light pollution without independent evidence. There were, however, three other grounds of objection:-

1. He had looked at the Character Appraisal for the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area which refers to “calmness and tranquillity” as a key characteristic of Henderland Road. This is clearly at risk.
2. He reported that Lansdowne Lodge is a listed building and Listed Building Consent for the floodlights had been sought. The Planning Department had decided before the deadline for comments had passed that Listed Building Consent was not required. J Forbes believed that this pre-emptive decision was incorrect.
3. In his view the application is incomplete, as it contains no elevation drawings of the eight masts, and should be referred back to the applicant for amendment. If that were to happen, there would be a further opportunity to comment on it.

In answer to a question from E Robertson J Forbes explained that the light from the masts will be cast downwards on to the pitches but there will be some escape of light. The current lamp posts are 5.5m above pavement level, but as the pitches are 1m below that level, the masts will be only 1.5m higher than the lamp posts.

A neighbour of E Robertson in Henderland Road reinforced all of the objections which had been voiced.

3. Controlled Parking Zone – outcome of consultation

The Chairman reported that this issue should have come up at the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee (“T&EC”) on 17 June 2021, but did not. Cllr Gloyer said that the report on the consultation will be presented to the August meeting of the T&EC. She advised that, contrary to widespread belief, the 2019 Strategic Parking Review on which the proposals are based included research from across the whole city, not just Corstorphine.

4. Road safety round Roseburn Primary School

The Chairman reported that this issue remains a concern. MCC had been told that nothing could be done about Roseburn Gardens as it was considered to be too far away from the School and it was too late to include it in the Spaces for People programme. The crossing guide at the pedestrian crossing outside the Murrayfield Bar covers only one half of the crossing on each shift, leaving the children to negotiate the other half on their own. It was thought that this strange arrangement might be related to the traffic light sequencing.

H Whaley agreed that CCWEL will improve the situation by removing the island in the middle of the crossing. He reported that CCWEL will require final approval from the Finance Committee at its August meeting before contracts are awarded and work begins in the New Year. The Chairman commented that it was news to him that work would not now start on CCWEL until 2022.

J Forbes expressed his serious concern at the Council’s failure to take any steps to safeguard the safety of the Roseburn Primary School pupils, given that there are temporary solutions which do not need to wait for CCWEL and could be put in place now.

At Cllr Gloyer's suggestion **the Chairman undertook to write on behalf of MCC to the Convener and Vice-Convener of the T&EC, Cllrs Lesley Macinnes and Karen Doran, expressing the same concern.**

5. Kinellan Road traffic monitoring

The Chairman invited a recently arrived resident of Kinellan Road to outline his concerns over the lack of traffic monitoring and parking controls there. The resident stated that of the three lanes in the road two are permanently blocked with parked cars and vans which inhibit visibility; Kinellan Road is used as a rat run by speeding cars and he fears for the safety of his family and other residents.

J Forbes, a resident of Kinellan Road for 11 years, confirmed the need for traffic calming measures. He explained that in response to a complaint from his new neighbour traffic monitoring cables had been placed outside the complainant's gate for a couple of weeks, but the cables measure only traffic volume, not speed, and volume is not the problem. Speed bumps would be the obvious solution, but are no longer favoured because they increase pollution. N Oldroyd suggested a chicane or planters to slow the traffic. A resident of the Glendevon/Balgreen area expressed the view that these issues affect a wider area including his own.

Cllr Gloyer explained that the engineering and legal processes for chicanes and planters take an unfeasible length of time.

The meeting discussed the role of the Police, speed checks and cameras and "guerilla" planters (installed without permission which it might take the Council some time to remove) and making Kinellan Road one way.

The Chairman undertook to write to Cllrs Macinnes and Doran to express MCC's serious concern about this issue.

6. Minutes of Meeting of 11 May 2021 and Matters Arising

These were approved. Prop: J Yellowlees, Sec: J Forbes.

6.1 Lions Match – The Chairman commented that the recent Lions Match at BT Murrayfield had involved the temporary closure of the A8 and the diversion of bus services. **N Oldroyd** expressed the view that these measures were excessive to deal with a crowd of only 16,000. She acknowledged that, although the usual culprits had been guilty of parking in the wrong places, overall the event had been Covid secure and successful. She **undertook to give Graham Law of Scottish Rugby this feedback.**

6.2 Drainage problem in Glendevon/Balgreen area – A resident of this area detailed a serious drainage problem affecting about 30 properties about which he had been contacting the Council to no avail. The drainage system has been blocked for 3 years and there has been a significant rise in the water table and severe flooding at Pinkhill. He said he had emailed the Chairman and the three local City Councillors. Cllr Gloyer said that she had not received his email, but it might have been blocked by the Council's firewall if it contained photographs. **The Chairman undertook to forward the email with photos and send a second email to Cllr Gloyer without photos** so that she could arrange for the blocked email to be released.

7. Police Report, including Operation Close Pass

The Chairman reported that he had not received an up to date Police report. R Brown confirmed that she had received a report shortly before the meeting but on this occasion it had not been sent to the Chairman. The Police report is attached to these Minutes.

8. Councillor's Report

8.1 CCWEL and Rejuvenating Roseburn – The Chairman reported that it had been feared that delivery of the Rejuvenating Roseburn project would be significantly delayed owing to the impact of “value engineering” on the overall CCWEL project. He was pleased to report that at a meeting on 25 June the Homelessness and Fair Work Committee of the Council had agreed that £220,000 would be made available to enable part of the Rejuvenating Roseburn project to be delivered - setts in parking and loading areas, new trees and planters, a raised table in Murrayfield Place, new bin storage and hopscotch and artistic paving slabs. The Chairman understood that Cllr Macinnes had been discussing with Transport officials how to find the rest of the funding for the project and that it was likely to be forthcoming at the next Finance Committee meeting.

H Whaley confirmed his understanding that the overall CCWEL project will be signed off by the Finance Committee, contracts will then be awarded and after some exploratory work construction will begin in the New Year.

8.2 Spaces for People – The Chairman reported that at the meeting on 17 June the T&EC had considered which schemes to discard and which to make permanent. Cllr Gloyer said that ultimately the decisions had been taken by the full Council. She confirmed that the only scheme within the MCC area at Crarae Avenue will be retained, but will not operate during the school summer holidays. Most of the pop up cycle lanes will be retained, but with some modifications, and most of the “shopping streets” which had been widened with bollards will be removed. The interventions on Queensferry Road will be retained, but some adjustments have already been negotiated with residents and further changes are possible (she hoped including the turn-out from Craighleith Crescent where, as a member of the public had pointed out, the hatching inhibits normal vehicle movement). Cllr Gloyer advised that Dave Sinclair is the best contact at the Council for this issue.

8.3 Low Emission Zone (“LEZ”) proposals – Cllr Gloyer reported that the same meeting of the T&EC had approved the introduction of an LEZ in the city centre which will involve the imposition of charges on older diesel and petrol cars. Commercial vehicles will not be affected. The LEZ will start at Haymarket. She feared that Roseburn will become a giant car park for the most polluting vehicles.

Cllr Gloyer encouraged participation in the current public consultations on the Council's climate strategy, which ends on 12 September, and the LEZ, which runs until 20 September.

In answer to a question from J Forbes about when the promised Ellersly Road pavement widening would be delivered, the Chairman intimated that the Council has created a new team to tackle outstanding Neighbourhood Network projects.

Cllr Gloyer suggested that the new team be invited to the next MCC meeting in August and **the Chairman undertook to contact Dave Sinclair to find out whom to invite.**

8.4 Road surface repairs and flooding - In the absence of A Anderson the Chairman reported that the flooding at Henderland Road had been dealt with by Scottish Water and the gully outside 4 Coltbridge Terrace had been cleared.

8.5 Pansy Walk allotments – The Chairman reminded the meeting that MCC had collected the details of a large number of local people interested in having an allotment on the former works site at Pansy Walk, but the proposal to return the site to allotments remained just a proposal until it became a matter of Council policy. **Cllr Gloyer undertook to find out how far Cllr Ross had got in pursuing this matter.**

The Glendevon/Balgreen resident questioned whether the alternative proposal for social housing had in fact been dropped and was told by the Chairman that that was MCC's understanding from Cllr Ross himself.

8.6 Trees in Murrayfield Avenue – B Knowles reported that there are currently 15 stumps of felled cherry and London plane trees in Murrayfield Avenue. Although until recently it was feared that the felled trees would not be replaced, the replacement of these trees has now been taken over by the Million Tree City project and at least 15 new trees are to be planted.

8.7 Overhanging vegetation - The Chairman suggested that the time of year had come when MCC's *pro forma* letter about overhanging trees and bushes impeding pavements should be re-published. **N Oldroyd undertook to update the letter and post it on the Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether Facebook page.**

9. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

9.1 Floodlighting in Henderland Road – This had been dealt with at Item 2.

9.2 Tor development – Construction of the two blocks of flats is proceeding apace. Neighbouring residents have expressed concern that the scheme has more adverse visual impact, particularly as regards massing, than was expected (though there is no suggestion of any deviation from the plans).

J Forbes referred to the suggestion by MCC's former planning expert, R Smart, that 3D models should be required as part of a planning application.

Additionally, issues continue with construction-related parking on Murrayfield Road and Stair Park with some vehicles even parking on the pavements. He felt that learning from this experience should be applied to future applications for major developments.

9.2 37 Corstorphine Road – After receiving useful advice from Planning Aid Scotland he had written to the DPEA case officer on behalf of MCC demanding that no decision be made by the Reporter without the benefit of the Arup flooding report. SEPA's objection to the proposed development will be withdrawn only if the Arup report concludes that the present flood defences meet a 200 year + 20% climate change standard, but this decision is still delayed by the earlier major cyber attack on SEPA. The case therefore remains pending.

9.3 Proposed student accommodation behind 22 Haymarket Yards - He and Mike Stevens had attended a pre-application meeting with the developer

which had allayed concerns about possible direct access from the proposed student accommodation to Devon Place. The number of students to be housed will be significantly greater than in the earlier approved plans. A full planning application is expected shortly.

9.3 Telecom installation at Beechwood Mains- Cllr Douglas finally received the requested Transport Officer's report on inspection of the Corstorphine Road pavement by Beechwood Mains. The Officer concluded that a short (c. 6 m) narrowing of the pavement to 1.8 m would not represent an unacceptable obstruction. The report is worthless as the plans clearly show narrowing to about 1.5 m. J Forbes communicated this observation to Cllr Douglas on 20 May. He expressed the view that the Council clearly has no appetite to revisit its hasty decision to allow the installation, despite alternative locations being suggested where pedestrian safety would not be compromised.

9.5 Proposed extension to a Listed Building at 65 Ravelston Dykes Road - A large extension is proposed to this 1960s Category B Listed Building within the West Murrayfield Conservation Area. Two trees (species and size unspecified in the application) are marked for removal and there is concern that construction may be damaging to the root system of a mature beech tree. No landscape plan or other indication of tree replacement is provided. MCC does not normally comment on domestic planning applications, unless broader community issues are raised. The deadline for submissions is 23 July. The meeting decided that MCC should object to this application purely in relation to trees.

10. Traffic and Transport

The Chairman noted that the trams have doubled in frequency to every 7 minutes and the Managing Director's salary appears to have increased proportionally.

11. Friends of Roseburn Park

B Knowles reported as follows:-

- 11.1 FoRP have been awarded a £66,000 grant from the Council as part of the Place Based Improvement Programme for the conversion of the former toilet block to a cafe. The grant will be subject to formalisation of a lease to FoRP. The café will include a public toilet.

B Knowles expressed FoRP's thanks to Cllr Ross for all his work on this project. The Chairman also expressed thanks to B Knowles, P Gregson, J McDonaugh and others for keeping faith with this project. P Gregson thought that the fact that donations amounting to £13,000 had been received from about 200 residents and a couple of trusts, indicating a good level of local support, had helped to secure the grant.

- 11.2 Three new benches are now in place and are heavily used. Two other benches have now been screwed down after coming loose.
- 11.3 Refurbishment of the drinking fountain is progressing.
- 11.4 The drainage and re-seeding works on the western playing fields will be completed by the end of August/early September.
- 11.5 The planting of cherry trees as part of the Sakura Project is now listed as part of the Million Tree City project. The location of the trees has been agreed with both the cricket and rugby clubs.

- 11.6 Watering of trees and planters continues as and when required. Recently some 90 plants donated by the Parks Service were planted in the planters by six volunteers in about half an hour.

12. Treasurer's Report, including micro projects

The Treasurer reported as follows:-

12.1 MCC's accounts for 2020/21 had been independently examined and lodged with the Council and should result in the allocation of the usual grant. There had been very little operational expenditure during the year and at 31 March 2021 MCC had a closing balance of £1893.13, of which £612.20 was the operating surplus.

12.2 The cost of the Peploe plaque installed at 7 Devon Place would be included in the next month's accounts. He suggested that the Chairman's photos of the plaque should be put on MCC's website and **the Chairman undertook to do this.**

12.3 He was happy to approve the expenditure of £220 for the two milestone plaques at Roseburn and Beechwood Mains. J Forbes added that John Riddell, who was involved in this project, favoured omitting a wooden backing and had inquired about using a heavier gauge steel. The supplier was yet to reply about the latter. J Riddell had offered to install the plaques himself at no cost.

13. Social Engagement

13.1 The Chairman reported that he had attended a workshop on the different types of social media and had learnt that Twitter is newsy and fast paced, Facebook is more mainstream, Next Door is local and YouTube is visual. He reminded the meeting that MCC needs someone to manage its social media accounts and relying on Hamish Ross, currently based in Jordan, is not a long term solution.

R Beavis, who had been unable to attend the workshop, said that he would try to do some similar training.

13.2 In relation to Item 2 above R Beavis asked whether St George's School has a "good neighbour" policy. E Robertson replied that the School personnel had always been very pleasant when approached about various local problems, including inconsiderate parking by parents, but had done little or nothing to address any of the issues raised.

N Oldroyd suggested that Heather Raeburn, who had contacted the School about music around the Roseburn Christmas tree last year, might be able to help. Cllr Gloyer mentioned that she had a contact at the School.

N Oldroyd advised against using social media to name and shame St George's. The Chairman suggested inviting the School's Bursar to a future MCC meeting. **The Chairman undertook to invite Heather Raeburn to the next MCC meeting to discuss the Christmas tree.**

13.3 R Beavis confirmed that he had established a relationship with the Murrayfield Grapevine, who are happy to publicise local events.

13.4 R Beavis confirmed that in the autumn he will pursue his proposal to hold an art competition to highlight local artist, Charles H Mackie, and the Scottish Colourists and he will be contacting all of the local schools.

13.5 J McDonough asked whether all the paperwork is in place for this year's Christmas tree on the Old Colt Bridge and was told by N Oldroyd that the

application has been received by the Council. She intimated that John McNeill, who was so helpful last year, has retired from the Council and has been replaced by Lucy Emslie.

The Chairman undertook to confirm the position at the next MCC meeting.

14. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

15. Future Meetings, including prospects for return to holding these in person

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 31 August 2021

The Chairman advised that, unless the current situation changes, this meeting will be held on Zoom. MCC's AGM will be held at the first meeting which can be held in person.

Subsequent meetings: 5 October, 9 November and 14 December 2021.

Minutes approved at meeting of 31 August 2021

Northwest Monthly Community Meeting Update

June 2021 (Corstorphine & Murrayfield)

Addressing violent crime

All **Serious Violent crime** (incl. serious assault/robbery) is up 4.1% across NW compared to the 5 Year Average. It's also down 100% down in the Corstorphine Ward. Note – our reporting year starts in April.

Our Specialist units – the CID and the Violent Reduction Team investigate all instances of serious crime.

Domestic Abuse crime is 6% down in NW as the same time last year, despite concerns this may have shown greater increase during COVID-19 restriction period. Enforcement of domestic bail conditions to protect vulnerable victims has continued.

Reducing drug harm and targeting supply

Drugs (supply, production and cultivation) – There has been a 19.4% increase on identifying MDA related crime. There is a continued focus on this area with the Proactive LAVRU unit are actively carrying out search warrants and disruption to target drug related crime following intelligence gathering and important Crimestoppers notifications from communities.

If anyone has information from the Community please contact a police officer, attend a local police station, ring 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers (online or by 0800 555 111)

Tackling housebreaking and acquisitive crime

Housebreaking to domestic homes remains low across NW and is down 71.2% on the 5 year average. Corstorphine Ward is also down by 91%. We have maintained focus on the minority of individuals committing housebreaking and there has been continued enforcement of bail curfews for offenders by local and specialist teams.

Housebreaking non-dwellings (sheds/garage) have decreased by 25% this year in relation to the 5 year average in NW and down 25% in Corstorphine Ward with a focus on stealing pedal bikes.

Theft of pedal cycles is down 41.8% in NW compared to the 5 year average.

Theft of motor vehicles which includes theft of motorcycles is 15.6% down in NW to date compared to last year. There is no 5 year average available.

Recently there have been a number of thefts of exclusive motor vehicles with the use of key coders. Crime prevention advice has been passed out on social media.

Dealing with disorder and antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour incidents have increased 1.2% on the 5 year average. Calls in this category include concerns about young people gathering, reports of neighbours not adhering to social distancing and noise/party calls.

Operation Proust which was the campaign at divisional level targeting the attacks on buses continue to see positive effects. Educational talks continue in schools and there has been a significant reduction in the number of calls relating to ASB on the transport system.

Motorcycle ASB - With the warmer weather arriving there has been an increase in the number of incidents being reported with off road bikes being driven recklessly. Our plain clothes team investigate every such call and we work with our Roads Policing colleagues to identify and charge the persons involved.

Hate crime is NW is down 38.6%, down on the 5 year average in the NW area

Making our roads safe

Road safety stats -

Other e.g. Events/initiatives/local ward updates or national campaigns

Key events.

Home security. Please find attached home security review check list.

Bike marking event at St Margaret's Park held on Sunday 6th June, which was well attended. 80 bikes marked, More events will be held in the coming months.

Security advice - <https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/road-safety/protecting-your-bike/>

Please feedback any questions to myself via my e-mail.

Kind Regards,

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