

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting of the Council
Tuesday, 30 August 2022 at 7.30 pm
In the Murrayfield Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, J Forbes, B Knowles, S Macpherson, J McDonough, N Macdonald, P Gregson, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees, 8 members of the public

Ex-officio : Cllr A Beal, Cllr F Ross, R McMeddes and S Ritchie (for Item 2)

Apologies : Cllr E Davidson, R Beavis, D Dawson, E Robertson, R Brown, Cllr M Graham, Cllr F MacFarlane, Cllr C Miller, Cllr J Mowat, J Balfour MSP, S Boyack MSP, M Briggs MSP, F Choudhury MSP, A Johnstone MSP, A Robertson MSP, L Slater MSP, S Webber MSP, C Jardine MP.

1. Welcome and matters arising :

- the binmen's strike which had begun on 18 August was ending for now, with the streets being rapidly cleared, but unless there was a breakthrough in pay talks the strike would resume next week. However, both landfill and recycling bins would be emptied meantime, so should be put out on the normal day. Garden waste and glass collection remained suspended.
- the Saughtonhall Summer Fayre had taken place Sunday 28 August. from 1pm to 4pm, with P Gregson running a stall for Friends of Roseburn Park.
- a member of the public had reported that a Paralympian bowling medallist for Scotland at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham had trained at Coltbridge
- Edinburgh Life for September/October celebrated the centenary of the Murrayfield Table Tennis Club, which met in the Church of the Good Shepherd.

2. CCWEL

R McMeddes explained that with work resuming after the summer break at Roseburn Terrace from 5 September, installation of the cycleway would proceed to finish before 2 December. During these works, loading bays would be available on Roseburn Gardens, Roseburn Street and Murrayfield Place and these would have trolleys available for the movement of goods to respective properties/businesses. Also, the short stay car park at Roseburn Maltings will be available for shoppers. The re-commencement of works on Roseburn Terrace would coincide with completing work on the junction of Roseburn Gardens with Roseburn Terrace, allowing westbound traffic on Roseburn Terrace to enter Roseburn Gardens from week commencing 5 September onwards. Good progress was also being made on widening pavements and new crossings on Roseburn Street, Russell Road and Roseburn Place, completing in October 2022. Work had recently started on Murrayfield Avenue and would shortly be extending into Murrayfield Place and Roseburn Gardens for the rest of this year. Construction of the cycleway on Haymarket Terrace would start in January 2023. He was pleased to confirm that the Old Colt Bridge would be available for a Christmas tree, with Rejuvenating Roseburn work completing there in January taking care not to isolate Pape's Cottages.

Having previously formed the impression that all work at Roseburn would complete by end-2022, the Chair expressed disappointment at having now read in the September project update that works would after all stretch into 2023 as follows: resurfacing at Corstorphine Road from 16 January to 17 February, footway works on Murrayfield Place until 3 February, and at Roseburn Cliff from 16 January to 24 March. Other members declared that recent traffic management on Roseburn Street had not been the project's finest hour, but R McMeddes was clear that the right turn from Roseburn Terrace into Roseburn Street could not be restored until December. Nor would it be possible to return the eastbound bus stop to Roseburn Terrace until next March.

There was criticism that pedestrians were being directed by signage to cross immediately after the barriers on Murrayfield Avenue, where visibility of left turning traffic from Corstorphine Road was very poor. J Forbes recalled a suggestion from S Ritchie to instal rumble strips. A resident of Murrayfield Avenue was concerned about the loudness of the warning noises from reversing construction vehicles.

A Anderson observed that the construction process gave no consideration to the community with the blocking of so many access roads, very little appeared to be getting finished before another phase was started. J McDonough regretted

that for all the feedback that the Community Council had given, he saw none of our ideas being taken on board, notably as regards the right turn, and suggested that the situation at Roseburn Street had been tantamount to encouraging drivers to break the law. Noting that Roseburn Street would again become 2-way from next week, R McMeddes reminded members that they had given assent to a project plan in 2019, but the Chair suggested that as volunteers Community Councils could not be expected to have a grasp of every detail in such technical documents. He felt that over the summer the project had passed a tipping point in people's patience, and recalled that a recent community and business forum marking the debut of new Labour Transport and Environment Convenor Cllr Scott Arthur had given the unsurprising messages that the Council was unlikely to be able to afford compensation to traders and that there was no flexibility in the programme to allow a November break for pre-Christmas shopping. It had sometimes felt as though Roseburn was living in some kind of laboratory test of public tolerance, **and he would write to the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils offering MCC's experience to any other Community Council due to have similar infrastructure works taking place in their area.**

S Ritchie acknowledged that project noticeboards now being provided should have been in place from the outset, and that No Entry signs had been wrongly fitted at Roseburn Gardens. J McDonagh hoped that MCC would have sight of the project evaluation that R McMeddes said would be carried out by Systra in 2023, allowing an ability to adjust the phasing of traffic signals in the light of operational experience. M Stevens hoped that the evaluation would be very much more than monitoring the impact of traffic conditions since it would be important to establish to what extent CCWEL succeeded in encouraging people to switch from driving to cycling.

A resident of Pape's Cottages welcomed the availability of the Old Colt Bridge for a Christmas tree (post-meeting note :it will be installed mid November with lights planned for 1st December - the Council have kindly agreed to provide lighting for the Bridge at no cost to MCC). However she was concerned that, in the absence of a sign pointing up Roseburn Cliff to the Water of Leith walkway, people were every day entering her garden. R McMeddes regretted that the budget would no longer stretch to provision of a heritage sign, but the Chair urged early provision of a functional one which **R McMeddes agreed to take forward.**

3. Minutes of 28 June meeting May approval moved by J McDonagh and seconded by J Forbes. Matters Arising were :
 - the free Festival concert on 5 August had been much enjoyed. SRU had since given notice of concerts by Harry Styles on 26 May 2023, and by Bruce Springsteen four days later.
 - progress on Saughtonhall tree adoption: MCC had paid for 100 leaflets to be printed, and D Dawson was looking for volunteers to water the trees with a view to a start this autumn. B Knowles pointed out that the treeplanting season would begin in November.
 - Balgreen tunnel: there was continuing discussion, but no actual progress.
 - an omission from the Minutes: a resident of Corstorphine Road had urged resiting of the speed camera to the midpoint between Murrayfield Road and Murrayfield Gardens, which the Chair had take up with PC Davison.
 - Christmas tree: sponsorship would soon be sought for the lights.
4. Councillors' reports, including
 - City Fibre street works: on the continuing lack of dialogue, Cllr Ross said that P Wakefield of City Fibre had overreached himself in making promises that he might struggle to keep, but most contacts would be with customers' service providers. J Forbes wondered when work would reach the bottom of Kinellan Road.
 - Flooding and resurfacing issues around Murrayfield Place had been a recent priority, and the Police were monitoring the throwing of objects from Coltbridge Viaduct. Having seen pavement resurfacing at Roseburn Terrace with weeds still in evidence, Cllr Ross had suggested that prior de-vegetation should be written into such contracts.
 - Cllr Beal had been following up on reports of blocked drains, and was focusing on improvement of pedestrian crossings across his ward.
 - on-street bin hub consultation: a Pape's Cottage resident's anxiety has been heightened by the discovery that the proposed Old Colt Bridge location was not put to Committee as it had no traffic implications. A revised proposal was awaited, and Cllr Ross suggested that Sarah Boyack MSP might be asked to request of Cllr Arthur that he instruct its being brought before the Committee.

- short-term lets: on 27 July the Scottish Government had approved the designation of the whole City of Edinburgh Council area as a Short-term Let Control Area for the purposes of Section 26B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

5. Traffic and Transport, including:-

- Ellersly/Kinellan road safety: Cllrs Beal and Davidson had met again in July with the Road Safety Team who told them that "speed measures will be installed this financial year".
- TTRO notice and markings Western Terrace: issues were being taken forward in correspondence between local resident A Barbour and P Coogan for the City Council.
- bus service alterations: it had been reported that the no 12 would soon divert from Princes Street to run via Grassmarket, giving a welcome improvement to Murrayfield connectivity. It seemed unlikely that the route would resume running to Seafield from where it had been cut back during lockdown to terminate at George Street. A member of the public requested more stops on the route of the no 31, which would continue diverting via Chambers Street, George IV Bridge and George Street until 2024 owing to repairs at North Bridge.

6. Planning and Licensing updates J Forbes reported as follows:

- 37 Corstorphine Road: further to the Scottish Ministers' notice of intention stating that they "are minded to grant planning permission", the status on the Council's Planning Portal was inexplicably given as "unknown". He surmised that the conditions of grant are still being worked out, namely (1) archaeology and (2) obligation with regard to education and affordable housing provision.
- 9 Kinellan Road: status remained unchanged for the proposed 14-home development on an ecologically sensitive site in the West Murrayfield Conservation Area. More than 10 months after submission, the application was still "awaiting assessment", and the deficiencies noted by MCC had still not been corrected. A local resident had drawn attention to a Scottish Wildlife Trust article promoting a joined-up approach to wildlife in Edinburgh's urban environment, noting that City of Edinburgh Council supported integrating nature into development which it was hoped would apply here.
- Tree work, Beechmount (102 Corstorphine Road): A second TCO (trees in a Conservation Area) application had been submitted for tree work, apparently correcting information in an earlier one. The work would include clearing an area 5 metres wide around the former coach/gate house at the end of the drive to allow erection of scaffolding, which an inspection had suggested would have minimal impact on mature trees. The property contained the largest block of woodland in the West Murrayfield Conservation Area: however, unrelated to the proposed work, some large trees on the site had heavy ivy cover, threatening their health and stability.
- Conservation Area review: the planning officer had advised that it had not been possible to do any further work since the pandemic. However, we should be mindful that such a review could be a two-edged sword, and inappropriate development had already degraded to some extent the essential character of our Conservation Areas, lowering the bar for new development proposals, with the application for 9 Kinellan Road indicative of a slippery slope.

M Stevens said that DAAA had been seeking extension of the Conservation Area to include more of Devon Place. Members would be meeting the Elgin House developers on 1 September. The arrival of skips indicated the start of work on removing greenery for additional parking in front of Osborne House.

7. Police report

PC Davison had advised:

- Roseburn Cycle path

As with everywhere in the city we had seen uptake in instances of off-road bike or electric motorbikes being used. This was being treated as a high priority with Operation Soteria targeting the offenders. On a local level patrols had been increased in these areas. Everyone was urged to continue reporting instances of this behavior.

(post-meeting note: should the first sentence have read : "As with everywhere in the city we have seen uptake in instances of petrol motorbikes being used illegally on the off road paths")

- Roseburn Park

Attempts to break into the Armoury building in Roseburn Park on the 13th, 18th and 20th August had been made. Enquires were ongoing, see next item.

- High Value frauds

Scammers are targeting people who have investments. The victim receives a phone call from someone that is aware they have investments stating that they need to move said investments. They then tell the victim to download apps to their computer, giving the suspect access to their computer. From there the scammer moves their investment money into crypto currency, which then disappears.

M Stevens noted that the report omitted three incidents in the DAAA area, including one where the Association had asked for assistance but were still awaiting a reply on what action had been taken. A member of the public referred also to a frightening incident near the ice-rink where masked youths on motorcycles had encircled her and chased her dogs. **The Chair agreed to pursue these with PC Davison.**

8. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles advised that a new bench should be arriving soon. 6,000 bulbs were on order for autumn planting, with 25 new trees to be planted over the winter and 24 gaps in the hedge around the new play area would be planted. The Cricket Club Chair and J McDonaugh met with the police on 25 August to discuss the break-ins. With the end of the cricket season, the rugby posts would go up this week: both pitches were due to be aerated within the next two weeks. A cycle event for Tiny Tots would take place on Sunday 4 September. The café conversion was coming along well.

9. Treasurer's Report

Closing balance at 31 July had been £2059.73 after payment of £35 to Church for hall hire and £37 to D Dawson for flyers and laminates. £500 would be paid to FoRP from the City Council grant for the Platinum Jubilee celebration, and the £110 cost of the horse-tram plaque, now awaiting installation, would be reimbursed.

10. Social Engagement: D Dawson had thanked P Gregson for providing details of local organisations, and had emailed them.

11. Any Other Competent Business: the City Council website carried at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/housing-support-advice/home-energy/1> advice on coping with the escalation in fuel prices which **the Chair would ask to be carried on the MCC website.**

12. Dates of future meetings: in person 4 October preceded by AGM at 7 pm, then in person or online 8 November and 13 December. It was agreed that the start time for all meetings be brought forward to 7 pm. The Chair invited members to give thought meantime to their intentions for the AGM, and welcomed an offer by S Macpherson to assist with the future production of Minutes.