

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
N Macdonald, J McDonaugh, S Macpherson, E Robertson,
M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Frank Ross,
In attendance: 15 members of the public, Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of
Edinburgh Council, Scott Ritchie, Balfour Beatty, PC Sam Davison,
Apologies: R Beavis, D Dawson, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Margaret Graham,
Cllr Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy
Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foyso
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.

The Chairman informed the meeting that at the AGM, which had preceded the meeting, the new office bearers had been appointed. The only change had been the appointment of Dave Dawson as Social Engagement Officer in place of Roy Beavis, who had recently tendered his resignation as an ordinary member of MCC.

2. CCWEL update

Rurighd Ahluwalia-McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council and Scott Ritchie, Balfour Beatty gave an update on the CCWEL works at Roseburn.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes reported that recent changes had reduced the impact of the traffic management measures. Work had resumed on Roseburn Terrace. The Copenhagen junction at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace had been completed and the contractors had moved to the foot of Wester Coates Road and would be moving further east in the coming weeks. The contractors were also working on Murrayfield Gardens, Avenue and Place. New planters similar to the existing ones on the Old Colt Bridge would be installed and Jane Geddes, who currently maintains the existing planters, had undertaken to maintain the new ones.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes addressed two points which had been raised in email correspondence before the meeting:-

1. Could speed bumps be installed at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue to slow down eastbound traffic entering from the main road? He explained that the traffic management arrangement at the bottom of Murrayfield Avenue has changed and observations on site suggest that traffic turning in at speed is not presenting a significant problem. There would be challenges with installing speed bumps here owing to the bend. The designs for CCWEL

involve narrowing the junction mouth and this should improve the situation.

2. A replacement sign at the foot of Roseburn Cliff pointing to the Water of Leith walkway would be fitted within the week once the correct fittings had been obtained.

Several people expressed concerns about the new layout at Roseburn Gardens. It was felt that it was not clear that westbound vehicles can turn left down Roseburn Gardens over the new paved area and pedestrians may not realise that this is possible as that area looks like a pavement. It is also not clear that parking is available in Roseburn Gardens. R Ahluwalia-McMeddes explained that pedestrians have priority and the paved area is intended to slow traffic down. It would not be appropriate to put up a "Parking" sign. S Ritchie added that the completed scheme will include a central island opposite the Murrayfield Bar. **R Ahluwalia-McMeddes undertook to speak to the Traffic team and keep an eye on the situation.**

One of the Roseburn traders complained that the contractors had done only a few hours work in the past week. S Ritchie disagreed.

The Chair invited those with concerns to meet Cllr Scott Arthur, the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee, at the Roseburn Café on Saturday, 8 October at 10.30 am.

The Chair directed the meeting to the guides prepared by H Whaley explaining the new road layouts at Roseburn Gardens and the foot of Wester Coates Terrace. Both guides are on MCC's website.

H Whaley suggested that, once the scheme is finished, the traders could tell their customers via their websites where parking is available.

In response to complaints that Balfour Beatty park their vehicles on the pavements and in the loading and parking bays, S Ritchie said that the workmen had been told not to do this and their foreman does try to check the whole area.

R Ahluwalia-McMeddes reported that a resident of Wester Coates Terrace had pointed out that the new full height kerb at the foot of the Terrace obstructed the line which vehicles turning left would naturally take. The design team will correct the alignment here and check whether anything else needs to be changed. S Ritchie confirmed that the damage to the surface of Wester Coates Terrace caused by the contractor's vehicles will be repaired once the works have been completed.

M Stevens had been told that the same applied to damage caused to the surface of Balbirnie Place.

In reply to a question from a resident of Ormidale Terrace S Ritchie said that at worst it would be another six weeks before residents could access the main road from the foot of Murrayfield Gardens.

In reply to other points which were raised **R Ahluwalia-McMeddes** said that enforcement of the "No Right Turn" at Tesco is a Police matter and he **would ask the Traffic team to look at putting a bag over the temporarily redundant "right turn" filter there.**

3. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 30 August 2022 and Matters Arising
The Chair reported as follows:-

3.1 He had been mistaken in saying that the re-routed No. 12 bus goes to the Grassmarket. It runs via Lauriston Place to Liberton, Craigmillar and Craigtintny. The fact that it no longer runs west along Princes Street was lamented because the no 31 has also been diverted away for the duration of the repairs to the North Bridge.

3.2 The Church of the Good Shepherd had taken part in Doors Open Days on 24 and 25 September. The Church will host an organ recital by the internationally renowned Edinburgh organist, John Kitchin on Saturday, 12 November at 5 pm. There will be an Advent Carol Service on Sunday, 27 November at 3 pm and a performance by a string quartet on Saturday, 3 December at 3 pm.

3.3 Murrayfield Parish Church is holding an "Open Doors Afternoon" on Saturday, 26 November from 2 to 4 pm to welcome the community to look round the Church building and the Centre and to find out more about what is on offer. Centre users are invited to advertise their activities. The meeting accepted an offer by P Gregson to organise a stall for MCC. He will also organise one for the Friends of Roseburn Park (FoRP). **R Brown undertook to email him details of the contact at the Church.**

3.4 Murrayfield Ice Rink, which has been closed since March 2020, will re-open on 14 October.

3.5 City Fibre are continuing to install new cabling which will be available to customers from 12 October. A number of those present complained that work in Coltbridge, Succoth, Murrayfield and Ormidale had been started but then abandoned. **Cllr Beal undertook to follow this up with City Fibre.**

3.6 D Dawson had begun a campaign to persuade local households to adopt and water the replacement trees which are to be planted along the Water of Leith in November. The Chair requested a progress report at the next MCC meeting.

3.7 The Council has confirmed that a Christmas tree will be provided for the Old Colt Bridge and the Council will provide lighting on the Bridge.

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

4. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

4.1 The recent petition to the Council for compensation for the Roseburn traders adversely affected by the CCWEL works had received all party support and he was hopeful that some compensation would be forthcoming.

4.2 He was due to have a site meeting with a local resident about the proposed siting of a second bin hub in addition to the one which is to be installed as part of the Rejuvenating Roseburn project.

4.3 He had attended a meeting of the Roseburn Primary School Parent Council, who are looking for a local person to manage a landscape project. P Gregson said that Bank of Scotland often funds that sort of project.

5. Traffic and Transport

5.1 J Forbes reported that the Council is due to start installing safety measures on Kinellan and Ellersly Roads in the current financial year, but he did not yet know what these measures would be. City Fibre had installed a temporary

corral at the end of Kinellan Road which had had the effect of discouraging rat run traffic.

5.2 H Whaley reported that the new off road path from the railway bridges at Russell Road to the Union Canal had been signed off by the Resources Committee thanks to additional funding provided by Sustrans.

6. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

6.1 The Council has published a new procedure for pre-application consultation on major developments which requires a developer to hold an initial public consultation on the plans and a second event discussing the feedback from the initial consultation. A major development is one which involves at least 50 residential units or a large commercial development.

6.2 37 Corstorphine Road – According to the Council's planning portal the status of this application for demolition of the existing detached house and erection of a block of flats remains "unknown".

6.3 9 Kinellan Road – This application for a sizeable residential development is still "awaiting assessment" almost one year on from the date of validation. No new documents have been submitted to correct the deficiencies in the application.

6.4 Elgin House, 20 Haymarket Yards - A full planning application has now been validated for the major hotel and office development proposed to replace the existing Elgin House, just outside the MCC area. Mike Stevens will continue to monitor the application for DAAA, but at present concerns about the residential amenity of the Donaldson area are minimal.

6.5 Telecom installation by 11 Succoth Gardens - An application has been submitted by CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd for erection of a 5G telecommunication mast and ancillary equipment on the public pavement outside 11 Succoth Gardens. The proposed mast is 17 metres tall. A note of objection circulated for prior review by all MCC members was submitted before the deadline of 30 September. In total 23 public objections and 1 note of support have been lodged.

MCC's objection focused on the location of the proposed installation within the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area (CWCCA), pointing out the applicant's serious error in asserting it was outwith the CWCCA.

(Neighbouring residents have also drawn attention to this error in their objections.) The proposed mast will be detrimental to the essential character of sub-area C of the CWCCA, for example by breaking the skyline formed by mature trees. The applicant states that 5G technology will enable a full HD movie to be downloaded in 10 seconds.

Based on previous experience at Beechwood Mains, the chances of success in opposing this application are not good. In the Beechwood Mains case, MCC was informed that the installation was "permitted development" and the planning officer was not obliged to consider public comments. It is hoped that the Conservation Area location will make a difference this time.

This item provoked considerable debate.

A local resident pointed out that 5G technology is important to many people for work, not just entertainment.

Another member of the public, who had worked in technology at the University of Surrey's Guildford campus, explained that the ultimate aim of 5G technology is to support autonomous vehicles.

In reply to questions from the floor, Cllr Beal explained that the planning process for permitted development is a quasi-judicial one which has to be followed and, provided that is done correctly, no challenge is possible if approved. The Development Management Sub-committee, on which he sits, has never considered an application of this type. He suggested looking at the City Plan.

J Forbes confirmed that there is no obligation to notify residents other than those adjoining the proposed site.

There was concern that alternative sites had not been properly considered and that there appears to be no requirement for redundant 3G and 4G masts to be removed.

Cllr Beal undertook to look into possible next steps in view of the fact that the application is likely to be approved soon.

6.6 Signage at Tesco Extra, 3 Roseburn Terrace - Proposed new signage for Tesco Extra appears to take no account of the listed status of the building at 3 Roseburn Terrace or its location within the CWCCA. A note of objection circulated for prior review by all MCC members was submitted before the deadline of 28 September. In it MCC suggested that an application for Listed Building Consent be demanded, so that the proposed signage can be properly considered within the historic context of the building.

6.7 101-103 Saughtonhall Drive – An application for a skin piercing and tattooing licence has been submitted. The deadline for objection was 5 October. The meeting accepted J Forbes's recommendation that MCC take no action.

7. Police Report

PC Sam Davison reported as follows:-

7.1 Chief Inspector Liam Wilson and Inspector Karen Flynn are now based at Drylaw Police Station. Local Community policing continues to be delivered by PC Sam Davison and PC Susan Fulton, but since the removal of ring fenced funding for community policing, they can be deployed elsewhere when required.

7.2 Joy riding masked youths on stolen motorbikes continue to be a huge problem across the city. Electric motorbikes, which are very fast and quiet, present the biggest problem. A dedicated team is tracking and prosecuting them. Plain clothed officers have been deployed on the cycle path. He urged members of the public to continue to report incidents.

7.3 A man carrying a knife in Roseburn Park had been arrested. It was thought he had mental health issues.

7.4 Housebreakings had resulted in the theft of a laptop in Hampton Place, a campervan in Murrayfield Drive and the keys to another campervan in Succoth Gardens.

7.5 There had been a number of incidents in the Donaldson area and patrols there had been increased.

M Stevens said that when residents report incidents to the Police they would like to receive an acknowledgement. One Donaldson area resident had given

the Police photographs of the person who had tried her front door, but she had heard nothing from them. **PC Sam Davison undertook to look into this.**

7.6 The recent protest at the Chinese Embassy had been about Hong Kong.

7.7 He had no update regarding persons throwing objects from the Coltbridge Viaduct.

In reply to a question from H Whaley PC Davison confirmed that preventing drivers from ignoring the new “No Entry” signs on Roseburn Gardens for exiting onto Corstorphine Road is a Police matter.

The Chair took a photograph of PC Davison for MCC’s website.

8. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

8.1 FoRP are holding their AGM on Zoom on Wednesday, 12 October from 7.30 to 9 pm. Email FriendsOfRoseburnMembers@gmail.com to request the meeting link.

8.2 FoRP are holding a Christmas disco at the Masonic Lodge, Roseburn Gardens, on Thursday, 15 December from 7 to 11 pm. Tickets (adults £5, children half price) are available from Art et Facts or at the door.

8.3 6,000 bulbs will be planted in the Park in late October/early November.

8.4 Building work on the café should be completed by mid-November.

8.5 The Council is consulting on awarding Fields in Trust status to a number of parks including Roseburn Park.

8.6 8.7 A copy of the guided walk around Roseburn has been placed at the Roseburn entrance to the Park. It can also be downloaded via a QR code.

9. Treasurer’s Report

J McDonaugh explained that there had been two month ends since the last meeting – August and September. The annual grant from the Council used to be £842, but for 2022/2023 it has been reduced to £692 because for the last two years MCC has incurred no expenditure on hall hire. It should go back up to £842 if MCC incurs hall hire costs of at least £100, i.e. hire the hall on three occasions. In August there had been expenditure of £110 on the plaque commemorating the terminus of the horse drawn tram, disbursement of a £500 grant to FoRP for the Platinum Jubilee celebration in the Park and £35 on hall hire. There had been no expenditure in October.

The Chair mentioned a proposed plaque at Ravelston Garden and the need for a suitable contact there to start the process of obtaining permission.

P Gregson was enthusiastic about commemorating John Lennon’s connection with Murrayfield. E Robertson reminded him that the owners of the house in Ormidale Terrace, where John Lennon had visited his aunt, were not keen to have a plaque.

10. Social Engagement

In D Dawson’s absence the Chair asked for a report at the next meeting.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 B Knowles reported that the Water of Leith Conservation Trust’s wildlife posters are now on display (other than the one of the heron which has been stolen and is to be replaced).

11.2 David McLennan notified the meeting that the Water of Leith Conservation Trust is holding its AGM on Monday, 10 October at the Trust's Centre at Slateford. There will be a display of Charles Everitt's favourite photographs of Water of Leith wildlife.

11.3 A member of the public noted with pleasure that the section of the Water of Leith walkway at Belford, which had been closed for years, had recently been re-opened. The Chair added that the wooden railings had been replaced with metal ones.

11.4 The Chair reported that he had no update on the Balgreen Tunnel project. P Gregson said he could provide the organisers with details of the artist who had done the mural in Roseburn Park. **The Chair undertook to give him the contact details of the person in charge of the project.**

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 November 2022

The meeting discussed whether to bring the start time of future meetings forward to 7 pm and whether to meet on Zoom over the winter or convene a mixture of Zoom and in person meetings. It was decided that the start time should remain at 7.30 pm and the next two meetings should be held on Zoom.

Subsequent meetings: 13 December 2022, 24 January, 7 March, 2 May, 27 June, 29 August, 3 October, 7 November and 12 December 2023.

Minutes approved at meeting of 8 November 2022.