

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 5 December 2017 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes, S Holland,
N Macdonald, H Ross, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas,
In attendance: 12 members of the public, PC Euan Sinclair, PC Joanna Coombs,
Callum Smith and Rurighd McMeddes, City of Edinburgh Council,
Apologies: P Gregson, R Smart, D Whitelaw, Cllr Karen Doran, Cllr Gillian
Gloyer, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Cllr
Frank Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Ruth
Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil Findlay, MSP, Alison
Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP, Andy Wightman, MSP,
Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Order of Business

This was approved. The Chairman intimated that the major part of the meeting would be taken up by Item 7, in respect of which Rurighd McMeddes of the City Council would give a presentation.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Euan Sinclair reported that in the period since the last meeting there had been four thefts, eight violent crimes, five attempted thefts of or from motor vehicles, two Road Traffic offences, two acts of vandalism, three housebreakings and three miscellaneous crimes. PC Sinclair explained that an incident at one of the rugby international matches had been classified as a serious assault because the victim's injury had required sutures. None of the housebreakings had, in fact, been to a house, one being at St George's School and two to garages.

PC Sinclair informed the meeting that there had been a noticeable increase in the theft of pedal cycles. The offenders, most of whom are juveniles, target properties where larger cars with bike racks are parked in the expectation of finding good quality bikes.

PC Sinclair reported that he and PC Sam Davison had been giving road safety talks at schools. They had been offering crime prevention advice to commercial premises and continued to be willing to give such advice to home owners.

PC Sinclair reported that there had been a drop in youth crime in the Murrayfield and Corstorphine areas, but the problem seemed to have moved to Davidson's Mains and Cramond.

PC Sinclair reported that, as requested at the last MCC meeting, he and PC Davison had carried out speed checks in Ellersly Road. They had not found excessive speeding, 22-25 mph being the norm. He conceded that the road works in Ellersly Road might have slowed drivers down. They had not issued any fixed penalty tickets, but had stopped the driver of a hire

vehicle who was exceeding 30 mph and had also spoken to his boss at the car hire firm.

J Forbes asked whether the Police recorded the results of the speed checks and was told that they did record some information on a spreadsheet.

PC Coombs stated that calls about speeding are passed to the Traffic Department at Fettes.

The Secretary reported that her car had been hit while parked in Murrayfield Place and had been off the road for four weeks. It and other cars had been hit by a coach coming from St George's School. The driver had not stopped. The incident had been reported to the Police, the School and the coach company by a passer-by. She was surprised to learn that the incident would not be recorded as a crime. **PC Sinclair** took a note of the Police incident number and Police Scotland reference number and **undertook to investigate.**

4. City Council Budget 2018/19 and Councillor's Report

Cllr Douglas reported as follows:

4.1 He confirmed that the Council has to save £21m and is currently consulting on proposed cuts in its Budget for 2018/19. He urged anyone with strong views on particular services to make their views known to the Council, as these do carry weight. He cited as an example the decision by the Council to cut support for music schools which had been reversed in the face of strong opposition.

4.2 The Education Department has recommended changes in south west and west Edinburgh which involve the primary schools in Wester Hailes and Currie being combined and the catchment area changed. Roseburn Primary School is to be a feeder school for Tynecastle High School instead of Craigmount. Many parents have been in touch with him to complain about these changes.

A member of the public commented that the footpath to Tynecastle School is not considered safe and asked what had changed in this respect. Cllr Douglas said that this issue has not yet been addressed by the Council. He offered to make contact details of the appropriate person available.

4.3 The Council had agreed to put double yellow lines at the corner of Russell Gardens and had drafted a Traffic Regulation Order ("TRO"), but no further progress had been made. He had been told by the Council that the City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street Improvements Project (CCWEL) was the reason for the delay, but Russell Gardens are not affected by the CCWEL.

4.4 There has been a 400% increase in complaints about street lighting. Cllr Douglas suggested that, as there is a backlog of online complaints, any further issues should be raised by email to him/Cllr Gloyer/Cllr Ross.

The Chairman reported that the light on the Old Bridge at Roseburn, which had been broken, had been mended thanks to the efforts of Rurighd McMeddes, but there is now a broken light on the main Roseburn Bridge. **Cllr Douglas undertook to deal with this.**

A member of the public raised two issues:-

- (1) The electric vehicle charger in Russell Road has been out of commission for months. She had reported this to the Council twice online, but had received no response. **Cllr Douglas asked her to email him with details of the problem;** and

- (2) The absence of a “lollipop” person at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue since mid-October is a serious road safety issue and she now drives her children to Roseburn Primary School because it is too dangerous for them to walk. Cllr Douglas acknowledged that there is a shortage of about 40 lollipop persons. The Council advertise these positions regularly but receive a poor response.

The Secretary suggested that MCC could also advertise the vacancies if Cllr Douglas could arrange for the relevant information to be passed to MCC.

A member of the public complained that she had received no response to two reports which she had made online requesting gulley cleaning in Roseburn. **Cllr Douglas asked her to email him with the details.**

The Secretary reported that a local resident, Sarah Reid, had contacted MCC about parking arrangements on match days at BT Murrayfield and had suggested that the Council might consider introducing arrangements similar to those in place at Twickenham. **Cllr Douglas confirmed that he had asked Council officials to look into the Twickenham scheme and had chased them for a response. He undertook to lodge a question in the City Chambers if he did not receive a response in a week.**

A member of the public complained that public transport is withdrawn from the main road on match days and the buses which run along Ravelston Dykes do not stop there. She was anxious about the proposal to stage major football matches at BT Murrayfield instead of Hampden Park. Cllr Douglas agreed that part of the solution to the residents’ woes over parking is to make parking less attractive and public transport more attractive to match spectators. He agreed that it was to be hoped that the football proposal did not come to fruition.

A Anderson suggested that access to public transport could be included in a match ticket.

S Holland referred to the regular meetings with the SRU which he and the Secretary attend and **undertook to ensure that Cllr Douglas**, who has never been invited to one, **is put on the SRU’s invitation mailing list.**

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10 October 2017

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: M Stevens.

Matters Arising

5.1. *Improvements to Ellersly Road*

J Forbes reported that he awaited a timetable from Laura Russell at the Council for taking care of the “quick wins” which had been identified. Cllr Gloyer had raised the issue with Council officials and had been told work would start within six months and that did not mean that nothing would be done for five and a half months.

J Forbes intimated that he would be asking Laura Russell to add the stencilling of “20” on the roadway to the list of quick fixes, as the current speed limit signs on posts are not sufficiently prominent.

J Forbes reminded the meeting that the primary objective of the walkabout three months ago was to initiate a streetscape project on a larger scale than the quick wins. He sought clarity as to whether

this was an appropriate project and, if so, the procedure for getting it into the Council's budget.

Cllr Douglas confirmed that he had spoken to Cllr Gloyer and Peter Keggie at the Council about the project, which would have to come within the Council's overall budget and they would have to fight for a share of it. He said that he was trying to push this matter along.

5.2. *Heavy traffic on Saughtonhall Drive*

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Cllr Gloyer had undertaken to investigate this issue. He understood that so far she had received no response from the relevant Council official and the matter was continued to the next meeting.

5.3. *Tree policy*

J Forbes explained his concern about the Council's current approach to planning applications for the removal of mature trees in the West Murrayfield Conservation Area. Such applications appear to "go through on the nod" and in some cases have been granted before the time limit for objections has passed. Very few details of the work proposed or a report on the health and safety of the trees can be found on the Council's planning portal.

Cllr Douglas asked J Forbes to email him examples of such cases. He was aware of a recent case of the unauthorised felling of a tree on Ravelston Dykes which had been reported to Planning Enforcement. A fine had been imposed on the person responsible.

A member of the public referred to three missing trees outside Murrayfield Medical Practice.

5.4. *Graffiti, including Balgreen tunnel*

The Chairman informed the meeting that the next meeting of West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership will be on 24 January 2018 when MCC's bid for funding for a graffiti removal kit will be decided.

The Chairman reported that, after a complaint from a local resident about the condition of Balgreen tram stop tunnel, he had been to look at it, but as his visit had been on a dry day, he had not seen some of the problems complained of. Cllr Gloyer was to inspect it herself and intended to go on a wet day. This matter was carried forward to the next meeting.

A member of the public reported that graffiti had been removed from the flood protection wall adjoining his garden, but that other graffiti in Roseburn Park had not been removed. He felt that the extensive flood protection walls afforded a great opportunity to graffiti artists and that, if the graffiti were not removed as it occurred, they would be encouraged to continue with their efforts. Another local resident agreed. The Chairman informed them that MCC understands that the Council act only when the graffiti is considered to be offensive. Cllr Douglas confirmed this understanding.

5.5. *MCC website*

H Ross reported that MCC's new website is now live and has automatic feeds to social media. Social media has generated responses in relation to the shortage of lollipop persons, the project to rejuvenate Roseburn and the proposed improvements to Ellersly Road. Cllr Gloyer had directed him to Corstorphine Community Council for advice on how to monitor and respond to the feedback on social media.

H Ross confirmed that H Barbour and R Brown have been added as editors of the website.

He was concerned that there was no process in place for reporting incoming messages on social media. H Barbour reminded the meeting that it had been agreed at the last meeting that she and H Whaley would check MCC's social media accounts prior to each meeting and report on any significant developments.

6. Completion of Flood Prevention Works

The Chairman reported that on 16 November Darren Wraight of the Council had led a walkabout with MCC members of the flood prevention works in Roseburn Park. The Chairman had been impressed by the size of the floodgates, the extent of wildflower planting, the respect which had been shown for the course of the river in protecting its floodplain on the stretch towards Pansy Walk and the overall quality of the newly-completed project. He expressed MCC's delight that their number-one priority over many years had been completed on budget and on time, their gratitude for the way in which the Council had positively engaged with local residents, particularly as regards the protection of well-loved trees, and their thanks to all concerned. He considered that the project had helped to restore the Council's reputation on the successful delivery of large capital projects.

7. Rejuvenating Roseburn – Community engagement

Rurighd McMeddes, CCWEL Stakeholder Liaison Officer, apologised for the fact that the technology required for his presentation was not working. He **undertook to upload his presentation to the Council's website and email it to MCC.**

R McMeddes summarised the consultation process to date, beginning with the MCC meeting on 10 October, followed by three sessions with Primaries 1, 5 and 7 at Roseburn Primary School and on-street public engagement events on Roseburn Old Bridge on 7 November and 5 December. He reported that meetings had also been held with Roseburn Primary School Parent Council, St George's School staff and local residents and businesses. The feedback received had been varied and wide ranging. While there had been many suggestions to increase the amount of green space, provide screening from traffic, a safer environment for pedestrians, more seating and bike racks and space for play and public events such as a farmers' market, some people had proposed leaving the area as it is.

R McMeddes directed the meeting's attention to three display boards showing different outline designs. These had been displayed during the on-street public engagement event that day.

Members of the public expressed concerns about how greenery planted beside the carriageway would cope with road salt and whether such greenery would become too large for public safety. S Holland pointed out that these are maintenance issues rather than design faults.

A Anderson intimated that she had received a leaflet through her door informing her about the public consultation. She asked how widely the leaflets had been distributed. The Secretary replied that she herself had delivered leaflets to the Coltbridge area, St George's School and beyond, Ormidale Terrace and Murrayfield Gardens. She had not covered Henderland Road. A Anderson pointed out that Henderland Road and the surrounding streets are very heavily used by St George's parents. R Beavis said that he had delivered

400 leaflets to Roseburn Gardens, Roseburn Maltings, other properties on the south side of Roseburn Terrace and some of the tenements. S Holland had also spoken about the consultation at a meeting of Roseburn Maltings Residents Association.

In answer to a question about why the three options did not include ideas for improving the triangle of land within the walls of the two Bridges, R McMeddes explained that this area presented difficult issues, which would be costly to solve, and it was preferable to deal with them only once, when the direction of the design had been decided, rather than three times.

He explained that (1) Option 1 prioritised the provision of flexible space for events such as a farmers' market and cautioned that this space could look bare at times when there were no events being held. The proposed design involved the removal of the kerbs on the Old Bridge. The space could be increased by applying to have the carriageway closed for a particular event.

(2) Option 2 prioritised the natural environment by maximising the green space on the west side of the area, providing additional trees in Murrayfield Avenue and on the south side of the Old Bridge. There was flexible space around the café and offices in Murrayfield Place.

(3) Option 3 balanced the provision of green space with some flexible space for outdoor events and had planting, places to perch, but not lounge, and opportunities for play.

R McMeddes asked those present to spend 15 minutes considering the three Options and completing feedback forms.

When the formal part of the meeting resumed at 9.10 pm the Chairman asked R McMeddes how the results of the consultation were going to be implemented. He replied that the results would be fed into the detailed design of the CCWEL and construction would start in 2019, if the project as a whole gets construction approval.

A Anderson stated that the St George's parents are a major cause of traffic congestion at Roseburn and asked whether any part of the CCWEL was going to be trialled first by, say, temporarily blocking off one of the slip roads at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue to assess the impact of closure. She was told that this is too difficult to do, but an assessment of the effect of the project would be carried out 12 months after completion.

H Whaley suggested that to solve congestion, alternatives to driving have to be made more attractive.

A member of the public expressed concern over the cost of altering road levels which was called for in all three design options, but which was not costed. Another felt that costing should be left to the experts once the desired design had been finalised. The Chairman pointed out that 50% of the CCWEL is to be funded by Sustrans.

8. CCWEL – draft Traffic Regulation Orders

At the Chairman's invitation Callum Smith, CCWEL Project Manager, explained the need for, and the process behind, a TRO. He explained that the preliminary design for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the CCWEL drawn up in December 2016 was now far enough advanced to start the TRO process and plans had been issued to about 30 statutory consultees, including the Community Councils, emergency services and bus companies, for comment. The draft TROs will be advertised formally in late January/early February 2018 and

a public exhibition of the plans will be held in a local venue. Businesses, residents and other members of the public will have one month within which to comment on them. A report will then be sent to the Council's Transport and Environment Committee.

The Chairman informed the meeting that C Smith had explained that the loss of parking spaces in Murrayfield Place, about which a number of people had expressed concern, would be offset by changing the 15 unrestricted parking spaces at Roseburn Maltings, which are currently mainly used by commuters, to short term parking for shoppers. S Holland clarified that the spaces in question are not part of the residential development at Roseburn Maltings, although they bear the same name. A member of the public complained that there would still be a net loss of parking spaces.

C Smith added that a Redetermination Order is usually required alongside a TRO and is advertised in the same way.

9. Scottish Parliament Air Quality inquiry

The Chairman reported that the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee had visited Corstorphine in November, Corstorphine being considered to have some of the worst air quality in the city. H Ross made the point that the difference between Corstorphine and Roseburn is minimal and both regularly exceed European limits.

10. Planning and Licensing

10.1 Cllr Douglas confirmed that consideration of the planning application for 33 Pinkhill had been postponed until January 2018. He was aware that the Bridge Club which occupied the building on the corner of the main road at 1 Pinkhill, had requested the Council to install double yellow lines and restricted parking bays on both sides of the side road to prevent dangerous parking.

10.2 J Forbes confirmed that, as R Smart was currently unavailable, he had drafted an objection on behalf of MCC to the planning application for the redevelopment of the former TOR nursing home on Corstorphine Road. He had circulated the draft to the MCC members prior to the meeting. Objections had to be lodged by 7 December 2017. It was decided on a show of hands that J Forbes should submit the objection on behalf of MCC. He confirmed that it was open to all residents, not just notified neighbours, to comment on planning applications and he encouraged others to lodge objections to this application. Cllr Douglas confirmed that, while there is no fixed number, the application will usually go to the Planning Committee if more than 20 objections are received.

11. Traffic and Transport

R Brown asked for clarification as to whether it was still open to MCC, as statutory consultee, to comment on the draft TRO referred to at Item 8, although the period of 21 days referred to in the letter of 3 November which accompanied it had expired. C Smith confirmed that only two statutory consultees had in fact commented and it is open to MCC to make preliminary comments now and to comment more fully within the one month period after the TRO is advertised. **The Secretary undertook to draft a response with MCC's preliminary comments for approval.**

R Brown also asked for clarification on the draft TRO plan showing the proposed alteration to the Tesco junction at Roseburn Terrace, Roseburn

Street and Russell Road which appeared to give priority to traffic travelling west along Russell Road over traffic turning right into Roseburn Street from Roseburn Terrace. C Smith explained that the cross-hatched yellow box at the junction would prevent a dangerous tailback of traffic on Roseburn Terrace.

12. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

13. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 January 2018

R Brown confirmed that there had been one change to the dates proposed for MCC meetings in 2018. 28 February had been substituted for 6 March. The agreed MCC meeting dates for 2018 are:

9 January	14 August
28 February	9 October
1 May	4 December.
26 June	

Minutes approved at meeting of 9 January 2018.

for approval