

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 7 March 2023 at 7.30pm
by Zoom
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, J Forbes, P Gregson,
B Knowles, N Macdonald, J McDonaugh, D MacLennan,
S Macpherson, M Stevens, H Whaley, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Euan Davidson,
In attendance: Heather Bryson, BCyA, Clare Marshall, Tummies Not Trash,
Rurighd McMeddes, The City of Edinburgh Council, Scott Ritchie,
Balfour Beatty, 8 members of the public,
Apologies: D Dawson, E Robertson, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr Finlay
McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, 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 Chair welcomed those in attendance and introduced Heather Bryson, BCyA, (aged 10) and Clare Marshall from Tummies Not Trash.

2. Special Guests

2.1 Heather Bryson gave a presentation on the British Citizen Award, which recognises individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to society and their communities. Heather explained that there is an adult award and a youth award (BCyA) for individuals under 18 years of age. She was awarded the BCyA in October 2022 and is also an Ambassador for the Award. Heather detailed her various activities, which included raising money for charity by selling homemade charms, dog toys and bird feeders, posting You Tube videos of chair based exercises for care home residents, distributing donated goods to members of the community at Christmas, Easter and Halloween and training as a lifeguard and St Andrews Ambulance first aider. She urged her audience to think of nominating someone for a British Citizen Award.

2.2 Clare Marshall from Tummies Not Trash explained that about two years ago she had started collecting surplus food from local supermarkets and leaving it on her garden wall for those in need to collect. Her organisation is now a registered charity, which partners with a number of other local organisations in Corstorphine, Balgreen and Murrayfield. It has applied for funding from the Edinburgh Community Climate Fund from which funds will be allocated according to a public vote. C Marshall urged those present to vote for Tummies Not Trash by the deadline of 12 March. She mentioned that Corstorphine Community Centre has applied to the Fund for their Seedlings for Seniors project. It is possible to vote for five different projects.

Tummies not Trash are looking for volunteer drivers. Donations can be made via their "Go Fund Me" page.

3. CCWEL

Ruridgh McMeddes, Senior Project Manager – Active Travel, The City of Edinburgh Council, gave the following update on Section 1 of the CCWEL:-

3.1 Resurfacing of the A8 - The section from the foot of Murrayfield Avenue to just west of Devon Place has been completed. The next section to Rosebery Crescent will be delivered alongside the Haymarket works later this year. There is some minor snagging on the completed section to pick up on the night shift next week (including surface defects) – this will not require a full closure of the road.

3.2 Restoration of right turn into Russell Road - This will be restored by 28 April 2023. This work has been further delayed as the CCWEL is now competing with the Tram extension for limited traffic signals resources. Temporary lights will be installed in the coming weeks and will enable the new pedestrian crossings over Roseburn Terrace to be brought into operation.

3.3 Prohibition on cars exiting from Roseburn Gardens - This prohibition remains in place. Additional signage for the junctions leading to Roseburn Gardens has been designed and should be installed in the coming weeks. At present the exit from Roseburn Gardens is restricted with cones. He acknowledged that this does create issues for the legitimate left turn in from Roseburn Terrace.

3.4 Murrayfield Place completion - The road has been re-opened to two-way traffic. The remaining works, including widening the footway at the bottom of Murrayfield Avenue and planting a tree there, are progressing well and are expected to be complete by mid-April.

3.5 Rejuvenating Roseburn - Installation of cobbles over the Old Colt Bridge is to commence imminently, alongside installation of heritage street lighting. In answer to a question from Cllr Davidson R McMeddes confirmed that traffic monitoring had been carried out in January at the junctions of Russell Road and Roseburn Street, Roseburn Street and Roseburn Place and Roseburn Place and Roseburn Gardens.

D MacLennan raised the following issues:-

- (1) Had the timing of the traffic lights on Roseburn Terrace been altered to take account of the current closure of the Western Approach Road? R McMeddes said that it had not in order to avoid decreasing the “green time” at the Tesco crossing.
- (2) When will the damage to the road surface at the foot of Wester Coates Terrace be repaired? R McMeddes replied that the bollards will be installed soon. He and S Ritchie explained that the investigation into the composition of the damaged slabs would be completed in the next two weeks.
- (3) Class One Management have failed to maintain cones at this location. R McMeddes and S Ritchie confirmed that the cones will be put back.
- (4) How far behind schedule is Section 1 of the CCWEL? S Ritchie said that there had been unforeseen challenges in the work so far and estimated that Section 1 is about 3 months behind schedule.

S Macpherson expressed surprise that the monitoring of vehicles executing the banned right turn out of Roseburn Gardens had disclosed a low number of offenders and asked what time of day the monitoring had been carried out. In her experience most offences were committed between 5pm and 6.30pm.

R McMeddes said the monitoring had been done between 7am and 7 pm. He **undertook to have the video data checked.**

In answer to a question from S Macpherson R McMeddes confirmed that the bollards currently being installed along the cycle track on Roseburn Terrace will be sited only where there are double red lines.

S Ritchie confirmed that all of the work in the Murrayfield area, including snagging and the installation of street furniture, should be completed by the end of April when no further traffic management should be required.

A resident who helped to look after the planters on the Old Colt Bridge asked whether a water supply could be provided for the care of the new planting. **R McMeddes undertook to look into this.**

In reply to four issues raised by M Stevens S Ritchie replied as follows:-

1. Resurfacing of the carriageway from just west of Devon Place to Clifton Terrace will commence in the first week in October.
2. The new traffic signals at Roseburn Gardens and Stanhope Street will be installed in early May. The signals at the Roseburn Street/Russell Road/Roseburn Terrace junction will be done before then.
3. Any damage which has been caused to the road surface at Balbirnie Place will be made good.
4. **R McMeddes** confirmed that the design for the CCWEL includes the retention of the storm drain outside Osborne House. He **undertook to reply to M Stevens' email about this.**

In answer to various questions R McMeddes and S Ritchie confirmed:-

1. The existing traffic lights on Roseburn Terrace will be removed after the last of the Six Nations rugby matches on 19 March.
 2. The litter bins which were removed at the start of the works on Roseburn Terrace are being cleaned and will be put back.
 3. The ponding on the cycle lane near Wester Coates Road will be picked up in the snagging and remedied. The Council has a narrow gritter which will be used to grit the cycle lane.
 4. The new pole outside Donaldson's, which appears to impede the pavement, will be investigated.
 5. The prohibition on westbound traffic on the A8 turning into Murrayfield Gardens remains and the "No Right Turn" sign will be reinstated.
 6. It is not possible to divide the loading bays on Roseburn Terrace into individual spaces. The current markings are prescribed by regulations.
 7. The request by the traders for hanging baskets and an automatic watering system on Roseburn Terrace will be considered by the Council if a specification and budget are drawn up.
4. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24 January 2023 and Matters Arising
- 4.1 By-election on 9 March - The Chair reported that the Council had apologised for ignoring MCC's representations about the unsuitability of BT Murrayfield as a polling station.
 - 4.2 Flood prevention – In D Dawson's absence the Chair reported that D Dawson had been in correspondence with Gordon McOmish, the Council's Flood Prevention Team Leader, and the Council's website had been updated with more information on flood prevention procedures, as promised at the previous MCC meeting. Shortly before the current meeting Gordon

McOmish's colleague, Stephen Knox, who had spoken at the previous MCC meeting, had sent an email offering to add one or two collective email addresses for Murrayfield residents to the Flood Prevention Team's telemetry system, which would issue two automated email messages. The first would advise that the Team had been notified of rising river levels, and the second (as flows increased) would advise residents to phone the Team's call centre if there was no sign of anyone on site. He envisaged automated distribution of the messages from those collective email addresses.

The Chair undertook to ask D Dawson whether he would be willing to provide his email address for this purpose.

- 4.3 Six Nations rugby matches – The Chair informed the meeting that D Dawson had reported problems at the last match with cars parking on double yellow lines. Cllr Davidson said that additional wardens were going to be deployed at the next match and asked to be informed whether that brought about an improvement in behaviour.
- 4.4 Forthcoming concerts at BT Murrayfield – The Chair mentioned that other events at which crowd behaviour might be an issue are the concerts to be given by Beyonce and Bruce Springsteen at BT Murrayfield on 20 and 30 May respectively.
- 4.5 The Council's consultation hub – The Chair reported that there had been consultations on taxi fares and the proposed Corstorphine low traffic neighbourhood. He anticipated a major consultation on traffic and transport.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J Forbes, Sec: M Stevens.

5. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported as follows:-

5.1 She and two other volunteers planted 1,000 'in the green' snowdrop bulbs in the Park over the last weekend.

5.2 Two trees have been planted at the Ice Rink end of the Park. She would like to see double the number of trees at this location to create a grove of trees. There is currently a lack of native trees suitable for planting in tree nurseries, hence the delay in planting in the Park. Trees need to be half standard in height as a minimum.

5.3 New alders have been planted along the central path and a whitebeam has been planted to replace one which was felled last year.

J McDonagh reported that the handover of the café by the contractor is due to take place on 17 March. A completion event before Easter is planned. The café will be called the Rosebean Café.

The Chair reported that D Dawson had intimated that volunteers and staff from the Water of Leith Trust will be planting trees between the boundary of the Park and Pansy Walk on 22 March. Buckets have been provided by Wickes for watering of trees at this location. The trees will be 50cm tall, smaller than originally hoped, but will require less regular watering.

In reply to a question from the Chair Cllr Davidson confirmed that it will be 2026 before there is any hope of Council funding to implement changes to deal with the cycling safety issue in the Park.

It was agreed that on this basis P Gregson would re-submit an application to Sustrans for funding for a feasibility study on the cycling safety issue. Cllrs Beal and Davidson confirmed that they would support such an application. P Gregson said that it would also require a commitment from the Council to fund any changes recommended by the feasibility study.

Clare Marshall mentioned that Edinburgh Fringe is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a campaign to plant 75,000 trees and suggested approaching the Fringe for help in acquiring trees for Roseburn Park. B Knowles explained that the problem is not a lack of willingness to acquire trees but a lack of tree stock.

6. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

6.1 Bin hubs - After a site visit the Council is looking at moving the disputed bin hub in Coltbridge Avenue back to its original position where it was outside a house but not a window.

The re-sited bin hub in Roseburn Gardens, which has attracted a lot of publicity, has not featured as much in the Councillors' correspondence.

6.2 Flood prevention – He welcomed the addition of information to the Council's website (see Item 4.2).

6.3 Blocked gullies - A number of gullies in Roseburn Street have been cleared.

6.4 The felling of a number of trees in Saughtonhall has been prevented.

Cllr Davidson reported as follows:-

6.5 He is still chasing Council officers for an update on the design proposals for safety measures on Kinellan and Ellersly Roads which were promised in the current financial year but have now been delayed to the current calendar year.

J Forbes undertook to forward the email correspondence containing this commitment to Cllr Davidson.

6.6 There is nothing happening at present about the proposed extension of the tram network to include the Roseburn Path.

The Chair said that he expected that to be included in the forthcoming traffic and transport consultation.

The Chair also pointed out there had been no progress on Ben's Crossing and **undertook to chase Lloyd Richardson at the Council about this.** J Forbes pointed out that the need for a crossing and wider pavement on Ellersly Road was first raised with the Council nine years ago and very little progress has been made.

6.7 Roseburn Primary School landscape project – Cllr Davidson thought that the School is no longer seeking a project manager.

7. Traffic and Transport

This had been dealt with under other items.

8. Planning and Licensing

J Forbes reported as follows:-

37 CORSTORPHINE ROAD: Thanks to Cllrs Beal and Davidson, the status of the application for this development has been clarified. The Scottish Ministers have extended the period to conclude an agreement on a commuted sum for affordable housing until 22 March 2023. The Planning Portal will

meantime continue to show the status as "unknown". In his view the Portal's lack of transparency on a matter of strong public interest is regrettable. SEPA survey - The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has invited MCC to take part in a short opinion survey to "inform [its] work on regulation and flooding services". MCC is considering whether it would be appropriate to fault SEPA on the vulnerability of its IT systems, which MCC believes, in the case of 37 Corstorphine Road, led to a significant planning decision being taken by Scottish Ministers without the benefit of the Arup flood risk report.

TELECOM INSTALLATION BY 11 SUCCOTH GARDENS: The application for a 5G telecom mast on the pavement by 11 Succoth Gardens was REFUSED, for the reasons stated in MCC's objection. A win for good sense and the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area.

SIGNAGE AT TESCO EXTRA: Despite what MCC considered insufficient documentation, Listed Building Consent has been given for new signage and fascia at the Tesco Express in Roseburn.

13 RAVELSTON PARK: Application 22/05474/FUL (as amended) for a two-storey extension to the villa at 13 Ravelston Park has been referred to the Development and Management Sub-Committee (DMSC) for decision on 15 March 2023. The application attracted 23 objections. MCC did not submit comments per its normal procedure on householder applications.

J Forbes had reviewed the proposal in some detail with reference to the Dean Conservation Area (DCA) Character Appraisal document. This has little to say about the Ravelston Park sub-area of the DCA. The application claims no trees will be removed.

He had also noted the concerns raised by 13 signatories to a letter sent to Cllr Beal and copied to MCC. He believed the DMSC will properly take account of these concerns in its decision.

The meeting agreed with J Forbes's view that there was no reason for MCC to make an exception of this householder development by intervening at Committee stage.

9. Police Report

The Chair reported that the Police report had been received by email only six minutes before the start of the meeting. He summarised it as follows:-

9.1 In the Murrayfield area between 1 February and 7 March 2023 there had been 19 crimes compared with 37 in the same period last year.

9.2 There had been a number of different thefts during February - three bikes from Donaldson's, a bike from Balbirnie Place, in which an angle grinder had been used, an attempted theft from a shed on Corstorphine Road and thefts from vehicles on West Stanhope Place and Roseburn Street.

9.3 Six Nations Rugby Internationals

Scotland v Wales - 1 crime of assault had been recorded but overall it had been a very safe event.

Scotland v Ireland - The public are asked to phone 101 if they have any concerns on the day.

9.4 Youths on Roseburn Cliff - There had been a report of intoxicated youths on 17 February. The public are asked to report any problems caused by youths on the Water of Leith Walkway.

10. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported as follows:-

10.1 MCC had incurred expenditure of £235 in January. There had been no income or expenditure in February, the closing balance for both months being £1,867. He anticipated expenditure in March of £45 for the rent of the hall for the by-election hustings event and a closing balance for the financial year of £1,822.

10.2 In the next financial year he will submit an application to the North West Edinburgh Partnership for funding for a noticeboard at Balgreen. This is to be sited on the south elevation of the Co-op store.

The Chair reported on the various micro projects as follows:-

10.3 The horse tram plaque, which has not worn well, is to be replaced.

10.4 The residents of Ravelston Garden are unsure about allowing a plaque there. He has offered to meet them on site.

10.5 J Forbes has applied for Listed Building Consent for a plaque to commemorate the former Murrayfield Station.

10.6 The Minister of Murrayfield Parish Church is in favour of a plaque to commemorate John Lennon's association with Ormidale Terrace but has to convince the Kirk Session to agree.

11. Social Engagement

P Gregson reported that Tommy McLean of Corstorphine Community Services Partnership had put together a directory of local organisations which was to be added to MCC's website to supplement MCC's own list.

12. Any Other Competent Business

12.1 The Chair reported that he had been receiving a lot of correspondence about celebrating the Coronation. J McDonough said that the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") have also been approached about taking the lead in organising a community event. A number of people are willing to support such an event but no one has offered to take the lead in organising it.

Cllr Beal intimated that the Council has a pot of money to help fund such events.

P Gregson offered to email the FoRP membership to seek volunteers.

12.2 The Chair reported that MCC now has approval in principle from the Council to hold the usual Christmas events on the Old Colt Bridge. J McDonough added that there will be a follow up meeting with the Council in August.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 2 May 2023 **preceded by AGM** (both in person)

In answer to a question from P Gregson the Chair confirmed that Chris Peggie at the Council had confirmed that the next Community Council elections are scheduled to take place in May 2024. The Office Bearers elected at MCC's AGM on 2 May 2023 will, therefore, serve for at least a year.

The Chair expressed a wish to refresh the membership by recruiting from Murrayfield Churches Together, the Maltings and Saughtonhall Community Association, some of whom had at one time been represented. He suggested that the Roseburn traders could also nominate someone.

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P Gregson offered to include a request for new members in the flyer to announce the opening of the café in Roseburn Park.

Subsequent meetings: 27 June and 29 August (in person), 3 October, 7 November and 12 December 2023 (online).

Minutes approved at meeting of 2 May 2023.