

## **MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **REPORT IN LIEU OF CANCELLED 19 MAY MEETING**

We regret the continuing need to cancel meetings, and shall be considering carefully how it may be possible to hold our AGM in conjunction with the meeting scheduled for 30 June. Meanwhile here is a further update on which please feel free to send any comments to the MCC website.

#### **LOCAL NEWS ITEMS**

- MCC are supporting a bid to have The Armoury in Roseburn Park declared a War Memorial.
- We have published on our website a self-guided walking tour of Roseburn and Coltbridge by Rosie Bell.
- Edinburgh City Council has no objection to our having a Christmas tree this December on the Old Colt Bridge. We now have to obtain a Public Charitable Collection Licence, and are considering which local groups might have fundraising carol singing evenings there.

#### **PLANNING AND LICENSING**

- We have made comments on the City Council's Review of the Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area Character Appraisal, referring to the need for repairs to the stone walls in West Coates and the possibility of extending the ambit of the Conservation Area to include more of Devon Place, but have said that we feel much greater concern about the erosion in the character of our other conservation area in West Murrayfield. Such reviews could be a two-edged sword since recent loss of character means that they could reset the standard at a lower level. We have already seen developers - and planners and appeal reporters – cite previous out-of-character developments as precedent, it is a ratchet effect and the more our Conservation Areas are encroached upon, the greater becomes the need to preserve the character of what is left.
- 37 Corstorphine Road: neighbour notification of the revised application now issued. Deadline for comments 26 May. We shall again be objecting that the provision of private and communal greenspace is seriously inadequate.
- 9 Kinellan Road: awaiting neighbour notification of the corrected application.

## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

- The Reporter inquiring into the CCWEL cycle-way concluded that the objections relating to loading on Roseburn Terrace were unfounded, and that the loading provision on Murrayfield Place would be improved by the proposals. The Scottish Government's decision is awaited on the Redetermination Orders, but the City Council has approved implementation of the Traffic Regulation Orders. However it also intends holding a further statutory consultation on making Stanhope Street one-way, a consequence of the wish to install an extra crossing on the A8 at Donaldson's. This controversial one-way proposal was previously withdrawn in the face of strong opposition from local residents.
- The City Council has taken action in Comiston, Silverknowes and Leith to improve social distancing for cyclists and pedestrians, and Ravelston Dykes is also under consideration for such treatment.
- AECOM advise regarding possible Quiet Route improvements at Saughton Crescent that with the current restrictions the project and consultation are on hold until things begin to open up again. They need to undertake some traffic surveys and cannot do this until traffic levels recover to a reasonably normal level. The traffic surveys are a crucial element of the project and once AECOM are able to undertake these, in late summer at the earliest, they will be in touch with MCC again.
- The Scottish Government has halted progress on Low Emission Zones, and at least in the short term the lockdown has transformed air quality.
- Ellersly Road pavement-widening (estimated cost £80k) and Murrayfield Road pedestrian crossing (£20k) currently sit in a bank of proposed projects for consideration when there is confirmation of a Western Neighbourhood Environmental Programme budget. To date the City Council NEP budget has not been defined because of the pandemic impact. We understand that the Council plan to set a new three-year budget in the summer.
- Work is nearing completion on refurbishment of Coltbridge Viaduct.
- The Lord Provost is investigating for us why roads in Wester Coates have received resurfacing to a standard superior to the normal patch-and-mend which however covers only part of the network.