

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Draft minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 8 pm in
Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: H Ross

Present: G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland, N Macdonald, G McLeod, E Robertson, R Smart, W Spence, J Yellowlees
Ex officio: Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross
In attendance: Acting Sgt Annicea Madine; M Towers, D Smith, Shane Teague and colleagues of McLaren, Murdoch and Hamilton architects and S1 Developments; B McCafferty and A Orriell, Edinburgh Trams
5 members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the newly-elected Cllr Ross and congratulated Cllrs Edie and Balfour on their re-election. Apologies from Cllr Balfour, W Amcotts, R Brown

2. Order of Business

It was agreed to add an item updating on the Ellersly Road development.

3. Community policing

Sgt Madine reported that there are two set priorities:

(a) Speeding CityLink and Airport Express buses between Roseburn and the Zoo. Lothian and Borders Police Roads Policing Branch, local officers and Traffic wardens were tasked to carry out speed checks in the area, where numerous speeding offences were detected, including one CityLink bus. The speeding campaign will continue until the end of May.

(b) Cyclist using the pavements at Balbirnie Place and Western Corner. In relation to this priority, numerous high-visibility joint cycle patrols were carried out with the environmental wardens and around 20 persons were stopped and advised accordingly on regarding 'safe cycling'

SNT officers gathered intelligence, craved and executed a drugs warrant, which led to the discovery of a cannabis cultivation worth £115,000 and £1795 in cash in a property in the Forrester Park area. Housebreakings continued to be a priority, where numerous plain-clothes cycle patrols were carried out in our area in a bid to trace the persons or persons responsible. Several people have now been charged. Bus gateway checks are still being conducted to deter anti-social behaviour and young people drinking on the buses.

Future joint events:

17 May 2012 - Joint litter patrols with the Environmental Wardens

23 May 2012 - Joint road show with the CEC at Roseburn Terrace

4-8 June 2012 - Play safe with P7 school children across the West of the City

4. Ellersly Road (former Balfour Stewart House) development update

M Towers reported that since attending the Community Council's December meeting he had responded to the Planning Department's consultation by indicating his intention to open up the area behind the statues for public access through the

site without running the risk of its becoming a gathering ground for local youth. The Council had zoned the site as a country house sub-area, distinguishing it from the terraces with which Murrayfield was more closely associated, but his contention was that the proposed development would be a mix of terraces and villas behind high walls so that any comparisons with say Belmont House were inappropriate. He remained keen to retain the trees, building on the special quality of the south-facing location, and following consultation with the site-owner over issues such as drainage had increased the number of flats to 34 and reduced the houses to 21 so as to give a better mix, with an 18% reduction in floor area. Since the Council's "minded to grant" statement he had sought to reduce the development's visual impact, establishing a better relationship with the trees and promoting the houses as having the appearance of traditional Edinburgh ones albeit fitted with solar panels. He had reduced the scale overall, and while the view from Western Corner of a three-storey gable had become four-storey flats, the bulk would still be a lot less than had been that of Balfour Stewart House. All of the housing would be luxury, but a contribution would be made to another affordable housing development on a different site nearby. He explained to a member of the public who expressed reservations about the visual impact of the flats that increasing this element would bring the development into the price-range of more people, and assured R Smart that replacement trees would be big and of native species.

5. Trams

Recalling developments since the Mar House mediation of April 2011, B McCafferty said that interim agreement had thus been forthcoming to restart work on the depot, test-track, Gogar underpass and at Haymarket Yards. New governance arrangements put in place with the Council's consultants Turner Townsend had delivered completion of the depot and test-track on which 12 trams were now undergoing testing, with the remaining 15 due to arrive soon from the manufacturer in Spain. Six km of track had been laid at the Airport and in the Edinburgh Park and Carrick Knowe areas, and the 12 main bridges were now built or under construction, with work also proceeding on retaining walls. Three out of the 16 tram-stops were under construction and 3 of the 6 sub-stations had been completed. Remedial work to the track along Princes Street was due for completion by end-June, and the aim now was to have the off-street section complete by end-2013 and the on-street route to York Place ready in early 2014 for the initial route to be up and running by summer 2014. A wall was being built by the Jenners Depository for the Balgreen Road tram-stop, where the cycleway would be closed for twelve months. Good progress was being made on the construction of the bridge-units, with that at Roseburn Street successfully laid in on 13 May, but at Balgreen Road four weekend closures would be necessary to allow for demolition of the existing structure and laying-in of the new bridge. In answer to Cllr Edie, A Orriell explained that a letter had been sent in the last week to local businesses in the extended area around Balgreen Road notifying them of the closures: unlike the others where it was a matter of putting in the steel beams and the road could then reopen, the Russell Road bridge was having to be built in situ, so the road would reopen at the end of the year. W Spence said that lorries queuing at Baird Drive were imposing a ridiculous strain on local residents. B McCafferty explained to S Holland that if it proved impossible to lease them to another operator the trams surplus to present requirements would be run on a rota.

R Smart asked if the tram team were aware how difficult it now was to go south, but A Orriell pointed out that if they had waited until Russell Road was complete before tackling Roseburn Street and Balgreen Road, the programme would have become much longer. Cllr Edie urged the need for better consultation: A Orriell said that just 15 out of 300 people invited to a public meeting at Baird Drive had turned up, but another meeting was scheduled for Russell Road residents on 11 June. The Murrayfield tram-stop would have an escalator alongside its steps. S Holland praised the contractor for his helpfulness in offering to take out residents' bins at Roseburn Maltings.

6. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Edie said that following the recent election, a new Labour-SNP administration was now in place, and the Lib Dems therefore found themselves in Opposition. Media attention had now shifted to the first all-Edinburgh Cup Final since 1896 between Hearts and Hibs at Hampden on 19 May. Local issues concerning him had included vandalism at the Balgreen tunnel, dog-fouling at Saughtonhall, bus-lane enforcement and action on parked cars, and resurfacing was now getting under way at Craighleith Drive. Cllr Ross said that a new Lord Provost was about to be appointed, and membership of Committees would be named in the next week.

7. Approval of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4 April 2012

Approval moved by G Douglas, seconded by S Holland.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. Parking on Murrayfield Avenue

Concern had been expressed at slow progress in declaring a controlled parking zone (see Reports, below)

8.2. Any Other Matters Arising

R Smart said that the uneven paving at Roseburn Terrace now needed serious attention.

9. Roseburn Park public shelter

V Forbes requested a letter of support for the Friends' grant application which it was agreed that the Chairman would provide.

ACTION : CHAIRMAN

10. Planning & Licensing :

R Smart reported a drop in applications, with nothing of any significance to report. S Holland said that arrangements for the Madonna concert seemed still up in the air.

11. Traffic & Transport :

Nothing to report.

12. Reports

The phone-box at Western Corner was due for removal. E Robertson understood that the contractor's signs above the Prego store were due to come down soon, but there was now a large sign at St George's school on Garscube Terrace. A large number of commercial vehicles continued to park on Murrayfield Avenue, and in Henderland Road a quarter of the vehicles parked there were commercial.

13. Correspondence
As circulated

14. Any Other Competent Business :
There was none.

15. Questions from the Floor :
None.

16. Date of next meetings :
Tuesday 26 June Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, Tuesday 7 August
Murrayfield Parish Church (not the Church Centre).

Murrayfield Community Council Main Correspondence Received
Since meeting of: 4 April 2012

28 Mar	Member of the public	Requesting pressure on commercial parkers on Murrayfield Ave	
29 Mar	Member of the public	Concerned about lack of progress in Controlled Parking	
3 Apr	Network Rail	Invitation to community drop in about Haymarket developments	30/4
4 Apr	J Yellowlees	Alerting CC to the closure of the Roseburn Terrace butchers	
6 Apr	EACC →	Meeting papers	
7 Apr	Edin. Law School student	Survey for research project	
10 Apr	Community Safety at SNT	Seeking contact details G McLeod re: leaflets	
10 Apr	UNISON	Invitation to hustings local council elections	26/4
10 Apr	CEC CC Liaison	Report on CC role in planning process	
11 Apr	Member of the public	Cc regarding visual impact of tree removal at St George's school	
12 Apr →	Drumbrae CC and others	Cc regarding postponed CC elections	
14 Apr	WENP	Murrayfield Tennis Club open day	21/4
16 Apr	WENP	Workshop for start up business (3 – 31 May)	
17 Apr	WENP	Local gala / fair days	
19 Apr	CEC planning	Guidance on how to find out about planning applications	
23 Apr	Cllr Edie	Craigleith Crescent road repairs	
23 Apr	Ed.&Loth. Greenspace Trust	Newsletter incl. refurbishment of Saughton Play Park	
25 Apr	CEC CC Liaison	Scottish Government consultation on affordable rented housing	30/4
25 Apr →	CEC CC Liaison	Funding newsflashes	
27 Apr	John Yellowlees	History and images re: Murrayfield train station and services	
28 Apr	EACC	Resignation of Secretary	
30 Apr	Sarah Boyack MSP	Newsletter	
2 May	WENP	Proposed removal of telephone box Western Corner	5/7
2 May	Marco Biagi MSP	Holyrood Update Newsletter	
3 May	Murrayfield Tennis Club	Community Project report	
3 May	Friends of Roseburn Park	Seeking support for bid to conduct feasibility study old toilet block	
4 May →	Member of public	Requesting update on Ellersley Road site	
9 May	WNT	Seeing Murrayfield CC representative on WENP	
9 May →	CEC Licensing	License application and amendments lists	
9 May	CEC CC Liaison	Invitation to participated in focus groups on digital parks	
10 May	SNT	Seeking new approach to public contribution to priority setting	
15 May	Edinburgh Civic Forum	Meeting papers	

ASCC = Association of Scottish Community Councils
 CC = Community Council
 Cc = Copy Correspondence
 CEC = City of Edinburgh Council
 DAAA = Donaldson Area Amenity Association
 EACC = Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
 MCC = Murrayfield Community Council
 SNT = Safer Neighbourhood Team at Lothian and Borders Police
 SESplan = The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland
 (T)TRO = (Temporary) Traffic Regulation Order
 WNT = West Neighbourhood Team at CEC
 WENP = West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership