

# Sports Pavilion Update

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Note of meeting held in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at 4.30 pm. Chaired by H Levy, Chair of the Firrhill Community Council.

Attendance:	Heather Levy	Firrhill Community Council
	Graham Croucher,	CEC Culture and Sports
	John Travers, SCDO	..
	Norman Lord	Edinburgh Leisure
	Mhaira O'Neal	..
	Loyd Richardson	CEC Roads
	Elaine Aitken, Cllr	City of Edinburgh Council
	Stewart McManus	Oxgangs AC
	Brian Lee	Oxgangs AC
	Alistair Hunter	Oxgangs PS Football Club
	Rev Ian McQuarrie	Colinton Mains Parish Church
	Mr & Mrs Oldroyd	Oxgangs Road North Residents
	John Spence	Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre
	Margaret Carson	Colinton Mains Bowling Club
	Peggy Wright	Firrhill Community Council
	James Napier	..

G Croucher gave a report on the current position of the new build indicating that whilst it was approx four weeks behind schedule, the building was almost wind and water tight for the winter with the near completion of the roof. The delay had been caused by the locating and safe removal of asbestos during the process of demolishing the old building and redirecting services to Colinton Mains Bowling Club. It was expected that the completion would be sometime in April next year.

The contractors have been asked to cost additional paths to be provided from the pavilion to the football pitches as shown on the circulated plan. HL asked for an electronic copy of the plan.

Referring to the two existing buildings within the park, one of which was used to store the park keeper's equipment and the other to provide toilet facilities, he indicated that they proposed to retain the park keeper's building for the safe storage of goal posts and equipment and demolish the toilet block. It was noted that the underground services to the toilet block may also serve other nearby properties

A general discussion took place on storage requirements for goal posts. The representative from Edinburgh Leisure stated a preference for fixed goals to be installed but this was opposed by Oxgangs AC who referred to a history of vandalism and the difficulty in getting them replaced.

Oxgangs AC did not consider the store would be large enough for the safe storage of large goal posts used on the full size football pitches and suggested an outside cage be provided at the side of the building for this purpose. G Croucher was aware this arrangement occurred in other football parks and that such a cage may be available for re-use from a north Edinburgh park.

The discussion took in the amount of equipment that currently existed, its location and ownership. There appears to be goal posts for Oxgangs Primary School at St Marks PS but not clear if this is one or two sets. Oxgangs AC have two sets of goal posts for their matches. Edinburgh Leisure will supply two sets for general use.

It was agreed that there was a need to make out an inventory of this equipment and the Chair said she would action this by contacting each of the relevant bodies and asking for them to supply a list of equipment they held/provided for use at Colinton Mains Park. The lists would be collated and a suitable copy of the inventory would be fixed to the wall of the store room.

**Action: H Levy**

The number, size and layout of the football pitches has still to be finalised with ongoing discussion between Oxgangs AC, Edinburgh Leisure and other bodies on their requirements. The proposal that was expressed during the meeting was for two full size 11 a-side pitches and two smaller 7 a-side pitches. Oxgangs AC agreed this matter had to be completed before a proper inventory could be made out.

**Action: Oxgangs AC**

## **Parking**

G Croucher acknowledged parking was an area of concern to the representative groups but reaffirmed that the City Council's policy was not to provide for vehicle parking at its public parks and other venues. He indicated that in line with the Council's policy, the Parks Department were proposing to install bollards to prevent vehicle access beyond the planned parking area. The car park at the new pavilion will only have spaces for 9 vehicles, one of which would be a disabled parking space and 3 cycling racks.

It was the common view of all community representatives at the meeting that the parking allocation was inadequate and amounted to a substantial reduction on the space previously available. It was their general opinion that in order not to exacerbate the previous problems created by the large influx of vehicles trying to park in the streets adjacent to the park, an overspill car park was required and that there was space within the park for this to enable this.

The main entrance to Colinton Mains Park, at the sports pavilion, is flanked by a bowling club and a church. The local Scotmid store is also close to the entrance. Oxgangs AC catered for 14 football teams and used the park for training as well as its competitive games. This was a designated city park with a number of sports pitches available to other clubs throughout the City through Edinburgh Leisure.

It was stressed all these activities and services attracted not only local people but others out with the community whether as participants or as follower of the activity or as shoppers. Many of them used private transport, shared or otherwise, in order to get to their venue. Many of the activities coincided, in the evenings and at weekends, resulting in Oxgangs Road North and adjacent streets becoming choked with parked vehicles.

All the community representatives spoke of the problems caused by the large number of vehicles parked in streets near to the Park's entrance. Mr and Mrs Oldroyd, who reside in Oxfangs Road North, spoke on the narrowness of the roads which caused many residents, including themselves, to provide driveways in order to take their cars off the street. During football matches and on other occasions residents now found it difficult if not impossible to get their cars out because of the on-street parking.

M Carson from Colinton Mains Bowling Club, stressed that they also ran matches as part of the various city bowling leagues resulting in an influx of cars. Bowling is a sport favoured by many elderly people who use cars for the easy transportation of their bowls.

Rev I McQuarrie spoke on the difficulties many members and non-members of the church often had when using church facilities at weekends and in the evenings.

Everyone is agreed the provision of a new pavilion at Colinton Mains Park will benefit those who use the park and the new pitches for sporting activities and this will undoubtedly boost participation in the area. This should not be marred by the negative affect it will have on those who live up against the park and the frustration of those attempting to participate. It was recognised that an overflow parking area would not resolve the parking problem on all occasions but would at least alleviate it.

In order to take this matter forward Oxfangs AC and Edinburgh Leisure were asked to provide usage figures for the park's sports facilities.

**Action: Oxfangs AC & Edinburgh Leisure**