

COUNCIL MEETING: 23 OCTOBER 2007

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Present: G Lighthart (Chair), P Wright (Sec), L Linn, G Hunter, A Hunter; J Napier;

In Attendance: J Rust (Cllr); M Jarvis (Oxgangs Central Tenants Association); L McGuire

Apologies: B Brand; S Dalglish; H Levy (Treasurer); E Aitken (Cllr), E Barry (Cllr),

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on 25 September '07

Approved as a true record (Prop: L Linn; Sec: A Hunter) with the following correction:

In section 5, Planning Report, Item e) Oxgangs Green to Oxgangs Path Pathway: the reference to the 'Fairmilehead Residents Association' should read 'Fairmilehead Association'.

2. MATTERS ARISING;

a) Colinton Mains Park:

MJ asked for clarification on the current position, in regard to the Astroturf, changing rooms and funding. It was reported that the funding previously allocated for this project had been redirected elsewhere and as a result cuts had been made to the original proposals. JN reported that with regard to the changing rooms, a response had been received from the CEC, dated 21 September 2007, confirming that meetings will take place with the following stakeholders to discuss the plans for the (changing room) facilities.

- South West Neighbourhood Partnership;
- Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre;
- Edinburgh Leisure (who currently manage the facility);
- Colinton Mains Bowling Club;
- Friends of Colinton Mains Park; and
- Football Club Oxgangs AC.

3. Community Police Report

In the absence of PC Crawford no Police report was available, but a discussion was held on the recent newspaper article regarding the vandalism at St Mark's Primary School and PC Crawford's comments in his recent Neighbourhood Watch circular.

After a lengthy discussion the Community Council agreed that the newspaper article exaggerated the level of youth crime within the area but did consider that there was a serious issue in the continuing vandalism at this school.

The Secretary was asked to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership with the intent of moving for the formation of an action group to explore suitable preventative measures to mitigate such actions and the ways and means of obtaining the funding for such measures.

4. Treasurer's Report – H Levy

No Treasurer's report available.

5. Planning Report – J Napier

a) *Weekly Planning Bulletins: Ward No.08*

18 September 2007 — 4 applications and 4 decisions. 2 decisions related to planning applications within the Firrhill Community Council's boundary. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property.

24 September 2007 — 4 applications and 4 decisions. None within the Firrhill Community Council's boundary. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property.

1 October 2007 — 2 applications and 5 decisions. None within the Firrhill Community Council's boundary. One application was for a change of use from a garage to a dog-grooming salon otherwise all concerned alterations/extensions to residential property.

8 October 2007 — 5 applications and 2 decisions. None within the Firrhill Community Council's boundary. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property.

15 October 2007 — 1 application and 2 decisions. None within the Firrhill Community Council's boundary. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property.

6. Meeting Reports – P Wright

a) *Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting, 9 Oct '07*

1. Business: Wester Hailes Representative Council had applied to join this NP. As with Colinton Amenity Assoc, WHRC was co-opted under paragraph 9 of the Constitution with full voting rights.

2. Presentation by Alison Kirkwood, Principal Planner at City Council, on Freelands Road, Ratho, Development Brief (Cala Homes). Consultation till 9 Nov, then feedback will lead to finalised plan. A very detailed transport assessment is necessary -very narrow and historic bridge is involved; many local people against development.

3. Community Plan - attendees divided into workshop groups to "brainstorm":

a) Priority areas:

- improvements in Council facilities and environment;
- honesty from all parties (all equal; respect for local residents);
- Councillors and officials should listen positively and communicate;
- focus on issues required and making sure there isn't just repetition of what's gone before;
- support needed from different areas and agencies re planning (though Town & Country Planning not really a NP remit);
- tackling crime a priority (response very poor); community safety; youth issues;
- transport - rural communities feel isolated (poor bus services);
- health - more local facilities needed;
- community facilities needed - more purpose-built for early years + some areas have no community centre.

b) Structures:

- sub-groups required - NP reps and those residents with technical knowledge/skills/ expertise;

- also, short-life working groups for specific tasks;
- info gleaned should be used to take forward priorities;
- local strategies should link into city-wide plans;
- strong feedback mechanism needed;
- very important to establish key officer contacts.

c) Communication:

- local advertising [as we do in “The Peak”];
- Council officials to visit individual CCs/community groups;
- development of website for NP - should be managed by the City Council.

Graham Kitching & Christine Doherty have been tasked to make a model for the Community Action Plan from workshop suggestions [the other groups came up with much the same ideas as ours] and report back at the next NP meeting.

4. Question re funding: the process is presently under LDC remit; we still haven't been told what funding each NP group will get, how this will be managed, or how to get application forms [this gives concern for our own area, given that LDC financial support for the Community Forum Development Worker at Pentland Centre has run out, and it is obviously going to take some time before NP funding “kicks in”.]

5. Other Business: cold-calling ban - bye-laws can be brought in, but there can be only two areas covered in each NP, these to be where people are vulnerable and need support, eg, sheltered housing complexes.

6. Next Pentlands NP Meeting: Tuesday 27 November, Currie High School

b) Neighbourhood Partnership Training Event – 20/10/07

This event was also attended by the Secretary and covered such topics as ‘Communities that Care’, which is a long-term prevention programme for building safer neighbourhoods; ‘Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics’, which aims to make the most of central government information; and ‘Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation’, which provides data that can help in making informed decisions on improving local communities. A full report was provided at the meeting, copies may be obtained from the Secretary.

7. Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received since the date of the last meeting:

a) Scottish Landscape Forum booklet: “Scotland’s Living Landscape”.

b) Friends of the Earth Scotland – Training Events

- “Media and Communications” – event runs from 24 Jan to 14 Feb, 2008
- “The Planning System and How To Use It” – event runs from 21 Feb to 13 Mar, 2008
- “Community and Project Development” –event runs from 20 Mar to 10 Apr, 2008

All courses take place in Friends of the Earth office at 5 Rose Street (0131 243 2702). Each event costs £200 with a discount on the last one (cost £10) by registering interest before mid-November. Members interested in attending to contact Secretary

c) Talla Main – Potential Threat to Edinburgh’s Water Supply

Report and booklet produced by Blythbank Action Group (BBAG) re proposed large scale extension by Glenrath (Farms) Ltd to their free-range egg farm. Agreed that further information required before moving to support BBAG stance. Councillor Rust to make enquiries and report back.

d) Oxgangs and Firrhill Community Forum:

Letter from Susan Dalgliesh asking for financial support towards next two issues (after December 2007) of the Peak – LDC funding for herself, as Development Worker / Peak Co-ordinator has run out.

General discussion took place on the merits of this local community publication and there was a general agreement that the Community Council would be prepared to assist financially in the publication of the next two editions on the understanding that there was a commitment by the City of Edinburgh Council for its continuation.

8. AOCB

a) Pedestrian Crossing for Oxgangs Avenue

MJ raised concerns regarding the lack of a safe crossing over Oxgangs Avenue. This is a heavily congested road with parking on both sides. It is a bus route and one of the main traffic thoroughfares in Oxgangs. As this item has been raised in the past with Councillor Scobbie, the Secretary will review its history for the next meeting.

9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be held in the Colinton Mains Community Centre on Tuesday **4th December 2007** at 7:00pm. Members should note that this is a change from the normal cycle of meetings so as not to clash with the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting scheduled on the 27th November.