

FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 28 OCTOBER 2008

Minutes of meeting held at the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

Present: H Levy (Chair/Treasurer); A Hunter (Vice Chair); P Wright (Secretary); G Hunter; G Lightheart; L Linn; J Napier (Min Sec);

In Attendance: Cllr Eric Barry; Cllr Jason Rust; L Maguire (Fairmilehead Association); Sue Wilson, (LB Police); Norman Tinlin, (Secretary, Fairmilehead Community Council) Dennis Williams (Oxgangs Community Forum).

Apologies: Cllr E Aitken; M Jarvis (Oxgangs Central Tenants Association); B Brand (Firrhill Drive Tenants and Residents Association); J Kerr

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on the 23rd September 2008

The minute accepted as a true record, moved by A Hunter and seconded by G Lightheart.

2. Matters Arising:

(a) Item 2: Matters Arising: Item 5: Pentland Primary School Playing Field – Secretary had contacted Pentland PS head teacher, who did not know when meeting re playing field would take place, then met Paul Hyatt and Cllr Barry at PNP Business Meeting and it was confirmed this would be in Pentland PS on 12 December. Secretary will attend and was asked by our members to query who reported dog-fouling in playing field and whether there are any stats to back this up.

(b) Item 3: Presentation: Proposed Health and Social Care Centre: - the Chair reported that a draft floor plan had been received as requested along with information on the consultation exercise carried out by Lothian Health at the surgeries in Craiglockhart, Firrhill and Oxgangs. Concerned about the validity of the questionnaires as the majority were done at the surgery least affected. After discussion the following actions were agreed:

- To liaise with other Community Councils within the catchment area for the surgeries
- To draft an article for the local 'Peak' newsletter
- To report back at the next meeting about the Lothian Health Partnership Sub Group

(c) Item 7: Action on Hedges: - The Secretary reported that she had written to G Kitching on this matter and received a response. It was the view of his office that this matter could be dealt with by the CEC's Road Inspector. If this was satisfactory then arrangements would be made for an Inspector to attend the next walkabout. This was satisfactory to the meeting and the Secretary would write back requesting that such action be taken.

3. Community Police Report:

Police Inspector Sue Wilson was in attendance and provided a statistical report on crime in the area indicating that the solvency rate was up at 49% and reported vandalism was down. Reported there had been a recent incident of vandalism at St Mark's Primary School indicating that whilst the use of CCTV had helped it had not resolved this particular problem.

She had attended a meeting of the local partnership safety group where it was proposed to organise an authorised bonfire outside the Pentland Community Centre to coincide with the Centre's firework display. The intention was to try and remove unsupervised bonfires, many of which were being built in unsuitable locations, replacing it with an alternative and at the same time communicating with the local youth and getting their support for this action. It had been

considered to build the bonfire in Colinton Mains Park but for a number of reasons this was thought unsuitable.

The Community Council supported the project but are concerned at the last minute decision considering that it should have been raised much earlier. It was hoped that an evaluation would be carried out to assess its success or otherwise.

Members of the community had raised concerns at the continued practice of school buses for Braidburn School to enter Oxgangs Road North at the Chip Inn [see item 8j)]. It was also noted many vehicles were parking on the bridge increasing the risk of accidents occurring at this point. Inspector Wilson will arrange for the situation to be monitored.

4. Councillors' Report:

Cllr Rust reported that Dundas Estates had informed the Council that due to the economic situation the building work planned for the site of the demolished Hunters Tryst Primary School would not now be going ahead. He had asked about opening the gate to allow the pathway to be used between Oxgangs Green and Oxgangs Row but this had been refused.

It was the opinion of the Community Council that with the school building having been demolished and the site cleared there was now no longer a health and safety argument for keeping this restriction. It was agreed to invite an officer from the City Council's Estates Department to attend the next meeting of the Community Council to explain the reason for their decision.

Cllr Rust gave a report on the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting, which he chairs. It was noted that the representative from Lothian Buses who had been invited to attend did not turn up. It was hoped that a representative would attend their next meeting scheduled for December 9th at Firrhill.

5. Colinton Mains Park: update from Walkabout on 6 Oct

Cllr Barry gave a report of the walkabout, which had been attended by City Council officials from the Parks Department, a representative from Sports Scotland, representatives from the football associations that use the park and from the local community.

The Secretary indicated that she was frustrated at the response to her queries about the flooding behind Colinton Mains Bowling Club. This problem seems to have arisen since the work on the playing fields was carried out but the City Council's officer considers the problem is due to the exceptionally wet summer, maintaining if it had been caused by the work it would have shown up last summer.

Whilst there is still funding in place there is a need to determine whether to build new sports facilities or refurbish the existing pavilion. The amount of pressure from local and football representatives may affect the decision.

6. Treasurer's Report: H Levy

The Treasurer reported that there were no changes to the finances from previous meeting but she needed a cheque signed of and an accountant to audit the books.

7. Meeting Reports

a) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

Meeting held 7 October 2008. The Secretary handed out a written report at the meeting. A copy of that report will be attached to the approved minute as Appendix 1.

b) South East Patient Partnership Forum

Community Health Consultation Partnership Review – working group and minutes

c) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Business Meeting

Meeting held 27th October and attended by the Secretary. The business of the meeting was primarily to set up the sub groups for the various themes that had been agreed. It was anticipated that a final draft of the Local Development Plan covering the period from 2008 to 2011 would be available for discussion at the next PNP meeting on 9 December.

8. Correspondence

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

- a) “Be the Voice of Your Community”: Community Council publicity leaflets for distribution
- b) Edinburgh’s Festival of Libraries, 8-14 Nov ’08: Venues and Activities
- c) “Tenant’s Voice”: newsletter for Edinburgh tenants
- d) Planning Training for Community Councils: Modernisation of the Planning System and the changing role of Community Councils. Sat. 1st Nov, 10am – 4pm (J Napier to attend)
- e) Neighbourhood Partnership website launch: Wester Hailes Library, 14th Oct.
- f) Council Calendar inserts; additions for 2008-9
- g) “Inside Letting” (Autumn 08); Edinburgh
- h) “Working Capital”, the magazine of Edinburgh’s Joined Up for Jobs Partnership
- i) “Sepaview”, the magazine of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.
- j) Copy of email from Cllr Barry re Safety in Oxfangs Road North – transport to Braidburn School short-cutting via Scotmid instead of using shortest residential route, ie. From Esso garage site end; also arriving before other primary schools are in thus breaking promises made by Director of Education and senior council officials when Braidburn School was being planned. [Being actioned by William Rae – writing to relevant contractors and CEC staff]
- k) Reply from Services for Communities (Environment) re letter sent asking for advice on Community Council’s proposal “Reclaiming our Pavements: Action on Hedges” [reported under Matters Arising at this meeting].

9. A.O.C.B.

- a) The site of the old Esso Garage, Oxfangs Road North – Secretary to contact McCarthy Stone for an update on firm’s intentions.
- b) Proposed Closure of Oxfangs Post Office – this matter had arisen as a consequence of the decision of Post Offices Ltd to reprieve the post offices at Elm Row and Calder Crossways from closure. The overall aim of the Post Office Ltd was to reduce the number of outlets in order to make the rest more sustainable. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to hold a joint meeting with Fairmilehead Community Council and invite the local postmaster, councillors and other interested parties to discuss the proposal and its consequences with a view to presenting the information to the community and seeking their view on the matter.

Special meeting to be arranged for next Wednesday at 9.15 am Pentland Community Centre

10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be held in the Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre from 7:00 pm on Tuesday, 28th October 2008.

11. Planning Report: (insufficient time - note for record)

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for Ward No.08. The period covered is from 22 September to 20 October 2008, during which 4 applications and 4 decisions related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area have been reported in the Bulletins:

- Planning application 03360 registered to carry out an attic conversion at Colinton Mains Road has been granted.
- Planning application 03369 registered to carry out alterations to ground floor accommodation and an attic conversion at Redford Road has been granted.
- Planning application 03383 to demolish a church and rectory to make way for a new residential flatted development at Oxfangs Avenue.
- Planning application 02016 to erect a detached garage at Oxfangs Road North has been granted.
- Planning application 03394 to fit aluminium shelters and windows to property at Colinton Mains Drive (Chemist).
- The retrospective application 02914 to extend existing driveway in Colinton Mains Road has been granted.

PENTLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP MEETING held on 7 October 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church

Councillor Jason Rust chaired the meeting attended by City Councillors; L & B Police; I. & B Fire & Rescue; Community Councils; EVOC; SW N'hood Office personnel; residents of Pentlands NP area.

1. Development of the Local Community Plan Christine Doherty reported that this is now being pulled together, and attendees at the next NP Business Meeting (Mon 27 Oct) will discuss the Plan's objectives/sub-groups core membership/schedule of meetings.

2. Presentation by L & B Fire & Rescue Service: on their initiative in engaging with disaffected young people, male and female; working from Sighthill (holding station for Pentlands). **Target group:** those involved with fire-raising and anti-social behaviour. **Partner agencies:** L & B Police Youth Action Teams; Council's Children & Families Dept; Concierge Services; Prince's Trust. **"Cooldown Crew":** early intervention - one-week course for 12-16 years. **"Phoenix":** diversionary - one night a week for 13-18s. **"Fire Skills for Success":** for 14-19s not in education - 'pathways to employment' 8 day course - hoping for a qualification. Objectives: to discover inner strengths/talents; self-esteem; teamwork; learn about community. Learning/taking part in: fire-fighting drills; drug and alcohol awareness; first aid; personal & home safety; project in the community, eg, clearing up litter/graffiti, gardening. Successful completion of course would lead to 'graduation'. Strategy for 2008-11 is to expand this pilot scheme into all six N'hood P'ship areas, and to expand "Phoenix".

It was also reported there was a 35% reduction in bonfire problems last year, so Fire Service/Council initiative is being repeated this year - only three official bonfires (Sighthill, Oxbgangs, Hailesland Park), working in conjunction with L & B Police, wardens, education - licensing of fireworks and enforcement of rules of sale.

3. Lothian Buses: reps were down to attend but withdrew - say that they will attend our next meeting but would like questions in advance; [was noted that no other individual/group has asked for this]. To usefully fill in this time-slot, those present were divided into two approximately geographical groups to discuss bus provision, so that questions could be formulated and the main points incorporated in a letter to Lothian Buses - including the fact that all were disappointed and angry at the company's non-appearance at this meeting.

4. The Edinburgh Index & Fairer Scotland Fund Allocations: The Edinburgh Partnership (the Community Planning Group for the City) has agreed three priorities for investment of the Fund in Edinburgh: 1) an early intervention approach; 2) improving health and reducing health inequalities; 3) improving employability. This is a work-in-progress which will develop over time, eg, in budget provision. However, it was felt that N'hood P'ships should decide on top priorities for funding as the Edinburgh Partnership has no consultation with communities. Consequently the City Council agreed, under the Scheme of Delegation, to delegate the approval of payments from the FSF for N'hood P'ships to the Director of Services for Communities; he would then devolve this responsibility to Neighbourhood Managers - in our case, Graham Kitching, Manager at the SW N'hood Office.

5. Local Interest: (a) Buses: we are just hanging on to our No 18 bus service (albeit reduced again to hourly during off-peak periods and weekends) + the N16 has been re-instated, thanks to subsidy from the Council, but the N27 remains axed even though this affects low paid shift workers, (b) Following on a 'walkabout' in Colinton Mains Park on 6 Oct, for interested parties to get an update on the park and pavilion, Heather Levy brought up part of what was reported: even with Applecross' £200,000 and Sport Scotland's £300,000 (with the proviso that the Council matches it), there would be a shortfall of £800,000 for the new pavilion. Cllr Barry deplored this situation, which has been going on for far too long, and Cllr Rust agreed that Pentlands NP should lobby the Council to get it sorted out.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9 December 2008, 7 pm, In Currie High School.

Peggy Wright

Secretary, Firrhill Community Council; FCC rep on Pentlands NP

Bonfire Initiative Meeting
Pentland Community Centre
20-10-08

Present- David Morton (ECE), P.C David Crawford, Inspector Susan Wilson, Eric Barrie (councillor), Dennis Williams (Pentland Management Chair), Heather Levy (Firrhill Community Council Chair)

Apologies- Jonathan Dickey (Fire Service), George Williamson (Senior Community Learning and Development Officer)

Last year there was a recorded 19 unofficial bonfires in the Oxfangs and nearby area, two or three on the same night. It is hoped that in conjunction with the well-established Pentland Firework display, an official Bonfire will combat the illegal bonfires. A similar initiative has been held in Broomhouse for the last three years with success.

A site has been chosen Grassy patch next to the Playground where the fireworks will be displayed. Investigate if grass can be lifted and replaced after the event-**action Eric**

Barriers will be erected around the site on Thursday 29th October and will be checked morning and night for illegal or toxic substances, e.g settees etc. The Bonfire will be erected in such a way as it falls in on itself as it burns and will consist of nothing but wood.-**action David**

Roads to be closed are Oxfangs Brea from the shops up to Oxfangs Path and the car park.-**action Susan**

CCTV will be aimed at the site to monitor the site at night up to the event.-**action Susan**

Local Shop owners to be notified of event and times of road closures.-**action Dennis**

Letter drop of the event to surrounding neighbours in Oxfangs Path and Ark Housing.-**action Heather & Dennis**

David has a poster design he will e-mail for comment and then print off for distribution.-**action Heather & Dennis**

A flyer will be sent through the school bag drop for all local primaries and P.C Crawford agreed to visit Firrhill High school. It is hoped that he and a representative of the Fire Brigade will talk to all local school assemblies.

Staffs - 2 Housing Officers, 1 Environmental Warden, 2 Community Concierges, 10 Community Volunteers, 5 Police Officers. Pentland Community Centre has insurance for the event, Blair Heary will take photos for the 'The Peak Community Paper'.

The date of next meeting is Thursday 30th October at the Pentland Community Centre at 10 am and the South West meeting will take place on Monday Nov 3rd 10.30 am at Westside Plaza.