

# FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING: 24 MARCH 2009

Minutes of meeting held at the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

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

In Attendance: Steve Aitken, Pastor, All Nations Christian Fellowship Church, 1c Oxgangs Avenue; Cllr E Aitken; Cllr Eric Barry; Inspector S Wilson (LBP).

Apologies: P Wright (Secretary); G Lighthead; B Brand; Cllr Jason Rust.

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Acceptance of the minutes moved by G Hunter and seconded by L Linn. - Approved

### 2. Matters Arising:

(a) Police Response Times: - This related to an incident whereby a victim of a house-breaking was left to wait 4 hours before police responded to her 999 call. Decision taken at the previous meeting was to invite a representative of the Lothian and Borders Police, Force Communications Centre at Bilston to a meeting of the Community Council on 28<sup>th</sup> April, to discuss call handling procedures. Insp. S Wilson advised that she had contacted the Centre but they had declined the invitation, as it was not their policy to send representatives to such meetings. As an alternative they extended an invitation to community representatives to visit the Bilston Centre and view the work carried out there.

Following a lengthy discussion it was the opinion of the members present that the concerns expressed previously were still valid and it was reasonable to petition for a review of police call handling procedures in order to seek a solution to such distressful situations as was reported at a previous meeting. It was further considered that the vehicle for pursuing this was the Neighbourhood Partnership and it agreed that the matter be submitted as an agenda item for its next meeting with a view to seeking support for such a review.

In addition a letter would be sent to the Chief Constable advising him of the Community Council's concerns regarding this matter.

(b) Colinton Mains Park and Pavilion: - Cllr Rust had circulated a questionnaire seeking the views of the Community on this matter. The Chair reported that Craig Cunningham, CEC Development Dept, intended to arrange a meeting of the Park's stakeholders to discuss this matter. The Chair concurred with his view that circumstances had changed since the original consultation and there was a need for stakeholders to meet and discuss the current position and refresh the development plan.

### 3. Ward Councillors' Report: Cllrs Aitken and Barry

a) It was reported that the proposed scheme to improve the car parking at Firrhill Drive had moved to the top of the list for future works and should be started early in the new financial year. She had participated in a walk-about with the environmental wardens and action was taken on instances of dog fouling and inappropriate disposal of garden refuse.

b) The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership have proposed a week of action in June on community safety issues. It was expected that local safety forums would organise events covering safety in the home and at play, etc. A local survey perhaps needed to identify topical issues. Safety Panel – last meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April next meeting 13 May – open to the public

Decision: The Secretary to contact Veronica Bryce, co-ordinator for this initiative, for information and discuss the Community Council's involvement in this event.

c) The CEC Administration has decided to cancel school lets on a Thursday night as part of its package of financial savings. There is an information pack available and Groups who currently use school facilities will be assisted in finding alternative venues. The Chair requested an information pack for the Community Council.

d) "The City Council are promoting the 'National Spring Clean' during the month of April. This worthwhile initiative helps to keep Edinburgh clean and litter-free by giving communities and organisations the chance to spread some community spirit and help keep their neighbourhoods clean and tidy.

This annual event provides those who are annoyed by litter on their local street, park, riverside or beach with the opportunity to pull on their wellies and a yellow tabard and head out into the fresh air to spring clean the neighbourhood and make a difference.

To get involved all people have to do is choose a date in April and apply for a Clean Up Kit at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean) or through their local councillor. Information and materials will be issued to organisers and an online map of events will be published so that litter picks can be easily publicised to others in the area who may wish to get involved. Position noted

e) The City Development Department propose to extend the "Schools Part-Time 20mph Speed Limits" to cover the main entrance to Firrhill High School on Oxfords Road North. The zone will cover that part of the main road, which is Oxfords Road North, from Colinton Mains Drive to just beyond the roundabout at Colinton Road. (see also under Correspondence, item f)

f) The Vice Chair remarked that the grit buckets have still not been placed at some of the strategic locations previously proposed. Cllr Barry responded that this activity will have stopped as the weather emergency period was coming to a close. The issue now should be to ensure a site plan is agreed and in place for next winter. Position noted

#### **4. Community Police Report: Inspector S Wilson**

Reported on a number of break-ins to houses, cars and garden sheds in the Colinton Mains area. Whilst the police have a positive line of inquiry for some of the crimes, they are seeking assistance from the public in order to obtain the necessary evidence in order to make an arrest.

A number of wheelie bins were set alight in Redford Road

#### **5. Treasurer's Report: H Levy**

The Treasurer reported that there were no changes to the finances from previous meeting. There are no outstanding bills and the Council's financial accounts are currently being audited.

The City of Edinburgh Council's printers are costing the proposed promotional bookmarks.

#### **6. Planning Report:**

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for Ward No.08. The period covered is from 23 February 2009 to 16 March 2009, during which only 2 decision related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area have been reported in the Bulletins:

- Planning application 4026 to carry out a change of use from open space to off street parking spaces at land adjacent to 16 Firrhill Drive has been granted.
- Planning application 359 to cut down wall below window to install patio doors at Oxfords Park has been granted.

#### **7. Braid Burn Flood Prevention Presentation**

Stuart Mackay, Stakeholder Manager, Carillion, supported by Brian Torrance, Project Manager, City Development, gave a presentation on the work that will be carried out in the Community Council's

area as part of the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme. A copy of his communication report is attached to this minute.

It was noted this was an initial presentation for the benefit of the Community Council and a public meeting would be held on completion of the design and programme review currently being undertaken. The contractors have adopted two categories of notification – direct contact with residents directly affected by the work and written updates for those residents in the immediate area of the works but whose property will not be directly affected by it. The Chair requested the Community Council be included in any notifications.

Issues raised by the Community Council included the following:

Drainage of surface water from land adjacent to the burn. Recent flooding in a garden at Oxgangs Road North had been due to surface water being unable to drain into the burn by the new floodwall built as part off the bridge works in that area. Advised a drainage pipe is being installed along the dry side of the floodwall.

Security of property due to the removal of fences, etc. Contractors will have security fencing along the burn for security/safety reasons for their workings. Do not accept responsibility for the security of residential property along the burn and would advise residents to take reasonable precautions.

Reinstatement of gardens, etc. damaged by the works. The contractor are carrying out a detailed survey of gardens and property that may be affected by the work and taking pictorial evidence in order to avoid disputes at the completion of the work. Clarification sought on ‘ownership of land’ issues relating to future maintenance of wall and boundary fences.

Noted that the pathway between Oxgangs Road North and Colinton Mains Drive, which is well used by people in Firrhill to access Tesco, the medical centre and public transport, will be closed for approximately 6 months. The site access for this section of the work will be from Oxgangs Road North utilising the same ground used for the bridge works carried out previously.

Noted that the area in Colinton Mains Park between the new footpath round the park and the Braid Burn will be used by the Contractors as a secondary site for the materials used in this part of the flood prevention work. Access for the large number of heavy vehicles delivering to this site will be from Oxgangs Road North

The presentation extended beyond the Community Council’s usual closing time of 9.00 pm. Due to the lack of time the Council were unable to deliberate on the remaining agenda items at the meeting. All matters arising are remitted to the Chair and Secretary to action and are include here for information only

## **8. Correspondence**

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

- a) “Spokes” Bulletin, Spring 2009
- b) South West Neighbourhood Office:
  - Minutes of Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel meeting on 2 March (attended by H Levy);
  - Details of Community Grants for the year from 15/04/08 to 03/02/09;
  - Template of Currie East Neighbourhood Watch information leaflet.
- c) Eileen Hewitt @ Waverley Court (e-mail): details of Funding Fair for Community Councils, 23 March – changed to 6.30 pm, in City Chambers [being attended by H Levy and A Hunter]
- d) Diana Potter (email): notice / agenda for Environment and Transport meeting, 24 March, 7 pm, in South West Neighbourhood Office [being attended by P Wright]

- e) Edinburgh Community Reps Network: Notice of meeting re commissioning process for Fairer Scotland Fund, 24 March, Quakers Meeting House.
- f) City Development: Proposed amendments to Schools Part-time 20 mph Speed Limits Traffic Regulation Order re Firrhill High School – from Colinton Road (west) → Firrhill roundabout → top of Colinton Mains Drive.
- g) NHS Lothian re draft strategy for Maternity Services: public consultation (ends 30 April). Summary booklets x 5 enclosed; full strategy document on NHS Lothian's website – [www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)
- h) Eileen Hewitt; Timetable for Community Council Elections 2009. For elected representatives -
  - Notice of election 31 August;
  - Close of registration 14 September
  - Notice of poll (if required) 1 October
  - Polling day (if required) 15 OctoberFor nominated representatives – same as above, but meeting date for registered local interest groups (if required) to be announced
- i) Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership: notice of meeting and agenda, 31 March, 6:30/7:00 pm Currie High School [being attended by P Wright and H Levy].

## **9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7:00 pm in Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

The Braidburn Flood  
Prevention Scheme  
Update 1- 24<sup>th</sup> March 09  
C0560- Work Unit 2

# Communication Report

Tabled by Stuart Mackay, Stakeholder Manager, Carillion,

## 1. Introduction

This report is produced and tabled at the Firhill Community Council Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, by Stuart Mackay, representative of Carillion Civil Engineering, lead contractors on the Braidburn Flood Prevention Scheme. The scheme is designed by Faber Maunsell and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government.

It provides an update on progress to-date and clarifies the current status of the 5 sections of work that make up Work Unit 2- Colinton Mains. The contractor has named each section of work as follows:

- **Reach One** – Colinton Primary School to the bridge at Colinton Mains Drive
- **Reach Two** – between the bridges of Colinton Mains Drive and Oxfangs Road North
- **Reach Three** – Firhill Crescent to Bridge at the east end of Firhill Drive
- **Reach Four** – The bridge at the east end of Firhill Drive to Greenbank Crescent
- **Reach Five** – Works within the south corner of Braid Burn Valley Park

## 2. Key Contact Details

Stuart Mackay, Stakeholder Manager with Carillion, should be the first point of contact for all residents, landowners, community groups who require further information, or wish to record a complaint. The Community Council can distribute the following contact details as appropriate:

Address:  
Stuart Mackay  
Site Compound  
Off old Dalkeith Rd  
The Inch  
Edinburgh  
Eh16 4TD

Email- [Stuart.mackay@carillionplc.com](mailto:Stuart.mackay@carillionplc.com)  
Mobile-07779585762  
Landline- 01316648806

### **3. The Communication Process**

Carillion will arrange public meetings at appropriate junctures during the construction programme and will attend Community Council meetings, when invited.

The local community have been divided up into communication groups relevant to the sections of work closest to their properties and the relevant progress updates will be hand delivered during the programme.

Individual meetings will take place be arranged with landowners and residents who are directly affected by the works.

Where an issue is identified and further public consultation required an update will be circulated clarifying the issue and potential option for resolving the problem. If required a meeting will be arranged with the relevant communication groups.

The Community Council will be updated on the main construction issues on a pre arranged date.

### **4. Reach One – Colinton Primary School to Colinton Mains Drive**

This area has been occupied, tree clearance completed and the footpath formally closed, however, some pedestrian access has been maintained until the main construction begins.

The works at Colinton Primary School were initially delayed following the munitions find in December. During January the area was scanned by a specialist sub-contractor, made safe and work has progressed well with the wall sections due for completion by the end of April. The finishing works will then begin, including: fencing, facing brick and playground reinstatement.

The main site compound for all reaches has been established in the playing field, next to Tesco, and the main site access for both the compound and Reach One is adjacent to the Tesco car wash.

In the downstream section of Reach One, some Bridge strengthening works are being required. During this period, traffic will be reduced to single lane and the footpath temporarily closed.

Secondary site access points will be gained from Colinton Mains Loan and the Cul-de-Sac of Colinton Mains Road to construct the new footbridge. Short term traffic restrictions will be required in these areas for a crane lifting operation.

Within Reach One, parallel to the public footpath, Scottish Power and British Telecom services will be diverted and this is a critical path on the construction programme. Start and completion dates have yet to be set with these suppliers.

A design review is underway at the moment to confirm the exact height, position and style of the floodwalls. When this is completed a series of public meeting will be arranged for the communication groups. We will consult with the relevant member of the Community Council to confirm the dates and invites for these meetings.

## **5. Reach Two – Colinton Mains Drive to Oxgangs Road North**

Reach Two has been occupied, tree clearance and the footpath remains open until the Main construction begins.

The site access is under review as a result of consultation with police, Lothian buses and Road Services.

The design review also encompasses the wall construction in this area. Upon the completion of the review the same process for arranging public meetings will take place.

## **6. Reach Three – Firhill Crescent to Firhill Drive**

Access to Reach Three is imminent and will be gained from Oxgangs Road North, passing between the Bowling Club entrance and the Pavilion. Some temporary traffic restrictions will be required at this entrance to provide a safe access and line of sight for our construction traffic.

Vehicle access to the Bowling Club will be maintained and the car park will not be used by the contractor. Pedestrian access will be diverted around the south side of the pavilion into the car park to maximise the delineation of pedestrians and construction traffic.

A temporary footpath diversion and an alternative access arrangement for the playground will be agreed with the parks department.

A secondary site access will be gained from Firhill Crescent. Construction traffic will not be permitted beyond the junction of Firhill Drive and Firhill Crescent.

The work will involve a great deal of consultation with St. Marks Primary school. A public meeting will be arranged in April and the Community Council will be consulted on the invitation list.

The construction involves earth embankments and will therefore require a large amount of deliveries, the majority of which will be 30 ton vehicles. The construction team and suppliers will be regularly briefed on safety, the importance of adhering to the traffic management plan.

Access across the Burn will be made using temporary bridges to reduce vehicle movements along Firhill Drive.

## **7. Reach Four – Firhill Drive to green bank Crescent**

One public meeting has taken place for Reach Four to resolve landowner issues. Access will be gained beyond the bridge of Firhill Drive via Oxgangs Crescent/ Firhill Drive. The 'Green Triangle' will be temporarily occupied to construct a floodwall parallel to Greenbank Road. The works in this area are included in the current design review and when the method of construction is agreed, a public meeting will take place. Some traffic management will be required at the Green Bank Crescent to create a safe secondary access point.

## **8. Reach Five – Braid Burn Park**

Temporary closure of the south access into Braid Burn Valley Park is required as the area is very restricted and there is no option for a footpath diversion. This area is also included in the design review. A public meeting will be held and the committee of the Braidburn Valley Park Invited to join the communication groups.

