

# FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING: 28 APRIL 2009

Minutes of meeting held at the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

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

In Attendance: Steve Aitken, Pastor, All Nations Christian Fellowship Church, 1c Oxgangs Avenue; L Maguire & N Tinlin (Fairmilehead CC); Inspector S Wilson (LBP); S Mackay (Carrilion); P Podd; D Boyce; Cllr Eric Barry;

Apologies: Cllr E Aitken; Cllr Jason Rust; M Jarvis (Oxgangs Tenants Association)

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

G Lightheart requested the minute record that he submitted his apologies for being unable to attend previous meeting. With this amendment, acceptance of the minutes was moved by G Hunter and seconded by L Linn. - Approved

### 2. Matters Arising:

(a) **Flood Prevention:**- B Brand indicated she had received complaints from residents who would be affected by the flood prevention workings at Firrhill Drive about the lack of information. S Mackay acknowledged that letters had not gone out to residents in that area, this had been an omission which had since been rectified. A public meeting was organised for the following evening (29<sup>th</sup>) at St Marks Primary School.

He informed the meeting that the main concerns identified from consultation with residents had been over the effects of dust, noise and security. As a result arrangements had been made to delegate an employee at each site to manage these matters. He referred to the hosing down of heavy vehicles to reduce the effect of dust, etc when they leave the site as one of the ways in which the problem may be managed.

The flood prevention work in Colinton Mains Public Park would be delayed due to problems identified by St Mark's Primary School. During the period of the work, the school would lose the use of its 7-a-side football pitch but a failure to communicate that fact with the school had resulted in a number of events being scheduled to take place in this area. Direct consultation between the School and the flood prevention management had led to a satisfactory compromise resulting in the delay. Acknowledged that neither party was at fault over this matter.

Other issues raised concerned pest control; the footbridge from the park to Firrhill Drive and confirmation that the site identified in flood prevention plans as the 'green triangle' was the site to the rear of the Oxgangs Community Centre

(b) **Police Response Times:** - the Chair advised that a letter stating our concerns over this matter, had been drafted and proposed it be sent to the Chief Constable. This was agreed. Proposed also that it be submitted as an agenda item for the next meeting of the SW Neighbourhood Partnership. This was agreed.

(c) **Colinton Mains Park and Pavilion:** - Craig Cunningham, CEC Development Dept, had arranged the stakeholders meeting referred to in the previous minute. It would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 2:00 pm

GL stated his view of the capricious nature of the CEC funding for the pavilion, which to his knowledge had been available on a number of occasions and subsequently gone astray – is it liable to be any different on this occasion. The Chair noted his view but stated that the funding was there and the stakeholder meeting was for the purpose of determining which of the three planning options the various groups and individuals who used the park and its facilities preferred.

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

The Community Beat Officer, PC David Crawford is back on duty.

Reported there had been 182 calls since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, 16 of which involved a crime of some sort. There had been an attempted break-in at the Chinese take-away in Oxfords Road North, a bag snatch, attempted theft of a motor vehicle and 4 thefts.

Proposed to locate the Community Safety Week of Action at Pentland Community Centre

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

The Treasurer reported that the Community Council's financial accounts for the period 2006 to 2007 had at last been audited and asked the independent examiner, N Tinlin to give his report and recommendations. (Copy of the report attached as Appendix 1). Report noted and the Treasurer advised that a number of the examiner's observations and comments had been acted upon.

In respect to the examiner's comment regarding the urgent appointment of a Treasurer who is not amalgamated with any existing office bearers' role, the Chair reported she had managed to persuade Pauline Podd to take on this role if the Council agreed. In proposing that Pauline be co-opted as a member of the Community Council the Chair referred to her qualifications for the role of treasurer and past experiences would make her a valuable addition to the Community Council.

Motion: "That Pauline Podd is co-opted as a member of the Firrhill Community Council in accordance with The City of Edinburgh Scheme for Community Councils, Section 9.0 Casual Vacancies for Elected Representatives."

Seconded by J Napier, the motion was unanimously agreed.

As the appointments meet the rules set out the City of Edinburgh Council Scheme for Community Councils, the above co-opted member will have the same rights as all other elected representatives. With a view to Pauline's appointment as Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting, which was the next meeting, the Chair would meet with her for the purpose of handing over the Treasurers business papers, etc.

It was reported that the costing the proposed promotional bookmarks had still to be received from the City of Edinburgh Council's printers. Treasurer to follow-up.

### **5. Ward Councillors' Report: Cllr Barry**

a) Several complaints regarding anti-social neighbours have been received from residents in Colinton Mains, which he has discussed with the Head of Community Safety.

b) The CEC Administration is proposing to reduce the number of Voluntary Groups it currently recognises for funding purposes.

## 6. Carry-over from Previous Meeting

### a) *Funding Fair for Community Council*

The Chair and Vice Chair attended this event held at Waverley Court on 23 March. The purpose of the fair was to make Council representatives more aware of the different sources from which funds may be obtained to carry out local initiatives and projects within communities and the rules that apply. Scott Neil is the new Neighbourhood Partnership Development Officer.

Advised that a PA System is available for use by Community Councils on request. Contact is Craig Cunningham.

### b) *NHS Lothian Consultation on Maternity Services Strategy*

Information regarding this public consultation was handed out to members at the end of the previous meeting but unfortunately was not properly discussed due to lack of time. The strategy sets out the broad direction for the maternity services in Lothian over the next 5-10 years. It is not a detailed plan and the purpose of the consultation is to develop that detail. The full strategy can be accessed on the NHS Lothian website [www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk). The consultation is scheduled to finish on 30<sup>th</sup> April but the Secretary has been advised that comments made after this date will be accepted.

## 7. All Nations Church and Community Café

Steve Aitken, Pastor for the Church, gave an informative presentation of his Congregation's plans for the redevelopment of the existing building. The aspiration is to provide a community building which is accessible to all, whether it is for the purpose of worship or to have a cup of coffee and a chat.

An open day is planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> May, between 2 and 4:00 pm for members of the community to attend the Church to view and discuss the proposals.

## 8. Annual General Meeting : Forward Planning

Our next meeting, the AGM, would be held in Colinton Mains Church hall at **7:30 pm** as the hall was unavailable until this time. The agenda would be restricted to:

- a) the election of office bearers. Councillor Barry agreed to act as returning officer for the election of office-bearers, and
- b) presentations with an environmental theme.

## 9. Planning Report:

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for Ward No.08. The period covered is from 23 March 2009 to 20 April 2009, during which only 2 applications and 2 decisions related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area have been reported in the Bulletins:

- Planning application (788) has been registered to erect UPVC conservatory on to rear of existing house at 330 Oxgangs Road North.
- Planning application (834) has been registered to install a velux balcony system at the rear and 3 velux windows at the front of existing roof at 36 Colinton Mains Terrace
- Planning application 3383 to demolish church and rectory to clear site for a new residential flatted development at 1A Oxgangs Avenue has been granted.

- Planning application 643 to approve a change of use from class 1 (shop) to class 3 (food outlet) in premises at 76 Colinton Mains Drive has been withdrawn.

## 10. Meeting Reports

### **a) Pentlands NP : Environment & Transport Sub-Group : 24 March 2009**

(Written report provided by P Wright)

At this inaugural meeting, we discussed Terms of Reference, Role and Remit of the group, and Key Outcomes.

**AIMS:** to plan, develop and review delivery of environment and transport services as identified within the Pentlands Local Community Plan. Briefly, our role is to consider how best to influence resources and facilitate the implementation of these aims, reporting back to Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership with recommendations. We should also provide a briefing to our respective Community Councils.

**Environment and Green Space:** The unique physical identity of our local area should be preserved and enhanced so that local people are more satisfied with their environment. This would involve \* cleaner, well-maintained streets and street lighting; \* well-maintained and accessible parks, woodland and open spaces; \* fit-for-purpose social housing; \* walkabouts and other ways for community to get involved.

**Transport (all forms):** There should be improved access to public transport so that residents can make use of the amenities and services needed, a priority being to campaign for better transport links with St John's Hospital for the large area of Pentlands NP which has St John's as its main hospital. Also: • the "mobility gap" should decrease; \* people should make more use of existing transport services; \* regeneration plans should include transport planning, both public transport availability and car parking.

The decision was made to hold around four meetings a year - not many, considering that two important topics are amalgamated in this sub-group, but officials say that they are mindful of the many other meetings that Community Council reps are committed to on a voluntary basis.

### **b) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership, 31 March 2009**

Written report provided by P Wright and is attached as Appendix 2

## 11. Correspondence

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

- a) City Development, Planning & Strategy: Draft Edinburgh Standards for Housing Consultation. Aim - to achieve high quality, successful and sustainable residential environments. Documents can be viewed on [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) and search Edinburgh Standards for Housing or at Planning & Building Standards, Waverley Court, Market Street.
- b) City Development, Planning & Strategy: Modernising Planning; New Procedures for Pre-application Consultation on National & Major Developments. Prospective applicant for pre-application consultation must provide planning authority with 'Proposal of Application Notice' at least 12 wks prior to submission of application for planning permission. Community Councils must also be consulted and given copy of notice. Larger developments: a 'public event' must be held, advertised in local paper at least seven days in advance;

- c) City Development, Planning & Strategy: Edinburgh Local Development Plan Scheme '09; scheme to take current generation of local plans - Edinburgh City Local Plan and Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan Alteration - through to adoption;
- d) Edinburgh Community Reps Network: conference, 25 April, Rose Street;
- e) Scottish Natural Heritage: "The Nature of Scotland" magazine;
- f) Queensbury Shelters sales brochure;
- g) City Council "Inside Letting", Spring '09;
- h) City Council "Working Capital", April '09;
- i) Edinburgh Tenants Federation "Tenants Voice", April '09;
- j) BMA Scotland "General Practice in Scotland: The Way Ahead" booklet;
- k) S.W. Neighbourhood Office (by e-mail): agenda and papers for Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel meeting on Wednesday, 6 May.
- l) S.W. Community Safety Team; Ann Davies, Comm. Safety Officer (by e-mail): preparing first draft of community update leaflet - requests information as to what residents in our area would be interested in receiving in this newsletter format (eg, issues causing concern).

## 12. AOCB

### a) *Edinburgh Association of Community Councils*

Notice has been received of the EACC Annual General Meeting which will take place from 10 am to 12.30 pm on Saturday 20 June 2009 in the City Chambers. The following Motion to amend the EACC Constitution has been proposed by Craigmillar Community Council and seconded by Fairmilehead Community Council

**Proposal:** Delete existing Clauses 4b, 6 and 6a (as amended at the 2006 AGM) and substitute with:

#### **6. Officers and Committee**

- a) Each Community Council shall be entitled to have one member on the Executive Committee. A Community Council can, if they wish, have a substitute to attend in the absence of their member but each Council is only entitled to one vote.
- b) The Office Bearers of the Association must be members of the Executive Committee and will be appointed at the AGM.
- c) The Officers Bearers shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and such other positions as the Association may decide. The Office Bearers shall decide on procedural matters only.
- d) Officer Bearers will stand down at each AGM but will be eligible for re-election.
- e) The Association's representative to the Edinburgh Partnership will be a member of the Executive Committee and will be elected at the AGM. The representative will stand down at each AGM but will be eligible for re-election. A substitute representative shall also be elected.
- f) The Executive will meet no less than four times each year.

Item noted

**b) Request for Garden Aid**

The Chair to pass on a request for this service.

**c) Oxgangs Central Residents Association**

The Secretary, M Jarvis, has provided a written report, which is attached as Appendix 3.

**13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council is the Annual General Meeting and will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7:30 pm in Colinton Mains Parish Church.

**Firrhill Community Council, Edinburgh**  
**Statement of Accounts for Period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Balance as at 1/04/2006 (as per bank statement)	1376.04	Secretary's Expenses	23.02
CEC Grant	604.00	Photocopying	7.24
Interest	41.78	Postage	12.12
		Membership Renewal	15.00
		Church Let	30.00
		Typewriter Ribbon	9.85
		Donation to Oxfams Police Child Safety Day	200.00
			<b><u>£ 297.23</u></b>
		(i) Cash in Bank at 31/03/2007	1761.56
		(as per bank statement)	
	<b><u>£ 2021.82</u></b>		<b><u>£ 2058.79</u></b>

**Notes**

According to a spreadsheet supplied the balance at 23 January 2006 was £1391.48. The balance at February 2006 according to the bank statement was £1394.43. On this statement there were deposits of £5.61 in respect of interest and a withdrawal of £24 against a cheque. This gave a starting balance on 1 April 2006 of £1376.04. The difference between the final figure on the spreadsheet and the balance on the February bank statement is £2.95, which from the amount is assumed to be bank interest for January 2006.

The difference between the expenditure and income for the period under consideration is £36.97. There is no indication as to how this discrepancy has arisen as all the figures on the statement above have been vouched for.

Several invoices in regards to photocopying were disregarded as, although they were dated for this period, they were not paid until after this period and can only be considered in the period in which they are paid.

I have examined the accounts and receipts of Firrhill Community Council for the relevant period and the statement above represents a true and fair view of the accounts from the information that was provided to me.



Norman Tinlin  
Incorporated Administrator  
MCIM, MBCS, MIAP

28 April 2009

### ***Independent Examiner's Report to Firrhill Community Council***

I report on the income and expenditure of Firrhill Community Council for the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

The Community Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and the day to day record keeping. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

The accounts were examined some considerable time after the event. The organisation had gone through a period of change, re-organisation and changes in a number of personnel during and since the period under consideration.

I make the following observations and comments:

1. Payments, preferably by cheque, should be made against presentation of a proper invoice so that there is a proper audit trail.
2. Where receipts are used they should, where possible, be proper receipts and not odd pieces of paper or sticky notes. It may be advisable for a small receipt book to be purchased for use when necessary.
3. A folder should be obtained for the proper filing of statements, invoices, receipts and other paper work.
4. A bookkeeping ledger, or similar journal, should be used for the accounts particularly in view of the small number of transactions. This system is better than a spreadsheet in an organisation where there may be a change of personnel. Not everybody may have access to a computer or compatible software and there is also the issue of ownership and security. A ledger system overcomes these problems.
5. I would suggest that a Treasurer is appointed as a matter of urgency and that this be a separate position and not amalgamated with any existing office bearers' role.
6. There should be at least three signatories to the bank account with any two signatures required for the issue of cheques.
7. The suggested signatories are Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. These are the normal signatories in an organisation.

(Norman Tinlin)

## PENTLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP MEETING

31 March 2009 at Currie Community High School

Councillor Jason Rust chaired this meeting, attended by NP Councillors, Council officials, Community Council reps, police, voluntary sector, and interested residents.

1. Minutes of PNP meeting on 3 February '09 had been circulated and were approved as a correct record. [Written answers to public questions submitted at that meeting had also been circulated.]

2. Pentlands Neighbourhood Survey: presentation given on power point by Davina Fereday, Services for Communities. A cross-section of residents were asked for their views on their local neighbourhood, under various headings relating to environment and community facilities, and then compared with the previous year's (2007) results. Apparently, the survey was carried out in-street, door-to-door, and in neighbourhood offices - and it was said that 109 people had been questioned in Oxfords. (a. Did you see/hear of anyone in this community being questioned? b. As different people had been surveyed in each of the two years, how could community services standards be compared between '07 & '08? – this seemed like a pointless exercise and a waste of resources. One member suggested an on-line survey next time.) [I have a paper copy of this survey if anyone wishes to see it.]

3. PNP - Neighbourhood Environment Programme: Mike Avery, SW N'hood Manager, recommended to the Partnership that, in 2009/10, the £561,000 of N'hood Improvement Programme funding (coming from Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget, at present administered by SW Area Board) and the £100,000 top-sliced Roads & Footways capital programme funding which hasn't so far been integrated into Pentlands NP structures, be combined into a Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) to be administered by the South West Area Board. As the SW Area Board serves both Pentlands and South West Neighbourhood Partnerships (£100,00 for each) both NPs would have to be in full agreement for this proposal to be implemented.

This was discussed at some length; nobody present raised any points in favour of Mr Avery's proposal, but there were several against, including \* SW Area Board list does not show who/what each member represents; this could well be out of date regarding representation anyway; \* there are large gaps in the membership: Community Councils are not represented, neither are certain areas which don't have council housing; \* as a review of the Area Board is underway anyway, why was this report not deferred until the review is complete? \* Mike Avery states that combining the funding would "allow the NP to carry out wider ranging and more holistic improvements than either fund could separately provide". But, if all relevant funding is put 'in one pot' covering two NPs, how could we be sure that Pentlands NP would get their correct allocation? \* knowing how much road/pavement work could be carried out for a certain sum of money would be helpful and make for a more realistic NP 'wish list'.

Cllr Rust summed up by giving the three alternatives to Mr Avery's proposal: 1) Partnerships to retain ability to play their part and make decisions at business meetings; 2) Remit to the Environment & Transport sub-committee; 3) Leave to Community Councils to give recommendations. Cllr Rust also noted the Neighbourhood Partnership's concerns about the make-up of the SW Area Board: Community Councils are not represented.

4. Grounds Maintenance: a very clear report was tabled on the SW Neighbourhood Team in response to the motion submitted by Cllr Henderson re concerns consistently being raised by local residents last summer on the quantity/quality of grounds maintenance, eg grass cutting, weed treatment and litter picking. He wanted to know how these services will be delivered in Spring & Summer '09.

[As it will be of interest to residents in this community, not just Cllr Henderson's, I will provide here a synopsis of this report:] The SW Neighbourhood Team has the largest open green space area of the six Neighbourhoods that make up our city, as well as the largest amount of open space amenity area + responsibility for 58 play parks and 32 parks. Services are delivered by the Environmental Task Force, made up of Ground Maintenance team (14 staff responsible for grass cutting, shrub/tree maintenance, weed control) and Street Cleansing teams (two teams: 45 staff responsible for litter picking, rapid response, bulk uplifts + involved in weed control).

Several factors affected provision of services in '08: 11 summer staff were allocated but only seven positions filled (and two of those needed constant supervision); equipment problems meant weed spraying was delayed; the very wet summer affected weed spraying (only one full spray instead of two) and grass cutting (11 cuts instead of 15).

Re street cleansing, this is monitored quarterly by Keep Scotland Beautiful; Pentland Hills Ward and Colinton and Fairmilehead Ward [includes our community] are the two highest scoring Wards in the city.

The South West team has an extra £200K for environmental operations in 2009/10, and proposals to improve service provision include: \* a new Litter Press Vehicle for more efficient litter bin maintenance (should free up other staff to assist with, eg, weed spraying duties); \* two new mini-tractors, used for gritting in winter, will be adapted for mobile weed spraying and cover a larger mileage of footpaths; \* a tractor with suitable grass cutting/hedge trimming equipment will cover larger areas (quicker, more efficient operation); \* five more driver/gardeners have been recruited for grass cutting and weed spraying, and two drivers/road sweepers are being recruited to operate the new Litter Press Vehicle; \* ten seasonal gardening staff will be allocated to the SW team; \* staff currently doing Concierge duties may be trained to do local weed spraying as well. \* Task Force Managers should regularly review adherence to planned works and a new system will provide the Local Environment Manager with up-to-date feedback on activities undertaken. Last year was the first year of the Task Force delivering services on a Neighbourhood basis, and many lessons have been learned for 2009/10. Two concerns raised at this meeting: a) could grass cuttings be collected? - hasn't been done for years; makes footpaths dangerous when wet; b) could gritting of more pavements be looked at before next winter? (this is responsibility of centralised road teams - they prioritise where grit is most needed).

5. Community Grants: \* An award of £586.10 was granted to The Green Team, an environmental youth organisation, towards carrying out improvements to a rare raised bog in the Pentland Hills. \* Young at Heart, a 60+ group operating in Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green was awarded £4,950 towards a 12 month pilot project to develop a sustainable volunteer transport service so as to expand the area served and increase membership of the group. \* £5,000 was awarded to Clovenstone Community Centre towards a programme of activities and courses for local people. \* CHAI (Community Help & Advice Initiative) provides a range of social welfare and housing support to residents in SW Edinburgh. They applied for £1,750 towards summer away days for families who are benefit-dependent or on low incomes, and this was granted. \* Currie East Neighbourhood Watch applied for £3,272 for signage and to produce cardboard folders to be filled with leaflets, info and display stickers. This was turned down by the majority of those present at the last Funding Panel meeting - felt that this would be setting a precedent - but as a "gesture of goodwill" they were granted the reduced amount of £1,000. [Strangely, Currie was then granted £1,300 towards their Fair, even though no formal business case/application was made (so I have no notes on what this would be used for), simply because they asked for funding at the last minute and money was left in the Grants Fund at the end of the financial year.] Also - \* Proposed safe footway from Balerno bus terminus to Threipmuir car park: a feasibility study to be carried out by Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust to investigate agreement with land owners, technical feasibility, long term maintenance arrangements/responsibility, etc would cost £6,000, which was applied for by Balerno Community Council; this proposed path would benefit anyone wishing to access Pentland Hills Regional Park, not just local people. However, it was approved that they be given the balance of the Community Grants Fund, less what was granted for Currie Fair, ie approx. £7,200.

6. Other Reports tabled and considered at this meeting, which anyone interested can view by contacting me: (a) Edinburgh Open Space Strategy (Dave Anderson, Director of City Development); (b) Voluntary Sector Forum, March 2009 (Carol Cawood, Chairperson); (c) From Dave Anderson, Director of City Development: Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation Process (taking into account the road safety needs of all users, especially with regard to their age and ability). On the latest pedestrian crossing list, published April '08, out of a total of 263, Oxgangs Avenue at Oxgangs Green has now moved up to 13 from the previous ranking of 19 - so we're getting there!

Date/Venue of next Pentlands NP Meeting: TUESDAY 2 JUNE in PENTLAND CENTRE.

# OXGANGS CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Update regarding Neighbourhood Improvement Projects [NIPs] in the Firrhill Community Council area for the year 09/10.

The Neighbourhood Improvement budget for the year 2009/10 is £561K approx. There were 28 projects from the whole of the South-West and Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership areas put forward for the board's consideration. The following projects in the Oxgangs Central Residents Association area were approved at a special meeting of the South West Housing Area Board on 7th April 2009: -

- a. **Car parking.** 20-22 Oxgangs Avenue, area is currently paved and is apparently not used for anything else. It is anticipated that extra off road car parking spaces will help ease the congestion in this area.
- b. **Car parking.** 26 Oxgangs Avenue – as above
- c. **Soft Landscaping.** 1 Oxgangs Place/2 Oxgangs Drive paved area behind this location. Remove slabs and form a new footpath across the area and compliment with fencing, grass and soft landscape the remaining area.
- d. **Fencing.** 4 Oxgangs Row, Install fencing around perimeter of area to generally improve the environment.
- e. **Drying Green.** 8 and 10 Oxgangs Crescent. Upgrade by laying fresh tarmac, erecting new drying poles and making the area secure.
- f. **Drying Green.** 36 and 38 Oxgangs Crescent – see above.
- g. **A door entry system** will also be installed in Oxgangs House. This project will be taken forward by the Housing Property Services [HPS] section of the Council as there are other general improvement works for the whole block being proposed as well. The aim is to try to improve the security and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Tenants and residents who are directly affected by these proposed improvements will be contacted individually with further details of the projects nearer the time.

Currently, these projects are funded entirely from the Housing Revenue Account [HRA]. This fund is entirely made up of council tenants rents, so therefore is 'ring fenced' for use on only HRA assets [buildings and land that is owned, managed and maintained by the Housing section of the City of Edinburgh Council]. Funding has also been secured to develop environmental plans for the whole of the HRA Oxgangs Area. These plans seek to identify long term environmental improvements. The landscape designer who will be drawing up these plans has been given the contact details of various residents and community organisations to enable them to contribute to the plans.

*NB* Oxgangs Central Residents Association put forward several other projects for consideration by the board, namely the other three drying greens in Oxgangs Crescent unfortunately; they were not selected to progress at this time. However, these three projects along with any others that are put forward in the future will be considered for the year 2010/11.

**Maureen Jarvis**

**Secretary**

**Oxgangs Central Residents Association**

**May 2009**

It should also be noted that funding has been secured by Firrhill Drive Tenants and Residents Association for the construction of a car park in their area.