

FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 22 JUNE 2009

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Present: H Levy (Chair), P Wright (Sec), G Hunter, A Hunter; P Podd, G Lighthouse J Napier (Mins); B Brand;

In Attendance: J Rust (Cllr); E Barry (Cllr) E Aitken (Cllr). H Johnston; L Maguire & N Tinlin (Fairmilehead Community Council);

Apologies: L Lynn; M Jarvis; D Crawford (Oxgangs Police), S Mackay (Carillion)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on the 28th April 2009

N Tinlin noted the minute failed to record the appointment of P Podd as a co-opted member of the Community Council. Accepted the minute be amended to record this event. With this amendment the minute was approved as a true record (Prop: A Hunter; Sec: G Hunter)

2. MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Colinton Mains Park and Pavilion Stakeholder Meeting (see also under Item 10a) – the Chair asked Cllr Rust to speak on this matter. Cllr Rust reminded members that a sizeable portion of the new pavilion funding was due to come from Applecross, the contractors for the Meggetland project. This company recently went into administration with the apparent resulting loss of this funding. This in turn may affect the level of funding from Sport Scotland.

The situation is tabled for discussion at a full City of Edinburgh Council meeting next Thursday, 25th June 2009, as part of the City Development Department's report. Concern must be raised at the failure of this department to secure the transfer of monies at the completion of the Meggetland project and again at the later time when it was discovered the financial transfer had not taken place. Proposed a deputation consisting of 3 representatives of the main community stakeholders request to be heard at this meeting to impress upon the City Council the need for the pavilion project to take place.

Members agreed the Chair, as the Community Council representative, lead the deputation and that Oxgangs AC be asked to represent the sporting community. The Chair and Cllr Rust to seek a third representative from the health community.

(b) Police Response Times – The matter was tabled by the Secretary at the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership's meeting on 2nd June and it was agreed to invite Lothian and Borders Police Force Communications Centre located at Loanhead to send a representative to a future meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership in order to hear the views and concerns of community representatives and give a response. Members noted the position. [See Secretary's report on PNP Item 5 for full question]

B Brand advised she had recently been the victim of a crime and the police response had been several hours after the event and her 999 call.

3. Community Police Report:

The following written report was supplied by the Community Police Officer, D Crawford and read out by the Chair: -

INCIDENTS

During the month of June up to and including Monday 22/06/2009, the police in Oxgangs have dealt with a total of 182 incidents in the central Oxgangs, Firrhill and Colinton Mains areas.

EVENTS

Between Monday 1st June and Friday 5* June, various agencies were in the area involved in the Oxgangs Week of Action.

This involved high visibility extra police patrols, workshops, environmental issues were looked at, housing surgeries were offered to members of the public by Housing Officers from City of Edinburgh Council and Dunedin-Canmore. Leaflet drops were also made to households in Oxgangs and Firrhill publicising the activities, which generated some enquiries from the public, which were then dealt with.

Feedback and the usefulness of the event is still awaited at this stage, but this may become a more regular local feature in times to come.

On Wednesday 17th June the Annual Oxgangs Children's Safety Day took place at the station. Once more the weather was quite unkind, but despite this the decision was to run the event. Once more it was a success and was obviously enjoyed by the children. Not so sure about the adults and teachers who patiently had to wait whilst the children took part in the outdoor activities. The Chief Constable also attended and presented prizes to the Safety Poster Winners.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Following a number of incidents at and around the Good Companions Public House and concerns raised by members of the public and police officers alike, those responsible for running the establishment were summoned to Force Headquarters where the standards expected for such an operation were explained to them by Licensing Staff. Safe to say that matters concerning disturbance at these premises will be closely watched for the time being.

CRIME.

Figures for the month to date are as follows;

ASSAULT	- 3 incidents with 2 solved and 1 unsolved.
DRUGS	- 3 persons charged with possession offences.
VANDALISM	- 4 incidents - none solved.
HOUSEBREAKING	- 3 incidents with 1 solved; 1 unsolved and 1 housebreaking with intent to steal unsolved.
THEFT	- 2 incidents of thefts from cars with both unsolved. 1 bike was also stolen.
OTHER	- Male arrested for possession of Offensive Weapon after an Incident initially within, then outside the Good Companions.

The Chair reported she had met with Veronica Wright, CEC South West Management Area Safety Manager, to discuss the Community Safety Week and expressed the opinion that for future events of this nature all community centres should be used and not just Pentland Community Centre. Also considered there had been a lack of consultation despite 12 week build-up.

It was noted there was sometimes confusion between Neighbourhood Partnerships and Neighbourhood Management Areas. Pentland NP covers 2 local authority wards of Pentland Hills and Colinton / Fairmilehead and is part of the South West Neighbourhood Management Area. The South West NP which covers the two local authority wards of Sighthill / Gorgie and Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart is also part of the South West Neighbourhood Management Area.

Noted that the public counter opening times at Oxgangs Police Station had recently improved.

Clarification on the position regarding the Children's Safety Day, which is a local annual event organised by the police. Funding had not been sought for this event this year as it had been incorporated into the CEC Safety Forum's Week of Action and was funded from that source.

4. Councillors' Report:

Cllr Rust – Week of Action – CEC publication 'Outlook' – complaints regarding the Good Companions Public House – resident parking around Pentland Primary School – Applecross.

Cllr Aitken – Children's Community Safety Day event, poster competition, Chief Constable, new Superintendent Pentland Community Safety Panel issuing leaflets about identified problem issues, i.e., garden sheds, etc. Tesco / Morrison Sat/Sun 3/4 July – Oxfords Community Garden concern raised by Greenbank residents re the detrimental effect this project may have to their security.

Cllr Barry – maintenance of green spaces, good and bad reports, cut grass not being picked up by Council's parks workforce

GL concerned the cost of upgrading the Commonwealth Swimming Pool for the Commonwealth Games being held mainly in the west (Glasgow) will impact on funding for local community projects. Cllr Aitken taking the matter up and will obtain an answer for the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Reported there was still a problem obtaining back statements from the Bank. It appears that there is only one member of staff in the Bank who has the authority to transact business with the account holder and there is problems contacting that person.

The acquirement of a ledger book for the Treasurer and laptop computer for the Secretary is still ongoing.

6. Draft Open Space Audit, May 2009 - Consultation

The Secretary read out an introductory letter on the Open Space Strategy received from the City of Edinburgh Council Planning and Strategy Department. A city-wide open space strategy is being prepared for Edinburgh. The strategy aims to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to protecting and developing the city's network of open space. It will set the standards that the Council will be expected to meet.

The strategy will be accompanied by action plans prepared in participation with the 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships in Edinburgh. Consultation on the draft open space audit will run from 19 May to 10 July 2009.

The Department want to know what people think about their local greenspace and are especially interested in views on spaces other than parks. They want to know which open spaces people use, what they think of their quality and what changes would improve open space provision in their area. The Department have produced a questionnaire to facilitate responses, which should be completed no later than 10 July 2009. The Secretary provided a copy of Map 3, which covers the Firrhill area for members to look at and handed out copies of the questionnaire.

7. Planning Report: J Napier

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for Ward No.08. The period covered is from 25 May to 15 June 2009, during which only 2 decisions related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area is reported in the Bulletins:

- A planning application to install a velox balcony system and windows had been granted.
- A planning application to erect a conservatory had been granted

As an item of interest it was noted that the first major development had been recorded in the weekly planning bulletin under the new Section 2 – Proposal of Application Notices. These applications are sent in 12 weeks prior to submitting a formal application and give Community Councils advance notice of such developments and therefore more time in which to consult.

The major development is in Ward 12 – Leith Walk and it is a proposed development of a hotel, retail and commercial units at 34B Haddington Place, Edinburgh. (09/01267/PAN)

8. Flood Prevention Work: Landscaping

This item was introduced to the Community Council at its AGM last month. Carillion's next step was to extend their consultation to include the local residents and were organising to hold to open events in the Colinton Mains Community Centre on Wednesday 8th July between 3.30 and 6.30 pm and the Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre on Thursday 9th July between 4.00 and 7.00 pm.

Carillion will do a letter drop notifying residents directly affected and other stakeholder groups. Notice also given that the public footpath along the side of the Braid Burn at Reach 3 would be closed from the 4th July.

9. The Peak

Chair reported funding has been secured for printing and to pay for an editor but bodies are needed to co-ordinate advertising, articles etc. An issue needs to be created to up-date the community about current development work in the area such as the flood prevention work, new housing in Firrhill Park and the St Hilda's site development. In short a working group needs to be created with interested people. Have had meetings with Dunedin-Canmore and Stuart MacKay re this.

Volunteers, within and outwith the Community Council, who are interested in keeping this worthwhile local community newssheet alive and would like to get involved are requested to contact the Chair. Similarly those who have news items they wish to advertise through the Peak should contact Heather Levy (0131-477 6844) or Cllr Eric Barry (Tel: 0131 529 3265)

10. Meeting Reports – P Wright

a) Colinton Mains Park & Pavilion Stakeholders Meeting, 14 May 2009

See attached report (Appendix 1).

b) Pentland NP Environment and Transport Group, 25 May 2009

See attached report (Appendix 2).

c) Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership, 2 June 2009

See attached report (Appendix 3).

d) Young People and Partnerships, 11 June 2009

A and G Hunter attended a Neighbourhood Workshop at the Edinburgh Training Centre, 16 St Mary's Street.

This meeting – covering all Neighbourhood Partnerships city-wide – was well attended by a mixed group of around 150 youths and adults including City Councillors from all parties. Cllr Jason Rust was in the Orange Group which represented Firrhill, Colinton, Fairmilehead, etc.

After a get-to-know-your-team exercise, the groups became newspaper reporters and had to compile a full page story on how to make your neighbourhood area more “youthful” friendly via sport, recreation, information and become an integral and useful part of the neighbourhood with help and guidance from adults, police and councillors (see Appendix 4). The workshop ended with a verbal report from chosen youth representatives of each group.

e) Pentland NP: Meeting to discuss Roads & Walkways in Ward 8, 12 June 2009

See attached report (Appendix 5).

11. Correspondence

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

1. "Spokes" magazine for cyclists [to JN]
2. Edinburgh Assoc. of CCs Summer Newsletter [distributed at meeting]
3. From SW Edinburgh Local Office: Single Outcome Agreement 2008-11 [Secy summarised contents - ie, factors that have helped influence the SOA - added this to inside front cover, and photocopied for all attendees at meeting]
4. Edinburgh Community Reps Network: summary of "What Now?" event held on 20 May as a follow-up to recent Conference on Community Engagement.
5. "Greenspace Matters": the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust newsletter + Annual Report.
6. Ann Davis (by e-mail) re visit by Community Safety Team to our meeting on Monday 24 August.
7. Eileen Hewitt (by e-mail) re induction courses for new Comm. Council members.
8. "SEPA View": Scottish Environment Protection Agency mag., Summer '09.
9. Eileen Hewitt (CCs Liaison & Dev'tment Officer) –
 - a. City Council meetings from July: inserts for Secy's diary,
 - b. Library Services & opening hours (pamphlet).
 - c. Minutes of City Council & CCs Joint Meeting, 1 June '09.
 - d. Community Council Elections timetable; re-registering of Local Interest Groups (Nominated Members); CC Publicity Questionnaire feedback; General Article on Comm. Councils.

12.A.O.C.B.

a) *The Green Triangle*

B Brand advised that the residents in Firrhill Drive were opposed to the proposal that this area be made into allotments instead of becoming a community garden and that there had been no consultation. The Chair responded that two open meeting had been held in the last fortnight.

Whilst Dunedin-Canmore were prepared to set up the site it was on condition volunteers within the community would maintain it. The firrhill Drive residents opposition may be due to the use of the term 'allotment' which is generally associated with vegetable gardens. The proposal was to ensure the area was maintained by dividing the space into 'allotments' so that different community groups would take on a share of that responsibility. What was done with the allotted space would be up to each group but the area would be open for local resident, etc. to walk round and enjoy the space. A wildlife garden area with seating situated nearest the burn and the pathways round the site would be provided by Dunedin-Canmore.

b) *Community Council Elections*

As previously reported the above elections were due to start on 31st August of this year. It had been decided that the Community Council should be pro-active in trying to generate interest and attract new members. A leaflet had been drawn up for this purpose and was circulated at the meeting for comment.

It was agreed that 500 copies of the leaflet be produced and circulated throughout the community. If possible it was intended to use the services of the local schools (school-bag drop) as well as the community centres and local library as a means of dispersal.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be held in the Colinton Mains Community Centre on Monday, 27 July 2009 at 7pm.

The Secretary reported that she had received a response from the Management Committee of the Oxgangs Community Centre regarding our use of their premises. The Committee welcomed the Council's use but requested that bookings are done through the Centre's manager.

The Chair reported that permission had been obtained for the Council to have access to and the use of the community space within the Oxgangs Care premises within the new build when completed.

Agenda item for the next meeting was a report from Craig Dunlop re upgrading the children's play area in Colinton Mains Park.

**Colinton Mains Park & Pavilion Stakeholders Meeting
held on 14 May '09 in Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre**

Present: Heather Levy (Chair, Firrhill Community Council; organizer of this meeting); Craig Dunlop (Parks & Leisure); Craig Cunningham (Senior Sports Officer); Mike Galloway, City Development Projects Officer, t- representatives from the NHS, Dunedin Canmore, Carillion (flood prevention contractors), Oxgangs N'hood Centre, AFC Oxgangs, Colinton Mains Bowling Club, local residents, and Councillor Eric Barry.

The main focus of this meeting was to take forward plans for the proposed pavilion. Points were raised about how long it is taking to put this in place; there was anger that £2m in funding was available eight years ago for the "twin projects" came to nothing; in the meantime, the showers/toilets/ changing rooms in the existing pavilion are not fit for purpose and do not meet health and safety criteria, in spite of the fact that they are supposed to be used by football teams from city-wide as well as 17 local ones - also, there is a demand for girls' football, but this is out of the question with present facilities.

Craig Cunningham detailed the three options for scrutiny at this meeting:

1. New building, featuring toilets, showers, six changing rooms and a community room, at an approx. cost of £1.4 million.
2. Existing pavilion refurbished, but only enough space for toilets, showers and four changing rooms, at a cost of approx. £600,000.
3. " " " , with an extension to provide two more changing rooms and a community room, at a cost of approx. £1 million.

Finance would be provided by £200,000 ring-fenced from Meggetland developers, Sport Scotland £50,000 per changing room (max. £300,000 for the six rooms) + we are told that that we are No 1 on the Council's priority list and that £750,000 (out of £1.2m) would be available to us. It was noted that these sums are for capital costs only; no cash is factored in for running of a community room.

Cllr Barry suggested that, if we had new-build, the old pavilion could be sold off to KDI (Council arm's-length company) to run and rent out as workshops, etc, a facility we don't have locally. Stuart Mackay (Carillion) said that it should be possible for men involved in flood prevention and builders of new pavilion to work round each other. Craig confirmed that, if the old pavilion is refurbished, football teams will be provided with portakabins. The large bothy can be used for storage. [The bowling club, which has a storage room in the pavilion, will also be provided with a portakabin.]

All agreed that a new building would be the preferred option. Crucially, though, there is not enough money presently in the kitty for Option 1. It might be possible to tap into other funding (eg Fairer Scotland Fund), but sourcing funding, filling in forms, and going through the bidding process, requires people able and willing to do this, and can take many months, whereas this project is now time-critical.

As there was no concensus, and discussion had taken place for over 1 ½ hours, Heather asked each person in turn (apart from officials) for their preferred option. The initial vote was tied; so one person changed her vote, resulting in 8:6 in favour of Option 3. A report must now go to the Council's Culture & Leisure Committee for approval; this will involve architects, quantity surveyors, planning and tendering (as Cllr Barry pointed out, the true cost is the lowest tender) so getting this report presented at the June Committee meeting will be tight. If in favour, this Committee will decide on the time-scale, though Mike Galloway surmised that a realistic start date would be Jan-Feb 2010.

Peggy Wright, Secretary Firrhill Community Council

PENTLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT GROUP

Meeting held on 25 May 2009 in SW Neighbourhood Office

In Attendance: C Doherty, Services for Communities P'ship & Info Manager; D Potter, SFC P'ship Development Officer, reps from Firrhill, Fairmilehead, Balerno, and Longstone Community Councils + Colinton Amenity Assoc.

Summary Report

Selection of Group Chair: As there is time pressure on elected Councillors (so many meetings to attend), it was agreed that Christine Doherty or Diana Potter will chair this group, with a review after the local community council elections.

Open Space Strategy: Presentation by Kenneth Bowes, Planning Officer, City Development

The following info arose from discussion during the presentation: * The OSS will be looked at every five years; will be easier to update as time goes on. * OSS will run alongside the *Local Plan*; new *Local Plan* will come into effect in 2010; the two LPs currently in operation will become one city-wide plan. * Through the consultation process, a request can be made to investigate land considered to be incorrectly classified. * Every garden and pocket of green is drawn out individually. * Map is available online, in libraries, and each Community Council Secretary has a copy of the document. * There are no national standards re availability of open space; requirement to audit open space may be tackled in different ways by other local authorities. " Noted that map is out of date, with new developments not showing - however, Christine Doherty explained that GIS (an internal computer programme) notes any changes within the city - so, between the two methods, everything is accounted for. * Asked whether any particular designation would protect land from development, Ken Bowes answered that, even if an area is designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) it did not wholly prevent building - but would slow down the process (many conditions to be met by developer). It is the *Local Plan* that covers protected land types; the OSS does have certain designations that qualify as protected though this is not their specific purpose in the OSS. Ken Shade noted an overlap of areas classified as green corridors and SINC. Ken Bowes replied that the Council is not doing away with the *Local Plan* and so the designations stand in their respective documents, despite an apparent crossover. There will be a move to a single *Local Plan* for the city. KS also asked what purpose the plan fulfils - a reference document in the decision-making process for granting permission to develop? KB: the OSS informs the *Local Plan*. After the initial audit, a strategy will be developed leading on to an Action Plan - a 'doing document' as well as a reference document. Query: could the document be used as evidence to object to development or use of land? KB: yes. * Noted that the OSS covers only urban land, and not open space such as farmland, so the map does not have the same boundaries of the Pentlands NP. * KB advised that private land is still classed as an open space - but an action plan has to be agreed with the private landowners re co-operation between them and the Council. * Third parties, eg British Waterways, were consulted to take account of any plans they might have. * KB: the Council's City Development Dept is trying to be flexible with the consultation on the OSS as it is not legislated. This allows for the community to comment in any format, not just through printed forms supplied. Consultation events have been arranged throughout the city, and feedback on any area of the city will be accepted at any of these events. [Noted that the nearest event to us will be at WHEC (for South West NP), whereas the event for Pentlands NP is at Currie High School, which is nowhere near us. So Ken Bowes agreed that he could bring the documents to the next PNP meeting, on 2 June, in Pentland Community Centre.] Anything pointed out to be wrong on the map (eg PW remarked that Colinton Mains Bowling Club has been omitted, while Longstone BC is included but no longer exists) will be corrected in due course.

Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation Process: * Current list has every suggested crossing from last six years and includes inaccuracies; looking to cut list down from 263 to between 50 and 70; Gary Patton (report author) will present a paper to Transport Infrastructure & Environment Cttee (TIE) in Jury re refining the number of crossings on the list; will then speak to Pentlands E & T Group. As they work within the three year Capital Plan, they can schedule the next three years of crossings based on their

rankings in the revised listings [as previously reported, Oxfords Avenue is at No 13 on the current list - so where will it end up? Watch this space!]. * The new process will be in three phases: the PV² rating will dictate whether a crossing will be investigated or not; the second stage is a detailed audit assessing context of where crossing will be, who would use it, what facilities are around it (eg, school, shops). The local community will be consulted. It will then be accepted into the rankings (or not).

* The function of the list is for prioritisation of funds from the Capital Budget - and there would be a max. of four pedestrian crossings installed per year over the three-year Plan. " Valid points raised in discussion: a traffic island might sometimes be more appropriate than a crossing; traffic lights instead of roundabouts benefit pedestrians more than drivers; some crossings may qualify for Safer Routes to School funding; education is needed re new crossings with panel on main pillar showing red or green rather than 'red/green man' across the road.

AOCB

At the P'ship Business Meeting held on 13 May, those who attended were asked to write down their main concerns under each heading in the Community Plan. We then had to put a sticker on the item in each list which we thought should have priority. After the meeting, the facilitator collated the info gathered, and under the Environment heading the scored items were: * More environmental wardens to tackle dog fouling; * More local resources for parks; * Well maintained parks & green spaces; * Shorten waiting list for hedge/grass cutting help for the elderly; * Reduce graffiti; * Changing behaviour; teaching social responsibility; * Expand the green belt; keep existing green spaces; Devolved budgets that are sufficient for purpose.

A few of the above suggestions can be taken on by this group as their action plan; the next stage would be to work towards getting the specific jobs onto the departmental work plans. Re Garden Aid for the elderly, CD advised that this is funded by Health & Social Care - however, they may be open to working with the group as they would be looking to meet their targets/objectives. Other points brought up during discussion of the above: * Services for Communities is for the whole community, not just for Council homes; * Community Councillors should be leading during walkabouts (have more local knowledge than Council officials) - and there should be more walkabouts; * If two people see dog fouling, the owner can be prosecuted - but a photograph is not considered sufficient evidence; * Invasive weeds, eg giant hog weed, need to be tackled on the Braid Burn.

Discussion re transport issues (not included in above list): * Lothian Buses is a commercial concern - has no remit to provide anything for the community - so challenging LB about the way they run the company would not be successful. If buses do not reach local community facilities, what may be more successful is promoting community requirements to the bus company. * The Council would receive a report on supported bus routes on 26 May; Ratho to be first in line to receive supported service.

* There is now a bus to St John's Hospital but only goes from one hospital to another. * TIE will be looking at further routes in the future; CD said that a strong business case must be presented for taking on these routes. * Bus lanes are currently under review; Gordon Drysdale (South West Roads Manager) will be taking the lead on this. * Although there is confusion around operation of bus lanes because of different times when cars can/cannot use them, depending on where they are, it was agreed that greenways are effective for smooth flow of public transport.

Peggy Wright
Firrhill CC rep

PENTLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP MEETING

2 June 2009 in Pentland Community Centre

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

Minutes of PNP meeting on 31 March '09 had been circulated and were approved as a correct record. [Written answers to public questions - re * dumped waste and dangerous trees in Redford Wood, *dangerous state of pavements in Colinton Village, * Pentland Hills Regional Park funding – submitted at that meeting had also been circulated.]

Items of interest to Firrhill Community Council area residents:

1. Oxgangs Week of Action: a presentation was led by Inspector Sue Wilson on this co-ordinated week of action presently being held in Oxgangs/Firrhill, the area chosen being as a result of police analyst's report on crime over past year, * idea comes from England, where proven to cut down crime; * has support from Pentlands N'hood P'ship, Firrhill CC, and residents groups from Oxgangs & Firrhill * showcases partnership working, re-enforcing community confidence; * joined-up action bringing together resources to improve performance and increase efficiency; * being treated as a dynamic model - included area wardens, community safety officers, fire and rescue services, task force, CCTV van, mounted police, trading standards officers, noise team, night-time wardens, MOD police, Dunedin Canmore - ie, a huge community safety presence in the area; * intelligence-led, and takes a lot of planning time to co-ordinate; * an evaluation will be done; * future action weeks will bring in other partners, eg schools.

2. Local Community Plan 2009-2011: - Final Draft for Approval. Aims to improve quality of life for people living in local communities by developing programmes of activities and initiatives which develop and deliver better services; recognises the need to help progress the Scottish Govt's national priorities + Edinburgh-wide plans/strategies - but also provides the opportunity to tailor these plans to local priorities and needs. Community groups, eg Firrhill Community Council, have been consulted throughout the process and their views, ideas and concerns taken into account. The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership has agreed to the following priorities for action: 1. Environment and green space; 2. Community safety; 3. Health; 4. Community resources; 5. Skills & employment; 6. Transport. The four key principles which will be built into all activities and initiatives developed: * Civic responsibility * Equalities * Environmental sustainability * Social inclusion. Five sub groups of Pentlands N'hood P'ship will help take forward work identified in the Local Plan; these are * Community Safety * Environment & Transport * Health & Community * Funding Panel * South West Area Board. The individual public and voluntary sector organisations within PNP will continue to deliver their day-to-day services/business. [At a PNP business meeting held on 13 May a workshop gathered members' views of actions required to support implementation of the draft LCP. The results were analysed, and each issue weighted in perceived importance, resulting in priorities for action being: * More environmental wardens to tackle dog fouling; * More high-visibility Police Officers on foot patrols; * To reduce anti-social behaviour: more cheap & accessible facilities for young people and support for voluntary bodies; * Improve access to local community health providers & services; identify what is available; be able to make a doctor's appointment for a few days ahead; * Increase number of young people moving on to positive destinations after school by promoting more vocational/apprenticeship training rather than focus on university; * Increased take-up of community activities: know what's available, where, how they can be accessed, what they cost 4- full funding of community centres should be reinstated; * Transport: Lothian Buses' remit for provision of services compared with community requirements.] [Note: the Local Community Plan in full can be read by anyone contacting me, or by accessing the Neighbourhood Partnership web-site.]

3. Community Grants Fund: Oxgangs Drama Group: As previously noted in my PNP Funding Panel Report (meeting held on 6 May '09) the decision on this group's application for £5k was deferred pending further info on planned use of this money. A deputation from ODG, at tonight's meeting, explained the Group has been going for about ten years and they will not be appearing on Fringe stage this year but will still participate in Fringe Festival through production of a radio show. At

Radio Fringe will meet professional actors, producers, etc. Their radio & video project application would cover such things as specialist training in lighting, sound production, effects, editing + digital recorders, cameras, editing kits and two media professionals (from Scotsman & Radio 1) who will be involved. As detailed estimates for certain costs are still being sourced, the decision was made to grant the group £3,450 today, with the balance being looked at by the Funding Panel at a future meeting.

4. Colinton Mains Pavilion: * Heather Levy (Chair, Firrhill Community Council) presented a report on the Stakeholders' meeting held on 14 May '09 [see separate page]. » Councillor Jason Rust tabled a Motion to Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership [see separate page] following on the disclosure that Applecross (the Meggetland Developer) has gone into receivership but the £200k "planning gain" to be paid by Applecross towards our pavilion had not been received by the Council.

- Latest news: Cllr Ronnie Cairns assured us that the £200k has been promised by Applecross' bank (had contacted them this morning). He also assured Cllr Rust that there will be a thorough investigation into "planning gain" - money paid by a developer to the Council as a condition of gaining planning permission – as this is a city-wide issue: just as this £200k was never claimed by Council officials (even though it goes back around eight years), there could be other instances of developers getting away with monies due to the Council. Also, re the Colinton Mains Pavilion, because of further investigation into finance this cannot now be approved (or otherwise) at the Council's June Culture & Leisure Committee meeting – the earliest would be September.

5. Force Communication Centre (Police Call Centre):

Question tabled by Peggy Wright

"During the winter, an elderly resident complained to Firrhill Community Council that, having returned home and found her door broken into, and being told by the Force Communications Centre to leave everything as it was, despite further calls to the FCC she was left for around four hours, late at night, very cold, and terrified that the perpetrators would return. She was told that her calls were not graded as a priority. Following on this, the Community Council contacted the FCC asking for a rep to attend one of our meetings so that priorities, response times, etc could be clarified. Their answer was that small groups can visit the Call Centre, but they don't do talks.

We are now asking if you might take the lead by inviting the FCC to give a presentation at a future Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting. We are sure that this would be of interest to everyone, as there seems to be so much confusion around this issue - and, as the Pentlands NP covers a much wider area than just one Community Council, perhaps the FCC would respond more favourably to the request."

The meeting agreed to the above; officials will endeavour to carry out my request on behalf of Firrhill Community Council, and there should be a written answer in Minutes produced for the next PNP meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 25 August '09 (venue tba)

Peggy Wright

Firrhill Community Council rep to PNP

Young people and Neighbourhood Partnerships: Working together to improve local areas

Discussion exercise:

It's 2010 and your area has received a national engagement award in recognition of the great work of local young people and the Neighbourhood Partnership. The award recognises both the highly effective ways in which young people have been involved and the great things that have been achieved as a result.

The Scotsman/Daily Record (your choice) has offered a double-page spread for you to tell the community all about it. They've asked you to include at least **two specific achievements** and **two exciting ways of involving young people**.

Your task is to produce a mock up of the two pages.

In doing so, you'll want to think about:

Content

What to include, e.g.:

- What you'll have achieved
- What will be different as a result - for young people and the wider community
- How you'll have gone about it
- Who you will have included or reached out to

Layout

How to get your message across, e.g.:

Use of images

Headlines

How much text to use

Time

You will have one and a quarter hour to complete the exercise and will be asked to give a brief (two minute) presentation of your piece to the whole group.

We suggest you spend at least thirty minutes or so brainstorming and briefly discussing **what you'd like to achieve through youth participation in your area and how you'd like to go about it**, before you move on to creating the double-page spread.

Resources

You will have flip chart paper, spare paper, pens, markers, post-its, newspapers, magazines and scissors.

We hope this is an exciting activity and that it stimulates discussion between young people and Neighbourhood Partnership people. We also hope that at least some of the ideas you come up with are actually taken forward by your Neighbourhood Partnership and Local Youth Forum.

Pentlands NP: Meeting to Discuss Roads & Footways in Ward 8; 12 June 2009

In attendance: Mike Avery (South West N'hood Manager); Stewart Farquhar (Area Environment Manager); Gordon Drysdale (Area Roads Manager); Cllr Elaine Aitken, who arranged this meeting; Norman Tinlin (Fairmilehead CC); Peggy Wright (Firrhill CC); David Bewsey & Alex Stewart (Colinton Amenity Assoc). [Apologies from Cllr Jason Rust and Cllr Eric Barry.]

Budget: At the Pentlands NP meeting on 31 March '09, the decision was made to retain all decisions for the allocation of the top-sliced Roads & Footways budget within the P'ship Board and not to give responsibility for this to the SW Area Board. The total budget is twice as much as it would normally be, ie, £100k rolled over from 2008/09 + £100k for 2009/10. To enable decision-making to be done at a very local level, Mike Avery is splitting the £200k between the two wards in Pentlands NP, ie, Ward 2 (Balerno, Currie, Ratho) and Ward 8 (Colinton, Oxgangs, Fairmilehead). As £5k was already spent at Mike Avery's discretion (Jan '09) on handrail provision at Cock-my-lane, that leaves £95k for the three communities.

Discussion of possible projects meeting criteria: as this is capital expenditure, the money must be used to create or enhance a fixed asset held on a Services for Communities account - can't be used as revenue funding to maintain such assets except where it substantially lengthens the useful life of the asset or substantially increases its open market value.

Decision was made on projects to be taken forward for further investigation (plans, costing, etc): Fairmilehead - creation of central pedestrian refuge islands at Pentland Terrace and Biggar Road; Colinton - footway resurfacing/improvement in front of shops on Bridge Road + upgrade to steps/ footpath from Woodhall Road to Bridge Road; Oxgangs - lighting to Colinton Mains Park will be 'worked up' as a possibility (flood prevention and park works may mean that it can't be done in the time-frame, ie, by March 2010) + wheelchair ramp on steep part of path between library and Broadway will be costed. All of the above projects would enhance community safety and improve accessibility, although the ramp providing for easier disabled access could involve different funding.

There will be a review of this selection, with firmed-up costings, at a meeting in August.

Late news by email from Mike Avery: estimated total of above six projects is £120K against budget of £95K

Peggy Wright