

# FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING: 23 NOVEMBER 2009

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Members: H Levy (Chair), P Wright; A Hunter; G Hunter; L Lynn; P Podd; J Napier;  
In Attendance: E Aitken (Cllr); J Rust (Cllr); E Barry (Cllr); N Tinlin (Fairmilehead Community Council);

### 1. Apologies:

Received from S Liddle; M O'Brien; M Milne; D Crawford (Oxgangs Police);

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Minutes approved by G Hunter, seconded by L Lynn. There were no amendments.

### 3. Matters Arising:

**Hunters Tryst Development** – the Chair reported she had received an email from Sue Napier, Chief Executive, Dunedin-Canmore indicating they were still in negotiation with the City Council for the purchase of the land and there was no point to a further meeting at this time.

**Colinton Mains Park and Pavilion** – The Chair reported that she attended a meeting last Wednesday organised by John Spence, Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre and also attended by John Travis CEC, Graham Croucher, CEC and Councillor Eric Barry.

Funding has been secured for £1 million this includes the £200,000 from Applecross. To reduce costs and enable a new build instead of the original refurbishment, the design has been kept in-house to CEC property design team.

Two design options were tabled, both have to be reviewed with changes to the roof and high windows changed. Option one has been costed at £900,000 and the old pavilion will have to be demolished for work to commence. Option 2 still needs to be fully costed but is likely to be well over £1million but the old pavilion can still be used while work continues.

There was some discussion around security, key holders and policies this needs to be investigated further.

The Bothy refurbishment needs to be costed and then can be used for storage. The Bowling Club will have it's own storage.

The conversion of the toilets to a community room for training etc needs to be investigated and costed.

After the tendering process it is hoped that work will commence in July 2010 and take 6 months to complete.

A public viewing of the design will take place in January 25th 2010, venue to be confirmed but it would be most appropriate in Colinton Mains Church.

The group hopes to meet within the next two weeks including representation from AC Oxgangs football club.

4./

#### 4. Community Police Report: D Crawford

Whilst David was unable to attend the meeting he was able to provide a written report: -

Calls to the beat this month to date are 124.

Halloween and Bonfire night passed off in the area with far fewer calls received than in previous years. Egging of vehicles and houses this year were practically zero.

##### POSTAL CARD/PHONE CHARGES SCAM!

It has been confirmed by Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam - originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

##### CRIME.

After the tyre slashing incident in October, there have been NO reports of vandalisms to vehicles since - anywhere on the beat.

Theft from a motor vehicle in Firrhill Drive on 05/11/2009

Male from out with the area was arrested for Breach of the Peace after causing a scene outside Scotmid and Chip Inn on 18/11/2009.

High risk missing person enquiry for an elderly local lady on Saturday 21/11/2009. She went missing from Oxgangs Road North and was found safe and well on Saturday evening in the Restalrig area.

Theft by housebreaking to a flat in Oxgangs Street on Saturday evening 21/11/2009. Games console stolen.

##### COMPUTER APPLICATION FOR THE ELDERLY

David also passed on information concerning computing for the elderly, which he had received through 'EverybodyOnline' which is an initiative of the charity 'Citizens Online' and supported by BT. It is about a company who are producing a PC which comes installed with all sorts of easy to use software. It is aimed at older people, and features a really large and very simplified interface. The ELDY software DOES NOT require a special machine or a special operating system to run it.

For example, the ELDY software which is the bit that contains the very easy to use interface, this is FREE and installable from the ELDY website. There is no need to buy a new computer to run it. It can be installed on current machines or reconditioned machines, and runs on Windows VISTA, XP and 07, so no need to switch to Linux. Although Linux is free and a very good operating system for many reasons, the easy to use ELDY interface does not require it. So no added complications of changing your operating system to run it either.

If you like the look of the free ELDY software demonstrated on the clip, and would like to know how to install it and get started using it, EverybodyOnline will be available to run demonstrations and/or installation clinics at your centre, for any of your clients/students who may want this on their machines. Please get in touch to arranged a clinic at our mutual convenience.

For the Office packages, such as Open Office, which they provide, this also comes free with Linux Mint operating system, or can be downloaded separately without Linux Mint, and is compatible with all current operating systems. Again- no need for special equipment.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/technology/2009/11/computing\\_for\\_the\\_elderly\\_patr.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/technology/2009/11/computing_for_the_elderly_patr.html)

## 5. Councillors' Report:

J Rust - The next meeting of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership is 8 December, 7pm at Colinton Primary School. The theme is Environment & Transport and the meeting will include a presentation on winter maintenance of roads and footpaths. All welcome to attend.

Received a complaint about the height of the new path being laid in Reach 3 of the flood prevention work.

Budget cuts

Pentland Community Centre: new roof

E Aitken - Has been appointed as Chair of the Oxfams Care Management Board for the next year

Pentland Primary School: the school's Christmas Fair will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

E Barry - CEC commissioning of social care for the most vulnerable – concerns over change in service, i.e., carers being appointed to look after the blind who have no experience of caring for someone with that disability. The Administration is heading towards privatising Council paid for services.

Budget cuts – the Administration are inflating the figure they say they need to save but in reality the shortfall is a very small percentage of the overall budget.

There is a £600,000 shortfall in the funding for the Homecoming celebrations. The Edinburgh Council have been asked to cover half of it but have refused to accept this debt.

Has resigned from the Board of Work Track due to the failure of the Administration to provide the necessary funding for this project.

Bonfire night appears to have been a successful evening and many people contributed towards the cost of next year's fireworks by putting money in the collection boxes. He would like to obtain a report on the overall statistics to see if the new strategy is working.

## 6. Treasurer's Report: P Podd

No progress with the bank at this time but will keep trying.

Colinton Main Community Education Centre let for the use of the hall for Community Council meetings has been paid in the sum of £50.

A photocopying invoice has been received from Pentland Community Centre in the sum of £66.44p and will be settled promptly. This covers the period from May to October 2009.

## 7. Firrhill Community Council Website: J Napier

The website is located at <http://www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btik.com>. This item was deferred from the last meeting where a written report on the website layout was presented. This was to allow members time to view the website before giving consideration to its use, management, development and promotion.

General opinion that the website enabled the Community Council to maintain a depository for information on events and activities affecting the area that would be accessible to those the Council represents and others who may have an interest.

There were no specific proposals for the development of the website and it was agreed to progress this matter with a view to actively promoting its existence at the Council's next AGM.

## 8. Meeting Reports –

### a) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel

Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and attended by the Chair who reported on the following applications for funding:-

- (1) St Fillan's Playgroup- St Fillan's church, Application is made for £3,600 to purchase new equipment for the external playground in particular to compliment the newly refurbished garden area. The funding request would also be used to replace some of the indoor equipment in particular room dividers to enable the group to create smaller areas.

A partial grant of £2,600 is recommended. Granted

- (2) Currie Girl Guiding -Application is made for £2,800 to carry out essential works as well as carrying out a Risk Assessment in line with Health & Safety regulations of public buildings.

A grant of £2,800 is recommended. Granted

- (3) Harmeny Wood Management Group -Application is made for £3,721 to deliver a series of community environmental events and activities, in order to re-engage with the local community, by giving them an opportunity to get involved with the improved woodland and to raise awareness of the woodland as a wonderful local resource to explore nature for recreation and environmental education. The group intend to work with the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace to deliver the following:

A grant of £3,721 is recommended. Granted.

- (4) Currie & Balerno District Round Table- Application is made for £4,000 to purchase a second hand motorised trike with a rear seat platform area and construct a festival shell around the vehicle (lights, music system, generator).

The Funding panel are invited to discuss.

Applications tabled on the night were,

- (5) Colinton Amenity for £4,942 for the purchase and erection of four Fingerpost signs. This was postponed for further investigation.
- (6) Balerno C.C £4255 for right of way core path within Balerno section of Regional Park. Granted
- (7) Oxfangs Central Residents £600 for upgrade computer to enhance memory and storage capacity- granted £500

### b) Association of Scottish Community Councils – National Conference.

Held in the Scottish Parliament Building on 14 November 2009 and attended by the Chair and Vice Chair. Presentations included: -

- The Rural Agenda for Community Councils
- The Legalities of Community Councils & A Little on the Common Good
- The Glasgow Community Council Pilot
- Licensing & Community councils / Minimum Pricing – Sparking a Debate
- What We Need To Know, What you Need To Know

The delegate pack also included a number of papers covering best practice, legislation and policy. The following is a summary of a few of those papers: -

### **Community Council Boundaries & Multi-Member Wards**

The ASCC, in reflecting the views of its constituent member Councils, is opposed to any change to CC boundaries unless the recommended best practice principles are upheld and any changes are the will of the community councils involved and not imposed by a local authority.

### **Campaigning on the Issues**

A presentation on how a Community council should decide which issues it will consider, and how to pursue them. The ASCC publishes a range of best practice guidance documents and are also seeking examples of best practice from individual Councils

### **Communicating with your constituents**

Presentation on the duty to seek the views of and inform those whom you represent on issues that affect them and on which you have a remit to become actively involved.

### **Freedom of Information**

Presentation on this legislation which gives everyone a right of access to information held by public sector bodies unless there is a lawful reason why it should not be released. The ASCC will call for COSLA to be added to the list of public sector bodies that are subject to FOISA.

## **9. Planning Report: J Napier**

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for Ward No.08. The period covered is from 27 October to 16 November 2009, during which there was 4 applications and 2 decisions related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area. Item of interest is the relocation of the telecomms mast at the corner of Oxbgangs Road North and Oxbgangs Avenue.

See Appendix 2 for details of those applications/decisions and of notices covering major works in Edinburgh.

## **10. Correspondence: Secretary**

The following correspondence has been received since the date of the last meeting. If any member would like to view any of the items, please contact the Secretary.

1. "Spokes" Bulletin 105 [to J Napier].
2. Diana Potter (by e-mail): Agenda for Pentlands NP Business Meeting, 3 Nov. in City Chambers.
3. Eileen Hewitt: electronic newsletter from Capital City Partnership re Social Inclusion.
4. Scottish Water: e-letter - Glencorse Water Treatment Works update; [forwarded by N Tinlin; forwarded to J Napier].
5. "Connect": mag. of Scottish Health Council (NB: includes some info on NHS Lothian's new 5-year strategy aiming to give people with physical and complex difficulties more power over their own lifestyles.)
6. "Inside Letting": winter issue of Edinburgh's Link with Landlords.
7. The Cockburn Assoc, The Edinburgh Civic Trust: Minutes of meeting held on 15 Sept + Notice of Edinburgh Civic Forum meeting on Tues 8 Dec, 4.30 pm, in City Chambers; Agenda includes report on Current Planning Issues + progress report on Urban Design Initiative. [to J Napier]
8. Edinburgh Uni Student' Assoc: a) Summary of recommendations from Student City Forum (7 October); b) Copy of Students' Community Guide booklet.
9. "Tenants Voice": Edinburgh Tenants Federation; Nov. '09.

10. Central Library: form to fill in re “Your Edinburgh, Your Information” (community information website).

By e-mail

11. Scott Neil re Funding Panel meeting 11 Nov. [HL attending]
12. Assoc of Scottish Community Councils Conference, [HL & AH attending]
13. Eric Barry (forwarded from Mike Avery): Schedule of flood prevention works + drainage work in Colinton Mains Park.
14. Diana Potter re Council’s Budget Q & A session [NT & JW from Pentlands NP]
15. Gillian Baxter: Capital City Partnership’s Social Inclusion newsletter.
16. Lauren McFadyen (forwarded by NT) re “Forth Diet” food project [to PIP]
17. Donna McSwiggan: Inclusion Scotland Roadshow, 13 Nov, Stirling
18. Anita Duffy, Waste Edinburgh Officer: Waste Action Grant Celebration Event, 2 Dec, 6-8 pm, City Chambers
19. Eileen Hewitt: a) Induction Training, 5 Dec; [info & booking form photocopied for/e-mailed to members] b) Edinburgh CCs Office Bearers ‘09
20. Diana Potter: Draft Environment & Transport Action Plan (for next PNP mtg)
21. Oliver Musgrave, Water Efficiency Advisor, Changeworks: pilot on water efficiency (funded by EU & Scot Govt) re saving water in the home – [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland)
22. Hilary McDowell: City Council City-wide Parks Events Manifesto & Briefing Papers (around 50 pages!) – + papers compiled by CC members: includes definition of “Common Good” and “Public Access” [printed out]; comments by 31 Jan.
23. Gorgie Dalry CC: Christmas Lights Switch-on, Gorgie Farm, 6 Dec, 6 pm.
24. Heather Levy re new community gardening club: poster, diary, list of equipment.
25. Andrew Young re Traffic Regulation Orders on website (see me for web info).
26. TV Licensing concentrated information and enforcement initiative in Nov & Dec to target licence evaders [info printed out]
27. EVOC Eke-out Bulletin Nov ’09 (on website)
28. Jo-Anne Laidlaw re Concordat Consultation feedback.
29. BT Community Connections: voluntary groups – free laptop + broadband connection for a year (apply by 7 Jan)
30. Diana Potter: poster for Pentlands NP meeting, 8 Dec, 7 pm, at Colinton Primary: theme - environment and transport.
31. Zero Waste Team: Pre-application Public Consultation re proposed waste treatment facility at Millerhill for Edinburgh & Midlothian Councils – public events at Danderhall Community Centre, 28 Nov 11 am – 4 pm; 1 Dec 7 pm – 9 pm.
32. Andrew Young (CoEC): Proposed Waiting & Loading Prohibition at St Mark’s & Oxbgangs Primary Schools – restricted times 8 am – 4 pm, Mon – Frid. (on website)
33. City of Edinburgh Licensing Board re gambling: Draft Statement of Principles Consultation (comments by 18 Dec).
34. PC David Crawford: Crime incidents for past month + postal card/phone charges scam warning [printed out]

35. Kirsten Cook, EVOC, re free ELDY software – very easy to use interface – EverybodyOnline available for demonstrations or installation clinics.
36. National Community Conference 2009 – Community Engagement and Action around Alcohol Issues – sponsored by SAADAT, Radisson Hotel, Glasgow, 8 December 09. Conference is aimed at all who work in community settings where alcohol issues forms part of their remit.

## **11. A.O.C.B.**

### **Christmas Concert**

Oxgangs Care's Friday Coffee Group are holding a Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre. Poster attached (App 5)

### **Gritting Update**

This information reports on actions taken after the meeting regarding the siting of winter grit bins in Oxgangs Road North at the bridge and was recorded at the business meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. AH advised he phoned "Clarence" on 30 Nov 2009, about the placement of winter grit bins in Oxgangs Road North (Ref No: 78374) and also informed them about a permanent large puddle on the pavement (at the lamppost number ODH22) in the same area (Ref No: 78381). Advised an inspector would be sent to check best position for bins. Proposed locations:

- Bin A – opp number 145
- Bin B – o/s number 149
- Bin C o/s the white bungalow adjacent to end of Colinton Mains Road

Inspector (E Hume) attended on 1 Dec 2009 and in consultation with AH agreed best locus for the bins and recorded the exact area of the pavement requiring attention. Advised the locations for the bins would be recorded on their map for the area and be attended to as soon as possible.

### **Further Update 15/12/09: 0930hrs**

Council lorry delivered to the areas requested on reference number 78347 – the three bins, fully loaded and ready for use. AH phoned Clarence and thanked them on behalf of the Firrhill Community Council for their quick attention.

## **12. 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, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7pm.

At the business meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 09, it was proposed to seek a change of venue to accommodate two presentations. One on recent proposals for new drainage work to be carried out by Scottish Water and the other on the revised plans for the Pavilion. Secretary to investigate availability of Colinton Mains Parish Church Hall.

### Planning Report for Nov 2009 Meeting

#### 27 Oct 2009

- Section 1 No applications
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08
- Ward 04 – Forth – 21<sup>st</sup> century homes for Edinburgh, masterplan for the regeneration of Pennywell/Muirhouse through approx 700 new homes, 50% affordable, 50% market sale, new highly sustainable apartments and houses, new open space provision, high quality public realm, all with secure gardens, laid out with new neighbourhood streets.
- Section 3 No decisions

#### 02 Nov 2009

- Section 1 Application for the installation of 15m street works monopole, 3 3G antennas within GRP shroud, 2 outdoor cabinets, 1 electrical meter and all ancillary development at Telecomms Mast 22 metres southeast of 228 Oxfangs Road North. Applicant - Vodafone Ltd. Re-location of mast from corner of Oxfangs Road North and Oxfangs Avenue as a result of new development on St Hilda's Church site
- Section 2 No proposals of applications
- Section 3 No decisions

#### 09 Nov 2009

- Section 1 Application to erect an extension to the rear of property in Caiystane Gardens
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08
- Repeat of the PAN for Ward 04 above
- Section 3 Application to form dormer windows to front and rear of property in Oxfangs Terrace has been granted

#### 16 Nov 2009

- Section 1 Application to extend house to form bathroom at Oxfangs Farm Drive.
- Application to construct a single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling house and erect 2.30m high fence on boundary of property in Firrhill Drive
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08.
- Ward 11 – City Centre – proposed redevelopment of redundant experimental brewery site (currently comprising offices, laboratory, storage and yard areas to create fully managed student residential accommodation (including studio, flats and married/family accommodation), with associated public realm and landscaping at 160 Canongate 41, 49, 53 Holyrood Road.
- Section 3 Application to install air source heating in property in Oxfangs Road has been granted.



Oxgangs Care's  
**Friday Coffee Group**

Would like to invite you to an  
Older People's

**Christmas Concert**

On

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009,  
1.30p.m-3.30p.m**

Featuring

**Pentland Primary School Singers**

Followed by

**Christmas High Tea**

**£1 entrance**

In partnership with

**Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre**

**71 Firrhill Drive**



Transport available for further details please contact-  
**Heather Levy, 445-3332/441-7558**