

COUNCIL MEETING: 22 MARCH 2010

Minutes of meeting held at Colinton Mains Community Centre

Members: H Levy (Chair), P Wright; A Hunter; G Hunter; L Linn; P Podd

In Attendance: M O'Brien; PC D Crawford (Oxgangs Community Police); N Tinlin (Fairmilehead Community Council)

1. Apologies

Received from J Napier; M Milne; E Aitken (Cllr); J Rust (Cllr).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held 22 February 2010

Minutes had been circulated prior to meeting. There were no corrections to be made.

The minutes were moved for approval by L Linn, seconded by P Podd.

3. Matters Arising

Colinton Mains Community Ed Centre (update from P Wright):

- Protest meeting got good coverage + photograph in EEN (two further reports in EEN since then);
- Meeting held with CLD Senior Managers; three options proposed a) status quo (we would have to “fight the Council” for that); b) set up a Trust or Voluntary Organisation; approx. £6.5k (not including insurance or maintenance) would have to be raised; c) try to negotiate with Council to keep building wind & watertight and we would have to pay for everything else. Management Committee members opted for (a) and vowed to fight on. We also discovered that “re-provisioning” of groups does not mean they will get the same time, or even the same day, in another Centre.
- Four of the M'ment Cttee (+ Cllrs Barry & Rust) were able to attend the Stakeholders' Meeting on 9 March in WHEC. We were told that CLD could not consult on Centre closures because of secrecy surrounding the Budget; also, decisions taken would not be rescinded [yet there is supposed to be a consultation period until 9 April]. From what Alan Jackson said, our Centre does not fit the criteria of new, light, airy buildings.
- There are doubts re Centre's running costs: electricity £3281.19 for 10 months (£1538.24 for previous year); gas £340.38 (£193.27). Secy has e-mailed Susan Wilson to say that these figures are unbelievable (Centre has gas central heating); passed to Finance Dept.
- Management Cttee will meet with Cllr MacLaren and/or Cllr Beckett before 9 April.
- Petition instigated by Cllr Rust is going very well. Some have been given to Captain McBurnie, Welfare Officer, for distribution at Redford & Dreghorn Barracks. He will also write to the Council in our support, because army families use Sure Start.
- South West Neighbourhood Partnership's Motion to Full Council was not allowed by the Lord Provost, simply because of the wording; the planned deputations, from our Centre and others proposed for closure, were also denied.
- Cllr Rust has a Motion re Centre closures going before Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership at the next meeting: Tuesday 30 March, in Currie High School.

4. Community Police Report

Before presenting his Report, PC Crawford explained that, as he is going on leave, the March Newsletter is rather earlier than usual so it is missing a week's worth of potential local info.

Total number of calls made by residents living on the beat, up to and including 22 March, is 173.

An issue has been raised re the alleged use of a Quad bike around Pentland Primary. This matter is in hand and will be followed up on my return.

In a similar vein, there have been some reports of youths riding a mini-moto in and around Colinton Mains Park. I have already warned a young owner and his parents and, although ignorance of the law is no defence, I feel it is worthwhile mentioning the following:

Anyone seen riding a mini-moto on public areas is subject to the full attention of Road Traffic Law. For youngsters (and adults, for that matter, depending on circumstances) the typical offences are: driving without a licence/insurance; no helmet being worn, as well as the possibility of being issued with an Anti Social Behaviour warning. What seems like a bit of fun can turn quickly into disaster. These machines should not be used on public spaces and are intended for use on private land with the owner's permission.

Incidents of note in relation to crime are as follows:

March 1st, a flat was broken into in Oxfangs Park. The culprit has been arrested and reported.

“ 6th, items were stolen from a car parked in Firrhill Drive.

“ 7th, a car was damaged in Oxfangs Street. No persons were seen.

“ 11th, a car was damaged overnight in Colinton Mains Green. No-one was seen.

“ 12th, a bike was stolen from the grounds of Pentland Primary School. Enquiries ongoing.

“ 13th, white medium-sized goalposts were stolen from a garden in Oxfangs Road North.

[A Hunter said these are lying under the Braid Burn bridge next to the house; he has reported this to Stuart Mackay at Carillion and men are being sent to remove them.]

“ 15th, a car was broken into in Oxfangs Drive.

“ 16th, a car was damaged whilst parked in Firrhill Crescent.

“ 16th, a Racial Incident happened in Oxfangs Drive. A person has been reported.

“ 18th, a vehicle was stolen from Oxfangs Terrace.

Resulting from a fracas at 'The Goodies', management were taken to Fettes. Director of Leisure Co. and other staff were given a warning.

A discussion also took place re the responsibilities of landlords, private and social, towards neighbours of their tenants. In the event of problems, a landlord may be contacted directly, if known, or David Morton, Local Housing Officer at the City Council, may be contacted in the first instance.

PC Crawford finished by saying that, following on reports of reps from a bona fide alarm company visiting householders, no-one should feel pressured into signing for anything they are not happy with.

5. Ward Councillors' Reports

No Councillor able to attend this meeting, but an e-mail from Cllr Barry reported that Oxfangs Rd North end of Firrhill Crescent will be closed from 26 March, 1.30 pm, until 28 March for two manholes to be put in as part of Scottish Water's on-going drainage work. [PW will put this info on FCC website.]

6. Treasurer

P Podd reported that forms for new bank account at Barclay's have been filled in and this should be up-and-running in about a month.

7. Meeting Reports

1. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Business Meeting, 3 March, P Wright: tabled, and appears as **Appendix 1** at the end of these Minutes.

2. Pentlands NP Funding Panel: End of Year Report, 2009/10, read out by H Levy:

Monies brought forward from year 2008/09 **£58,631**.

Monies spent over the financial year 2009/10 break down as follows –

Ratho - £6,500

Fairmilehead - £12,350

Currie - £9,540

Balerno - £10,255

Clovenstone - £3,000

Firrhill - £3,760

Juniper Green - £4,000

Joint Currie & Balerno - £5,721

City-Wide - £3,000 **TOTAL MONIES SPENT - £58,126**

H Levy was unable to attend the NP Funding Panel meeting of 24.02.10 as the date was changed. Below: recommendations agreed to go forward to NP Meeting on March 30 2010.

1 To award **Buckstone Youth Club** £3,100 to organise a community fun day and run a six week summer activity programme for young people.

2 To award **Buckstone Youth Project** £2,500 to provide staffing and transport for a residential weekend and planned activities.

3 To award **Transition Edinburgh Pentlands** £1,150 to hold a series of meetings from February till May in the following areas: Fairmilehead/Colinton.

4 To award **Youth Vision** £3,000 (partial award) to purchase a PC and digital camera in order for the group to document its progress. Material will be used to produce an educational display at the Visitors' Centre.

5 Not to award **Clovenstone Community Centre** £5,000 to fund four youth clubs per week for 30 weeks to cover staffing costs.

8. Planning Applications Report

J Napier had handed in his Report for distribution at this meeting: attached as **Appendix 2**

9. Correspondence

P Wright had handed out list of Correspondence for 23 Feb.-15 Mar. prior to meeting (attached as **Appendix 3**); no member present requested a view of any item.

Update: 16-22 March (all by e-mail)

f. by Cllr Barry: TTRO, 115-119 Oxfgangs Rd North: parking suspended 21 March.

“ “ “ : TTRO, Bridge Road, Colinton: parking suspended from 22-26 March.

“ “ “ : TTRO: Firrhill Cres: road closed 26-28 March (manhole installation).

Scott Neil re SW & Pentlands Digest: groups which have been given Community Grants to send in their photos and stories re how the money has been spent.

Rhona Sinclair, Cttee Services, City Chambers: Supplementary Agenda – Cllr Rust’s Motion for debate (re Community Centres closures) at Pentlands NP Meeting, 30 March.

10.A.O.B.

1. PP had gone on Training Event for Community Councils (Roles & Responsibilities): said she did not find it useful – wanted info on role of Treasurer, and there was none.
2. Official Opening of Memorial Garden, Redford (date t.b.a.).
3. Tesco: (a) ‘Community Champion’ says priority will be given to Firrhill CC notices if put in envelope with her name (PW reported no problem with this month’s notice). (b) Future Open Day: Arts & Crafts Theme, will be run by Tesco in conjunction with Firrhill CC. ‘3 Rifles’ will be there, so it will take place after Festival (poss. September).
4. There will be a future event re Health in this community.
5. HL reported she has been asked to organise a debate on Children with Additional Needs.
6. A Personal Safety Event is being mooted; lots of space needed; Police Station a possibility?
7. Pentlands N’hood P’ship Public Meeting, 30 March, Currie High: “Community Safety” theme; Week of Action here in June? – preventative strategy?
8. HL had e-mailed Wendy Farmer, Dunedin Canmore, for update on St Hilda’s site: no response.
9. HL has been in touch with Firrhill HS re blog/facebook: pupils may do this as part of project.
10. JN & HL have been carrying out an audit of the area, including all the changes; Council’s map of Ward is years out of date, eg, still shows high flats, and Oxfangs PS on Colinton Mains Drive.
11. New building at Firrhill Day Centre believed to be a Respite Centre: HL will find out about it.
12. Oxfangs Path Surgery: building is leased, but landlord has put land up for sale by auction. HL has e-mailed Robert Aitken to find out about hub funding, and whether any further info.
13. AH said he thinks flood prevention works have finished in Firrhill HS playing field, but will confirm this with Stuart Mackay, Carillion. Will playing field now be reinstated?
14. HL reported Scottish Water works in park near completion; once portakabins behind Bowling Green have been removed, collapsed sewage pipe can be investigated and repaired.
15. M-J O’B reported she’s still waiting for remedial work to be done in her garden; Council officials have not responded to her letter re overland flow; she complained that nothing is ever written down, and there’s no response to snagging list. LL agreed: she still hasn’t been contacted by Linda Felli (Scottish Water) since discussing on 25 January work still to be done in her garden (pump, drain, etc + new shed) to take 2-3 months. She met with Jim Grainger and Jonathan Davies – who also said they’ll renew her window sill – but nothing was written down.

11.D.O.N.M.

Monday 26 April, 7 pm, in CMCEC. HL will try to arrange for a Flooding Update.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Business Meeting

3 March 2010, City Chambers

Meeting was attended by City Councillors, Council Officials and Community Council reps.

Chairperson: Councillor Jason Rust

Presentation on Street Naming: In general, new streets should be named after people, places or events associated with Edinburgh, or flora/fauna or natural features relating to a community. Previously, Community Councils and other bodies were asked for suggestions when a new street was to be named locally; now, a 'bank' of names is being held for each N'hood P'ship area. It is still possible for CCs to send in a form (to N'hood Manager) with suggested names for future use within a community, but paid Council staff will research these and may veto them if any of the eleven rules re street naming is broken! One new rule announced is that the use of one name with several prefixes for streets in an area, eg Firrhill Crescent, Firrhill Drive, Firrhill Loan, is not now acceptable. [It was generally agreed amongst those attending that the historical way was best, that it made finding a street easier – at least you'd know that you were in the right area – whereas now, with a new housing estate having several streets each with a completely different name, finding one could be a nightmare!] Another new rule is that there should be "little scope for ambiguity in the spelling of the name". [I argued that the proposed new street name for Oxgangs, 'Spruce Gait', contradicts this: on hearing this, most people would spell it 'Gate'.]

Council Reports: Both the **Allotment Report** and the **Public Convenience Report** were noted and remitted to the PNP Environment & Transport Sub-Group for its meeting on 3rd May. The **TAC (Tasking & Co-ordinating) Outcome Report** was noted and will form the basis of a presentation at the next public meeting, 30 March (feedback to be in by then).

Library Hub Development: Scott Neil reported on the event which will take place at Oxgangs Library on 27 March, 2-4 pm, providing information and consultation; local groups to link in; thematic displays; library to be seen as a meeting place, not just for information.

Sub-Group Reports: **Funding Panel:** Scott Neill – 28 applications; 22 approved; 3 declined, 3 held back for more info. **Environment & Transport:** David Bewsey – not present, but I have kept you updated with meeting reports. **Health & Employment:** Norman Tinlin – fleshed-out Action Plan – improve mental health in the area (incl army families); raise awareness of carers' responsibilities. Promote access to employment opportunities; events at Library Hub; Youth Worker at Firrhill High. **Area Board:** Scott Neil – approved 23 projects; now seen to be more open and above-board – has a rep from every NP community.

Fairer Scotland Fund: Christine Doherty has remit to set up pieces of work to get FSF funding for Oxgangs and Clovenstone, both areas recognised as having deprivation; there's no existing evidence because of not being in previous funding stream; 'Invitation to Tender' documents handed out – Early Intervention Family Support (cost £55k); Parenting Support Services (£75k available in each Neighbourhood); Health Inequalities (each N'hood £60k); Employability Services (sum set aside for this work £37k). Traumas and mental health issues at army barracks impacting on Colinton PS & Firrhill HS (our NP is unique in this).

PNP Public Meeting – Tues 30 March, 7-9 pm, Currie HS: Theme - Community Safety.

If any member wishes to view a document, please see me.

Peggy Wright (FCC rep)

Planning Report for March 2010 Meeting

Planning bulletins received from the CEC planning department provided the following information:

22 Feb 2010

- Section 1 Application 10/00396/FUL - erect single storey extension at 382 Oxfangs Bank.
Application 10/00399/FUL - house extension and conversion of attic at 116 Oxfangs Road.
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08 - Firrhill
Ward 02 – Pentland Hills – 10/00232/PAN. Erection of residential accommodation providing replacement accommodation for 225 students, proposal will include associated car parking, ancillary works and landscaping at Land 80 metres southwest of Lord Home Hall, Lord Home Road, Edin. Additional consultation required.
- Section 3 No decisions

01 Mar 2010

- Section 1 No applications
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08
Ward 07 – Sighthill/Gorgie – 10/00500/PAN. Proposed demolition of existing industrial units and erection of new 280 bed student accommodation development with associated communal lounge and service facilities at 22, 24 Orwell Terrace, Edinburgh
Ward 12 – Leith Walk – 10/00339/PAN. - Residential development with commercial space at McDonald Road ground floor frontage, associated parking, landscaping and accesses at Site 35 metres southwest of 132 McDonald Road, Edinburgh. Additional consultation required.
Ward 15 – Southside/Newington – 10/00253/PAN. Extend the Edinburgh festival theatre on land to the rear, on Potterrow/South College Street, to provide rehearsal and performance space, commercial space and student residences at land 40 metres southwest of 15 South College Street, Edinburgh. Additional consultation required.
Ward 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar – 10/00274/PAN. – Application to vary condition (ii) of planning permission 2264/85 to erect to non-food retail warehouses and garden centre, variation required to allow for the sale of food from this existing retail unit at 25 Milton Link, Edinburgh. Additional consultation required.
- Section 3 Application for erection of front and rear single storey extensions to create new decontamination facility and toilets including relocation of building entrance to facilitate disabled access at 302 Oxfangs Road North has been granted (09/03182/FUL).
Application to erect single storey rear extension at 38 Oxfangs Farm Drive has been granted (10/00064/FUL).

08 Mar 2010

- Section 1 No applications
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08
Ward 12 – Leith Walk – 10/00544/PAN. Application for planning permission in principle for erection of up to 200 flats and townhouses, together with associated business space class 4, car parking, landscaping and access arrangements at 10 Brunswick Road, Edinburgh.
- Section 3 No decisions.

15 Mar 2010

- Section 1 No applications.
- Section 2 No proposals of applications for Ward 08 - Firrhill
Ward 04 – Forth – 10/00606/PAN. The walled garden and adjacent land and sea front land to the north of West Shore Road, the whole project is situated in the Granton area of north Edinburgh EH5 at Land 90 metres east and south of 20 West Shore Road, Edinburgh.
Ward 07 – Sighthill/Gorgie – 10/00500/PAN. See above for details. Additional consultation required.
Ward 12 – Leith Walk – 10/00544/PAN. See above for details. Additional consultation required.
- Section 3 No decisions

Correspondence to 15 March '10: Secretary

By e-mail

1. Copy of letter sent by Cllr Barry to Tom Dougall, Flood Prevention Mgr, in response to complaint from Colinton Mains Green resident re surface water lying in gardens.
2. E-bulletin from Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust: includes info on free events, biodiversity grant, and bee competition.
3. Rachel Somerville: Community Learning & Development Re-design document.
4. Copy of letter sent to Cllr Barry re Area Weather/Gritting Update.
5. “ “ “ “ “ Cllr Barry from Tom Dougall, re bridge over burn in Colinton Mains Park: City Development is taking responsibility; new ramp is being designed; some work may also be done on bridge.
6. Oxfangs Library Information Event: 27 March, 2-4 pm (Launch of 'Your Edinburgh')
7. Eileen Hewitt: Capital City Partnership's Social Inclusion e-Bulletin, March '10
8. PC David Crawford: Neighbourhood Watch News, Feb. '10
9. e-mails between Cllr Barry and Mike Avery re Firrhill Drive car park project lying derelict since last June due to issue between Council's contractor and Scottish Power. This has now been resolved and works should be completed by end of financial year.
10. Gary Turner obo Cllr Jenny Dawe: Council Leader's Report for March '10.
11. Transition Edinburgh Pentlands Meetings for March (put on Firrhill CC's website by JN)
12. Pentlands NP: Notice of meeting to discuss £100k Roads in SW Capital Projects, 25 Mar.
13. Responses from Mike Avery & Gordon Drysdale: Secretary's bid for specified work on Cockmylane will be included in the N'hood Partnership's Roads & Footways project bank for consideration.
14. Eileen Hewitt: Community Council News + Office Bearers; Planning Training 27 March.
15. Scott Neill: poster with info re Pentlands N'hood P'ship meeting, 30 March, Currie HS.
16. Cllr Barry re costs of the six Community Centres threatened with closure (to compare other five's with Colinton Mains CC's).

By Post

1. Built & Natural Heritage: Consultation on Advertisements, Sponsorship & City Dressing. The draft guideline amalgamates and revises current Planning Guidance on the above and provides new guidance on City Dressing (eg flagpoles). Comments by end of April '10.
http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=136829
2. Letter from Fred Fielding, Chairman, Oxfangs Central Residents Assoc: re perceived concerns regarding 'unwarranted comments' about OCRA.
3. Eileen Hewitt: a) Inserts for Secy's diary; b) Programme for Community Council Training, "Roles and Responsibilities", 16 March, from 6.30 pm in City Chambers. c) Info on Training event for Community Councils delivered by Planning Aid for Scotland, Sat 27 Mar, in City Chambers. NB This was intimated at our last Firrhill CC Meeting.
4. City Development (Planning): Draft Planning Guideline – Change of Use in Residential Properties. Consultation will run from 2 March to 13 April. Draft Guideline can be viewed at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning (click on 'Latest News and Consultations'). Copies also available to view at Planning Reception, Waverley Court, and local libraries.

Members: Please read through the above; let me know if there is anything you wish to view.