

FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 25 October 2010 in Colinton Mains Bowling Club

Present: H Levy (Chair); A Hunter (Vice-Chair); P Wright (Secretary); P I Podd (Treasurer); L Linn; M-J O'Brian; G Hunter.

In Attendance: Cllr E Barry

H Levy opened the meeting and proceeded through the Agenda as follows:

1. Apologies:

J Napier; M Milne; Cllrs E Aitken and J Rust; PC D Crawford.

2. Minutes of AGM,

The minutes of the AGM held on 27 September '10, had been circulated; these were approved as a true record by A Hunter, seconded by L Linn.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of AGM:

Annual Accounts discrepancy: this will be because previous accounts went up to February '09, current ones started in April '09, and so March '09 is unrecorded (bank Statement missing, as previously reported).

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 23 August

(approved at AGM): (a) School Facebook/ Twitter Account: Chair has spoken with Ms S Dunn, in charge of 6th Yr at Firrhill High, and is meeting with her next week; a community project is part of the curriculum, and this would fit in with that. Students should look at our website first, so that information is not duplicated; also, perhaps we should have a Youth Page as part of our website? (b) Play Area at Firrhill end of Colinton Mains Park is now open and being used; teenage area is in the process of being built. James Galloway, Parks & Leisure, wants to meet with our Chair + new Head of St Mark's Primary before Official Opening.

5. Police Report:

PC D Crawford e-mailed an up-to-date Community Report to the Secretary, who read this out.

Between 1st October and Saturday 23rd October 2010, the number of calls generated and attended in the Oxfangs Police Station area was 341.

The calls made to the three beats in the area were :-

PF 56 – Buckstone, Swanston, Fairmilehead etc was 61

PF 57 – Central Oxfangs – 173

PF58 - Redford, Dreghorn, Bonaly and Colinton – 107

Incidents of Note

On 20th October an early morning accident involving 7 cars happened on the Biggar Road near to the slip road/ on ramp to the City By-Pass. The main contributing factor

was a burst water main and an unexpected drop in temperature which caused the flowing water to turn to ice. No persons were injured and minor damage was caused to cars. The accident did however cause major early morning congestion.

We are still receiving reports from time to time of Bogus Callers. The latest was in the Swanston area when two men tried to persuade an elderly resident their roof needed repairing. Thankfully they were “shown the door” this time. A reminder nonetheless that this type of crime still continues to pose a problem to older residents in the area.

On **5th October** a cat was run over outside St. Mark’s Primary School during morning arrival time. The incident highlighted yet again the problems caused by some parents/drivers who persist in dropping their children off as near to the front gate as possible. The school and local community officers arranged morning patrols in the aftermath and drivers have been advised in the meantime of their responsibilities.

On the **12th**, two reports were received of lock ups being broken into in Oxgangs Farm Grove. Nothing was stolen

In the early hours of the **15th**, a garden shed was broken into (nothing stolen) in Colinton Mains Road. A youth was seen to run off, but was not traced.

On the **23rd**, a local youth was found in possession of drugs. He was seen in Oxgangs Place, searched and has been charged.

On the **7th**, early morning disruption was caused after the discovery of a fire at a house in Bridge Road, Colinton. Several fire appliances attended and road closures had to be put in place. 3 people were taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and were released later unhurt. Unfortunately the pet dog was found to have died at the scene.

6. Ward Councillors’ Reports:

Cllr Barry reported that: (a) The five flashing schools warning signs are now in place on Colinton Mains Drive, from Tesco upwards + two side streets. He was told by members that Braidburn School buses are still going too fast, and along Oxgangs Rd North in the wrong direction; L Linn reported that one is a Council bus. (b) New mini-tractors mean that there are now eight of these to clear city pavements, but this can only be done in office hours (lack of funding for overtime). Full-time park keepers do this type of work in the winter, but not enough of them; Cllr Barry is trying to get more staff involved. (c) He has contacted Bank of Scotland re our missing Statements, and is to pick them up tomorrow. (d) Owner of trees in lane between Colinton Mains Place & Drive has been given notice to cut these back. (e) City’s tram scheme is now three years old; TIE has been asked for revised business case (Administration is going ahead without updated plans and firm costs). Cllr Barry will e-mail us this revised plan when available so that it can be put on our website. (f) He has written to Bill Campbell, Lothian Buses, re our services having been cut here even though ticket prices were increased, and asked if these services could be re-instated (applies particularly to Service 18). (g) Pentland Community Centre holding bonfire & fireworks night on 5 November; there will be children’s activities beforehand; entry will be free; scouts will sell burgers. (h) A computing suite funded by Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership has been opened at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre; the 11 computers are available for all ages, and training is possible.

Cllr Rust’s e-mailed Report was read out by Secretary: (a) He has been dealing with Community Safety and the Police re anti-social behaviour in vicinity of Oxgangs

Crescent and Firrhill Park. (b) He attended the recent Firrhill Walkabout, and the Oxgangs Walkabout is on 14 November, meeting at 10.30 am behind Oxgangs House. (c) He has questioned officials re stockpiles of salt/grit and preparations for winter. Cockmylane is to be upgraded to Category 2 for treatment and more attention given to Pentland Primary this winter if there are adverse conditions. (d) Next Public Meeting of Pentlands N'hood P'ship is 14 December, 7 pm, at Colinton Primary School. (e) Report on trams comes back to Council in December [(e), above]. (f) He attended opening of computer suite [(h), above].

7. Firrhill CC Newsletter:

(a) Cllr Barry asked why FCC website is referred to on p.2, but address is not at the same place. [Perhaps more time should be given to proof-reading and studying layout in future issues.] (b) 2,000 copies were printed. There are still some at various locations, but Chair reported Oxgangs Library wants more. (c) Mary-Jo felt that distribution was haphazard: nobody seemed to know which members were delivering to which streets/community areas. Heather pointed out that there were not enough copies to leave one at every house (+ we're just depending on volunteers), but this will be sorted out next time. (d) Chair has had positive feed-back in the community, especially interest in the history part – but no news from schools re competition. She and Vice-Chair will visit head teachers and, if there is still no response, “lack of interest” will be put in next issue. (e) Re number of issues: it's felt that quarterly is enough and that copy deadlines and distribution dates should be noted in each issue. This issue cost Firrhill CC £180; there is community engagement funding available but we need time to consider and fill in the forms. Printing should be quicker next time as printer now has template. (f) We will hold an extra meeting for members in November to discuss all Newsletter issues.

8. Treasurer:

Pauline said that we are up-to-date; everything has been paid.
Re broadband: Secretary has paid £17 + VAT a month for this service since it was installed in 2009, and she has asked Firrhill CC to contribute £10 a month towards this. It was proposed by L Linn, seconded by H Levy, that this be agreed.

9. Planning Report:

Weekly Planning Bulletins:

27 September 2010

Section 1 No applications for Firrhill.

Colinton – application 10/02655/FUL for a 90 bed care home, ancillary facilities including a small shop and cafe and car parking at 199 Redford Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9PN

Section 2 No proposals of applications

Section 3 No decisions.

4 October 2010

Section 1 No applications.

Section 2 Proposals of applications for Ward 09 – Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart - 10/02832/PAN. Full planning permission for student residences with student centre and associated facilities, access, infrastructure and landscaping; commercial units; a public library; and a public park at Former Fountain Brewery Site 57 metres southeast of 55 - 63 Dundee Street, Edinburgh

Section 3 Application 10/01954/FUL – for the erection of a flat roof extension/garage to front and side porch to front of house at 20 Caiystane Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6SR has been granted.

11 October 2010

Section 1 No applications

Section 2 Proposals of applications for Ward 12 – Leith Walk. 10/02884/PAN. Residential and commercial development at 9 Newhaven Road Edinburgh EH6 5QA.

Section 3 Application 10/02563/FUL for the installation of new external refrigeration plant with palisade fence protection to existing rear service yard at (Scotmid) 230 Oxfords Road North, Edinburgh, EH13 9BQ has been granted.

18 October 2010

No report was received – have sent a query.

10. Minutes from Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership meetings:

- a) Business Meeting – draft minutes attached as appendix 2;
- b) South West Area Board – draft minutes attached as appendix 3;
- c) Funding Panel – draft minutes attached as appendix 4;
- d) Environment & Transport Group – draft minutes attached as appendix 5.

As requested, to save paper and ink and use Minutes as feedback at Community Council meetings, there was one printout only of these sub-group Minutes which the Secretary took to our meeting in a divided folder for perusal by anyone. (Thereafter they will be transferred to a box file and can be seen on request.) We will monitor this: see whether it works, or if we should go back to individual reports – though Mary-Jo said she'd found it difficult to take notes at the Health meeting anyway. (Next Health meeting is in November.)

11. Flood Prevention Completion Presentation

(Report by A Hunter): This took place in Colinton Primary School on 6 October '10. The event started with a conducted tour of the school's feature garden, then a welcome speech by Cllr Gordon Mackenzie on the merits of the £43m flood prevention project. We then moved into the school hall to see a mock-up of the Braid Burn flood defences from Dreghorn to the finish at Portobello, illustrated by plan charts, photographs, and cardboard houses with features along its length, all related to with commentary by the pupils, Carillion's Stuart Mackay, and Jonathan Davies from Aecom Ltd. They also answered questions asked by Roseanna Cunningham MSP. The event ended with a buffet lunch, where more questions were asked and answered by Councillors, Engineers and Architects.

12. Correspondence

(up to 15 Oct tabled – Appendix 1); 16-25 October read out by Secy:

By e-mail

1. Norman Bonney, area rep on ASCC: asks for member CCs to Vote 'No' to Vincent Waters as new President; Edinburgh & Lothians should have two area reps on the National Executive Council but a meeting to do this has not been convened, therefore NB asserts that E & L CCs have been denied any choice in the annual ballot as to who will be elected to National Officer posts.
2. f by Cllr Barry: TTRO for re-surfacing of bottom part of Cock-my-lane, 21 & 22 October (the bid for this work to be carried out was put in by Firrhill CC rep on EIT sub-group of Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership).
3. Jon Black, Pilton Tenants & Residents: want support from our CC in their campaign against Council charging for special uplifts.
4. Scott Neill: Pentlands NP October Digest.
5. f by Cllrs Barry & Rust: TTRO for 5 November Bonfire & Fireworks Display – 2 pm-11 pm no parking, loading, unloading on Oxgangs Brae (between Path & View) or Oxgangs View; 5 pm-11 pm complete traffic exclusion on those streets (more info contact Andy Smith, Tel: 529 3733).
6. PC David Crawford: apologies - not able to attend FCC meeting (+ Police Report).
7. f by Cllr Barry from Alan Simpson, Central Core Roads Team, re winter pavement maintenance: 8 new mini-tractors city-wide; will be used only during normal working hours and based on weather/pavement conditions. [Although many local schools will be prioritised – after city centre – there will be no early-morning clearing of snow if it falls during the night, as so often happens.]
8. Terry Tweed, Craigmillar CC: supporting N Bonney's stance re ASCC election of national officers, but particularly against Vincent Waters as President elect.
9. National Dev't Officer, ASCC: response to NB's & TT's e-mails [but no response/explanation re assertion that Edinburgh & Lothians had no say in ballot arrangements because no E & L area reps had been elected to Nat. Exec. Council.]
10. Dave Harrington, Gorgie-Dalry CC: asking for Firrhill CC's support for their campaign against closure of Dalry Swim Centre.
11. Tom Philips, Property Housing Officer, SW Team, re walkabout Thurs. 4 Nov., meeting at 10.30 am at car park behind Oxgangs House.
12. Mary-Jo O'Brien: Minutes template from Council website.
13. Scott Neill, SW N'hood Office: papers for Pentlands NP EIT sub-group meeting on Monday 1 Nov., 7 pm, SWN Office [Firrhill CC Secy will attend].

By post

1. ASCC Annual Accounts + info on Annual Election papers and Ballot paper to be returned by noon, 19 November '10. Also Annual National Conference: Sat 20 Nov., 10-10.30 am, in Sir Charles Wilson Building, Glasgow Uni, 1 University Avenue.

- 2 "Working Capital" booklet, Edinburgh's Joined up for Jobs Partnership.
3. "Connect" Scottish Health Council newsletter: patient focus & public involvement.

Discussion took place about a) ASCC Ballot and communications by Norman Bonney re Edinburgh & Lothians CCs situation. Secretary will send e-mail to ASCC questioning why there is no E & L rep, as NB alleges; b) re-surfacing work carried out on Cock-my-lane; c) proposed closure of Dalry Swim Centre.

13. A.O.C.B.

1) Chair reported on Development Meeting re Constitution held on 19 October: Secretary will photocopy all papers for November meeting. 2) All members now have list of meetings & up to AGM in June 2011. Next Development Meeting is w/c 15 November, to discuss Newsletter in greater depth + any other items not able to be discussed at tonight's meeting; each member to let Chair know what day/evening/ time will suit best.

14. D.O.N.M

Monday 22 November, 7 pm, in Colinton Mains Bowling Club.

CORRESPONDENCE: from 28 Sept. to 15 Oct.

By e-mail

- 1 Ann Davies: confirmation that, as requested by Secy, she will send PNP Community Safety Group papers direct to AH.
- 2 f by HL: Pentland Hills Event, Thurs 21 Oct, Harlaw House visitor centre, 1.30 – 3.30 pm. Fun activities, incl making bird cake and recycled bird feeders. Info from Ranger Service on 445 3383.
- 3 Lesley Baxter @ NHS Lothian: Info Bulletin 27 for North & South Edinburgh PPF.
- 4 Cllr Barry: re Amenity Area and Green Space Maintenance – comments requested re work well done or not done + details if possible of residents allowing dog fouling.
- 5 Helen Huang: request on FCC website for advice re new dental practice in area.
- 6 Cllr Barry: in answer to comments re Carillion's Braid Burn Opening Ceremony being held at Colinton Primary (6 Oct, 12.30-2 pm)
- 7 Cllr Barry: TTRO for 34-63 Firrhill Drive, 7-11 Oct.
- 8 Andrew Young: TRO/10/40 database of disabled parking bays in area.
- 9 Norman Bonney, Edin. Area Rep on ASCC: copy of e-mail sent to City Council re info about status of CCs/members on their new website, some of which NB questions and suggests amendments.
- 10 f by HL: activities in SW Edinburgh for Mental Health Week, 9-15 Oct.
- 11 Lloyd Richardson: confirmation of revised project for Cock-my-Lane/West Camus (extra handrails) to be carried out this financial year.
- 12 Terry Tweed, Secy, Craigmillar CC, re new website; like ourselves, they had to change from Recipero: <http://www.craigmillarcc.btck.co.uk>
- 13 Gary Turner obo Cllr Dawe: Council Leader's Report for October.
- 14 Cllr Barry: TTRO – closure of footpath at Nos 14-32 Firrhill Drive for new drainage line on 14-18 October.
- 15 f by HL: events for Dyslexia Week at Oxgangs Library: Read and Write Gold – supportive software available on all public access computers in CEC libraries; Drop-in Demo on Tuesday 2 Nov, 6-8 pm. (tel. 529 5549); Training Session at Wester Hailes library on Thurs 4 Nov, 10 am-noon; 1-3 pm (tel. 529 5662 to book place).
- 16 f by HL: Greener Leith – the Alternative Budget (on-going poll results).
- 17 Samantha Smith: Draft Minutes of PNP Business Meeting, 14 Sept.
- 18 Eileen Hewitt: September Community Council News + notice that she is being seconded to another dept.

By Post

- 1 Scottish Natural Heritage 'The Nature of Scotland', Autumn '10.
- 2 'SEPAView', Autumn '10.
- 3 Council's Zero Waste Team - Continued Pre-Application Public Consultation Process - third consultation event at Dalkeith, 14 Oct, re planning application for site in Millerhill area (former marshalling yards) which could be offered to contractors to build a waste treatment facility [two consultations notified at our August meeting].

**Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership
Business Meeting
7pm, Tuesday 14 September 2010
Mandela Room, City Chambers**

In Attendance

Councillor Jason Rust (Convenor)	Colinton / Fairmilehead
Councillor Elaine Aitken	Colinton / Fairmilehead
Mike Avery	Neighbourhood Manager
Christine Doherty	P'ship & Information Manager
Norman Tinlin	Fairmilehead CC
Helen Ogg	Juniper Green CC
Heather Levy	Firrhill CC
Judy Wightman	Ratho & District CC
Steuart Campbell	Longstone CC
Kate Kasprowic	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations
Council	
Martin Bone	Currie CC
Alex Stewart	Colinton Amenity Association
Murray Dykes	Lothian & Borders Police
Graham Budd	SWNO
Samantha Smith (minutes)	Customer Advisor

Apologies

Cllr Ricky Henderson	Pentland Hills
Cllr Ronald Cairns	Pentland Hills
Cllr Alastair Paisley	Pentlands Hills
Cllr Eric Barry	Colinton/Fairmilehead

<p>1. Welcome & Apologies Cllr Rust welcomed the board and apologies were read out as above.</p>	
<p>2. Convenorship (Nomination & Vote by elected members) All in agreement that Cllr Jason Rust should continue as Convenor. This is to be ratified at the next meeting (Pentlands Public Meeting) on 28 September 2010</p>	
<p>3. Previous Minutes / Matters Arising Minutes were agreed as an accurate record. No matters arising</p>	
<p>4. Financial Summit - Update The Financial Summit is being held on 16 September 2010 at St Brides Centre, involving both partnerships in the South West. There will be presentations and a question and answer session at the end involving the Heads of Service.</p>	
<p>5. Reports <u>a. Ground Maintenance Report</u> Seeking to provide a condensed summary of the report at the Parks & Greenspaces themed meeting. Alex Stewart (AS) queried section 5.5 regarding weed spraying. MA confirmed they are working through the area.</p>	

<p>6. Subgroup Reports</p> <p><u>a. Funding Panel</u></p> <p>Funding panel agreed to use remainder of Fairer Scotland Funding, £29K, to support existing employability project, We Act. It was suggested to broaden the remit of the age bracket applicable for the Fairer Scotland Funds and encompass a wider age range, as there is a lot of focus on young people. All agreed.</p> <p>The number of applications received from same groups has risen due to them losing funding elsewhere. It was discussed that funding cannot go to all the same people. In some cases the community grants are being used as a first point of contact for funding and the community grants cannot be used in this way.</p> <p>AS queried the criteria used to consider the application for signposts in Colinton Village and why the application had been rejected.</p> <p>Judy Wightman (JW) noted that it was felt that Colinton Amenity Association had substantial funds but would advise AS on the criteria and why the panel turned the request down.</p> <p>AP 1 - Copies of the criteria to be circulated to members.</p> <p>Heather Levy suggested that a date be set for which all applications must be in by and the decision making process be minuted so it is transparent. Mike Avery (MA) suggested they be in 2 weeks before the funding panel meet.</p> <p><u>b. Environment & Transport Group</u></p> <p>The draft transport specification which focuses on mobility/accessibility has been produced and sent to Dr Michael Carreno at Napier University's Transport Research Unit. Further discussions are to be held and costing process provided prior to formal acceptance of works.</p> <p>Both representatives from Colinton & Juniper Green are considering their communities respective celebrations to mark Spylaw & Bloomiehall Parks 100 years existence.</p> <p>Members approved in principle on the protection of open space on areas which have become degraded through neglect by the owners. JW queried if the cost can be recovered from the owners and MA confirmed CEC would cover the costs.</p> <p>AP 2 - GB to check that all minutes of these meetings are available on the website.</p> <p><u>c. Health & Employment</u></p> <p>On 1 October 2010 there will be a learning and information fair at Pentland Community Centre where colleges and universities will be present along with the Get On bus.</p> <p>Details and addresses for key service areas are being checked for the Community Map. This is to be developed and other information that could be added includes Councillor information, South West Neighbourhood Office contacts and dates of farmer's markets.</p> <p>The consultation regarding Blue Badges is to be completed on 1 October 2010. Consultation includes eliminating the right to park on double yellow lines but allowing Blue Badge holders to park on single yellow lines within restricted times.</p> <p>AP 3 – Norman Tinlin (NT) to ensure the Consultation process is available on the website and to send the link to Elaine Aitken (EA) & Christine Doherty (CD).</p> <p>Lynda Cowie (LC) was present at the meeting where Management Changes was discussed. LC provided an internal NHS document and noted that the changes will not affect areas or the patients.</p>	<p>JW/Graham Budd (GB)</p> <p>GB</p> <p>NT</p>
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<p>NT asked that any documents from the NHS be broken down and made suitable for public consumption. Any reports must be in a form that can be understood.</p> <p>At the second SEPPF meeting a working agreement was confirmed but NT did not sign the working agreement as he felt he could not sign some sections on behalf of the NP's.</p> <p>AP 4 - CD to contact Michelle and Lesley to discuss SEPPF's working agreement updates.</p> <p>Will wait outcome of this discussion.</p> <p><u>d. Community Safety</u></p> <p>A number of priorities have been set based on long term issues, for example, Tesco's trolleys, Colinton Mains Park and Anti Social Behaviour at Oxfangs Drive.</p> <p>EA asked that if any community council representative cannot attend the meetings, to please inform Ann Davies and advise if there is anything you wish to be discussed or brought to the sub groups attention.</p> <p>Priorities will be made at every meeting which will then be taken forward. Part of the agenda is to have regular updates as it is important to find out from local residents what progress has been made or if there are any further issues.</p> <p>The sub group aims to deal with individual complaints by putting them onto an action list, instead of making them priorities.</p> <p>EA confirmed that there has been no rep from Currie CC and Martin Bone (MA) asked that it is ensured that they are cc'd into any information.</p> <p>AP 5 - EA to speak with Ann Davies and Veronica Wright to ensure Currie CC is included on all information sent out.</p> <p><u>e. Area Board</u></p> <p>The Landlord Performance, housing issues and current status of the NEP's has been reviewed.</p> <p>Projects involving roadways or pathways now have to be registered through the Road Work Database and this has added 3 months on to proposed start dates.</p> <p>The Estates and Property Management team are confident that all proposed NEP's will be completed as scheduled back in April 2010.</p> <p>The SWNP team have started carrying out visits to housing Associations and absent RTO groups to boost attendance at the Area Board.</p> <p>AP 6 - Where possible, GB to arrange to have all sub group's draft reports and minutes sent out to the members before the Business meeting.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>EA</p> <p>GB</p>
<p>7. Meeting Themes and Content 10/11</p> <p>Themes to be covered include those that were identified as not covered last year.</p> <p>The first meeting will be Parks and Greenspace.</p> <p>Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) will be the second and the NP has been approached by Children & Families who want to get more involved.</p> <p>Third will be employability which will include Health themes. Hopefully by then the employment contract will have moved forward with results, so the outcomes can be looked at.</p> <p>Last meeting will be the Annual Review.</p> <p>All agreed.</p>	

<p>8. Agenda Planning</p> <p>In March 2011 the Fairer Scotland Funding 3 year programme ceases and it will no longer be applied to Neighbourhood partnerships, although there is no detail as to how it will then be allocated as yet. Note a report being made to Policy and Strategy Committee being held on 23 September 2010 by Edinburgh Partnership on the future of FSF to go to next PNP meeting for discussion.</p> <p>It can be put as an item on the agenda for the meeting on the 28 September 2010.</p> <p>AP 7 - JW asked for information regarding this to be sent to her in writing as she won't be there.</p>	<p>CD</p>
<p>9. AOCB</p> <p><u>Committee Services</u></p> <p>There will be a committee clerk at the next meeting but it is still in discussion as to whether this will continue or if other support will be put in place. Until this is resolved it has been insisted that the meetings are clerked by Committee Services.</p> <p><u>Licensing Consultation</u></p> <p>The papers and links have been sent out.</p> <p>AS stated Colinton Amenity Association did not receive this information.</p> <p>AP 8 - CD to check that is was sent out to them and check the contact information.</p> <p><u>Community Consultation - Fairmilehead Water Treatment Works</u> Discussions with developers will be starting.</p> <p>After a 2 day consultation on the 7th and 8th the report will be presented at the end on November 2010.</p>	<p>CD</p>
<p><u>Get Up and Go Brochure</u></p> <p>NT noted that the new Get Up and Go Brochure of programmes available for older individuals will be launched at Harvey Nichols on 21 September 2010 at 6.30pm.</p> <p>Programmes include sports, activities and night classes.</p> <p>Date of next meeting – 9 November 2010</p>	

South West Area Board
7pm, Tuesday 10 August 2010
South West Neighbourhood Office

In Attendance

Maud Wylie	Hailesland Neighbourhood Council
Cllr Alistair Paisley	Pentland Hills Ward
Pat Carr	Saughton Mains Residents Association
Anne Denholm	Dumbryden Neighbourhood Council
Judy Wightman	Ratho & District Community Council
Norman Tinlin	Fairmilehead Community Council
Hellen McDonough	Longstone Community Council
Tommy Walker	SWNO
Scott Neill	SWNO
Graham Budd	SWNO

Observers

David Simpson	Local Resident
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Apologies

Cllr Ricky Henderson	Pentland Hills Ward
Cllr Jason Rust	Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward
Cllr Ronald Cairns	Pentlands Ward
Cllr Elaine Aitken	Colinton/ Fairmilehead Ward
Councillor Andrew Burns	Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart Ward
Maureen Jarvis	Oxgangs Central Residents Association
Lyn Bryan	Dumbryden Neighbourhood Council
Ken Shade	Balerno Community Council
Debbie Herbertson	SWNO

<p>1. Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the group and apologies were read out as above.</p>	
<p>2. Minute of Previous Meeting / Matters Arising / Action list</p> <p>Minutes passed by Anne Denholm and Pat Carr</p> <p>Matters arising: NT did not received previous attachments with papers</p>	
<p>3. Updates</p> <p><u>NEP's</u></p> <p>TW handed out the project report for August 2010, asking members to note the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 projects to date have been completed no's 341 & 394 both in the SW. • Currently waiting for Community Safety team to identify sites for CCTV cameras and the Parks team to decide areas for tree planting. In the PNP NT wanted to see the sightings for potential cameras. • A number of drawings have been issued to contractors • Projects 289, 343, 347, 377 were now subject to the scrutiny of the Roads/ Highways. This means that these projects have to be registered on the Roads Work Register and details start/ finish dates are supplied by the contractor 	<p>TW</p>

carrying out the works. This process takes 3 months hence the late start times in the report. Some NP's are not following this process however SWNO with assistance from our own Roads Team (Andy Edwards) will be doing the project by the legislation.

- Projects confirmation works which have been signed in the last two weeks are: 287, 288, 291, 322 & 325.

Housing Performance

DH provided a report from June 2010, presented by SN giving the following information:

- **Empty Homes**

Objective: - is to let properties in the shortest time

Our average time to re-let a property in June was 30 days; the city wide target is 28 days.

There are various reasons for this delay from issues with gas meters- to multiple refusals on specific properties.

Looking at ways to improve our performance in relation to turnaround of keys – unfortunately we are still receiving high numbers of refusals on some properties/areas.

Average spend on void properties for June was £2,434.00, however one Broomhouse property required £10,000.00 to bring it back to a lettable standard.

Kitchen and Bathrooms Programme from April 2010 – March 2011

All Calder's high rise – various miscellaneous properties in Currie/Balerno and Ratho and Dumbryden (approx 1/3) remaining to be carried out 2011/12 programme

Objective: - To let Empty Homes at Minimum Void Rent Loss and Maximise Income Potential to Department

We are currently £10,234 below our void rent loss target of £68,408. Team are working well to ensure we continue to achieve excellent results with this figure.

Debbie Herbertson and Julie Harris met with Hailesland Park Residents Association to consult on the Interim Lettings Policy currently for all blocks previously advertised for applicants 35 years and over.

The residents association are happy with the current interim policy with some suggestions being agreed locally.

- **Rent Collection**

Objective: - To Provide Rent Arrears Service Based on Prevention of Arrears that Promotes Social Inclusion in the Communities of Edinburgh

Current Arrears

Our arrears are currently £478,978. At the same point last year our arrears were £539,834 this is a **£60k** improvement on last year!

Surgeries

Gordon Cunningham has set a date for his first Rents/ Benefits Surgery in Hailesland Park – this is scheduled for the 21st July.

AP1. There was some confusion over notification, however all door entries in the areas had posters advertising the service. Also Susan Crawford was contacted.

DH

<p>There are other officers offering this service and these should be advertised in the areas of concern</p> <p>Rents staff have started attending the “Employability and Support Project” at the Calder High Rise once a fortnight to provide advice and support to tenants with rent issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness <p>Objective: to prevent homelessness and provide comprehensive assistance to applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness – to allow them to sustain a tenancy.</p> <p>The team has been down one member of staff over the last few months – However homeless presentations and advice provided have continued to be covered.</p> <p>Team managing 192 homeless cases</p> <p>In June 72 applicants were provided with a full homeless assessment. 96 applicants where provided with housing advice.</p>	
<p>4. Community Feedback</p> <p><u>Longstone Community Council</u></p> <p>HMCD felt the walkabouts wee not working. Problems had arisen when SWNO official failed to meet the LCC reps on the date specified. All Community Councils should receive a walkabout report within 28 days from the officer concerned. PC had an example to show the Board.</p> <p>AP2. TW to check walkabout diary and distribution list and alter accordingly</p> <p>HMCD also requested that CC’s are informed when major road works will disrupt service in any area. Local Cllrs used to in the past give the CC’s the heads up when work was being programmed into an area. Can this warning be resumed to assist CC’s inform local people. work.</p> <p>AP3. GD to be asked about possibility of this reporting system</p> <p><u>Dumbryden Neighbourhood Council</u></p> <p>AD reported that the returns to the allotment flyer (460 set out in area) totalled 36, there had been some problem with distribution and CD will look into it. From the total received 3 people were against the proposal and wished some development of play areas, 3 were undecided and 30 were in support of the idea, however only 15 provided names and addresses.</p> <p>AP4. CD to review problem with distribution of promotional flyers</p> <p>There will be a meeting on 17 August at the WHHA to discuss the way forward.</p> <p>AD had received a Proposal if Application Notice for the intended development of the school site. The developers are working on behalf of Prospect Housing. A consultation series of meetings will be held at the WHHA on 31 August, one at 10-12 noon and the second 6-8pm.</p> <p>AP4. AD to keep Area Board Informed of developments</p> <p><u>Hailesland Neighbourhood Council</u></p>	<p>TW</p> <p>GD</p> <p>CD</p> <p>AD</p>

<p>MW informed the Board that the HNC had been judged in the Edinburgh In Bloom Competition recently and are waiting for the result to be released. Traditionally the HNC does well in this competition.</p> <p>They are also gearing up to enter the Scotland in Bloom event and fact stiff competition this year as some areas of Glasgow will be entering.</p>	
<p>5. A.O.C.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB gave the Board members a quick over view of the new initiative Neighbourhood Champion Project which will receive a promotion lead in from September. The initiative is to assist local gardeners and environmental groups take ownership of local projects in their area. The equipment will be booked out by the SW Environmental Team. • The Chair wanted to know if Wester Hailes area was being included in the proposed canal development and celebratory event marking the 10th anniversary of the canal coming through the City and being reclaimed. <p>AP 5. CD to report back to the Board on development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Board Road show has had very little feedback from local RTO groups not currently involved with the Board work. SN is to visit Sighthill and Hailesland groups in the next month or so. • Cllr Paisely reported that he had attended an interesting briefing session recently where the Scottish Executive were promoting a new housing initiative (Scottish Future Trust) to address problems facing a number of key workforce areas. The development will look at one and two bedroom dwellings to meet this middle section of the market. The problem seems to be lack of housing for new people to the City who have secured key employment positions and either cannot afford property prices or not meet the CEC council housing requirements. The initial build will develop 600 properties City wide and developers involved in this project will be looking for suitable sites. The scheme will see the key worker securing the house for no more that 10 years there after the property will be sold on the market for the going rate, 65% of the purchase price going to the City and 35% going to the developer. It is hoped that the person renting for so long will be encouraged to purchase. • The Board agreed to receive a presentation from Mr Robert (Bob) Barnham, representing Sustainable Futures which loks at improving efficiency or housing in the area. <p>AP6. SN to set up for the next meeting on 12 October 2010</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>SN</p>
<p>6. Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 12th October 2010</p> <p>Future meetings are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 February 2011 • 12 April 2011 • 14 June 2011 	

**Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership
Funding Panel
6pm, Wednesday 18th August 2010
South West Neighbourhood Office**

In Attendance

Mr Steuart Campbell Longstone Community Council
Mrs Helen Ogg Juniper Green Community Council
Mr Norman Tinlin Fairmilehead Community Council
Mr Martin Bone Currie Community Council
Mr Ken Shade Balerno Community Council
Mr Peter Gray Colinton Amenity Association
Mrs Judith Wightman (Chair) Ratho and District Community Council
Cllr Ron Cairns CEC
Mr Graham Budd CEC
Mr Scott Neill CEC

Apologies

Cllr Ricky Henderson CEC
Ms Heather Levy Firrhill Community Council

Mr Graham Dane Currie Community Council 1. Welcome & Apologies		
The Chair welcomed the group to the first meeting after the summer recess and apologies were read out as above.		
2. Minutes of previous meeting/matters arising		
In relation to item 4 Fairer Scotland Funding (FSF) in the previous meetings minutes the Chair requested a copy of the reconciliation of the FSF. This was received at this meeting with apologies from Christine Doherty.		
3. Fairer Scotland Fund		CD
The Chair asked the group to discuss how they wished to spend the £30k of funding left. The options were:		
Parenting Support		
Employability		
After a brief discussion the group voted to invest the remaining FSF funding towards Employability Project(s). CD to report back to the group on possible projects.		
The full allocation of funding covering the FSF original spend is listed below:		
Project Award Activity		
Oxgangs Care	£20K	Mental Health Initiative
Dunedin Canmore	£20K	Early Intervention Initiative
CHAI	£49,319	Parenting Support in Clovenstone
CHAI	£49,319	Parenting Support Oxgangs
Children and Families Dept	£60K	Parenting Support/Space initiative – Clovenstone
Children and Families Dept	£60K	Parenting Support/Space initiative – Oxgangs
Capital City Partnership	£50K	City Employability contract

WEACT Schools initiative	£20K tbc	(West Edinburgh Action service provider) Mental Health initiative for army families – Firrhill Feeders
Total allocated / indicative allocation to date: £328,638 Accumulated budget: £357,806		
<p>4. Community Grant Applications</p> <p>The following funding applications were discussed:</p> <p>1. Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust application for £4,500 to go towards the upgrading 550 metres of a path leading from Swanston into the Pentlands Regional Park.</p> <p>This application was discussed by the group and they requested the Officers ask the trust what work could be carried out if the group were to make a £3,000 donation towards this project.</p> <p>The group also requested that the trust be advised that the Community Grant Fund may not be available to the trust in the future as they have been successful with a number of recent awards. This will be noted in the letter of offer.</p> <p>2. Puppet Animation Scotland application for £400 to contribute to the costs of two day animation workshop including all materials and expenses.</p> <p>This application was discussed by the group and they wished clarification by the applicant as to where this workshop was to take place.</p> <p>3. Colinton Amenity Association application for £526 to replace the “Welcome to Colinton” signs on the three main roads into the village.</p> <p>Gillespie Road Redford Road Colinton Road</p> <p>Peter Gray representing the Colinton Amenity Association briefed the group on the details of the application.</p> <p>The group discussed and voted to decline this application as it was felt could set precedence for future applications.</p>		<p>GB GB</p>
<p>5. AOCB</p> <p>KS requested an update as to the recent grant awarded to the Balerno Village Trust (BVT) for £3,000 to buy stalls for their farmers market.</p> <p>SN informed the group that after consulting the trust as to their progress on the use of the funds a letter has been drafted from CD to the BVT to challenge the group about their lack of progress in acquiring the equipment. The reply from the BVT will be circulated to the FP members in due course.</p> <p>FP Members discussed their role in terms of assisting potential</p>		<p>SN</p>

applicants in their own areas.

The FP were agreed that future applicants should be liaising with local FP members prior to submitting an application.

If successful FP members would be monitoring the progress of the successful applicant assisting with problems and ensuring the funds are spend in a proper manor as per the relevant funding agreement.

This approach would assist officers at the SWNO highlight potential problems and act with the panels consent accordingly.

The Chair reported that the Ratho War Memorial project had hit a minor problem with stone work at the memorial seemingly subsiding. The subsequent investigation has delayed work at present. However the project should be completed in a few months or so.

6. Date of next meeting

The next funding panel meeting was agreed as **Wednesday the 6th of October at 6pm.**

**Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership
Pentlands Environment & Transport Group
7pm, Wednesday 2 August 2010
South West Neighbourhood Office**

In Attendance

David Bewsey
Steuart Campbell
Brenda McGovern
Norman Tinlin
Ken Shade
Mike Ferrigan
Neil Ingram
Scott Neill
Graham Budd

Chair - Colinton Amenity Association
Longstone Community Council
Currie Community Council
Fairmilehead Community Council
Balerno Community Council
PIPER
Juniper Green Community Council
SfC, Partnership Development Officer
SfC, Partnership Development Officer

Apologies

Peggy Wright

Firrhill Community Council

<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>David Bewsey, the sub group Chair, welcomed members to the meeting and outlined the agenda contents for the evening.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>As listed above</p>	
<p>3. Minutes/Matters Arising</p> <p>SC noted that his name was wrongly recorded in the previous minutes in relation to a meeting with Craig Dunlop and asked for the minutes to be corrected.</p> <p>NT requested a breakdown of the CIMS scores by area. NT also requested an explanation of how the streets were chosen for this inspection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP 1- Keep Scotland Beautiful are to be invited to the next meeting of the group. • AP2 - The Chair requested a breakdown of the Environment maintenance schedule for Pentlands for the next year. 	<p>GB</p> <p>SN</p> <p>Parks & Greenspace</p> <p>CD</p>
<p>4. Action Plans - Updates</p> <p>SN tabled a copy of the developing logic model for members to take away. The model encompasses all the actions the group have been developing/ delivering SC asked if the Longstone Graffiti project should not be considered an outcome in the logic model.</p> <p>SN informed the group that currently this project was a pilot. He has not yet been asked by the Service Manager to take this project to the group and the group must decide how they wish to measure it.</p> <p>SN also informed the group that the work of the Fairer Scotland Fund will be reported to the Funding Sub-group and any appropriate matters will be disseminated to the subgroups.</p> <p>The Chair informed the group that the architect of the developer who has bought the land at this area is proposing a development of a 90 bed care home. The potential planning benefits of this development for Redford Wood including the path</p>	

<p>that runs from Colinton Mains Drive will be developed so that it continues onto Redford Wood Loan. The Chair believes that this path would improve accessibility to the wood for the public.</p> <p>MF gave an update on the PIPER project. The model for this project is becoming well known in Scotland. BM asked if PIPER have approached the private schools. MF informed the group that they are working with 7 schools in the area currently and ideally they would like to approach all the schools in Scotland.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>SN informed the group that John Moore Napier University will be asked to attend the next meeting of the group to talk about the reviewing of the mobility gap in the Pentlands. SN and NT to meet with John Moore Prior to the next meeting of the group.</p> <p>NT informed the group he had been invited to and had attended his first group meeting of Edinburgh Transport Action Group on the 22nd of July.</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>SN</p>
<p>5. AOCB</p> <p>DB informed the group that Bloomiehall Park and Spylaw Park will be 100 years old next year and asked the local groups if they wished to be involved with the commemoration of this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP3 - The respective CC reps agreed that they wished to be involved with this celebration and would report back to their respective Committees. <p>A general question was asked to the group relating to how they found the management of open spaces in their areas.</p> <p>KS stated that he views the management of waste land in Balerno as poor.</p> <p>BM raised an item in regards the request for a pedestrian crossing at Blinkbonny which Currie Community Council have received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP4 - It was agreed that this was a Community Safety item and should be sent on to Caroline Burwell. <p>NT made the group aware of a consultation into the reform of the Blue Badge Scheme. There has been a move to display badge holders photograph on the new issues and there has also been a move to restrict badge holders parking outside some key buildings throughout the City. Interested members can go the Scottish Government web site to check the full ramifications of the proposed changes.</p> <p>DB asked the group if they were in favor in principle on the protection of open space on areas which have become degraded through neglect by the owners. DB gave the example of a proposed garden on the Dreghorn Polo Fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP5 - The group agreed that in principle that they were in favor of the protection of such open space. 	<p>BM/ NI</p> <p>CB</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>6. Date of next meeting The Chair thanked all the members for attending and closed the meeting.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday the 1 November 2010.</p>	