

Firrhill Community Council

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Community Council held on 25 July 2011 in the Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

Members:

H Levy (Chair)
A Hunter (Vice Chair)
P Wright (Secretary)
PI Podd (Treasurer)
L Linn
G Hunter
MJ O'Brien
J Napier (Minutes Sec)

Ex-Officio Members:

E Aitken, Councillor, CEC
E Barry, Councillor, CEC
J Rust, Councillor, CEC
D Crawford, LBP, Oxgangs Police Stn

Visitors:

A Hart
S Duffy
G MacDonald, MSP, Pentlands
N Tinlin, Sec, Fairmilehead CC
G Duncan

Apologies:

MJ O'Brien; D Crawford

The meeting started at 07:00 pm. H Levy in the Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Gordon MacDonald MSP to Firrhill Community Council.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute 23 May 2011	Draft minutes of meeting held on 23 May 2011 were reviewed. Attention was drawn to corrections made to the draft minute since it was circulated. There being no other corrections the minutes were moved for approval by PW and seconded by PP. Approved	J N to publish
Matters Arising	<p>Pentland Primary School: this relates to the item recorded under AOCB - Primary School Catchment Area where complaints had been received concerning children being refused a place at the school. Parents were entitled to appeal against the decision and that all such appeals were to be heard at the City Chambers on Tuesday 31st May 2011.</p> <p>Thirty four complaints were received by the school and sixteen by the department. All the appeals were successful. Pentland Primary School should have three full classes, Oxgangs Primary will also have three full P1 classes, St Marks will have 2 full P1 classes.</p> <p>Constitution: Decision had been taken to restrict the July meeting to this single subject. Chair explained her reasons for deferring this item to the next meeting with the meeting time being extended by one hour to allow the time for discussion. No clear decision.</p> <p>Winter Maintenance Update Report: Chair reported that she met with Lindsay Grant who is supporting the implementation of the Environmental Action plan. He is also one of the staff pulling the winter maintenance report together and conducting feedback for said report which it is hoped goes to the council early September. He asked for and has been provided with a copy of the social impact report that was done for Christine Doherty, PNP Information Manager and he has and offered to come to the</p>	Chair to contact MJOB

	<p>CC and report back on decisions/recommendations of the CEC on the Winter Maintenance. This could be done at the same time as we do a follow up to community safety.</p> <p><u>Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre:</u> Chair has been invited to attend a project meeting on Thursday 4th August at the Pentland Community Centre to discuss the proposed services to be located in this new centre and the community consultation that should be carried out. It has been proposed that Firrhill CC should take the lead in organising the consultation process.</p> <p>General discussion on the consultation methods available for use. Use of 'Facebook' and the website with consideration being given to the use of a 'survey monkey' on the website to gather responses. Acknowledged that before we can formulate the questionnaire, there is a need to determine what facilities are being proposed along with any loss of existing amenities.</p> <p><u>Environmental Get-Together Update Plan:</u> Chair stressed the need to develop an action plan to progress this item. Tree planting / orchards. Chair to get-together a small group.</p> <p><u>Roads and Footways:</u> This relates to suggestions submitted by the CC for inclusion in the Ward 8 Neighbourhood Improvement Programme. The Secretary, who is Firrhill CC's rep. on this Ward 8 NIP Committee, reported that the suggestions had not been included in the latest list issued by the Dept., even though she had e-mailed them, and subsequent contact with the appropriate officer has proved difficult.</p> <p>The CC had submitted a request for improved safety on the Braid Burn footpath between Colinton Mains Drive / Oxgangs Road North at its junction with the path from Colinton Mains Green. Acknowledged comments re initial proposal but consider there is still a safety issue to be considered. Footpath edging also needs remedial ground drainage work to remove the susceptibility of minor flooding along part of its length.</p> <p>"The Secretary also reported being notified that this path has not been adopted by the Council, which we found baffling as it has lighting provided by the Council. She will enquire further."</p> <p>The proposals applicable to the Firrhill CC area that are listed are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A central refuge traffic island in Oxgangs Avenue between the Crescent (W) and the Green for the safety of school children who commute to Pentland PS. Concern raised that the depth of the island will be of insufficient width to accommodate parents with prams/buggies, etc. (£12,500) 2. Lighting in Colinton Mains Park along the burn footpath on the eastern edge of the Park. Lighting for the central footpath through the Park had been provided by the previous year's programme and had cost £21,000. Extending the lighting may help resolve recent reports of anti-social/criminal activities along this side of the Park. (£25,000) 3. Upgrade of the footpaths leading to Pentland Community Centre (£10,000) 	<p>JN to explore use of survey monkey</p> <p>HL / JN to draw up action plan</p> <p>PW</p>
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	<p>4. Upgrade of Chatterig footpath, which runs down the east side of the Catholic Church from Oxgangs Avenue to Oxgangs Crescent. (£20,000)</p> <p>A proposal not listed but has been discussed several times at community council meetings was the provision of a slip road at the end of Oxgangs Avenue to make it easier for traffic turning left into Oxgangs Road North.</p> <p>Agreed this should be added to the list for consideration. A partnership meeting on 28 July has been arranged with representatives of the three community groups and Gordon Drysdale, SW Roads Manager, to determine which proposals will be adopted.</p>	PW / JN
Approval of AGM Minute 27 June 2011	Draft minutes of the annual general meeting held on 23 May 2011 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by LL and seconded by GH. Approved	J N to publish
Matters Arising	AGM Presentation: Chair reported on feedback she had received on the presentation and proposed the CC should build on this with a further 'themed' meeting covering community safety and winter maintenance. This was agreed for our October meeting with a view to advertising it in the September 'Newsletter'.	Chair to lead
Community Police Report	<p>PC Crawford was unable to attend but provided the following report subsequent to the meeting.</p> <p>REPORT FOR FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL 25th AUGUST 2011</p> <p>ITEMS OF INTEREST</p> <p>We are pleased to let you know that the Oxgangs Children's Safety Day will, after a brief absence, be held once again at the station on Wednesday 14th September. Planning for this long standing event is well under way and Oxgangs will be made ready for the appearance of P1 and P2 children from all the invited local schools – the theme as ever is Personal Safety and we will be joined on the day by colleagues from a number of partner agencies.</p> <p>On 20th July, a Joint Community Event took place in the central Oxgangs area whereby the police and council colleagues called personally at the doors of a large number of local residents. The feedback received related mainly to the need for common repairs that had been noticed by residents and actions were raised to deal with this. A number of Anti Social Behaviour issues were also raised and dealt with at the time. The aim obviously will be to repeat these morning/afternoon events – as well as dealing with issues raised, it is also meant to give local people the chance to meet and speak to their local police officers and council colleagues.</p> <p>I had the pleasure of being invited to and attending the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre's Fun Day on Saturday 2nd July. A cracking summer's afternoon helped make the whole day a success. From a personal perspective, it was a pleasant experience to just meet and chat to folk in such a relaxed environment – a luxury that's not often available.</p>	

	<p>INCIDENTS/CRIME</p> <p>Between 1st and 31st July, the area covered by Oxfangs Police Station generated a total of 453 incidents.</p> <p>On 1st July, a man walking his dog in the Braidburn Valley Park was assaulted and robbed – the incident received publicity in the media. Following enquiry, a local male has been charged with this crime.</p> <p>On 2nd July, a window was smashed at a house in Colinton Mains Green. A 12 year old youth has been charged and reported for this crime.</p> <p>On the 7th, a male was stopped and found to be in possession of a quantity of drugs whilst walking in Colinton Mains Drive.</p> <p>On the 13th, a large quantity of Class A drugs was recovered in the Oxfangs area involving no less than 3 households. The matter received media attention and the total recovery and street value of the drug is put at £70,000. There is no doubt this will have interrupted the availability of the drug for the time being.</p> <p>On the 13th, 4 windows were smashed at Oxfangs Police Station. The 14 year old female was charged and reported for this crime as well as assault on the two police officers who found her in the act.</p> <p>On the 18th, Plant machinery being used in the development of the Sports Pavilion in Colinton Mains Park had minor damage caused to it. The culprits are still unknown.</p> <p>Between the 18th and 20th July, a number of vehicles have had their tyres apparently slashed whilst being left overnight in the Firrhill Park area. This is a thankfully rare form of vandalism in the area given the expense to vehicle owners. Enquiry is ongoing, however, if anyone has information as to who may be responsible, I would urge them to contact me at Oxfangs Police Station.</p> <p>PC 3034-A David Crawford, Community Officer, Tel. No. 0131-441-1518.</p> <p><i>To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online Giving Information Form.</i></p>	
<p>Ward Councillor's Reports</p> <p>E Aitken J Rust</p>	<p><u>Changes to the No. 18 Bus Service:</u> will be implemented on 1st August. A number of parents of children who use this service for school have complained that whilst children can use their bus pass on the morning bus they will not be able to use them on return journeys and have to pay bus fares. As the two bus companies have no plans to integrate their ticketing systems, Lothian Buses will refund the remaining part of a bus pass, where</p>	

E Barry	<p>this is applied for.</p> <p>The outcome will be that school children will lose in part or wholly, the financial benefits of the annual bus pass and parents will have to ensure their children are provided daily with the fare money.</p> <p>A similar situation will affect staff in many workplaces along the route of this bus service.</p> <p><u>Green Belt Housing Development:</u> on agricultural land to east of Winton Drive/ Winton Gardens, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh EH10 7ET. Miller Homes Ltd have submitted a proposal for the erection of residential homes with associated parking, landscaping, footpaths and open space.</p> <p>Public exhibitions and consultation have taken place in Fairmilehead and in Oxfangs Library during the month of June. A number of objections have been submitted and as a consequence there is to be a further public consultation at Fairmilehead Church hall on 27 July, at 4pm and 8 pm.</p> <p><u>Pentland Community Centre:</u> action plan to develop the facilities</p> <p><u>Safety Meeting 7 Sept 2011:</u> date of next meeting 7 Sept 2011</p> <p><u>Oxfangs Road North - Roads and Footpaths:</u> number of complaints received concerning the condition of this road</p> <p><u>Oxfangs Local Health Action Group:</u> consultation on new health centre and community health map</p> <p><i>At this point Cllr Aitken left the meeting.</i></p> <p><u>Recent Flooding:</u> caused by rainfall that was well above average – Scottish Flood Forum</p> <p>Lift pumps installed to protect properties in Oxfangs Road North from flooding had still to be connected to the electricity supply. Scottish Power did this following the floods but it is clear that the pumps had not been tested after their installation.</p> <p><u>Crime - local arrests:</u> Recent actions by the Police have resulted in the arrest of knife thugs in the area and drug dealers.</p> <p>£65,000 worth of cocaine was recovered from an address in Oxfangs Place. The occupant is linked to the recovery of £125,000 worth of the drug in Penicuik.</p>	
Introduction Local MSP	<p>The Chair invited Gordon MacDonald, MSP Pentlands to address the meeting.</p> <p>Expressing his regret at not managing to attend the previous meeting due to last minute emergency, Mr MacDonald gave a rundown of his political activities within the Scottish Parliament and arrangements for maintaining contact with the electorate of Edinburgh Pentlands.</p> <p>Opening an office in the shopping centre at Longstone Road. Staff are already in place dealing with questions on housing and community safety</p> <p>Intends to hold surgeries in various parts of his electoral district.</p> <p>Previous employment was with Lothian Buses.</p>	

Newsletter Update	<p>The next issue is scheduled to go out at the end of September. No change to format – looking for material to fill four pages. 2000 copies for distribution</p> <p>Topics to be associated with community safety and winter maintenance in support of the theme of our October meeting .</p> <p>To include information on MP, MSP and Councillors’ surgeries</p> <p>Relating to the last issue, the topic of overgrown hedges in some streets in Oxbgangs was raised. Proposed that the matter be looked at on the next walkabout which was to take place on 4th August.</p>	
Treasurer’s Report	<p>A cheque for £13.95 has been issued to the secretary for payment of printing ink. The bank balance now stands at £2767.93.</p> <p>Items of unresolved expenditure are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost of printing the newsletter, and • catering costs for the AGM 	PP
Planning Applications Report	<p>See appendix 1 for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 27 June to 18 July for the Firrhill Ward. Proposals of applications for major developments within the City of Edinburgh are also included for information purposes.</p> <p>Of note are applications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to external signage at Tesco; • an attic conversion at Redford Road <p>Two decisions recorded which were both granted :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservatory at Oxbgangs Loan • installation of a storage pod and canopy at Tesco. 	
Correspond/	<p>See appendix 3 for list of correspondence received since last meeting</p> <p><u>Item 11 - Redford Woods Management:</u> . The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) are in the process of developing a Woodland Management Plan for Redford Wood on behalf of the CEC. Commissioned Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to produce a plan. Councillors have been asked if they have any comments to make on the Wood and its future management (by 29 July).</p> <p>The wood basically runs up the west side of the Braid Burn from Colinton Mains Drive/Loan to Redford Road (to the rear of the old NAAFI) and is bound by Colinton Primary School to the north and The Gallolee housing scheme to the south</p> <p>Chair invited members to respond to Cllr Barry before the deadline.</p>	All
AOCB	<p><u>Prospective Closure of Army Barracks:</u> the recent news announcement of the army moving to new barracks at Kirknewton and the closure of Dreghorn and Redford will have a substantial impact on the local community, if implemented. It was stated that the families stationed here would not be moving.</p> <p>Cllr Rust and Aitken have submitted a motion calling for a working group or task force to be set up to consider all the various aspects from planning to housing and schooling to businesses. The motion will be put forward at</p>	

	<p>the CEC meeting on the 25th August.</p> <p>Balerno Community Council holding a meeting on 4 August to fight closure plans. Impact on community services. Cost of building new barracks.</p> <p>Value of existing sites is reported to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dregghorn Barracks - £28.8 million • Redford Infantry Barracks - £17.6 million • Redford Cavalry Barracks - £18.4 million • Craigiehall Headquarters - £5.8 million <p>Millar Homes: see under Councillors' Reports – Green Belt Housing Development</p> <p>Request for a Donation: Oxfangs Police asking for a donation to help fund their 'Child Safety Day'. Agreed to donate £100</p>	<p>Sec to contact Balerno CC Sec</p> <p>Sec to action</p>
Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting	<p>22nd August 2011 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The venue will be the Board Room in the Oxfangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk. The Board Room is not able to accommodate many visitors thus the Council are asking those who wish to attend to advise the Secretary beforehand.</p>	

The meeting ended at: 09:45 pm

Weekly Planning Bulletin Report for July Meeting

27 June 2011

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for:

Ward 11 – City Centre: Old Town Conservation Area / World Heritage Site: 11/02044/PAN for a mixed use development comprising hotel, bar, restaurant, cafe, retail, commercial and night club uses on land at the Cowgate, Edinburgh.

4 July 2011

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for:

Ward 16 – Liberton/Gilmerton: 11/02004/PAN for planning permission in principle for residential development on land 50 metres east of Alnwickhill Reservoir, Liberton Gardens, Edinburgh.

11 July 2011

Colinton application 11/01868/ADV for external pod and canopy signage and directional signs in car park at 10 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9AH (Tesco).

Proposal of Application Notices for:

Ward 02 – Pentland Hills: Green Belt: 11/02197/PAN for a development to provide an extension to existing Park-and-Ride facility. Existing 450 spaces to be increased to approximately 1025, to accommodate increase a re-alignment of Riccarton Mains Road will be necessary together with a re-siting and replacement of SUDS system. All re-mediated and new areas will be landscaped at Hermiston Park & Ride, 300 Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH14 4AT. Applicant - The City of Edinburgh Council, Transport New Works.

18 July 2011

Application : 11/02265/FUL for an attic conversion incorporating 2 dormer and 1 roof window to front and 2 roof windows to rear elevations at 241 Redford Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9NH

Proposal of Application Notice for:

Ward No 11 – City Centre : Old Town Conservation Area / World Heritage Site : 11/02044/PAN for a mixed use development comprising hotel, bar, restaurant, cafe, retail, commercial and night club uses on land at the Cowgate, Edinburgh.

Decision : application 11/01872/FUL to erect a conservatory at 24 Oxbgangs Loan, Edinburgh, EH13 9JJ has been granted

Decision : Colinton application 11/01868/FUL for the installation of a storage pod and canopy over the space formerly taken up by 10 parking spaces within the store car park (as amended) at Tesco, 10 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9AH has been granted.

FCC CORRESPONDENCE: 28 JUNE - 18 JULY: SECRETARY

By e-mail: forwarded to members with e-mail facility + appropriate info put on website at www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btik.cpm

1. Eileen Hewitt: request for photos of CCs in action for NP Homepage at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils
2. PC Kenneth Welsh: request for donation to Oxfords Child Safety Day, 14 Sept.
3. Notification by Trustees that Assoc. of Scottish CCs to close: can't operate with £30k deficit. Charitable arm will continue until 30.04.12 for CCs' insurance protection.
4. Bill Hannah: Adult & Family Health Week at Pentland Centre, 8-11 August.
5. " " : Notes on LHAG Oxfords Community Dev'tment Session, 27 June.
6. Anita Sharkey, Waste Ed. Officer: waste factsheets from www.edinburgh.gov.uk
7. Eileen Skillen, Scottish Community Dev'tment Officer: Achieving Community Empowerment (funded by BIG): programme of support for community groups - 'phone 0141 248 1924 or Eileen@scdc.org.uk (applications to be in by 31 August)
8. Gordon Drysdale/Lloyd Richardson: various e-mails re suggestion that Braidburn path be divided into pedestrian/cyclist lanes to make Colinton Mains Green safer (not feasible).
9. Samantha Smith, SW N'hood Office: final PNP Meetings Schedule for 2011/12.
10. PC D Crawford: A Division Template (Police Newsletter).
11. f. by Cllr Barry from Mark Hamilton, Landscape Sendees, re Woodland, Management, Redford Wood (comments requested by 29 July).
12. Dave Anderson, City Development re new disabled parking spaces at Colinton Mains Drive + Oxfords Drive, Brae, Farm Ave, Farm Loan, Green, Park, Road North, Street, and View (detailed on Firrhill CC website, consultations page).
13. Bill Hannah: new Oxfords Community Map.
14. L Henderson: request that FCC Minutes be forwarded to Gordon Macdonald MSP.
15. Enquiry through FCC website re contractor for new pavilion.
16. " " " " re wording of info on recycling bins in FCC Newsletter.
17. Council Licensing Dept re new sunbed application for 88 Colinton Mains Drive.
18. Marie Kitchen: Sustainable Govt Newsletter
19. Secy @ Fairmilehead CC: confirmation that First Bus will display No 18 timetables in bus shelters + combined Lothian & First timetables will be available at Lothian Bus shops.
20. ASCC July on-line Bulletin (including details of Scot. Politics Explained Conference).
21. f. by Cllr Barry: compensation info re damage done in recent flooding in this area.
22. f. by H Levy: Council response to Edinburgh Care & Support Services Consultation.
23. Gordon Drysdale: NTPs meeting for Ward 8 CC reps re Roads & Footways Fund.
24. f. by Cllr Barry re arrest of local drug dealer.

If anyone would like more information re any of the above, please contact me.

Peggy Wright, Secretary
peggy.wright@live.co.uk

FCC 25 JULY MEETING: CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE, 19-25 JULY.

By e-mail (forwarded to FCC members where appropriate)

1. Samantha Smith: July '11 Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Digest.
2. Eileen Hewitt: confirmation that FCC details on City Council website are being updated (requested by J Napier).
3. Marie Hitchen: 'Sustainable Govt' – latest public service news (21 July).
4. PC D Crawford: apologies to FCC's July meeting.
5. Cllrs Aitken and Rust (f. from Marshall Poulton, Council's Head of Transport): official letter re No 18 service to be shared by Lothian & First Buses. Report reviewing new service arrangements will be submitted to Nov. meeting of TIE Committee. Tel. Ewan Horne on 469 3658 for any further info. Details of 'One-ticket' (for use on all buses, or combination of buses and trains) at www.one-ticket.co.uk
6. Cllr Rust: info re Conservative Motion to Council meeting, 25 Aug., on proposed closure of Redford, Dreghorn & Craigiehall Barracks, including concern about effect on local shops and businesses.
7. July e-newsletter from Sarah Boyack, MSP: includes her recent work with two homeless projects; concerns over cuts to police custody support officers, and putting in beat police – untrained in this specialist area – as cover.

By Post

1. 'Working Capital', Council's 'Joined up for Jobs' magazine (June).
2. Scottish Health Council – 'Connect' newsletter (the last on paper; will be sent as an e-newsletter from now on).