

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 24 October 2011
Held in Oxfangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk, Edinburgh.

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, Oxfangs Police Stn

Visitors:

Apologies:

D Crawford, J Rust

Non- attendance:

MJ O'Brien

The meeting started at: 07:00pm. H Levy in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute	Draft minutes of meeting held on 26 September 2011 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the draft minutes were moved for approval by AH and seconded by LL. Approved	J N to publish
Matters Arising	Tesco - bulb donation: received word that this is in hand and we should get the donated bulbs early November. Newsletter: the November edition of the newsletter had been received from the printer and was in the process of being distributed. Discussion on the distribution – agreed to reduce the amount given to the occupiers of business or service premises to increase the number for letterbox delivery.	
Community Police Report	Tabled report received from D Crawford Please find below the Police Report to be tabled in my absence at this month's meeting. The period covered is -: Saturday 1st - Saturday 22nd October 2011. Total calls for Oxfangs Police Station = 288. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone = 59	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beat PF57 – Central Oxfangs =164 • Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly = 66 <p>In line with the local Neighbourhood Partnership 3 Monthly Priorities, patrols have been (and will continue to be given) at all local Primary Schools with regard to concern over "parking issues". At the end of the period, the exercise will be looked at to try and identify any conclusions. Although there are many common issues being found at all the locations - it would be fair to say that for any long term improvement to come about, it would need a large culture shift in the desire to drop one's child off as near as possible to school premises - precisely at the same time as many other parents are attempting exactly the same thing. There is a wider context of course which I'd be happy to talk about in person at a later date.</p> <p>Another strand of local matters that were highlighted concerned "Youth Issues" in the area of the Lochan at Firrhill Neuk. Sadly two local youths have been charged with a Racial Incident that happened in the middle of September which was directed towards the shopkeeper of the new premises. Bail Conditions were requested to prevent them entering the street. It can only be hoped this course of action makes it known to the peer group (and those below) that consequences do exist for such behaviour.</p> <p>As for crime on the beat - the list below details in the main, a number of vandalisms for the above period.</p> <p>13th - in the early hours, 15 cases of milk delivered to and left outside the main gates of Oxfangs Primary School were stolen. A vehicle is known to have been involved, however there is not enough information to progress the matter much further at this stage.</p> <p>On the 13th and 14th, windows were damaged at two houses - one in Colinton Mains Road ; the other in Firrhill Drive.</p> <p>On the 16 and 17th , a van parked in Firrhill Drive had a window smashed, whilst a house in Colinton Mains Gardens had the outer double glazed pane damaged.</p> <p>On the 21st, two vehicles, one parked in Oxfangs Avenue, the other in Oxfangs Street were found by their owners with smashed windows. Although youths are suspected in these crimes, no persons have been seen directly in any of them.</p> <p>PC 3034-A David Crawford.</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>	
Ward Councillor's Report Elaine Aitken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Because of complaints received about inconsiderate parking in Oxfangs Bank, PC Crawford and I attended one morning from 8.30am to 9.15am to observe problems. Davy spoke to some of the parents to raise awareness of the dangers and difficulties caused by inconsiderate, and on occasion illegal, parking. 2. I attended the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee to seek a report on the costs of running a de-nesting programme for gulls and pigeons, the latter being a particular problem in Oxfangs. 3. The Oxfangs Care AGM took place on 10th October and was well attended. A talk was given by Mike Forrester on his research work into the Impact of Deployment on Army Families. This was supported by Pentland 	

	<p>Neighbourhood Partnership through Fairer Scotland funding.</p> <p>4. Also at the AGM, I was delighted to accept a cheque for £1,000 on behalf of Oxfangs Care as a donation from The Tryst Quilting and Patchwork Group following their extremely successful exhibition.</p> <p>5. I also attended the South Sub Committee on Standards for Children and Families to discuss a report on Secure Services for Children. The education service received a very positive report which is commendable given the short period of time the teachers interact with the young people (average 5 months).</p> <p>6. I also attended a lecture on why young people offend. This gave the results of a study by Professor McAra conducted over 12 years.</p> <p>7. Unfortunately, the Firrhill Walkabout had to be cancelled because of inclement weather. Tam Nisbet contacted all participants to discuss any issues to be put forward for action.</p> <p>8. A discussion on the Welfare Reform Bill took place at the Area Board meeting on 11th October. Also, new plans for security measures in Oxfangs House were displayed.</p> <p>9. A meeting to discuss the Walkabout Review was held on 18th October. Issues discussed included advertising, flexibility, attendance and lack of feedback. A report and recommendations will be available before presentation to the Council Senior Management team.</p>	
<p>Ward Councillor's Report</p> <p>Eric Barry</p>	<p>Child Care: problem getting children out of Social Work care arrangements and back to their parents.</p> <p>Cleansing Department: moving to a fortnightly bin collection. Expected that with the changes to the current recycling arrangements that less waste will be put into the Council's green bins and therefore the service can be extended to a fortnightly collection. Containers for food waste are currently being issued.</p> <p>Transport: city councillors were offered the opportunity to see the contract for the tram works. The upshot of the situation is that the contract was so poorly drafted that the Council and its Administration is stuck with it irrespective of how high the costs go.</p>	
<p>Winter Maintenance Update</p>	<p>The Chair opened the discussion with a short résumé on the recent publication of the City of Edinburgh Council's "Be prepared for winter" campaign to encourages people to prepare for winter and on what to do during severe winter weather.</p> <p>The CEC's winter weather plans covers roads and pavement gritting, rubbish and recycling, schools and the help available to vulnerable people.</p> <p>The CEC website will have much improved winter weather content, making it easier to access information and links to other organisations. (www.edinburgh.gov.uk/winterweather)</p> <p>It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maps showing gritting routes, salt bins and, when needed, temporary waste sites and salt dumps • a short video encouraging residents to clear snow and ice. • information about volunteer snow wardens. <p>The City Council maintain significant progress has been made on developing</p>	

	<p>the processes for communicating the impact of severe weather on services. This includes the improved web pages enabling daily advance alerts and the extended use of social media such as Twitter.</p> <p>Pavement gritters and other equipment would be dispersed round the city to enable a speedier response to severe weather conditions.</p> <p>The Chair proposed the community council form a working group to produce a comprehensive list of community services/suppliers.</p>	HL
Firrhill Health and Social Care Update	<p>Business case is in the process of going through six committee audit stages before final approval can be given.</p> <p>Firrhill Medical Practice are seeking to retain their own entrance.</p> <p>Discovered that Wester Hailes Health Centre has funding problems but main stakeholders are still seeking to progress the Firrhill joint project.</p>	
PNP Report Funding Panel 19/10/2011 (HL)	<p>All funding applications will be dealt with by South West Area Board office staff from now on. In the past they were sent to Waverly Court to be processed, this should speed up the process</p> <p>Community Grant Applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Nations Christian Fellowship/Gateway Cafe - for paving - £300 awarded 2. Currie Rugby Club Youth Trust - Equipment for grounds maintenance-£4,500 awarded 3. Honorary Bailiffs Water of Leith - for tutorials - £120 awarded 4. Colinton Mains CC - blinds and other furnishings for the centre - £1,055 5. Juniper Green CC - will be used to improve drainage and repair pathways used to access Pentland Hills - £2500 awarded 6. Currie Youth Club - centre repairs -£3200 awarded <p>The Funding Criteria was discussed, hard copy of which was tabled. Members asked for it to be sent electronically so it could be used for future reference.</p> <p>DONM - 1st February 2012 4th April 2012</p> <p>All applications to the Funding Panel were agreed</p> <p>Fund stands at £22,000. New applications should get in soonest as there are still two meetings to be held.</p> <p>Seeking to get £500 to assist funding the Community Council's 'Newsletter'.</p>	
PNP Report SW Area Board 11 Oct (JN)	<p>Allocation Review/Welfare Reform Bill: A review of the City's housing allocation policy has been out for consultation during the month of August. The review covered the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising additional bedrooms for registered foster carers, • Adding waiting points for applicants from armed forces, • Age restricted multi storey blocks • Local connections applications in outlying areas, ie, Ratho, etc. • Use of sensitive lets and matching housing needs to the stock available • Letting policy of mid market rent and affordable housing. Mid market rent is below private rent and above social rented properties 	

Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for under-occupancy – a single person or a couple will be entitled to 1 bedroom and impact of Welfare Reform Bill <p>A presentation was given on the Welfare Reform Bill that has been introduced to Parliament and if adopted will legislate for the biggest reform of the welfare system for many years. Copies of the presentation have been provided for members to read.</p> <p>Landlord Performance: Report on the housing and regeneration performance within the South West area for this year. Identified investments in the area of which two related to the Firrhill ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen and bathroom programme: in year 3 of the programme (2012), 133 tenancies in Oxgangs are scheduled to have this upgrade work done. Oxgangs House: consultation with residents is due to be carried out in December on the plans for installing a door entry system and ground level security; they are looking at 3 possible options. Also intend to look at refuge solutions for the building and repairs to the flat roofs of the external tower staircases. 	
Treasurer's Report (PP)	There have been no transactions since the last meeting. The current balance is £3197.53.	
Planning Applications Report (JN)	<p>See appendix for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 26 Sept to 17 Oct for the Firrhill Ward.</p> <p>Notice has been received that the Council have granted the application for the erection of a monopole to accommodate a Vodafone antenna and its ground level cabinet 38 metres south of 41 Colinton Mains Drive Edinburgh. As indicated previously the applicant has revised the proposal to ensure the development now meets the City Council's standard relating to the width of available space for pedestrians. Still to be recorded in the bulletin</p>	
Correspond/	See appendix {insert number} for list of correspondence received since last meeting	
AOCB	<p>Colinton Mains Community Education Centre: Peggy Wright reported that local Councillors had requested in March/April 2010 that the Council carry out an Audit into alleged discrepancies in Repairs & Maintenance charges at the Centre, but Council officials had not reported back to either the Management Committee or Councillors. She has belatedly received the Report, on request, and will now e-mail this to our Councillors who had still not been informed.</p> <p>Remembrance Day: AH proposed the Community Council should lay a poppy wreath at the memorial in Dreghorn Barracks on Friday, 11 November. AH to arrange permission with the barracks commander for the service to take place. Proposal agreed</p>	AH
Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting	<p>28th November 2011 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The venue will be the Board Room in the Oxgangs 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>	

Weekly Planning Bulletin Report for October Meeting

26 September 2011

Application: 11/02972/CLP for a driveway into property at 3 Oxfangs Hill, Edinburgh, EH13 9JH.

Proposal of Application Notice for:

Ward No. A11 – City Centre: Application 11/03060/PAN for an amendment to detailed planning permission 10/02373/FUL to include office and hotel use within block B of the approved masterplan at 189 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8DN.

Ward No. 12– Leith Walk: Application 11/03106/PAN for a residential development with ground floor commercial space, associated parking, landscaping and accesses at 2-8, 3-11, 15, 17, 19 West Bowling Green Street, 26 Anderson Place, Edinburgh, EH6 5PG.

No decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC.

3 October 2011

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notice:

Ward No. 12– Leith Walk: Application 11/03041/PAN for the demolition of existing steel framed warehouse and subsequent residential development with associated car parking, public realm and commercial space at 14, 16-18 Bothwell Street, Edinburgh, EH7 5PS.

10 October 2011

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices:

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17 October 2011

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposals of Application Notices for any Ward

FCC Correspondence: 27 Sept – 14 Oct, 2011: Secretary

1. f. by Cllr Barry: TTRO for bonfire/fireworks on 5 Nov – traffic barriers and parking restrictions in Oxgangs area.
2. H Levy: request to vote for Oxgangs Care on RBS Community Force website – <http://communityforce.rbs.co.uk/project52>
3. f. by J Napier: amended Oxgangs Community Map.
4. f. by Cllr Barry (from N Tinlin) re proposed Firrhill Health Centre: Initial Agreement Report going to the Capital Investment Group, where approval would allow project to move to next stage, ie, getting funds for Outline Business Case. Report also going to Edinburgh Community Health Partnership (CHP).
5. Scott Neill: applications invited for grants from Community Grant Fund.
6. f. by J Napier: his letter to Council's Ruth Bradford re Firrhill CC's objections to siting of mobile 'phone base etc on pavement in Colinton Mains Drive.
7. f. by M-J O'Brien: BBC News website with info on proposed new 90-bedroom care home in Redford Rd (site of old NAAFI).
8. f. by H Levy, from Steve Whitten, Edinburgh CPH re Firrhill Project (see item 4.): Initial Agreement approved by NGS Lothian Capital Investment Group; Plan will now be developed for producing the Outline Business Case.
9. Sarah Boyack MSP: E-news for Sept., including on-going delays to Sick Children's Hospital, and concern re Scottish Unis' proposed tuition fees for "Rest of UK".
10. Rachel Somerville re Council's neighbourhood services: major programme of service transformation planned on issues such as waste and recycling; feedback being used from developing Community Plans and talking to residents.
11. f. by E Hewitt o.b.o. NHS Lothian: Edinburgh Alcohol & Drug Partnership public consultation on its draft commissioning plan, Commissioning for Recovery (EADP website).
12. Assoc. of Scottish Community Councils – Sept. Online Bulletin.
13. L Richardson: details of first part of NIP's Buckstone Lea project: fence & 3 bollards.
14. J Napier: copy of his e-mail to CEC asking permission to use their logo on Firrhill CC's website as a 'button' linking to info on Council website.
15. Carol Marr, Oxgangs Library: Community Mapping – a week of exploring sustainability in week beginning 7 Nov. (details in library + Firrhill CC's Newsletter).
16. f. by H Levy: NHS Lothian's Health, Social Care & Housing Committee – Reshaping Care for Older People (Change Fund recommendations).
17. Scott Neill: Table of sources of external funding for Sept. & Oct.
18. C Marr, Oxgangs Library: Children's & teen events, October break and Hallowe'en.
19. E Hewitt: request for CC members' views on training & support (questionnaire).
20. Karen Reeves, Parks & Greenspace officer: Biodiversity Grants information.
21. f. by Cllr Barry re proposed work to re-surface middle (from Goodies) Broadway entrance; now seen as a trip hazard.
22. Marie Hitchen: Sustainable Govt. news for October.
23. S Neill: people with disabilities Rally against Welfare Reform Bill on Oct 22 at Ross Bandstand.

FCC Correspondence Update, 15-24 Oct '11.

By e-mail

- 1 Johanna Carrie: Transition Edinburgh Pentlands News.
- 2 Bill Hannah, OHAG re planned community input at Tesco, 9 Nov, 11 am-2 pm.
- 3 Cllr Rust: copy of e-mail to Lloyd Richardson asking for costings re widening road at junction of Oxgangs Ave/Oxgangs Rd North to allow for left filter.
- 4 f. by Cllrs Barry & Rust: notification of Pentland Centre bonfire and fireworks (sent by Parks Events Officer to Fairmilehead CC in error).
- 5 Marie Hitchen: Sustainable Gov, 20 Oct: includes investigation into how Gov can better communicate with citizens online.
- 6 Cllr Rust: update re MOD Review – has written to new Sec of State on lack of clarity and info re situation at the Barracks. Implementation of announcement in July is “questionable” and will probably be Spring before we know what will happen and when.
- 7 Cllr Jenny Dawe: Council Leader’s Report for October.
- 8 f. by Jim Napier: feedback re our objections to siting of mobile ‘phone base/mast on Colinton Mains Drive – Council has approved the application.
- 9 f. by Scott Neill: re group for under-30s with physical disability.
- 10 f. by Heather Levy: Information Bulletin 34 from Edinburgh Community Health P’ship.
- 11 David Crawford: Oxgangs Police Report for October (tabled at meeting).
- 12 Scott Neill: delay in EIT sub-group Agenda (Chair away on business) – meeting brought forward to late afternoon of Monday 31 October.
- 13 Cllr Elaine Aitken: Members Briefing 322 – Winter Weather Report. Website to access city/local information: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/winterweather

By Post

- 1 ASCC’s ‘The Community Councillor’, Summer ’11.
- 2 ‘Working Capital’: mag. for Edinburgh’s Strategic Skills Pipeline.
- 3 Letter + cards to distribute from Kezia Dugdale MSP: request for questions to include in her proposal for a Public Inquiry into Edinburgh’s tram project (by 29 October).