

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 26th March 2012
Held in Oxfangs 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, Oxfangs Police Stn

Visitors:

N Tinlin, Fairmilehead CC Secretary
S Duffy
R McKenzie, LBP, Balerno Police Stn

Apologies:

P Wright; MJ O'Brien; J Rust;
A Hart; G Hart;

Non- attendance:

The meeting started at 7pm . H Levy in the Chair. Welcomed Sergeant McKenzie to the meeting.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute	Draft minutes of meeting held on 27 th February 2012 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by L Linn and seconded by A Hunter. Approved	J N to publish
Matters Arising	<p>Crimestoppers: see under AI's report</p> <p>Sports Pavilion: trying to arrange venue for public meeting in Colinton Mains Church Hall but only periods available for a late afternoon meeting were on a Friday which is considered unsuitable. As this is the most suitable venue it is proposed to move the meeting forward to an earlier time slot. The Secretary will contact the booking clerk for the hall to see if a suitable alternative date is available.</p> <p>Health Debate: copies of the Report of the Debate circulated at the meeting for members to peruse. A copy will be put on the website as a separate document along with the PowerPoint presentation (subject to permission being granted). The report should be available for all to read to enable consideration of any issues that were raised and promote feedback. Cllr Barry reported that he had a number of consultations arising from this debate. Generally felt that the debate had been a success and was a format we should develop and use for other topics in the future.</p> <p>FCC Newsletter: A meeting was held on 1 March in the All Nations Church Café to discuss articles for forthcoming issues. A note of the meeting is</p>	Sec.

	<p>attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>Due to technical difficulties the initial draft of the newsletter has not been circulated for comment – should have it out for this week.</p> <p>BT Phone Kiosk: relates to the proposed removal of BT ‘phone kiosk at Firrhill Dr/Oxgangs Cr because it is in the way of redevelopment, which BT claim is rarely used. Secretary got a quick result on this one and the kiosk is to be relocated in the same area, i.e., near the junction of Oxgangs Crescent and Firrhill Drive. (See Item 23 under Correspondence – App 5)</p>	HL to action
Community Police Report for 1 st – 20 th March	<p><i>Sergeant McKenzie read out PC Crawford’s written report providing further information and clarification</i></p> <p>The breakdown of Oxgangs Police Station and individual Beat incidents for the reporting period are as follows :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Oxgangs – 299</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone - 56</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Beat PF57 – Central Oxgangs - 153</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly - 90</p> <p>There are two main crime related issues to report for this month – the first being a spate of thefts from vehicles at the beginning of the month. No vehicles were broken into, however, the as yet unknown thieves stole insignia badges from each vehicle. A throw back to an earlier craze from the 1990’s when VW badges were removed in huge numbers across the country during the popularity of a certain rap band called the “Beastie Boys”.</p> <p>Since the initial burst of activity which was outlined in a Press Release, there appears to have been no other reported incidents.</p> <p>The second issue is that attempts have been made to break into a number of garden sheds. The culprits have either abandoned their attempts or, if entry has been gained, no items were eventually removed. The streets where this has happened recently are Colinton Mains Road and Terrace; Firrhill Crescent and Oxgangs Farm Terr.</p> <p>All residents should be aware of the adequacy of locks securing their sheds and the value of property stored within. Thankfully, it’s my understanding that the Volume Crime Team are investigating this series of break-ins and have a positive line of enquiry to follow.</p> <p>At the beginning of the month, a house in Colinton Mains Terrace had the outer pane of the double glazed living room window damaged by a stone being thrown. No persons were seen or heard at the time.</p> <p>Although I don’t usually comment generally on such matters, I am aware that a large number of people are likely to know that at the weekend another young person living in the area took his own life. The 32 year old was found in Firrhill Neuk after falling from his flat window. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Enquiry has been carried out and there are no suspicious circumstances.</p> <p>A rather sobering note to finish on, but that completes this month’s report.</p>	

	<p>PC 3034-A Davie Crawford.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Advice on home security including sheds is available from the police station. A selection of alarm devices are also available at reasonable cost.</p> <p>The police have also been running street surgeries at some of the local stores. This initiative seems to be for the purpose of promoting direct contact and exchange of information with the public.</p> <p>AH referred to his previous report on the amount of graffiti that has suddenly appeared in the area. It seems to be getting more prolific and he has photographs of some of it.</p> <p>A full discussion was held on the recent suicide and the pressing need for contact information to be readily available to vulnerable people so that when they are at that crisis level they can reach out for support and talk to someone who understands their problems, their despair and be in a position to help.</p> <p>With reference to item 3 in her report below, EA indicated that she was waiting on a report from the Social Work and would to email information to JN for posting on the website</p> <p>HL will provide a list of contact care groups that deal with drug /alcohol misuse that can also go on the website. <i>Lifeline</i> is a counselling service for adults. A copy of the poster HL created is attached as Appendix 2.</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>AH to pass info to PC Gillanders at Firrhill High School</p>
<p>Ward Councillor's Reports</p> <p><u>CLlr Aitken</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the Scottish Grocers Awards on 15th March, Dennis and Linda received the Industry Achievement Award. The award is in recognition of their influence on Scotland's Independent grocery trade. The Broadway Convenience Store also won the Community Champion and Social Responsibility awards 2. I convened the 2nd Youth Engagement meeting on 21st March in Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre, attended by representatives from the police, army, local youth groups and community centres, CLD and the local Councillors and MSP. Two "blue light" discos have been organised in Buckstone and Balerno with the next to be on Firrhill/Oxfangs. A date is still to be agreed for the football tournament in Colinton Mains Park. One of the long term projects discussed is the opening of a skate park in our area and the consultation for this will start soon. 3. Following the tragic event in Firrhill Neuk on Saturday 17th March, I contacted the Director of Health and Social Care to request that the duty social worker go to the area to be available to speak to residents about the suicide. I also met with Michelle Miller, Chief Social Worker, and Colin Beck, Head of Service, to see what could be put in place. 4. The decision for the requirement for Public Entertainment Licences for free events has been delayed. 5. Members of The Pentland Community Safety Panel will be attending awareness events organised by L&B Police Community Safety Officer to 	

	<p>make local residents aware of the increase of break ins to garden sheds. Shed alarms and personal safety alarms will be offered for sale. These will also be available at Oxfords Police Station.</p> <p>The events will be held in:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tesco, Colinton Mains on Thursday 29th March 10am to 1pm</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Scotmid, Colinton Mains on Friday 30th March 10am to 1pm</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Asda Community Life campaign, Chessington on Saturday 31st March, from 10:00am till 3:00pm</p> <p>6. The Pentland Community Centre Management Committee Refurbishment group is now identifying possible sources for funding for the refurbishment programme for the centre.</p> <p>7. The Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Community Safety Sub Group met on 5th March. The priorities set for our area include a Crimestoppers campaign. Al Hunter will report more fully on this.</p> <p>8. I helped at a Family Breakfast at Colinton Primary School. This fundraising event, organised by the Parent Council, was well attended. It raised much needed funds for the school and helped to foster a strong feeling of community in the school. This is extremely important at this time because of the current deployment.</p> <p>9. The Head Teacher of Pentland Primary School, Pam Mackay, has announced that she will be retiring in June.</p> <p>10. I attended a meeting at Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre to discuss the way forward for the centre when the Manager, John Spence, retires this summer.</p>	
<p>Ward Councillor's Reports</p> <p><u>Cllr Barry</u></p>	<p>Complaints about the noise/vibrations from a plant generator on the redevelopment site at Oxfords Crescent. The generator is left running overnight to provide power for the night watchman however it size is causing vibrations within the steel structure of the nearby building at 83 Firrhill Drive. Complaints have been made to the relevant authorities without success to date – still working on it.</p> <p>At the same location EA advised that the post box has been relocated.</p> <p>Good Companions Planning Application – not opposed to the need to provide accommodation for single persons but has concerns about the lack of communal space in this application</p>	
<p>Ward Councillor's Reports</p> <p><u>Cllr Rust</u></p> <p><i>Report included for information but was not available to the meeting</i></p>	<p><i>Cllr Rust was attending a meeting of the Youth Forum and thus unable to attend the community council but forwarded this report to the Secretary.</i></p> <p>Attended a meeting today regarding the future of Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre and how the Centre will develop over the coming months and years, especially after the retirement of John Spence. It was a useful discussion and there was consensus that the Centre has the potential for a strong future and various ideas will be taken forward by a small working group to the Management Committee.</p> <p>Gullies at Oxfords Terrace have been attended to following complaints by local residents.</p>	

	<p>Oxgangs Path is now on the NIP Budget list for consideration and regarded as high priority so hopefully the overdue resurfacing will take place in the next financial year.</p> <p>Concerns have been expressed to me by local residents about fencing at the Green Triangle and following discussions with Dunedin Canmore this has been rectified.</p> <p>A broken gate at Oxgangs Farm Drive is to be fixed after much departmental to-ing and fro-ing!</p> <p>I have asked the recycling advisory officer to investigate potential for a recycling point at Oxgangs Broadway for use by local residents.</p> <p>Local elections take place on May 3rd to City of Edinburgh Council so it is important that people are registered. The Electoral Registration Office details can be found on the web or through the Council.</p> <p>I had a meeting about preservation of World War One Trenches in Dreghorn Woods and this is currently being considered by various agencies.</p> <p>Best wishes to all for a Happy Easter</p>	
<p>PNP Report: Public Meeting 28 February</p>	<p>Meeting held in the library at Currie Community High School.</p> <p>NP Community Grants Fund: grant awards were made to the following applicants:</p> <p>Oxgangs Care £1,300 to produce and launch 500 booklets of WW II reminiscences, which documents the group members' experiences of growing up during WW II.</p> <p>Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled £4,100 to provide a needs met training programme for the volunteers as well as purchasing riding equipment for the disabled lesson equipment.</p> <p>114th Morningside Scouts £1,536, to help subsidise activities and ensure that all scouts have the opportunity to attend.</p> <p>Fairmilehead District Guides £575, to buy equipment for use by all of the units and financial help to offer a community event to older people in the area to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee.</p> <p>114th Morningside Castlelaw Cub Scout Group £500 to be used to help parents on low incomes be able to send their child/ children to Cub Camps during 2012</p> <p>Firrhill Community Council £500, to develop and produce a newsletter to engage with the local community. As members are aware the newsletter is funded from the Community Council's grant, this additional money is for the purpose of improving the quality of the of the existing product</p> <p>There were two presentations:</p> <p>1. Edinclean - Community Cleanup Campaign</p> <p>Presentation on how new communications technology is being employed to enable greater community involvement in keeping our neighbourhoods clean. With the heading #edinclean – Tweet on the Beat – Spring Campaign 2012, this was a pilot scheme using Twitter to get the message</p>	<p>PP</p>

	<p>out . Also promoting community involvement in spring cleans in their area with support from local authority departments and personnel.</p> <p>2. Partnership Engagement with Young People</p> <p>Presentation on planned spring and summer events being organised within Edinburgh for young people and on schemes that have been piloted for ways to engage with young people. The programme seems to be the result of partnership working between the City Libraries and the Community Learning and Development dept. Presented information on CLD youth and partnership work in Oxfangs.</p>	
PNP Report: Funding Panel 22 March	<p>The Pentlands NP Funding Panel will be the first in Edinburgh to have a devolved budget. Instead of all applications having to go through numerous committees and council offices, the grant budget will be given to the SW Neighbourhood Office to manage.</p> <p>There was only £4 left from this financial year's budget allocation.</p> <p>The allocation budget is the same as last year.</p> <p>Received a request from Scott Neil, Neighbourhood Partnership Officer, asking for the community council to nominate a representative to attend a meeting to discuss arrangements for setting up a Community Partnership Workshop to be held sometime in August. The Chair was nominated to attend.</p>	
PNP Report: EIT Sub Group 12 March	<p>Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Sub Group</p> <p>See attached report (Appendix 3)</p>	
Treasurer's Report	<p>No transactions since previous meeting.</p> <p>Advised that we are now insured with Zurich. The insurance is managed by the City Council and the payment is taken off at source.</p>	
Planning Applications Report	<p>See attached appendix 4 for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 27th February to the 19th March for the Firrhill Ward.</p> <p>A report was given on the planning application for the Good Companions Public House at Oxfangs Bank. (A copy of the report attached as appendix 5.) The Community Council endorsed the actions taken in regard to this application.</p>	
Correspond/	See attached appendix 6 for list of correspondence received since last meeting	
AOCB	<p>Colinton Mains Park/Sports Pavilion: JN complained about gates being installed across the main entrance to the park. The inference being that only persons who were using the sports pavilion facilities would be entitled to use the car park. The Chair advised that the gates were in the original plans and any objections should have been raised at that time. JN did not recollect whether the gates were in the original plans or not. Parking was an issue that has always been raised in particular the reduction in parking space caused by the new building. We appear to have gone from a position of having a car park for public parking to no parking at all unless for organised activities.</p>	

Newsletters Discussion Meeting: 1 March '12, in All Nations Church Café

March Newsletter

Page 1: Feedback from Health Debate (fitting in with sports & proposed Health Centre)

Page 2: Church & School fetes + dates of other community events (up to/including May)

Date of next issue

Advertise Oxgangs Care WWII Reminiscences

Mention PNP funding for next Newsletter + latest NIP project: crossing on Oxgangs Avenue taken off Council list; pedestrian refuge now installed instead. [Earlier NIP projects could be included if space allows, eg, new path/fence at Library; new fence at Pentland School; re-surfaced path + new fence at Cock-my-Lane; lighting through Colinton Mains Park.]

Page 4 : Dates of consultations/meetings; info on Surgeries of MSPs/Councillors

Other items to be fitted in:

Piece on Rev Ian McQuarrie's retiral [PW will do]

“ “ 3rd Rifles being deployed to Afghanistan (impact on community) [HL will e-mail]

Oxgangs Library: re-opening after refurbishment [ask Carol] [Possibly May Issue]

Any Other Items

May Newsletter (current ideas)

Eight Pages: Front & Back Pages in colour; insert in mono.

Front & Back: Firrhill CC Annual Report

“They Think It's All Over”: Report (with photos?) on failings of flood defences [AH will do]

Article on Oxgangs Care Reminiscences

Oxgangs Library re-opening (if not in March issue)

Community Events dates from June onwards

Heather to e-mail blank newsletter template.

If you feel the need to talk here are some useful contacts-

Breathing Space - 0800 83 85 87,
www.breathingspacescotland.co.uk

Samaritans - (0131) 221 9999 or 0845 790 9096
www.samaritans.org/~edinburgh

Edinburgh Crisis Centre - 0808 801 0414
www.edinburghcrisiscentre.org.uk

Oxgangs Path Surgery - 0131 445 1073,

Firrhill Medical Centre - 0131 441 3119,

Local Social Work Office - 0131 313 3366,

Local Councillors - Elaine Aitken- 0131 529 4282,
elaine.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk

Eric Barry-0131 529 3265,
eric.barry@edinburgh.gov.uk

Jason Rust-0131 529 4953,
jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk

Pentlands NP Environment, Infrastructure & Transport Group,

Report on Meeting held 12 March 2012

This meeting was attended by Council officials Mike Avery, Scott Neill, Craig Dunlop and Graham Atkins, and representatives from Community Councils and other community groups. It was chaired by David Bewsey, Colinton Amenities Association (CAA).

Mike Avery, South West Neighbourhood Manager, addressed the meeting regarding the huge portfolio of green space in the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership area, and the need to reduce this portfolio and how the Council maintains it because revenue is in short supply, with severe budgetary constraints on maintenance. Landscape areas should be identified that can be treated in a different way, eg, invest money in habitat corridors; plant ground cover and/or trees to reduce grass maintenance. Solutions should be found that people can live with, so local residents could get involved in coming up with these solutions. This process of change will take years, and some areas may need more investment than others to start with. Re trees: Craig said that the Council now has a planting and maintenance contract for quite large trees as replacements, or for new landscaping features; small saplings were found to be a false economy – they were too easily vandalised, or took too long to grow.

Graham Atkins, Public Transport, answered questions regarding bus stops, and where they are sited. There are around 2,400 stops in the city area; some are still where they have been for many decades, their positions chosen because of accessibility to shops, stations, etc, but in the past 30 years they have been sited for road safety criteria - the first question that must be asked is: "Is it a safe place for a bus stop?" (for bus users and road traffic) – resulting in several bus stops having been moved or removed, as in Morningside. The Council's hands are tied, having to comply with road safety and equalities legislation: stops must be accessible to buses and wheelchair users, so should be where 'bus boarders' can be built and, although every stop should eventually have this, it could mean taking away some stops where this is not feasible. It can take months to have approval for moving or removing a bus stop – except in the case of road-works, where a traffic management meeting can decide on temporary bus stops. Graham agreed that it is very frustrating (for passengers and bus drivers) not knowing where you will be able to alight from a bus, when contractors move the stops on almost a daily basis – then finish the works and leave the main bus stop covered. Regarding buses being turned before their terminus, eg, the No 27 at Firrhill, or the No 16 at Morningside: this is due to legislation covering 'bus blocking', ie, buses of the same No running behind each other. Each bus now has a transponder: Central Control knows where every bus is at any time and, if blocking is taking place, a driver can be told to change to 'Part Route' and turn at a given point.

Other points of interest raised and discussed:

- New kitchen waste bins are blowing on to roads: too light for windy areas like ours.
- Pathways are only adopted by the Council if it was involved in their original specifications and laying.
- Not all areas have personal recycling bins, so are there enough communal ones?
- Safer Routes to School/Nursery/Playgroup: Council looking for community groups to come up with ideas/make decisions in conjunction with schools (advice given).
- Residents' perception of their parking rights v. yellow lines: Fire Master has legal obligation/powers to get tenders unimpeded to any building; Council TIE Committee has final say on yellow lines; it can take 4-5 years to put through a TRO.
- Dog Fouling Campaign: pilot is to take place in Colinton Mains Park.

Peggy Wright, Firrhill CC Rep.

Weekly Planning Bulletin Report for March Meeting

27 February 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Ward No. A13 – Leith: Leith Conservation Area: Application 12/00337/PAN for the construction of approximately 100 new residential units & communal external space plus associated landscaping including the refurbishment of 2 category B-listed gatehouse lodges and works to the B-listed stone wall surrounding the site at 1 - 157 Fort House, North Fort Street, Edinburgh, EH6 4HP.

Ward No. 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: Application 12/00537/PAN for an amendment to Condition 3 attached to Planning Permission Ref 11/00874/FUL, to increase the upper floorspace figure for food retailing from 1,380 sqm (GIFA) to 1,555 sqm (GIFA) at 1 To 77 Kinnaird Park, 1 To 13 Lawhouse Toll, Edinburgh, EH15 3RB.

05 March 2012

Ward 08: Firrhill: Temporary planning application 12/00536/FUL for a temporary telecoms mast already in situ under emergency powers at Craiglockhart Reservoir, Oxbgangs Road North, Edinburgh.

The 28 metre lattice tower was erected in June of last year under emergency powers and is located on land between the reservoir and the access lane to Firrhill High School. This is a retrospective application and was received by the CEC on 21 February. This is apparently for a period of 12 months to enable the Applicant to find a replacement site. Application deemed incomplete as fees have still to be paid.

Ward 08: Firrhill: Application 12/00606/FUL for alterations and part change of use to extend existing flat into function suite adjacent to form HMO accommodation on entire first floor at 2-4 Oxbgangs Bank, Edinburgh, EH13 9JT.

This application relates to the Good Companions Public House and the application was received on 27 February. The proposal affects the use of the upper floor only and is to combine the area occupied by the pub's function suite with the existing flat to form a multiple occupancy dwelling consisting of 16 bed-sits. They are referred to as bedrooms on the plan but as there is no communal living space I would suggest they are in effect bed-sits. The proposed communal facilities consist of a kitchen, 3 shower room/toilets and 1 bathroom/toilet. Application identifies that there are 12 parking spaces on site.

12 March 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

19 March 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Fairmilehead : Application 12/00758/FUL for a mixed use development to include retail, offices, cafe/restaurant and ancillary workshop with adjoining residential flats all with associated car parking, revised access arrangements, ground level remodelling, landscaping and boundary treatment at 44 Biggar Road, Edinburgh, EH10 7BJ.

Proposal of Application Notices for Ward A17: Portobello/Craigmillar: 12/00794/PAN: Residential development with associated parking, landscaping footpaths, open space and suds at vacant site to north of Quarry Cottages, Newcraighall Road, Edinburgh at Site 80 metres northeast of 85 Blackchapel Close, Edinburgh.

Decision on Colinton application 12/00358/LBC: (Listed Building Consent): for the conversion of primary school and build extension to form a Care Home at 2A Thorburn Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0BQ was **granted**.

Report to Firrhill Community Council 26 March 2012

Planning Application 12/00606/FUL: Good Companions

Details from Planning Applications website

Reference	12/00606/FUL
Application Received	Mon 27 Feb 2012
Address	2-4 Oxfangs Bank Edinburgh EH13 9JT
Proposal	Alterations and part change of use to extend existing flat into function suite adjacent to form HMO accommodation on entire first floor.
Status	Pending Consideration

The application was recorded in the weekly planning bulletin dated 5th March 2012. The closure date for comments was the 22nd March. In studying the application and the plan, my reading of the proposal was that the pub business on the ground floor will remain but the whole upper floor consisting of the function hall and the existing flat would be converted to form a 16 bedroom multiple occupancy.

The new Welfare Reform Act will make this kind of property development an attractive proposition. Unemployed single persons who are liable to find their housing benefit cut may be forced into this type of accommodation but what a way to live. Sixteen people sharing a kitchen and no communal space.

I took it that the Community Council would be looking to oppose this application and assessed that it would be better to withdraw our opposition rather than submit it after the closing date. I submitted the following comment to that effect on the 22nd and registered it as from the Community Council.

"I would like to register concern about this proposal, which is to convert the upper floor of a public house into a house of multiple occupancy. In viewing the plan it appears this property will consist of 16 single bedrooms with no communal living space. The occupancy is basically bed-sits where the residents have nowhere to go other than their bedrooms.

The fact that the downstairs is still operating as a public house will be an attraction inducing the occupants into what will appear a more comfortable atmosphere but which they may not be able to afford financially or physically.

It is not known if the Police will make a comment on this application but I would suggest that the Authority should at least make enquiries from them the number of incidents that they have attended at this location

The Oxfangs area is a residential suburb of the City with very little in the way of attractions for young people other than the local pubs and this is the only one that could be put in the category of Public House. To have a situation of a large group of single people living in such conditions is liable to be detrimental to them and ultimately to the community."

I am seeking the Council to approve this action

Jim Napier

Firrhill Community Council Correspondence: 28 February – 18 March 2012

By e-mail: all relevant messages forwarded to members with this facility.

1. Gordon Macdonald MSP: Total from proceeds of crime (criminals' cash) allocated to CashBack for Communities Youth Work Fund now over £7.5m; funds distributed to 641 organisations over all 32 Scottish local authority areas for young people 10-19 yrs at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. <http://www.youthlinkscotland.org/>
2. Assoc. of Scottish C Cs Conference: 18 April, Dunblane – e-registration form
3. Sarah Boyack MSP: Feb. e-newsletter; questioning Gov. on state of NHS Lothian's estate: <http://www.sarahboyack.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/e-newsletter-February-2012.pdf>
4. Gordon MacDonald MSP: People's Postcode Lottery Feb. Newsletter; application process to Postcode Trust for projects under £10k opens 9 Apr; info at: www.postcodetrust.org.uk
5. ASCC re Boundary Commission for Scotland: 6th Review of UK Pmnt Constituencies Secondary Consultation, ends 28 Mar: www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk or contact Boundary Commission for Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, EH12 5HD
6. f. by Cllr Rust: latest official basing review update from MoD; meeting held on 8 March with officers from Edinburgh & West Lothian Councils
7. Gordon Macdonald MSP: Scotland's Independent Referendum Consultation (to 11 May); document 'Your Scotland, Your Voice': www.scotreferendum.com or 'phone 0131 244 4963
8. f. by S Neill: 'Engaging Communities in Climate Change', 3 Apr, The Melting Pot, 5 Rose Str: info at www.talkaction.org Tel. 0207 324 4775 to book a course for anyone developing community activities for climate change, energy-saving, and environmental issues.
9. Gordon Macdonald MSP: March Report for Pentlands at www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info
10. Scott Neill: papers for PNP EIT group meeting, 12 March.
11. f. by Cllrs Rust & Barry: Oxgangs Crescent demolition (for around six weeks) of shops and maisonettes in preparation for Phase 3B of housing regeneration
12. Cllr Barry re Police Street Surgery at Tesco, 14 March (mainly for Colinton/Craiglockhart)
13. Jim Napier: question re missing swing in Colinton Mains Park – forwarded to Scott Neill at SW N'hood Office; replied that it was being ordered up [swing replaced on 16 March]
14. f. by Scott Neill: Edinburgh Leisure looking for young person under 20 to take part in a 'Modern Apprentice' Coaching Education Programme
15. 'Belles on Bikes' Leader wanted; training to create active female cycle ambassadors begins Mar/Apr/May; after training, each leader will be supported to establish a cycling project in their community. Info from amy.hickman@bikeclub.org.uk
16. f. by Cllr Rust, re report going before Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee, 16 March: proposed car-parking charges at Flotterstone are no longer viable; VAT change for off-street parking had not been considered + charges would likely mean displacement of vehicles to other unsuitable areas. Midlothian Council will not be going ahead with a TRO, and it is recommended that Council's TIE Committee do not pursue this either.
17. Cllr Barry: Planning Application 12/00606/FUL re proposal to turn function suite at Good Companions into bed-sits for single people [Planning Report in next Firrhill CC Minute will have more detail – or see Council's Planning website]
18. TRO/12/19 re yellow lines to be painted at corners of Colinton Mains Gardens/Drive and up to new development at Caiystane Court.
19. Council Leader Jenny Dawe's March Report.

20. Scott Neill: Funding Newsflash for March
21. L & B Police Board March Newsletter
22. Eileen Hewitt: latest City Community Councils Newsletter
23. Planning Dept Consultation re request by developers to move payphone at Firrhill Drive and BT's proposal to remove it: various e-mails/'phone calls between Firrhill CC's Secretary, BT, and Planning Dept, objecting to this, resulting in BT's decision to relocate – not remove – this payphone.

By Post:

1. 'Spokes' Newsletter [given to J Napier]
2. ASCC Conference 'Learning from the Past – Preparing for the Future' (also e-item 2): hard copy of details & registration form [given to A Hunter]

Correspondence Update: 19th – 26th March

Email:

1. 'Money Matters' – Network Learning Seminar – Thurs, 5th April, 12.30 – 3.30pm; Wester hailes Education Centre. Two workshops (1) *Welfare Reform - Moving off Benefits and into Work* and (2) *Debt Management – Moving from IB to ESA*. The latest info on matters that may affect your service users. To book phone 0131 529 3730 or email craig.dutton@edinburgh.gov.uk.
2. Civic Forum Meeting: Tues, 27th March, 4/4.30pm, City Chambers
3. Jim Napier obo Firrhill Community Council; objection with comments re planning application 12/00606/FUL (Good Companions).
4. Revised date for CC Elections; October 2013
5. Update re speaker at ASCC Conference, 18 April, Dunblane

Post:

1. 'Health Link' NHS Spring News (for distribution)
2. Hard copy of ASCC Conference papers [to A Hunter]

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

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