# Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 23 April 2012. Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

Members: Ex-Officio Members:

H Levy (Chair)

A Hunter (Vice Chair)

E Aitken, Councillor, CEC

E Barry, Councillor, CEC

P Wright (Secretary

J Rust, Councillor, CEC

PI Podd (Treasurer) D Crawford, LBP, Oxgangs Police

L Linn

G Hunter Visitors:

MJ O'Brien A Hart; G Hart

J Napier (Minutes Sec) S Duffy

Apologies: Non- attendance:

PI Podd

The meeting started at 7pm . H Levy in the Chair. Advised Cllr Aitken would be late attending as she was at another meeting.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner	
Approval of Previous Minute	revious being no corrections, the draft minutes were moved for approval by L Linn		
Matters Arising	<b>Sports Pavilion:</b> the Public Meeting to be held in Colinton Mains Church Hall, Oxgangs Road North, on the 24 <sup>th</sup> May at 3.30 pm. Secretary asked for volunteers to attend half an hour earlier to set out the tables and chairs. It is intended to split attendees into mixed groups with a facilitator at each table to answer the following questions.	HL	
	<ol> <li>How do we see our Sports Pavilion and Park developing in the future?</li> <li>Are there Parking issues? If so, how do we address them?</li> <li>How will the Sports Pavilion engage with the community and the local youth?</li> <li>Who will manage the Sports Pavilion?</li> </ol>		
	Flood Prevention Issues: AH gave a rundown of the working group meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> April. JN reported that the written report from the meeting, which is intended to set out all the issues raised within the Community Council, is still incomplete. He circulated copies of the initial draft to members for their consideration and asked for feedback on what has been written and any omissions.		
	HL to look out a letter she and Stuart Mackay had drafted concerning the		

do's and don'ts for residents adjoining the flood prevention wall. AH reported on the actions taken by Gail Dickson, Team Leader for the Community Safety South West Neighbourhood Area, to meet with Tesco management regarding the removal of their trolleys from the burn and preventative measures that could be taken to stop such incidents.

The Working Group arranged to meet and walk the length of the burn from Redford Road down to Braidburn Valley Park, in order to check out the various complaints concerning the flood prevention works

In discussion it was agreed that we needed to identify who exactly owns the land referred to as the flood plain in Reach 2 and thought to belong to Oxgangs Primary School. As the school is part of a Private Finance Initiative, is it the financier or the local authority and if the latter, which department?

Working Group

# Community Police Report

The police priorities for the period from 5th March to 4th June 2012 has been to:

#### PC Crawford

- Increase Youth Engagement.
- Reduce Vandalism Calls ( OCA figures show a 6% decrease in reported incidents and a 7% increase in solvency rate )
- Increase the amount of intelligence relating to local drug issues.

Noise complaints – responsibility for dealing with these has reverted back to the police as they have powers of entry. Environmental Health no longer have this responsibility.

#### **Statistics:**

Beat PF56 - Fairmilehead and Buckstone - 59

Beat PF57 - Central Oxgangs - 120

Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly – 72

#### Crime:

 $3^{rd}$  – 32 year old male attempted to carry out a robbery at Scotmid. Made off after presenting a knife to a staff member stood behind the counter. Traced nearby – arrested and appeared at court on 04/04/2012.

7<sup>th</sup> – following a disturbance in Colinton Mains Road and a report of a male being assaulted in Oxgangs Avenue – a local 19 year old male was found with injuries. Despite him being the initial complainer, and following enquiries, he was ultimately charged with a number of public order related offences.

11<sup>th</sup> – the owner of a garage sited in Oxgangs Farm Drive found the garage had been broken into and a motorbike and power tools removed from within. Enquiries ongoing.

20<sup>th</sup> – set of four wheel trims removed from a small hatchback car whilst it was parked overnight in Firrhill Crescent.

23<sup>rd</sup> – Vehicle found with its windscreen damaged whilst parked in Colinton Mains Pl around lunchtime on the 21st. No-one was seen or heard.

#### **Safer Neighbourhood Team:**

Supporting local Environmental Wardens with a Dog Fouling Initiative concentrating on Colinton Mains Public Park on Wednesday 25th and Friday 27th April between 0700 – 2100 hrs on both days respectively.

A number of local SNT (including self) officers have been equipped and trained in the use of police bicycles.

#### Items raised:

A recent incident of anti-social behaviour was discussed.

AH asked if any action had been taken regarding the *graffiti* photos he had forwarded to PC Gillanders. No information to hand.

JN referred to an article in Saturday's Evening News on the *Scenes of Crime* that showed Oxgangs as being second bottom of the list for total crime figures. However this was a 4% increase from last year and this was one of the worst areas for serious assault.

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online <u>Giving Information</u> <u>Form</u>.

# Ward Councillor's Reports

# Cllr Rust

Report on the Funding Panel end meeting for the financial year 2011-12 that took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Received a number of complaints regarding the bus service and in particular the No.18. Problems caused by a change made during a public holiday where a number of buses were taken out of service.

Received a number of queries regarding the size of the new Care Home being built in Redford Road.

Restrictions along Redford Road due to road works.

The CEC has agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion *The Rifles* will be granted the "Freedom of the City" privilege. The battalion, which is currently in Afghanistan, has been based at Redford Barracks for 10 years and have families living in the area.

# Ward Councillor's Reports

# Cllr Barry

Police Community Safety Drive – personal alarms on offer

Planning application for new housing development at Winton Drive has been refused.

Planning application for Good Companions – had discussion with applicant.

Licensing Board cracking down on the sale of cheap alcohol but concerned that it is applying more to the small retailers rather than the big traders such as Tesco and Morrison's.

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service – referring to the recent retiral of CFO is concerned that two CFO have now retired from the Service since the tragic death of a firefighter but the fatal accident enquiry has still to be held.

Ward Councillor's	1. I received reports of refuse collections taking place in the roads beside Pentland Primary School when the children were going to school. I have	
Reports <u>Cllr Aitken</u>	asked that no collections take place between 8.15am and 9.15am.  2. The latest Youth Engagement meeting took place this afternoon. The "blue light" discos at St Fillans in Buckstone has been postponed pending clarification of the requirement for a licence. The disco at Balerno will go ahead on 6th May. It was also decided to seek possible locations for a skate park before undertaking the consultation.	
	3. Road Services started routine Gully Cleaning and Jetting in the South West Neighbourhood from Thursday 19 April 2012. This work should last for 9 weeks. In the meantime, any reports of blocked gullies should be reported by way of the <i>freephone</i> Clarence Service on <i>0800 23 23 23</i> and a dedicated vehicle will deal with these.	
	4. Following a number of complaints about dog fouling, I requested patrols by Environmental Wardens in Firrhill Neuk, Cockmylane and Oxgangs Bank, Someone was caught in Colinton Mains Park and Firrhill Neuk was cleansed.	
	5. The Environmental Wardens are also carrying out dog fouling days of action next week in Wednesday Colinton Mains Park on Wednesday and Friday.	
	6. One of the Wardens contacted the Tesco Manager today as he had a look at the burn last night and there were trolleys there.	
	7. At the last meeting, Al Hunter reported that a resident would like to maintain the garden within the grounds beside Oxgangs Police Station. I have arranged for Craig Dunlop to have a site meeting to discuss this offer.	
	8. At the last Firrhill Walkabout, I pointed out giant hogweed on the embankment at the canal and asked for this to be sprayed to stop it spreading.	
	9. I reported that the recycling bins at Harperrig were not being emptied. This has now been rectified.	
South West Area Board	See attached report (appendix 1)	JN
Treasurer's Report	Due to the absence of the Treasurer no report was available	PP
Planning Applications Report	There were no applications or decisions related to the Firrhill ward in the weekly planning bulletins from 26 <sup>th</sup> March to 23 <sup>rd</sup> April. During this period there was only two proposal of application notices within the City of Edinburgh area. See appendix 2 for details.	JN
PNP Report		
Correspond/	See appendix 3 for list of correspondence received since last meeting	PW
	Re Item 1: Community Council Elections: This referred to the notice received regarding the postponement of these elections due to the local authority elections taking place next month. It is in the Scheme for Community Councils that elections for community councillors would not be held in the same year. The Secretary reported a number of community	

	councillors had objected to the postponement. Following discussions it was agreed the Secretary write to the CEC Community Council Officer	
	indicating Firrhill CC had no objection to the postponement.	PW to action
AOCB	Burn Path at Oxgangs Road North: EB reported he had sent a reminder to Marshall Poulton and Tom Dougall regarding the work to be done on the path to permanently resolve the flooding issue. Whilst the temporary fix appears to have sorted the problem, in their previous discussions it had been proposed to install a drain on the path at its lowest point.	
	Newsletter: Chair gave a report on the current status of the newsletter	
	Quiz Night: Chair reported that the FCC team had acquitted themselves well at the quiz night coming third in a contest of 10 teams. All agreed that it had been an enjoyable night. The Chair proposed that consideration be given to organising a similar event with local organisations asked to make up the teams. Such an event would help to build relations between the different community organisations. Suggested that it be held at the end of November. Agreed in principle.	
	The Chair remarked that the only failing of the quiz night had been the lack of a <b>PA System</b> and proposed the community council should purchase a system for its own use and for lending to other community organisations. Agreed to investigate costs, etc	
	<b>Hope/Green Triangle:</b> the Chair reported on the meeting that took place this morning in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre. The target date for the garden opening is the 10 <sup>th</sup> September, which is the International Suicide Awareness Day. The Pentlands NP have agreed to fund an art therapist for the event. Date of next meeting is 21 <sup>st</sup> May at 1030hrs (ONC)	
Date, Time &	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7.00pm.	
Venue of Next Meeting	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.	

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

#### Note on the South West Area Board Meeting held 14 February 2012

## Minute of Previous Meeting (14 Feb 2012) and Action List

Corrected a statement recorded in Section 5 (Community Feedback) attributed to myself and related to the NEP work being carried out in the area behind Oxgangs Ave/Crescent. The work is being done to facilitate off-street car parking and I had previously indicated concerns as to why an area that had been available for car parking for many years was apparently not well used. In considering that a possible reason for this may have been to do with access and egress and I queried whether any consultation had been carried out with St Mark's Church authorities to provide a second access/egress road via the car park at the rear of the church. Andy Wallace advised that no such consultation had been carried out.

Under 'Matters Arising' I queried why the walkabout programme had not been issued as the notion given at the meeting was it would be done in a matter of days. No information available and no indication as to when it would be issued.

#### Action List

- 1. Widening of Belmont Road to allow access with parked vehicles on the street . Andrew Wallace indicated that due to the layout of private property in this street it was not possible to progress this matter. The reference to Argyle Place is probably an error.
- 2. Braidburn Flood Defence raised previously by unknown person that one half of the defence was already away possibly due to vandalism and it was to be investigated it appears that there is a lack of information about where this actually relates to. Andrew Wallace to ascertain where statement came from and obtain more information.

#### Neighbourhood Environment Projects: Proposals for 2012 - 13

South West Area Board covers projects in two neighbourhood partnership areas and their respective budgets are:-

South West (NP6) - £457,000 Pentlands (NP7) - £166,250

A copy of the proposed projects had been circulated prior to the meeting; unfortunately this was after our last community council meeting. The list of projects for NP6 totalled £710.205.01 which was well over budget. The list for the area NP7 totalled £165,864.30 which is slightly under budget.

The proposed NP7 projects that relate to our community council area are:-

Proposed Project		Estimated Cost	Comments
3,4,5 Oxgangs Gardens drying area security fence	606	20,605.61	
Oxgangs Avenue drying area 1	637	22,629,54	
Cock my Lane footpath	639	23,025.61	See note below
Oxgangs Bank footpath	640	6,000	
Oxgangs Car Park lighting	685	40,000	See note below

**Cock my Lane Footpath**: project suggested by the Housing Officer because the current footpath is made from compacted whin chips and sand. This surface is being eroded by the weather and foot traffic. The location is identified as Oxgangs Avenue but I tend to think it is the other end of the footpath at the Caiystanes. Maureen Jarvis queried whether the footpath was on HRA land and it appears that it is unclear who actually has responsibility for the footpath as one side is HRA land but the other belongs to the Parks and Leisure Department. Agreement for the project was held over

until the position is clarified or there is an agreement to share the cost between the two budget holders.

Oxgangs Car Park lighting: this is phase 2 of the project 531 which was referred to in my previous report and it is for the provision of external lighting in the area. This had been previously agreed and was simply for final ratification. The project had been suggested by the residents and the location is Oxgangs Avenue/Crescent. There is agreement the capital funding will come from the Housing budget with ongoing maintenance covered by the Streets and Lighting budget. The provision of lighting to the car park area will improve the safety for residents and security for their vehicles. Phase 1 of the project has been completed.

#### Personal observation:

Whilst in the scheme of things the total budget sum of £623,250 for these projects does not seem a large amount of money I have to wonder if it could not be better spent. It is right that an effort is made to refresh run-down or neglected areas but a fair number of the proposals seemed simply to remove neglected green areas by tarring them over thus saving costs on future maintenance. We are apparently in a time of austerity and therefore have to cut back on labour resources for greenspace maintenance.

One of the projects concerned the footpaths in a residential area known as Longstone Park, where there are walkways from the houses to the streets. The walkways are not deemed to be 'streets' thus they have not been 'adopted' by the Streets and Lighting Department. It is not absolutely clear who is responsible but the Housing Department are accepting that repairs are needed to the uneven surfaces and are accepting the project. The estimated cost is £171,523 and it has been agreed to spread this over 4 years thus only 25% of the cost will be allocated for this next financial year.

It is surely more important to spend money maintaining our city footpaths, irrespective of who has to 'adopt' them, to make them safe for our elderly and infirm citizens and I cannot but help wondering if projects such as this one should not be rated higher than the removal of neglected greenspace.

#### AOCB:

SW Area Board Officers would like to change day of meeting from a Tuesday to a Thursday. Decision deferred to next meeting.

11 April 2012

Jim Napier

# Weekly Planning Bulletin Report for April Meeting

#### 26 March 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Ward No. 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: Application 12/00794/PAN for a 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

#### 02 April 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Ward No. 12 – Leith Walk: Application 12/01168/PAN for a residential development of flats and colony houses at site 35 metres southwest of 132 McDonald Road, Edinburgh.

### 10 April 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

#### 16 April 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh other than the one recorded above for Ward No. 12

## 23 April 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

## Firrhill Community Council Correspondence: 27 March – 13 April 2012

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

- 1) Natalie Hoy, West Neighbourhood and Local Community Planning Manager re complaints from various CCs about moving Community Council elections to October '13, and the current situation from the City Council's viewpoint: the Community Council Scheme is a legally-binding document providing guidance but limited flexibility in deciding the next CC election date, which cannot be in the same year as Council elections. Legal advice is being taken re reviewing the Scheme to avoid future clashes with local government elections.
- 2) Sarah Boyack MSP: e-news for March, including NHS Waiting Times Report.
- 3) f. by Eileen Hewitt Scottish Gov. Consultation on Planning Reforms: 5 consultation papers on various aspects of Town & Country Planning System. Closing date: 22 June. Planning Reform webpage: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/reform
- 4) f. by Cllr Elaine Aitken a) dog fouling initiative in Colinton Mains Park on 25 & 27 April: liquid chalk will highlight every fouled area + a stencil will highlight not leaving dog poo. A gazebo will be set up for handing out bags and info, in partnership with Community Safety and SNT.
- f. by Eileen Hewitt 'Live Well in Later Life': Re-shaping Care for Older People service improvements providing a more responsive service to greater numbers of people; referrals for Rapid Response now being handled by Social Care Direct; patients will be supported at home + there will be increased availability of Physio and Occupational Therapy rehabilitation in the community.
- 6) Graham Budd, SW Office, requesting CC meeting dates to be fitted in to NP Schedule.
- 7) f. by Cllr Barry from Head of Older People & Disability Services re discussions taking place with Dunedincanmore H.A. re purchase of 18 Firrhill Neuk to run Day Centre for older people. We currently have a lower rate of day centre provision for people 75+ than other areas of Edinburgh.
- 8) Various messages between FCC Secretary and Deputy Session Clerk, Colinton Mains Church, re booking hall for Park Public Meeting.
- 9) Cllr Elaine Aitken re abandoned trolleys: Gail Dickson, Environmental Team Leader attended a meeting with Jean Allan, Tesco's Regional Trading Law Manager, who was surprised to hear that rogue trolleys are repeatedly being reported to Tesco with no result (currently 5 in the burn), as the area is supposed to be patrolled weekly and trolleys uplifted.
- 10) f. by Cllr Barry re Armed Forces Community Covenant, a voluntary pledge by Edinburgh Garrison, the Edinburgh Partnership, Jobcentre Plus and Veterans Scotland to encourage mutual support and integration between local communities & the Armed Forces communities in Edinburgh. A Community Covenant Grant Scheme has been set up MoD to fund local projects which strengthen their ties. Applications for £100 £250k to be in by 18 June or 15 October '12. See Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme on Edinburgh Partnership website or Tel Anne Elliot 469 3764.
- 11) f. by Gordon MacDonald MSP re Public Entertainment Licensing changes. The Criminal Justic and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 amended the licensing regime to include free-to-enter events (eg raves), but it is at the discretion of the local authority to decide whether to license public entertain-ment and which types they wish to include. The fee was reduced from £106 to nil prior to a 28-day consultation with recommendations to Full Council at end of April.

- 12) f. by Scott Neill re Pentlands Health sub-group exploring possibility of Healthy Eating Courses (run by Edinburgh Community Food) in this area. Anyone interested, get in touch.
- 13) Transition Edinburgh Event: Sat. 12 May, 2-4 pm, St John's Princes St/Lothian Road.
- 14) Keith Bell, Sighthill, Broomhouse & Parkhead CC re the issue of CCs not having enough time to consult and reply to planning applications: suggests omitting 15-31 July and 22 Dec 5 Jan. from the 8-week consultation period.
- 15) f. by Scott Neill: Community Capacity Building Workshop, including Attitudes to Poverty and Exploring Poverty within the Community: 30 April, 9.30am-2 pm, Carrickvale Community Centre.

#### **By Post**

- 1) Paper copy of Natalie Hoy's letter 1), above [passed to A & G Hunter]
- 2) City Council: Edinburgh Local Development Plan Scheme March 2012, booklet.

#### FCC 23 APRIL MEETING: CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE, 14-23 APRIL, 2012.

By e-mail (forwarded to FCC members where appropriate and read out at meeting)

- 1. f. by Cllr Rust from Ian Craig, Managing Director, Lothian Buses, letter re research exercise into accessibility for everyone in the community now that newer buses in fleet have access for wheelchair users and buggies. Full Report to be on LB's website by 23 April. By 30 April there should be provision for onward travel for any buggy user having to alight to allow a wheelchair on board.
- 2. f. by Gordon MacDonald, MSP: his press release re Scottish FA Community Awards for Best Volunteer in Youth/Schools/Adult/Women & Girls Football. Nominations at SFA website http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/video gallery.cfm?page=3009
- 3. Bill Hannah, Oxgangs Local Health Group: papers for his final meeting on 30 April.
- 4. H Levy: papers for Hope Triangle meeting on 23 April.
- 5. f. by Cllr Rust from SW Neighbourhood Road Services: gully cleaning & jetting from 19 April for approx 9 wks. Report blocked gullies to Clarence 0800 23 23 23, as usual.
- 6. f. by Scott Neill re 'Get On' sessions at Pentland Centre & Leith Community Centre.
- 7. Gordon MacDonald, MSP: notification of his attendance at Firrhill CC on 28 May.
- 8. Mary-Jo O'Brien: info on Healthy Eating Courses (Pentlands NP/Edinburgh Community Food), 6-8 wks for 2 hrs; can be delivered to specific groups; closing date 30 April.
- 9. Cllr Jenny Dawe: Council Leader's Report for April.

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

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