

# Firrhill Community Council

*'Nec Aspera Terrent'*

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 28 May 2012

Held in 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  
R Lewis, Councillor, CEC  
J Rust, Councillor, CEC  
D Crawford, LBP, Oxgangs Police Stn

## Visitors:

F Gurney; S Duffy  
G MacDonald, MSP

## Apologies:

PI Podd; Cllr Rust; PC Crawford; Cllr Lewis

## Non- attendance:

The meeting started at 7pm. H Levy in the Chair. Visitors welcomed.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute	<p>Draft minutes of meeting held on 23 April 2012 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the draft minutes were moved for approval by P Wright and seconded by L Linn. Approved</p> <p>In relation to making the minutes available for public scrutiny the Secretary advised that Oxgangs Library appear to have done away with their public notice board and now keep public notices in a folder. In discussion it was the view that the notice board was an essential visual tool for drawing the attention of library users to such material.</p>	<p>J N to publish</p> <p>EA to make enquiries with Librarian</p>
Matters Arising	<p><b>Hope Triangle Update:</b> Agreed the launch date would coincide with the start of the International Suicide Awareness Week which is the 10<sup>th</sup> September. Art therapists will run a series of workshops for children, adults and the wider community, working toward the construction of a tiled and mosaic decorated sign that will mark the entrance to the Hope Triangle. An application for funding for the workshops and including the provision of a youth counsellor from Oxgangs Care to be on hand during these sessions has been submitted to the PNP.</p> <p>Propose to hold a 'Stakeholders Day' on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 10am in Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, for those persons and groups likely to be involved in the project at some point, so they can get an overall picture of what has taken place, what is intended and discuss their involvement.</p> <p>The minutes or notes for these meetings are to be published on the Community Council's website in order that they are open to the public.</p>	<p>HL</p> <p>JN to action</p>



	<p>Around lunch time on the date shown a male entered the Day Today Store in Firrhill Neuk and was refused service by staff. He then went on to verbally abuse the shop staff. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the male who is believed to have some form of local connection</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> May: Around the date shown, a Specialized make Road Bike was pulled from its secure mounting and stolen from a stair in Oxgangs Avenue.</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> May: 2 Granite ornamental curling stones were stolen from the pathway of a house in Colinton Mains Road.</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> May: During the evening of the date shown, the outer pane of a double glazed window at a house in Colinton Mains Drive was damaged. No persons were seen or heard.</p> <p><b>Statistics:</b></p> <p>Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone - 42</p> <p>Beat PF57 – Central Oxgangs - 155</p> <p>Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly - 74</p> <p><b>Safer Neighbourhood Team:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Update to above :-</b></p> <p>Carried out duties with the Wardens on Friday 27th April between 1000 hrs and 1500 hrs. On the day, no dog walkers needed to be spoken to as each and every one acted responsibly and remove the deposits left by their pet. Areas where dog fouling was found was highlighted by the wardens for removal later. The day was a positively welcome experience with numerous members of the public calling at the temporary Gazebo in the park to talk with the attending staff.</p> <p>Preparations are now in hand with organising this year's Child Safety Day at Oxgangs Police Station. The date for the diary is Wednesday 19th September 2012 and the day will follow the traditional format. Let's hope for a kind day, weather wise.</p> <p>FG spoke about her trauma at being the victim of a burglary at her house and the long term effect such incidents can have on people. EA reported that currently Buckstone appears to be the targeted area with six reported house-breakings in the last month. Recommends that people should follow police advice and take reasonable precautions. The use of devices such as timers for lighting can be a deterrent.</p> <p><i>To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online <a href="#">Giving Information Form</a>.</i></p>	
Ward Councillor's Reports	<p>Cllr Rust sends his apologies for this evening, indicates there is very little to report that the Community Council office-bearers are not already aware of. He attended the meetings on the Park/Pavilion and the Hope Triangle but leaves it to the Chair or Secretary to provide the report. Provides the</p>	

<p><i>Report provided by Cllr Rust and read out by the Secretary</i></p>	<p>following information:</p> <p>Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership is in Colinton Primary School this week. All welcome. It will predominantly be the annual review.</p> <p>There was a fire at the Garrison Church at Redford and the demolition is being expedited.</p> <p>Additional funds have been allocated to Community Centres. CC Secretary is aware of details.</p> <p>There was a meeting regarding the land at Oxgangs Social Work Centre. This is out to consultation.</p> <p>I will initially be continuing on Fire Board, Valuations Board, Economic Development Committee and Jazz Festival Board. In addition I will be on Health and Social Care Committee where I intend to put forward a motion regarding the proposed Health Centre. Will advise the CC Chair re details.</p> <p>Colinton Library will close on Thursdays from October. A motion re this is coming to the Neighbourhood Partnership.</p> <p>Attended Pentland Primary School Summer Fayre on Saturday.</p>	
<p>Ward Councillor's Reports <i>Cllr Aitken</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I received complaints about the time taken by EBS to refurbish flats in Firrhill. I've discussed this with the manager and have resolved the issues.</li> <li>2. I helped at Pentland Primary School Summer Fair which was very well organised and attended. This is an important source of fundraising income for the school.</li> <li>3. The refurbishment plans for Pentland Community Centre are continuing and the Refurbishment Group should be in a position to present detailed plans and costings to the Management Committee in July.</li> <li>4. Following a number of complaints about the recycling collections at Oxgangs Broadway, the bins have been emptied and the location added to the collection list.</li> <li>5. I attended a meeting to consider the plans for the Hope Triangle. An update will be given later on in the meeting.</li> <li>6. I also attended the meeting to talk about the implications for parking etc on the neighbouring roads when the new pavilion opens in Colinton Mains Park. This is also covered in the agenda.</li> <li>7. Heather, Jason and I were at a meeting to talk about a proposal to sell the former Social Work offices and an adjoining piece of green space. Under consideration are plans for social housing and a care home was also suggested. A meeting with elected representatives will be organised to consider any comments and objections made by local residents before any decision is made.</li> <li>8. The meeting to select the projects for funding through the Devolved Roads and Pavements budget has not been held yet. This is possibly because of the election but I intend to speak to officials at the South West Office about this.</li> <li>9. The latest Youth Engagement meeting took place this afternoon. We received reports on the Blue Light Discos. The Balerno event was cancelled</li> </ol>	

	<p>due to lack of ticket sales. The Buckstone event went ahead and was enjoyed by all who attended. Feedback forms were collected on the night and the police will be discussing the suggestions for future events with Margaret Walker. This information will also help to shape an event in Oxgangs.</p> <p>The decision was taken to collaborate with AC Oxgangs on a joint Family Fun Day on 4th August rather than organise our own football tournament. Heather Levy is meeting with them to offer support and our involvement.</p> <p>10. The Pentlands Community Safety Sub Group is meeting on 4th June and any issues you wish to raise should be given to Al Hunter.</p>	
<p>MSP Report</p> <p><i>G MacDonald, MSP</i></p>	<p>Attended Oxgangs Primary School May Fair on 15<sup>th</sup> May and whilst he did not know how much money was raised, it had been very well attended.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Supporting a Private Members Bill on irresponsible parking.</p> <p>Alcohol Minimum Pricing Bill will become law next year and is aimed at supermarkets who sell cheap drink. Taking action to stop the ever increasing cost to the health service and the police in dealing with the results of binge drinking.</p> <p>Committee Work: the franchise for the Scottish rail network is coming up for renewal and the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee has been conducting a review of the service provided by Network Scotland and ScotRail.</p> <p>Mathieson Bakers went into receivership recently. Whilst the company have been taken over by a company known as Prestige Bakers, some of the branches will be closed and that includes the one in Oxgangs Broadway.</p>	
<p>PNP Report</p> <p>Business Mtg</p> <p><i>H Levy</i></p>	<p>Cllr Rust had to stand down as Convener at the end of the last term of office. Convenor will be appointed at the Public Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Report by the South West Neighbourhood Manager on the NP Community Grants Fund. The PNP's budget allocation for 2011/12 was £43,583. The remaining balance of that fund is £4 after all the 2011/12 awards have been made.</p> <p>There will be a series of presentations at the Public Meeting reviewing the work of the Sub Groups and their aspirations for the forthcoming year.</p>	
<p>AGM 25 June</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Chair looking for a theme for this year's annual general meeting. After discussion it was agreed that the theme should be on sport and healthy eating.</p> <p>With our involvement in <i>Youth Engagement</i> meetings as well as the <i>Park regeneration</i> including the new pavilion building, links with AC Oxgangs FC have developed and it is proposed that we seek to sustain that by inviting them to give a presentation on their role and organisation at our AGM.</p> <p>There have been a number of requests to promote <i>Healthy Eating</i> as a topic for discussion within the community. The Pentlands Health Sub Group, assisted by Edinburgh Community Food (ECF) has been looking at relevant actions in relation to this subject. It may be possible to get a speaker from one or both groups to attend and give a presentation.</p>	<p>HL to action</p> <p>HL to action</p>

<sup>2</sup> Over £3,900 was raised (Oxgangs PTA 'thank you' letter)

Park and Pavilion Public Meeting 24 May 2012	A note of the meeting provided by the Secretary is attached as appendix 1. The contractors are to hand over the building to Edinburgh Leisure next week. Stakeholders have agreed to meet six weeks after its opening on the 6 <sup>th</sup> August to sort out any teething problems.	PW
Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre: Update	The Chair advised that she emailed Steve Whitton, NHS, for an update on this project and received a response advising that they (the NHS) are still waiting on the Scottish Government to give them the go-ahead. She was under the impression that this had already been given. It is understood that Gary Todd from HubCo is also questioning this matter.  It was also noted that the Older Peoples Centre will be the relocated to new premises at Firrhill Neuk. It is still not clear what services will be provided by Social Care staff located within building, if any. Has the Social Work department withdrawn from this project and is it no longer a joint venture with the City of Edinburgh Council?	HL  G MacD to find out Scottish Parl's position on this matter.
June Newsletter: Final Plans	A new template has been produced due to problems using the previous one. This has resulted in having to format a new heading for the publication. Newsletter articles drafted by members are being collated and it is anticipated that a draft copy will be circulated next week.  This eight page colour edition has been funded by the PNP grant and is intended to duplicate as our Annual Report, therefore must be issued in advance of our next meeting (AGM).	HL
Treasurer's Report  <i>Report provided by Treasurer and read out by the Secretary</i>	I advise that Eileen Hewitt from Edinburgh Council is renewing the insurance policy for this year through the Council in the sum of £53. This amount will be deducted from our grant around July/August when the balance will be paid into our account.  On 9th May a cheque was paid into our account in the sum of £500. This was a grant received from The Neighbourhood Partnership for payment towards the newsletter which is being prepared for the AGM.  On 15th May the refreshments at the business meeting we held in The International Café amounted to £15.50p.  Our current balance at the Bank is £3044.22p.	PP
Planning Applications Report	There was only one decision and two applications listed for the Firrhill ward for the period 30 <sup>th</sup> April to 21 <sup>st</sup> May. Details are:  There has been a decision on application 12/00536/FUL for a temporary planning application at Craiglockhart Reservoir for a temporary telecoms mast already in situ under emergency powers at Craiglockhart Reservoir, Oxbgangs Road North, Edinburgh. Application has been granted.  Application 12/01192/FUL to form a driveway at the front of property at 8 Colinton Mains Green, Edinburgh, EH13 9AG  Application 12/01556/FUL to construct a disabled access ramp at 60A Oxbgangs Bank, Edinburgh, EH13 9LH.  The decision regarding the application for alterations to the upper floor of the Good Companions Public House is still pending consideration.	JN

Correspond/	See appendix 2 for list of correspondence received since last meeting.  Gordon MacDonald MSP queried if the Secretary had received a copy of his May newsletter as it had not been included in the list.	PW  Sec to check
AOCB	<b>Flood Prevention Issues:</b> There is Insufficient time to debate this item, a copy of the findings of the Working Group has been sent to all members for comment and amendment and is tabled here for discussion at the next ordinary meeting. A copy of the draft report is attached as an appendix.	JN
Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7.00pm.  As this will be the annual general meeting, the venue will be the Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre, Firrhill Drive.	

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

## COLINTON MAINS PARK & PAVILION PUBLIC MEETING

Held by Firrhill Community Council on 24 May 2012, in Colinton Mains Parish Church Hall

### Attendees

H Levy	Firrhill Community Council
A Hunter	Firrhill Community Council
G Hunter	Firrhill Community Council
L Linn	Firrhill Community Council
P Wright	Firrhill Community Council & Colinton Mains Bowling Club
Elaine Aitken	Cllr, City of Edinburgh Council
Jason Rust	Cllr, City of Edinburgh Council
Sgt. Mac Mackenzie	Lothian & Borders Police
P.C. David Crawford	Lothian & Borders Police
Graham Croucher	CEC Culture & Sport
Craig Dunlop	CEC Culture & Sport
Shirley Bowman	CEC Edinburgh Leisure
Mhairi O'Neill	CEC Edinburgh Leisure
John Travers	CEC
Lesley Gallacher	Colinton Mains Church
Brian Lee	AC Oxfangs FC
Jackie Laird	Oxfangs Central Residents Assoc.
Mary McMillan	Lochan Residents
Steven Milne	Local Resident
Denis Williams	Pentland Community Centre Management Committee and Fairmilehead CC

Intention was to have several tables, each with a facilitator, and each to use stick-it notes to write down issues and ideas/solutions. The fairly small number of attendees meant that it was easier to all sit round the one table, with H Levy chairing the discussion.

Issues and discussion re City Council policy to fence in public parks and limit parking spaces:

Fences: these make parks safer for children (Shirley Bowman).

Locked gate: at present, only stakeholder with key is Colinton Mains Bowling Club, in order to access its own gate with essential machinery/equipment for the green. How do others get through the gate? It must stay locked until handover to Council: Occupation Certificate is almost ready. Then the gate can be left unlocked, if the people want that – unless problems arise, then it would have to be kept locked (Graham Croucher).

Parking spaces are limited to discourage use of private/encourage use of public transport – but visiting teams are from all over Edinburgh (or further afield in Scotland) – all use cars, not public transport (too inconvenient) or coaches.

Impact of only eight official parking spaces on neighbouring streets: weekends are when most residents use on-street parking; nearby streets are too narrow for parking on both sides; Oxfangs Rd



North is wider, but has speed bumps; those + parked cars make it difficult for residents with driveways to get out; drivers visiting the park just once or twice a year won't care where they park; police would not lift cars, even from pavements, unless in dangerous positions and obstructing traffic (Sgt. Mackenzie). Colinton Mains Church reluctantly had to put up a 'Private' notice on car park gate, as it was being used by visitors, even on a Sunday morning. No matter how many parking spaces are provided, they would never be enough.

Could car park at St Mark's Primary be used? Not many parking spaces there. Not all parents would be willing to walk round from there (no direct access to park). This might not be possible if janitor had to be on duty.

Why can't the part of the park behind the bowling green be used for cars? – it always was when car park behind old pavilion was full, and this area is never used for anything else. Bollards have been erected to stop vehicles entering the park. What about ambulances? They will not go into the park; stretchers will be used.

Councillors Aitken and Rust will approach the Planning Dept. to find out if they might be more flexible in this case re parking. They will also find out about parking at St Mark's.

Issues and discussion re use of the pitches and pavilion:

Pitches should be open on 4th August for Community Fun Day. Two eleven-a-side football pitches and three seven-a-side pitches set out. Permanent posts to be installed for eleven-a-side pitches, fold-down posts on others; no further development re posts surplus to requirements at Portobello.

Training is not allowed on pitches. But football clubs will be charged for training on public space if they are wearing strips. AC Oxfords not happy that they can't get in to the locked building where their equipment is stored; they must book/apply to Council for permission. A member of C & L staff (from Jack Kane Centre) will be on duty at park and pavilion if any part of the park is booked.

Will local clubs get priority for booking pitches? Can clubs from other areas get in first? Everyone will be treated fairly. The best Edinburgh Leisure can do is a season's lease.

Football Club volunteers not willing to take on management of Pavilion; Jackie Laird had offered to do so years ago but was turned down.

The playing field beside Braid Burn was used by Firrhill High and football clubs/local youths before new Oxfords Primary was built and flood defences work took place there. Who does it belong to now? It's fenced in; nobody is using it or able to use it. Councillor Rust will find out who owns it, and its status.

Firrhill Community Council Correspondence: 24 April–18 May 2012

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

- 1) f. by Cllr Barry: additional work needed on boiler room ceiling of Pavilion re fire rating.
- 2) Various e-mails re proposed selling off of Social Care site for housing, between their building and Oxbgangs Library.
- 3) J Napier: copy of his letter on behalf of FCC to SW Neighbourhood Office questioning the ownership of the two paved areas at 22 & 26 Oxbgangs Avenue.
- 4) Police Board Newsletter, April '12.
- 5) Sarah Boyack MSP: e-newsletter for April '12.
- 6) J Napier: copy of e-mail to Cllr Aitken re four trolleys missed in Braid Burn clean-up.
- 7) H Levy: re 8th May launch of WWII booklet compiled by Oxbgangs Care Older People's Group.
- 8) f. by E Hewitt: Big Lunch Day, 3rd June; info at [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com)
- 9) f. by E Hewitt: posts on National Network of Community Councillors – info on [nationalnetworkccc.com](http://nationalnetworkccc.com)
- 10) E Hewitt: Scottish Gov has formed a short-life working group to look at ways to strengthen the role and relevance of community councils as voices for their communities; written report in summer <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CommunityCouncils>
- 11) E Hewitt: CC members invited to take part in focus groups to develop a new digital service for Parks and Greenspaces (21-23 May).
- 12) Gordon MacDonald MSP re opening of Westerhaven Macmillan Cancer Information & Support Centre for people (and their families) across SW Edinburgh who are affected by cancer. Drop-in service open Tues, Wed & Thurs, 10.30 am to 3 pm at 1 Hailesland Rd or 'phone 0131-442 3126 for appointment. Also: Macmillan Cancer Support free-phone no. 0808 8080000 to talk about any aspect of a cancer diagnosis.
- 13) E Hewitt: May Newsflash – Sources of Funding for community groups and charities: free online database at library no. to log in at <http://open4community.info/edinburgh/Default.aspx>
- 14) Consultation on Integration of Adult Health & Social Care in Scotland. Details and how to respond, by 31 July: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/05/6469/0>
- 15) City of Edinburgh Licensing Board: Variation of Premises Licence Applications.
- 16) Cockburn Assoc., Edinburgh Civic Trust: papers for meeting on 19 June, City Chambers.
- 17) M-J O'Brien: papers for PNP Health & Employment group meeting, 24 May, + notice that, as these are all day-time meetings now, she cannot attend because of work commitments.
- 18) Resident enquiring about possibility of replacing bench on Oxbgangs Brae.
- 19) f. by H Levy: fund-raising social event in aid of Flor de la Amazonian Group, 28 May, Pentland Centre, 8 pm–midnight. [www.amazonianrescue.org](http://www.amazonianrescue.org)
- 20) Gordon MacDonald MSP: SW Edinburgh Community Engagement Event, 29 May, 6.30 pm, at Tynecastle High; facilitated by Lothian & Borders Police and City Council.
- 21) Cllr Rust re road closures in city, 13 & 14 June, for Olympic Torch Relay.

## FCC 28 MAY MEETING: CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE, 19-28 MAY, 2012.

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

- 1 Beautiful Scotland and It's Your Neighbourhood still accepting late registrations: Tel KSB on 01786 477171; web [beautifulscotland@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:beautifulscotland@ksbscotland.org.uk)
- 2 PC David Crawford: Police Report + apologies for non-attendance at our meeting.
- 3 Pauline Podd: Treasurer's Report + apologies for non-attendance at our meeting.
- 4 f. by E Hewitt: Live Well in Later Life: Reshaping Care for Older People; news for April '12 – Intermediate Care; Rapid Response – an update for referrers.
- 5 H Levy: Hope Triangle Art Therapy Workshop notes.
- 6 Public Information Notices Portal funded by Scottish Gov: [www.tellmescotland.gov.uk](http://www.tellmescotland.gov.uk) for Council's Planning, Licensing and General Notices online at this single location.
- 7 M-J O'Brien: PNP Health & Employment group – Pentlands online map being compiled.
- 8 L & B Police A Division Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Public Perception Survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/S/YourPolice](http://www.surveymonkey.com/S/YourPolice)
- 9 Gary Rose: AGM of Flor de la Amazonia, Sat 2 June, Oxfangs Care Meeting Room
- 10 D Webster for Cllr Richard Lewis: will attend our AGM on 25 June.
- 11 f. by E Hewitt: Get Up & Go Awards recognising people and projects that have an impact on our Older Citizens. Nominations: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/getupandgo](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/getupandgo) by 4 Sept '12.
- 12 J Napier: reminder to SW Team that request for info on slabbed area @ 22 & 26 Oxfangs Ave had got no response; asked for review on this request dated 29 April.

By Hand/Mail

- 1 'Spokes' Newsletter [to J Napier]
- 2 Edinburgh Tenants Federation Newsletter, Tenants Voice, May '12

Peggy Wright, Secretary  
[peggy.wright@live.co.uk](mailto:peggy.wright@live.co.uk)  
Tel: 0131-477 4400

## Flood Prevention Issues:

### Report of Working Group Findings

A meeting was held in the Church of All Nations on 10<sup>th</sup> April and attended by Heather Levy, Al Hunter and Jim Napier. The purpose of the meeting is set out in the minutes of the Community Councils last meeting held on 26 March 2012 under 'Any Other Business' and is copied here:-

**Braid Burn/Flood Prevention Work:** *AH complained at the lack of maintenance of the land on either side of the burn and the burn itself. The Chair advised that due to the flood prevention work it was now deemed unsafe for volunteers to go into the burn. The last cleanup had to be aborted because the parks workmen sprayed a weed killer on the plants along the burn the day before and it was considered to be hazardous to humans.*

*The Council agreed we should seek a meeting sometime in June with Tom Dougall and SEPA to discuss problems arising from the flood prevention work and affecting land bordering on to these works. It was proposed that a working group be formed to make up a list the problems and their causes. This action may require a map of the area showing the flood prevention work and the drainage system. Working Group agreed.*

This note attempts to set out the Working Group's observations on the issues that have arisen as an outcome of the Braid Burn flood prevention works. They were discussed at our meeting on the 10 April and during the burn walk carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### Legal Aspects

An unresolved matter is the question of recording, within the deeds of properties, the responsibilities of property holders whose boundaries include the flood prevention wall and of relevant Authorities for the care and maintenance of the flood wall.<sup>3</sup> Unlike most boundary walls and fences, the flood wall will not belong to the occupiers of the property but to the "Authority". It is understood there are certain obligations under law regarding the care and maintenance of the flood wall, drains or soakways, sumps and pumps, as well as restrictions in activities such as the type of plants that can be planted in the vicinity of the wall. Occupiers should have a document covering the issue of liabilities, other responsibilities/restrictions and contact details of a responsible person representing the "Authority" on matters appertaining to the flood wall. The document should contain instructions on how it should be held to ensure it is brought to the attention of new occupiers or tenants to the property.

SEPA have lettered relevant householders inviting them to sign up to their 'Floodline' direct warning service. This service notifies those who register when a river flood warning is issued for this area, thus giving people a chance to prepare and protect their property and reduce potential damage. *Is there any arrangements for the regular updating of this service to ensure new tenants/occupiers are similarly invited?*

### Environmental Issues:

For continuity purposes we have used the Contractor's names<sup>4</sup> for each section of the works, i.e.:-

- Reach 1 – Colinton Mains Primary School to the bridge at Colinton Mains Drive
- Reach 2 – between the bridges at Colinton Mains Drive and Oxbgangs Road North.
- Reach 3 – Firrhill Crescent to the bridge at the east end of Firrhill Drive

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<sup>3</sup> referred to in Minutes of Meetings 24 March 2009 and Annual General Meeting 27 June 2011

<sup>4</sup> referred to in Minute of Meeting 24 March 2009

- Reach 4 – Bridge at the east end of Firrhill Drive to Greenbank Crescent
- Reach 5 – Works within the south corner of Braid Burn Valley Park

## Reach One

The Working Group have not identified any issues specific to this part of the flood prevention works at this time. In our discussions we assumed Reach One started at Redford Road and this was to be the starting point for the burn walk referred to in the report (as it turned out we actually started at the other end – Oxbgangs Ave and have still to cover this section).

## Reach Two

Along this Reach and the next there are areas of ground saturation that appear to be more extreme than normal. We have concerns this has been caused by the flood prevention works interrupting the natural drainage of ground water into the burn and consider this may be a major problem that needs to be examined, in particular for the residential premises referred to later in the report. The Working Group also believe that in order to have a record and enable proper discussions to take place with relevant authorities, there is a requirement to obtain a detailed map of the pre-existing underground drainage system and the more recent underground workings related to the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme and Scottish Water's underground reservoir tank<sup>5</sup> in Colinton Mains Park.

In addition the following items were discussed at the meeting.

The south side of the burn, known as the Bridal Path, was to be developed as a wild meadow and secure from general trespass. On completion of the initial works to construct the flood wall, this area was restored and presented a landscaped grassy area for further development.

Local consultations and meetings took place in 2009 on the development of a landscape design that would be fit for purpose and ensure it complemented other works/ plans that are in progress or about to commence. The aspiration is that the landscaping should not only enhance the immediate local area but link into the wider community, e.g., Pentland walk way, the Firrhill Community Garden, The Lochan and Braid Burn Valley.

However the initial landscaping was destroyed by heavy plant and vehicles using it as an access route to carry out additional works required at the rear of nos. 2 & 4 Colinton Mains Road. *We want to know what action is being taken to repair this damage and complete the landscape designs previously approved?*

A metal gate is fitted at the Colinton Mains Drive end but is not secured. On inspection it was noted that whilst the gate does close, it has dropped preventing the sliding bolt from properly locating in its keeper. The hinges are adjustable thus this problem should be easily sorted. Action is needed to realign the gate and provide a padlock for security. *We want to know what arrangements are in hand to complete this work and secure the gate, including who will hold the keys.*

A public footpath runs along the north side of the burn and work has been done here since the completion of the flood prevention works to improve the public safety. A chicane barrier was installed during the original works at the paths entrance exit at Colinton Mains Drive. At the request of the Community Council a second chicane barrier has been installed near to the junction with the Colinton Mains Green path to slow down cyclists on the main pathway.

The regular flooding problem at the bottom of the ramp at the east end of the path, caused by poor construction design, has also been resolved by the digging of a ditch from the edge of the path through the raised embankment so that rain water runs off into the burn. Whilst this action was suggested by the Community Council and we are satisfied with the outcome (providing it is maintained), there is a conception that it was to be a temporary measure. *We want to know if it is intended to carry out further works at this location.*

Behind the east end of the path is an area of ground designed to act as an overspill flood plain for the burn. The land is bound by the burn itself, raised embankments at the rear of Colinton Mains

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<sup>5</sup> referred to in Minute of Meeting 25 January 2010

Green and Oxfangs Primary School and a flood wall along Oxfangs Road North and is enclosed by a high fence. Its purpose is to enable excess water in the burn to overflow into this site reducing the risk of flooding built up areas.

The land's use was formerly a playing field and this is liable to continue but it has been noted that areas of the ground remains saturated with water long after each rainfall. The water is not coming from the burn but from rainfall and results in large pools forming across the surface area. It is also a concern that excess water from this area may be attributing to the ground saturation problems experienced by the low level houses in Oxfangs Road North and Firrhill Crescent close to the reconstructed bridge between the two Reaches.<sup>6</sup> *We want to know if the natural ground drainage from this land into the burn has been affected by the flood prevention works and if so, what steps can be taken to reduce the saturation level.*

The Working Group believes this land to be designated community land and as such should be accessible to the community. With this in mind we are suggesting that the fence erected to stop access onto this land be removed. As it has been vandalised several times since it was erected this should benefit the public purse. In place of the fence consideration should be given to the planting trees and shrubs which may soak up some of the excess water lying in this area and improve its condition for community use. *We want to know who owns and manages this area of land?*

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## BURN WALK

There are a number of drainage outlets to the burn from drainage pipes underneath the playing field. There is also a drainage outlet into the burn at the rear of Nos. 2 – 8 Colinton Mains Road. *We would like to know where these underground pipes are running from?*

There is also an overflow pipe running over the floodwall at the rear of Nos. 2 & 4 Colinton Mains Road. This appears to come from a sump and pump house built in the rear garden of those properties. It is understood that there are other pumping stations in the near vicinity. *We want confirmation that these pumping stations have been connected to the electrical supply and would like information on their future maintenance.*

## Reach Three

The short stretch between the bridges at Oxfangs Road North and Firrhill Crescent, where the Braid Burn changes its course lies between Reach 2 and Reach 3 and it is in this area that major flood prevention works were carried out. The burn is contained in a narrow channel between two high flood walls with major underground drainage works on either side. The front and rear gardens of the properties in Oxfangs Road North and Firrhill Crescent referred to above are all reported to have saturation problems which have increased since the flood prevention work was carried out. *We want to know if the Authority has a record of those properties affected by the flood plain and what arrangements are being made to resolve this problem.*

Occupiers of the cottages on the corner of Firrhill Drive and Firrhill Crescent were concerned at the loss of privacy caused by the raised pathway running behind their property. The pathway was raised as a result of flood prevention work. Action was taken to plant a screening hedge of fast growing leylandii trees at the rear of the cottages. An unfortunate consequence of this work, which was carried out without notice to the community council, was to destroy the bulb planting work carried out by local volunteers and school children by digging up hundreds of the bulbs that were planted in this area. *In order to show that the work carried out by local volunteers was not in vain, the Working Group consider that the city council should be asked to repair the damage done by replacing the bulbs.*

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## BURN WALK

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<sup>6</sup> Is this possible with the flood wall along Oxfangs Road North from the bridge to the primary school?

Between the bridges at Firrhill Crescent and Firrhill Drive there is a raised embankment on the road side of the burn, the other side is predominately Colinton Mains Park, another designated overspill area.

On the Park side of the burn there is a single outlet followed by a bank of three outlets adjacent to St Mark's Primary School. New drains were noted in the school playground in close proximity and it is assumed the outlets serve those drains. *This needs to be checked.*

From the central footbridge into the Park and the bridge at Firrhill Drive there are 3 new drainage outlets on the raised embankment side of the burn between and the footbridge to Colinton Mains Park. The first one after the footbridge is the outlet for two new large drains in the road gully in Firrhill Drive. It is not clear where the drains for the other two outlets are located.

*For our records and to enable full discussions now and in the future, can we be provided with a plan showing the layout of the underground drainage system on both sides of the burn including the location of any relevant inlets as well as the outlets?*

## Reach Four

We believe the Lochan overspill pond is owned and maintained by Dunedin Canmore and not Scottish Water. *Can we have this confirmed?*

There is a fenced of area at the back of Greenbank Road that forms a corridor of land that runs from the Green Triangle to the bridge at Oxfangs Avenue/Greenbank Crescent. *We would like to know if*

- a) *this is this a designated wildlife corridor;*
- b) *who is the landowner; and*
- c) *who holds the key for this area?*

## BURN WALK

On the east side of the burn there is a new drainage outlet at the bridge at Firrhill Drive and a further 6 new drainage outlets at the Greenbank end of this stretch.

No drainage outlets were note on the path side of the burn with the exception of one original pipe which is located on the opposite side from the single outlet referred to above. Also on this side is the two-way drain for the Lochan. There is a possibility that drainage on this side of the burn empties into the Lochan rather than the burn. *This needs to be checked.*

There are at least three large manhole covers on the grassy area of the path side of the burn that runs from Firrhill Neuk to Oxfangs Avenue. No drainage outlets were noted in proximity to these covers and other than the covers are new it is not known if they relate to the drainage system for the area or not.

Four large drains have been constructed on the north side of the road gully on the bridge at Oxfangs Avenue. Water entering the drains here would seem to flow through a culvert in the bridge works to exit on the south side of the bridge into the burn. The large capacity of the drainage area suggests heavy flooding is anticipated at this point.

There is also another drain nearby just inside the fenced of area on the north side of the bridge. It is not clear if this is linked or forms a separate drain. Also in this area but running to an outlet on the fence is a flood suction main.

*For our records and to enable full discussions now and in the future, can we be provided with a plan showing the layout of the underground drainage system on both sides of the burn including the location of any relevant inlets as well as the outlets?*

*We would like to know the purpose of the flood suction main?*

## Reach Five

This area was not discussed by the Working Group.

## **General**

The dumping of items and in particular Tesco trolleys continues to present an eyesore to those who use the burn path for recreational purposes. There is a need for some arrangements for the care and maintenance of the burn and its embankments. An attempt last year to arrange for local volunteers to spend a day carrying out a cleanup was abandoned for health and safety reasons after it was discovered the Parks Department had sprayed a weed killer along the embankments. The Working Group considered that there is a need to determine in conjunction with those who are responsible for the various sections the arrangements for maintaining the burn itself, its banks and landscaping.