

# Firrhill Community Council

*'Nec Aspera Terrent'*

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 23 July 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:**

**Apologies:**

MJ O'Brien; S Duffy; E Aitken; J Rust; R Lewis.

**Non- attendance:**

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

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
<b>Approval of Previous Minute</b>	Draft minutes of the annual general meeting held on 25 June 2012 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the draft minutes were moved for approval by G Hunter and seconded by A Hunter. Approved	J N to publish
<b>Matters Arising</b>	<p><b>Hope Triangle – Art Therapy Workshops:</b> These workshops were run by art therapists, Francesca Shaw and Heather Tuffery, and held on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre. Whilst three of the sessions were reasonably well attended, the first workshop for special referrals did not receive the attendance expected. Proposing to rearrange this session to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p><b>Sports Pavilion – Opening Day:</b> taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> August from 11am till 1pm. Advertised as a community fun day along with AC Oxgangs FC. The Volunteer Centre, Edinburgh Leisure and Oxgangs Care are all anticipating having stalls. AC Oxgangs organising a football tournament.</p> <p>The opening ceremony will be performed by our local councillor, Richard Lewis, who is also Convenor of the Culture and Leisure Committee.</p> <p>Purpose of the event is to support the youth engagement initiative that is being led by the Police. A questionnaire will be handed out to young people at the event in order to capture their thoughts on what they see as worthwhile ideas for development in the area.</p>	HL

<p><b>Community Police Report</b> <b>PC D Crawford</b></p>	<p>The Station's priorities are as stated in the previous minutes.</p> <p><b>Crimes of note throughout this reporting period</b></p> <p>In the early hours of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the alarm was activated at St. Mark's Nursery. On police attending, a window was found broken and muddy footprints within. A search of the area along with a police dog proved negative. Nothing was stolen.</p> <p>Between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> – 3 cars were damaged in the Firrhill Drive area by having yellow paint sprayed onto various windows.</p> <p>Also on the 4<sup>th</sup>, whilst its owner was inside the Chip Inn in Oxfangs Road North, a Specialised Mountain Bike was stolen whilst left insecure outside. Follow up enquiry being done re possible CCTV showing the theft.</p> <p>On the 9<sup>th</sup> it was reported that 2 purses were stolen by an unknown person who entered an insecure house in Greenlaw Rig. No-one was seen or heard with the theft being discovered some time later.</p> <p>On the 12th, a male was found to have entered an insecure house in Colinton Mains Road and made off when confronted by the occupier. A short time later, an elderly lady was distracted whilst doing her garden and later found money and jewellery stolen from within her house in Colinton Mains Drive. Whilst a search was being made of the area, a male made off from police and was detained. He has been charged with both of these incidents.</p> <p>On the same date, a sweet toothed thief stole a quantity of rolls and cakes left outside Scotmid after being delivered. Enquiries are ongoing to trace a male whose image was captured on the shop's CCTV.</p> <p>Also on this date, whilst two members of staff were carrying out work within Pentland primary school during the holidays, persons unknown have been within the school and stolen a quantity of money.</p> <p>Finally on this date, officers of the Volume Crime Team attended a local address and detained a male there suspected of being involved in a large number of bike thefts dating back to 2011. After enquiries, this local male was charged with a total of 27 separate thefts of bikes from various locations in the Oxfangs area and beyond. This is on top of another two local males being charged with similar amount of the same crime.</p> <p>In the early hours of the morning on the 21st, the occupier of a house in Colinton Mains Grove had a rude awakening when finding an unknown male in his living room. This person, who'd got in via an open kitchen window, made off with a small amount of property which was recovered by a police dog nearby. Despite a large search of the area, the culprit made good his escape after the tracking dog lost his scent.</p> <p><b>Road Traffic Matters</b></p> <p>Reports had been received re the state of the manhole cover at the junction of Oxfangs Avenue and Rise which is usually dislodges after heavy rainfall. The roadway had also been breaking up. It has now been fully repaired.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>JN indicated that he had phoned 'Clarence' re the state of a manhole in Colinton Mains Drive near the junction with Colinton Mains Terrace and on the pedestrian crossing. The road surface had broken up round the manhole causing it to bounce every time a vehicle drove over it. As this was where the Drive had flooded on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> there was a possibility the damage was also caused by the heavy rainfall.</p> <p><b>Speed Detection Device:</b> The Chair advised that a request had been received from Balerno Police Station for a £500 donation towards the purchase of one of these devices for use in the area.</p> <p>After a short discussion it was agreed that the Community Council neither agreed with, nor had the funds to support, such a request. (<i>see also – Treasurer's Report</i>)</p> <p><b>Statistical Report</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beat PF57 – Central Oxfords</td> <td>153</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly</td> <td>82</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Items raised by Members:</b></p> <p>Anti-social noise problems occurring in Firrhill Neuk caused by youths and drunks. Problem is partly weather-related and a result of people sheltering under the overhang of the building above the ground floor shops. Youths kicking a ball against the metal shutters for the empty shops and drunks shouting at each other create a late night disturbance for the families living in the flats above the shops.</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>	Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone	55	Beat PF57 – Central Oxfords	153	Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly	82	<b>Chair to action</b>
Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone	55							
Beat PF57 – Central Oxfords	153							
Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly	82							
<b>Ward Councillor's Reports</b>	No reports available. Apologies received from all three Councillors for their absence, which were due to being away on holiday, personal and family illnesses.							
<b>Local Flooding Report</b>	<p>The Chair gave a report on her observations of the flooding in and around Colinton Mains Park that was caused by the torrential rainfall over the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July and put the new flood prevention measures to the test.</p> <p>There followed a lengthy discussion on the event and the Community Council came to the following conclusions:</p> <p>1) There were no reports of property being damaged although a few householders were concerned enough about this possibility to take some preventative measures. There is pictorial evidence of one car sitting in flood water in Firrhill Drive but it is not known if it sustained any damage. Other than Firrhill Drive, the flooding appears to have been contained within the designated overspill areas within Colinton Mains Park and the open space behind Colinton Mains Green. Both being turned into miniature lakes for a period of time with the overspill of water from the burn. It was also noted that once the torrential downpour ceased the flooding disappeared within the space of a day although the ground has</p>							

	<p>remained saturated.</p> <p>There are concerns that the construction of the flood walls along the Braid Burn prevent the natural drainage from the ground on either side off the burn and as a result gardens are becoming permanently waterlogged. However we lack evidence in the form of residents' written complaints to support this.</p> <p>2) Some members were surprised that having signed up to SEPA's Floodline direct warning service in 2011, they received no warnings from the agency. Secretary to ascertain if any alerts were issued by SEPA during the course of this period.</p> <p>3) Whilst the Community Council have still to debate and approve its draft report on Flood Prevention Issues (28 May 2012) it was agreed to progress one of the issues raised in the draft that concerned the legal aspects applicable to the owners and occupiers of properties bordering on to the flood wall.</p> <p>There is a need to determine if there is any legal duty on the part of such occupiers and property owners in respect of the care and maintenance of the wall and if so if that responsibility needs to be recorded in the deeds of such properties for future occupiers. At the very least there is a need for such owner/occupiers to have available the contact details of the relevant responsible person of such Authorities who have statutory responsibilities for the flood wall.</p> <p>4) In respect of the flooding in Firrhill Drive it was noted that whilst large drains have been installed at this location, they drain into the burn through the flood embankment. As a consequence the street will remain flooded for as long as the level of the water in the burn is above the level of the sluice valves at the burn end of the drain pipes.</p> <p>5) Overall the Community Council consider that the flood prevention works did achieve its aim in that no structural properties in the area were damaged by flooding from the Brain Burn or as a consequence of its construction (as far as we are aware).</p>	<b>Sec to action</b>
<p><b>Firrhill Health Centre Update</b></p>	<p>The Chair gave a report on the Project Steering Group meeting held by Edinburgh Community Health Partnership this afternoon.</p> <p>Reported that the Scottish Government Health Department approved the initial agreement for this project on 6th June. There is now a wait for the Blackburn Project to be approved in September before work can commence on the Outline Business Case proper for the bundled health centre projects consisting of Muirhouse, Blackburn and Firrhill. In the meantime it is intended to commission Hubco to conduct some initial feasibility work that can inform future work on the business case.</p> <p>The main issues reviewed and discussed at the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the accommodation brief</li> <li>- the draft design statement</li> <li>- the initial feasibility study</li> <li>- the Oxgangs lease</li> </ul> <p>We should know by October 2012 if all three projects have been approved and the current projected completion date is 2015.</p>	

<p><b>Consultation on Proposed CER Bill</b> <b>(Scot Gov)</b></p>	<p>Due to lack of time to fully debate the consultation questions on the Scottish Government's proposed <i>Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill</i> it was agreed to defer it to a special meeting. Two dates were proposed the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10.am. Venue would be the Cafe in the Church of All Nations (subject to availability).</p> <p>Members asked to forward their views to the Secretary, so that they can be collated and circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> <b>P Podd</b></p>	<p>There have been no transactions this month.</p> <p>There are two payment pending, one for transport and one for AGM catering. We await the invoice for the latest newsletter which will be settled when this is received.</p> <p>The current bank balance stands at £2813.22p</p> <p><b>Request for Support - Oxgangs Police Child Safety Day:</b></p> <p>A request for a donation towards the cost of running the above event, to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September has been received from Inspector Dolan. The Community Council have in the past given a donation towards this event.</p> <p>It was pointed out that whilst the event itself is wholly supported by the Community Council, a donation of £100 is a substantial part of our £600 grant for our running costs. Considering our commitment to issue a quarterly newsletter, which currently costs more than the annual grant, it is an unaffordable request.</p> <p>After a lengthy and vociferous debate it was agreed that the Secretary respond to Inspector Dolan, indicating that whilst we support the event and wish it every success, that the Community Council was not in a position to make a donation.</p>	<p>PP</p> <p>Sec to action</p>
<p><b>Planning Applications Report</b></p>	<p>See appendix 1 for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 25<sup>th</sup> June to 16<sup>th</sup> July for the Firrhill Ward.</p>	
<p><b>Oxgangs/Lochan Tenants Association</b></p>	<p>The Chair reported that she had been invited to attend a meeting of this association on the 27<sup>th</sup> June and welcomed the opportunity to build on our previous relations with the group. The Association meeting was well attended and also showed that ethnic minority residents were keen to become involved in community activities. In discussion it was proposed the Association and the Community Council to holding a joint International Burn's Night sometime in January 2013.</p>	
<p><b>Correspond/</b></p>	<p>See appendix 2 for list of correspondence received since last meeting. If anyone would like to see any of the listed correspondence, they should contact the Secretary.</p>	
<p><b>AOCB</b></p>	<p><b>Sheltered Housing - Communal Garden:</b> this refers to the garden located within the site of the pensioners' cottages next to the Police Station on Oxgangs Road North. The communal garden has been neglected for a long time and has become a real eyesore. A local resident offered to plant out the garden and look after it but asked for it to be rotavated and fresh top soil put on. This was agreed by the City Parks Department, who are responsible for its upkeep, but to date no action has been taken.</p>	<p>Sec to</p>

	<p>Agreed that the secretary write to Craig Dunlop and ask for the matter to be progressed.</p> <p><b>Legionnaire's Disease:</b> In view of the recent outbreak of this disease, AH raised a concern about large quantities of steam that vented from a pipe on the roof of a building on the Firrhill School Campus and, depending on the wind direction, was blown into the louvres of what could be a cooling tower. Agreed the Secretary would write to the City Council, informing them of our concerns and asking for re-assurance that there is no risk to the children from this situation.</p> <p><b>Community Council Website:</b> notification was received via the website from Mary Cockburn, who represents Edinburgh Tenants Association, that her organisation are unable to access minutes of our meetings and asking us to look into the problem.</p> <p>A number of checks were carried out with no fault being found. The website builder was contacted and their support service were also unable to identify any fault. Their response indicates that they think the issue this user is having relates more to the set-up on their computers regarding Acrobat Reader rather than our website.</p> <p>Without more information from the complainant the matter cannot be progressed any further. Members are reminded that if they have any problem accessing the website or any part of it to notify Jim Napier.</p>	<p><b>action</b></p> <p><b>Sec to action</b></p> <p><b>JN</b></p>
<p><b>Date, Time &amp; Venue of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>27<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The venue will be the Board Room in the Oxfangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk. The Board Room is not able to accommodate many visitors thus the Council are asking those who wish to attend to advise the Secretary beforehand.</p>	

The meeting ended at 9pm

## Weekly Planning Bulletin Report for July Meeting

25 June 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh:

Ward 09 – Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart: Proposal of Application 12/02066/PAN for planning permission in principle for proposed **new secondary school** and associated facilities and ancillary development at site 57 metres southeast of 55-63 Dundee Street, Edinburgh.

02 July 2012

Application 12/02163/CLE for a certificate of lawfulness for the formation of a **driveway at 2 Oxgangs Farm Loan**, Edinburgh, EH13 9QD

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

Ward 07 – Sighthill/Gorgie: 12/02247/PAN: Proposed **student residences redevelopment** 396-400 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh at 396, 398, 400, 410 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2RN.

Ward 11 – City Centre: World Heritage Site / Listed Category: A / New Town Conservation Area: 12/02263/PAN: Alterations and change of use of 1-5 Baxter's Place to **licensed hotel** at 1 - 5 Baxter's Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3BD.

No decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

09 July 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

16 July 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices:

Ward No.07 – Sighthill/Gorgie: Proposal of Application 12/02247/PAN – see above.

Ward No.14 – Craightinny/Duddingston: Proposal of Application 12/02276/PAN for a **residential development of colony housing and flats** including roads, landscaping and pedestrian connections at land 137 metres south of 52 Albion Road, Edinburgh.

Ward No.17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: Proposal of Application 12/02468/PAN covering existing factory unit with single storey offices. **Applicant is seeking to move various departments of City of Edinburgh Council into building.** This will mainly involve the passenger operations team for predominantly mini bus parking in existing exterior car park and new parking inside warehouse. The gates are to be widened slightly and some additional lighting in exterior car park. The Warehouse is to be divided to create metal/woodworking workshop at 2 Peffer Place, Edinburgh, EH16 4BB.

## Firrhill Community Council Correspondence: 26 June – 15 July, 2012

1. f. by H Levy: Cllr Rust's request for deputation to CEC Health, Social Care & Housing C'ttee re Firrhill Health & Social Care Centre.
2. Dr Andy Edwards, SW Office: spreadsheet re Ward 8 Neighbourhood Environments Projects.
3. Cllr Rust: copy of note to SW Office that 'Meet the Funders' events are never in Pentlands area.
4. Gordon MacDonald MSP: July Newsletter.
5. H Levy: confirmation of Community Sports & Fun Day + official opening of Pavilion – Colinton Mains Park, Sat 4 August, 11 am to 1 pm.
6. f. by Cllr Rust: CSV Action Earth 2012 'Grab a Grant' – re grants available for environmental projects by volunteers. Info at <http://actionearth.csv.org.uk> or Tel Robert Henderson on 222 9083.
7. f. by E Hewitt: Scottish Voluntary Sector Resilience Seminar, 24 September, Victoria Quay;  
Tel: 244 2040 (Mon – Wed)
8. Edinburgh Community Health Partnership: Discharge Planning Survey if you have been in hospital in the past year: Survey Monkey Link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GMWR252>
9. f. by E Hewitt: Scottish Older People's Assembly, 2 Nov, 10.30 am – 4 pm in Edinburgh International Conference Centre. To book or for info Tel Anne Elliot on 469 3764.
10. Community Empowerment & Renewal Bill (Scot Gov) responses deadline extension to 26 Sept
11. A Division Police (Balerno) re Speed Detection Device.
12. H Levy: photos of flooding in Firrhill/Oxgangs
13. f. by H Levy: Firrhill Project (Health & Social Care Centre) Steering Group meeting, 23 July.
14. CEC Road Services: Emergency TTRO banning right turn from Comiston Rd to Oxgangs Rd.
15. Eileen Hewitt: revised list of Edinburgh Community Councils' Office Bearers.
16. Cllr Rust: apologies for FCC meeting on 23 July (on holiday).

### **Correspondence Update, 16-23 July, 2012.**

1. f. by Cllr Elaine Aitken re final phases of Gas Mains Replacement at Gillespie X roads.
2. Resident's contact form on FCC website re problems in accessing our Minutes [J Napier addressing this].
3. Dr A Edwards: Ward 8 Neighbourhood Environmental Projects meeting, 10 am, 30 July.
4. D Bewsey, Chair, Pentlands NP EIT group: meeting at 2.30 pm, 30 July.
5. M-J O'Brien re resignation from Health Group and Firrhill CC.
6. E Hewitt: info bulletin for N & S Edinburgh Public P'ship Forum & Citywide Networks.
7. Scott Neill, SW Office: papers for (4) above.
8. Loraine Henderson: requesting details of CM Park Fun Day for Gordon MacDonald MSP's diary.

By Post:

1. Edinburgh Tenants Federation Annual Report 2011/12 [taken by H Levy].