

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 28 Jan 2013
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
R Lewis, Councillor, CEC
J Rust, Councillor, CEC
D Crawford, LBP, Oxfangs Police Stn

Visitors:

S Duffy
F Gosney

Apologies:

H Levy; PI Podd; J Rust (Cllr)

Non- attendance:

R Lewis (Cllr)

The meeting started at 2.30pm . A Hunter in the Chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Draft minutes of meeting held on 26 November 2012 were reviewed. The Minute Secretary apologised for the omission of Cllr Rust's report, this had been due to a misunderstanding. There being no other matters, the draft minutes were moved for approval by P Wright and seconded by G Hunter. Approved.

Matters Arising

Flood Defence Work:

Email and letter (see appendix 1) sent to Messrs Barber/Torrance summarising the issues raised at the last meeting and requesting further information regarding complaints, reports and other communications related to the flood defence work in the Firrhill CC area. To date we have received plans of the Braid Burn Flood Defence project and additional works contract. No other information has been received and consequently an application for a review of our request has been submitted

EIT Report, Item 5, Draft Local Development Plan:

Reference was made to a proposal to hold a meeting on this subject for CC and other residents' groups. This meeting was held on 23rd January and attended by J Napier. A report will be provided for the next meeting.

Oct Min, AOCB, Celebrating Community Councils:

A Hunter, L Lynn and P Wright attended the event, which was aimed at raising the profile of community councils and provided an opportunity to network. Community Councils were asked to contribute any photos, newsletters, annual reports, publicity leaflets, information about campaigns and events they had been involved in and a number of displays were on view including our own. Our newsletters appeared to be particularly popular as two of the 5 issues went missing. In addition to that provided by CCs, a range of information was also available from some Council departments.

In all 26 CC's had been represented and the event had been opened by the Council Leader, Councillor Burns. A discussion took place for a review of Neighbourhood Partnerships and it was suggested CCs be contacted for the ideas on what does and doesn't work with Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Community Police Report

During the period 1st January 2013 to 28th January 2013, there have been a total of 21 crimes reported in the Firrhill/Oxgangs area. Of that number, 10 have been solved with those responsible being reported to either the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter where appropriate.

These 21 crimes involved the following:-

- Vandalism x 7 (2 solved)
- Theft x 3 (1 solved)
- Assault x 3 (1 solved)
- Drugs Possession (1 solved)
- Carrying of Knives x 1 (enquiries ongoing)
- Breach of the Peace x 5 (all solved)
- Misuse of communications system (enquiries ongoing)

Crimes of note throughout this period:

Between late Hogmanay and the early hours of the New Year, windows were damaged at a stair and private dwelling in separate blocks in Oxgangs Street. No persons were seen or heard during either incident.

During the afternoon of the 3rd, a bike was stolen whilst left insecure in Oxgangs Farm Drive.

On the 6th, a person was arrested after damage was caused to vehicles in Colinton Mains Gardens

During the early evening of the 17th and following a male being refused entry to Scotmid in Oxgangs Road North, he then went on to assault and verbally abuse the on duty Security Guard. The male was subsequently arrested at the scene.

On the 20th, following police attending an incident in Oxgangs Place, a complaint was received that a male who had fled the scene had been in possession of a knife. Enquiries are ongoing to establish the exact circumstances of the incident.

On the 22nd, a local youth was found to be in possession of a quantity of herbal cannabis when dealt with by police who had been attending to a separate matter in the vicinity of Oxgangs Avenue.

Road Traffic Matters:

During the month to date there have been 6 separate road traffic collisions in the area. Two accidents involved damage whereby drivers exchanged the required details. Three were reported

hit & run incidents and one accident caused minor injury to a pedestrian. The driver of this vehicle has been reported for careless driving.

On the 4th, a driver was charged with using his vehicle without a valid Test Certificate and issued an ASBO warning following a report of a vehicle being driven erratically in Oxgangs Farm Drive.

Statistics:

Beat PF56 – Fairmilehead and Buckstone – 56 calls

Beat PF57 – Central Oxgangs – 190 calls

Beat PF58 – Colinton and Bonaly – 85 calls

Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Foot patrols continue to be carried out in the area surrounding Oxgangs Drive/Grove and House. This has followed complaints of **anti social behaviour and alleged drug activity**. A number of youths have been identified and, where appropriate, concerns have been raised with parents and welfare agencies regarding the particular circumstances in which some have been found – ie; alcohol consumption.

Officers have carried out patrols and letter drops in areas where alleged **Bogus Workman activity** has taken place.

The response received from some householders has allowed dedicated officers dealing with such crime to follow positive lines of enquiry. It has also become clear that a number of genuine firms are also canvassing for business in various locations.

All residents should remember there is no obligation to enter into any kind of exchange with unexpected callers.

If any doubt exists at all as to the genuineness of these workmen and their offer to carry out work, simply decline such offers and contact the police. Genuine firms will not mind having their credentials established, whereas less than genuine workmen will, at the very least, have their activities disrupted.

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online [Giving Information Form](#).

Ward councillors' Reports

Councillor Aitken

Community Safety Sub Group: see agenda item below

PNP Public Meeting: 26 February in Pentland Primary School from 7 to 9pm

Pentland Firework Display: a report on the incident last year has been done and will be studied before a decision is taken on whether to hold the event this year

Shared Janitorial Services: between Pentland Community Centre and Pentland Primary School

Pentland Community Centre: PNP grant of £5,000 for refurbishment of the Centre's kitchen

ONC : meeting with Robert Scott regarding the needs provision of the Centre.

Firrhill Health Centre: still not signed off – problem lies with the Blackburn project but as we are tied in with them for funding purposes this means no action and further delay.

18 Bus Service: see agenda item below

Oxgangs Brae: see agenda item below

Marie Curie Hospice: the refurbishment project has been completed and the staff/patients are back in the wards

Councillor Rust

Report read out by the Secretary:

Number 18 Bus – extension and frequency improvements welcome, but clearly potential issues if Lothian Buses not awarded tender given 25% of users have Lothian Buses riddacards. I have taken this up at Council and am pursuing the issue of integrated ticketing

Neighbourhood Partnership – public meeting tomorrow at Oxfangs Library at 6.30pm for 7pm. Heather Levy will be giving a presentation on the Triangle and the focus will be on health. All welcome

Oxfangs Drive: have taken up issues re the communal lighting with CEC and Edinburgh Building Services

Budget – the Council Budget is set next month. Have raised questions in relation to the consultation process this year. Less than 1% of the Edinburgh population appear to have participated.

Full Council – I have submitted written questions in respect of the £191,000 overspend on policy and public affairs by the Council and have asked for a detailed breakdown; I have also asked re any action on the earlier pre-election commitment to reduce senior staff salaries so none are more than twelve times that of the lowest paid staff

Oxfangs Farm – a long-running anti-social behaviour issue was resolved last week, with assistance from CEC Community Safety Staff and Police

Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre – an event will take place on Friday 1st February between 1.30pm and 2.30pm to ascertain what role ONC can play in delivering for Oxfangs

Sunday parking in the city centre - The Transport Committee (which I do not sit on) approved the Local Transport Strategy 2014 - 2020 for consultation. It is in the form of a "Main Issues Report" whereby issues are identified for discussion and a variety of different solutions proposed. In the case of Sunday parking there are four possible ways forward itemised - from the status quo to full enforcement on Sundays. The consultation will be going live in the next month and it will be important for local residents to input and influence.

Oxfangs Brae – a report recommending the sale of land on Oxfangs Brae at the Social Work Centre, opposite the Pentland Centre was withdrawn from a Committee meeting earlier this month following intervention by Elaine and myself – we had concerns it misrepresented our position and did not take into account what had previously been discussed with the community – it has subsequently been redrafted. (see also report below)

Pentland Centre – the application re the kitchen was agreed by the Funding Panel of the Neighbourhood Partnership and will go before the Partnership tomorrow evening for ratification.

Oxfangs Avenue – arranged for Scottish Power to re-visit to complete their work at certain properties.

Proposed Sale of HR Land at Oxfangs Brae

On the 16th Cllr Aitken informed us that she had just found out a report on the sale of this land was going to the Finance and Budget Committee the following day.

Both she and Cllr Rust raised immediate objections to this action, citing that as local councillors, they had not been given notice of the event, found out about it purely by chance, and it was contrary to actions agreed in previous discussions. As a consequence of their objections the report was withdrawn from the Committee to allow for further consideration.

A copy of Cllr Rust's objections is included as appendix 2.

In discussion within the Community Council the general opinion expressed was for the land to be used for a purpose that would benefit the area and Oxfangs Broadway, sustaining it as a shopping centre. There were a number of vacant units at this location and it was essential that the viability of those remaining was not compromised. The need was to attract small businesses into the Broadway that would attract custom without taking business away from the existing premises. Using the land for housing would support this aim.

Whilst it was noted that Cllr Aitken advised that the City Council could not designate this land for housing, it was the considered opinion of the meeting that this would be the preferred option.

(CEC Ref: Item No 1.8.6 – Sale of Land at Oxfangs Brae 17.1.13)

Proposed Changes to the No.18 Bus Route

Received notification from Cllr Aitken that a proposal to extend the 18 bus route to join the new Public Link Route to Greendykes was to be considered at the Transport and Environment Committee on the 15th.

The proposal was subsequently agreed by the T&E Committee and it appears that it will be on the basis that the service will be run by one bus company only. Other considerations that will be put in the tender document include:

- to extend the route to Fort Kinnaird,
- to increase the frequency of the service
- to look at the feasibility of extending the route to Queen Margaret College
- to look at the feasibility of installing bus tracker on parts of the route
- to provide the service on public holidays
- to provide low floor buses

The possibility of cross ticketing was also raised but this matter is subject to legislation and needs to be discussed at both UK and Scottish Government level. The tender document to be prepared as soon as possible and Cllr Aitken will keep us informed of progress and timescales.

It was the considered opinion of the Community Council that extending the route would benefit the users of this service.

(CEC Ref: Item No 7[1].6 Proposal for Enhancing Bus Links to RIE)

Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Reports

Community Safety Sub Group

Report of meeting held on 17 December 2012 and attended by A Hunter.

A. The following actions have been taken in regard to priorities identified at the last meeting:

Priority 1. A venture to increase the flow of information and intelligence regarding use and supply of illegal drugs in the community.

During the Sept-Dec period there were a number of days of action where leaflets were handed out to residents at venues such as local shopping parades and farmers markets to promote the role of *Crimestoppers* and to generate information from the public.

During the monitoring period a total of 147 items of intelligence in relation to drugs were collected within the Oxfangs area. Three properties have been searched under warrant, resulting in the recovery of quantities of controlled drugs.

At one council house where a drugs charge was made, a letter of intent to evict has been issued to the tenant pending the outcome of the court hearing.

In comparing the results with a similar exercise carried out during the same period last year, the statistics indicate the community have little interest in supplying information although drug abuse is often the topic of complaint.

Priority 2. An endeavour to reduce the amount of dog fouling and litter in Colinton Mains Park was carried out by Environmental Wardens during September / October 2012. This action was taken as a result of complaints and the Wardens spent 17 hours patrolling the Park. During that time they spoke to 22 dog walkers. No fixed penalties issued within the Park but four were issued for incidents in the surrounding area.

In relation to reducing the amount of litter, Environmental Wardens also spoke to those persons in charge of football activities in the Park making them aware of the complaints and advising them of their responsibility for clearing up.

In conjunction with PC Crawford, Environmental Wardens also tackled and dealt with issues involving inconsiderate parking by people using the Park. This may be an ongoing problem dependant on the number of complaints received.

B. In considering the priorities from this meeting, dog fouling continues to be an issue for action along with incidents of graffiti in Firrhill Community Council area. An issue about the new park gates at Colinton Mains Park was raised by Oxfangs Central Residents Association. The South West Neighbourhood Team is seeking to address crime vandalism and ASB in the vicinity of Oxfangs House. Recently there have been a number of calls regarding incidents in or around Oxfangs House. This priority is to address these issues, identify and report the perpetrators, reduce the number of incidents and reduce the fear of crime for the occupiers and residents.

South West Area Board

Report of meeting held on 15 January and attended by J Napier is attached as appendix 3

Treasurers Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, no report was available

Planning Applications Report

See attached appendix for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 26 Nov 2013 to 21 January 2013 for the Firrhill Ward

Correspondence

See appendix 5 for list of correspondence received since last meeting

A.O.C.B.

Bridle Path

Query on who holds the key for the gates at Colinton Mains Drive.

Raised Garden at Police Station

This relates to the work carried out by a resident in the old people's supported housing at the Police Station and the Community Council's desire for the City Council to reimburse this gentleman for monies spent developing the neglected communal garden. Cllr Aitken reports the matter is still ongoing.

Colinton Mains Park

Query on loss of litter bin at Park entrance in Oxfangs Rd N, and the Notice Board which has not been re-installed since completion of the pavilion work. Also: new lighting not installed.

Amenity Notices

Agenda item for next meeting

Consultation: Scottish Government – Suicide and Self Harm Engagement

With reference to item 48 in the *Correspondence* report, the SG made a commitment in 2002 to reduce the incidence of suicide and of self-harm and set in place a range of actions to support this.

The SG have now set up a working group to consider future policy and action on prevention of suicide and self harm, in the context that the existing *Choose Life* strategy and action plan is approaching the end of its 10 year lifetime. The aim is to produce a new national strategy on suicide and self harm, to be published by the Scottish Government in late summer/early autumn 2013.

As part of that an engagement four public engagement events are to be run in late February and early March 2013, once the engagement paper has been published. One event will be held in Edinburgh on 27 Feb in the COSLA Offices, Haymarket Terr, 10am-1pm, and four people have signed up to attend this event. Consideration is being given to holding a local event in the Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre on 25th March.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

25th February 2013 at 2.30pm.

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.

The meeting ended at 4.45pm

App 1: FCC Letter on Flood Defence Works

FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair

Heather Levy

e: heatherlevy@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary

Peggy Wright

t: 0131-477 4400

e: peggy.wright@live.co.uk

9 December 2012

A Barber, Professional Officer, Transport
B Torrance, Project Manager, Transport
Services for Communities
City of Edinburgh Council

Gentlemen

Thank you for attending our meeting on Monday 26 November. I now write to confirm the main points spoken about at that meeting regarding issues in our Community Council area of Colinton Mains, Oxgangs and Firrhill, following the Flood Defences work.

1. Flooding of Properties. Nos. 139 & 141 Oxgangs Rd North have had this problem since their front gardens were dug up to form part of the foundations for the road outside which had to be raised to meet the new, higher bridge over the Braid Burn. The gardens now consist of concrete, with a non-porous wall built between the two properties, i.e. there is now no natural drainage. This, together with the steep camber on the new road, which is on a hill, have resulted during periods of heavy rain in flooding of front and back gardens as well as water ingress in the foundations of their homes. The owner of No. 139, who was present at this meeting, said that a consultant had investigated earlier this year - but apparently no results have been obtained.

2. Flooding of Braid Burn Path (part of the path beside the new bridge at Oxgangs Rd North). A pre-existing problem of puddling here has been made very much worse because of a "design fault" [Stewart Farquhar, Local Environment Manager] in re-laying the path below the level of the grass verge, thus stopping water from the adjacent playing field and path from running into the burn. Some temporary measures have been tried, i.e. placing a pipe from the path down the banking, then adding gravel to its entrance; installing some kind of wooden contraption; digging a ditch downwards from the path. Although the latter has helped, no remedy has proved very effective, and we still have a muddy lake right across (and sometimes extending from one lamppost to the next) with no way round it. Unfortunately, although this is a 'Safer Routes to School' path, it has been turned into what can be a dangerous path.

3. Sub-standard and Unacceptable Re-instatement of Gardens. The owner of No. 44 Colinton Mains Rd stated that, instead of using topsoil, the contractors filled up the bottom of his garden with rubble from the works site. It was Council policy re environmental impact to cut down on lorry movements by re-using surplus excavation material mixed with lime and used in embankments. Because his garden's surface is now "like a pie crust" and "crackles" when walked on, he is certain

that quite a large quantity of lime was in this rubble and **would like samples taken from this part of his garden**. Meanwhile, he can't let his grandchildren near it.

4. 'Trespass' by Contractors. One of the conditions regarding work on properties was that this would be intimated in advance by letter or call/visit by officials. In the case of the property owner at No. 4 Colinton Mains Rd, she said that she would often find contractors working in her garden although she had been given no prior notice, and she complained to no avail. This was happening for many months due to the necessary re-instatement of her garden, fitting of a new fence and shed, plus installation of pumping equipment.

It was emphasised by members and residents at our meeting who had been affected by any of the above that proper consideration and consistent communication would have gone a long way to easing their frustrations during and following these flood prevention works.

It was clear from your statements at the meeting that you do not consider the flood defence works have a bearing on these complaints and, consequently, there is a clear difference of opinion between us. In order to enable us to reassess our options in regard to this matter, we request that, under Fol, you provide us with the following information:

- The number of complaints received per year, by telephone/letter/e-mail, related to flooding in the EH13 area over the last 10 years, identifying cause or location.
- A copy of all communications between local Councillors and Council departments/ sections, and between the departments/sections themselves in relation to flooding in the EH13 area since the completion of the flood defence work.
- A copy of all internal reports related to site visits in the EH13 area to view, discuss or assess flooding issues arising from complaints received, by any means, since completion of the flood defence work.
- A copy of all reports received from consultants in respect of flooding issues in the EH13 area arising from complaints received since the completion of the flood defence work.
- A detailed plan of the flood defence construction work carried out on that stretch of the burn from the raised bridge at Oxbgangs Road North to the bridge at Firrhill Crescent – this to include details of the previously existing and new drainage systems covering either side of the burn at this location.

If any of the above information is already in the public domain, we would be obliged if you could identify where it may be found. If any of the above information is not held by you, can you please identify who holds that information.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

App 2: Oxfangs Brae Land Sale

Copied from email sent from Cllr Rust to Michael Thain, Strategy and Investment Manager, Housing and Regeneration on Wednesday, 16 Jan 2013

1. This is completely unacceptable that as local ward members we are finding out the evening before a Committee that this is to go before Finance and Budget tomorrow. In fact we are only aware because my colleague Cllr Aitken raised a related issue re Hunter's Tryst with Cathy King at another meeting.
2. Following meetings with Debbie Herbertson and Mark Borthwick we were advised that we would be kept up-to-date with this matter, yet we have heard nothing over the past few months. Indeed my recollection of that meeting is that we did agree that there are many matters requiring to be considered including car parking, open space strategy, s. 75 possibilities etc. Nothing further has been heard on any of these aspects. We were advised at that meeting that we would be informed when a report had been drafted for committee.
3. As Elaine has pointed out the key issue of concern about the space being used for retail purposes, which was fully explained to officials, has been omitted from this report. I would like to know why, when this was one of the clear recommendations from initial discussions?
4. The report pays cursory attention to the level of "objections". I have had a number of representations at my surgery and there has been a lot of concern in the local retail/business community in addition to the large petition. In particular the line:

"The local elected members, together with Council officers, considered the objections thoroughly, noting that if the site's eventual use was for housing development, the number of units that could be built on it would not be of a number that could adversely impact on local services".

is factually incorrect as local elected members made so such note and this report will require to be amended to reflect that. On what basis was this included? What analysis has been undertaken regarding impact?

5. I was advised by e-mail last year:- "Assuming our recommendation is ratified by Sfc's Director I will, as agreed, write to the Council tenants who signed the petition explaining our final decision and its rationale. This isn't standard procedure, but I think it's appropriate in the circumstances, and helps to demonstrate that the department genuinely considers the views of consultees before reaching a decision." There is no reference to this in the report before committee tomorrow. Is this still going to happen if the decision goes ahead? "The circumstances" being a significant number of objections and very real concerns about the future of this site.

Personally I feel that this report does not accurately set out the position and would be grateful for your response to the points above.

Regards

Councillor J G Rust

Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward

App 3: Note on the South West Area Board Meeting held 15 January 2013

Property Conservation: Public Consultation

I covered this in my report on the last SWAB meeting held on 9th October 2012 and you should refer to it for information on the City Council's proposals. The presentation, which was due to be given at that meeting from Libby Strong, Service Re-Design Manager, Sfc¹ Property, was given at this meeting. The public consultation closed on 31st October 2012 and the feedback from it is in the process of being evaluated and it is expected that the current Property Conservation Service will be replaced with a new service from spring 2013.

The many complaints that led to public concern being raised about the activities of the Property Conservation Service are still being investigated. The Service used powers under the 1991 Confirmation Act to serve statutory notices, carry out repairs and reclaim the costs. A Resolution Team has been set up with additional resources from independent consultants to deal with those complaints as speedily as possible.

In the meantime emergency work will still continue to be dealt with by the Property Conservation Service. Emergency work applies to any building or structure where there is a risk to public safety, public health or the home or building has become uninhabitable and it is unlikely that this aspect of the service will be affected.

The new proposals are aimed primarily at facilitating home-owners, through the provision of information and advice, in taking responsibility for the maintenance of their shared property.

Minute of Previous Meeting (9 Oct 2012) and Action List

This is covered in my report to our October meeting but a copy of the draft minute is available for perusal.

Matters Arising

There has been no further action, with regards to the proposed project 639 (**Cockmylane**)

The question of whether the **Spring Clean Initiatives** carried out in 2011 would be repeated in 2012 has still to be determined.

Proposals on the rotation of the role of Chair have still to be circulated to the members

Landlord Performance

A performance update for the month of December was given

Well housed – Repairs completed within Target (98%)

December figures not available for neighbourhood but city wide figure came in at 95%, against 96% in November and 97% in October. The Edinburgh Building Service (South West Area), met the target of 98% in October and 97% in November so the South West Team are up on the City figures. Expect a drop in December due to holiday period.

The turnaround for repairs to be completed to an empty home was 8 days in December and October and 7 days in November. City wide average was 9 days (Dec); 8 days (Nov); 10 days (Oct).

Well housed – Average time to let an empty home

Good performance this year with an average of 16 days to let 38 properties in December giving a year's average of 20 days against the city wide average of 22 days.

¹ Service for Communities

Due to the festive period there was a high number of delays in keys returning from EBS, which may impact on the January figures.

The kitchen and bathroom programme has been completed in Oxfangs with one exception where there is difficulty in gaining access.

Well housed – Cash value of current rent arrears (December)

The current arrears City-wide is £2,465,767 against a target of £1,394,000. The December 2011 figure was £1,878,291. Arrears remain 30% higher than the same period last year. The main area of concern continues to be the band of arrears over £900. The current arrears within the South West is £729,935, which is a decrease of £79,701 (10.9%) from November 2012. The arrears are currently £308,818 away from target.

Locally the SW Team have come out well in a city wide audit on work to reduce the number of cases within the over £900 band some of which are being used as examples of best practice.

Welfare Reform Information Event

A joint event is being organised for Council tenants and those of Prospect Community Housing for Wednesday 13 March from 3-7 within Wester Hailes Library. Staff from Prospect, CHAI and the SWNO will meet with tenants to discuss the implications of the changes with tenants who will be affected by Welfare Reform. It is also intended to have staff from Revenue and Benefits, local support and advice organisations and the Income Maximisation Services available on the day.

Homeless advice cases which do not go on to present as homeless

Good uptake of Housing Options interviews at the Neighbourhood Office with an average of 80 applicants/tenants being provided with full housing options a month. In December, 76% of housing advice cases did not go on to present as homeless against a target of 55%

Property Team Activity

The property team are proposing to carry out a spring clean in the Oxfangs area within the first quarter of this year. Staff are working with colleagues in recycling team to look at provisions within neighbourhoods and identifying key positions. Suggestions welcome.

Area Walkabout

On the 10th January I attended a walkabout with Tam Nisbet, Housing Officer, Estates and Property Management Team, SWNO along with James Fox, Community Safety, Eddie Hume, Roads Inspector and Robert Davidson, Parks Officer. Meeting at the Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre we walked along Firrhill Drive and Crescent, finishing outside Oxfangs Primary School. A report of the issues raised will be attached to this note.

Jim Napier

Firrhill Walkabout: 10 Jan 2013

Items recorded on walkabout (ID: 1354):

Issue ID	Issue Type	Location	Description	Referred to
8957	Dog fouling	Firrhill Drive	Ongoing dog fouling problem in Firrhill	Environmental Warden
8958	Litter	nr 22 Firrhill Drive	CEC grassed area: litter pick required	Task Force
8959	Public Park Inspection	Colinton Mains Park	Notice board not been re-instated after Pavilion works	Parks
8960	Overgrown foliage	nr 40 Firrhill Crescent	Cut back overgrown foliage at planted areas	Task Force
8961	Fly Tipping	Firrhill Drive	Shopping Trolley dumped in the burn	Tesco
8962	Road/Footpath Defect	40 Firrhill Crescent / 139 Oxfangs Road North	Repair hole on carriageway	Roads
8963	Road/Footpath Defect	51 Firrhill Drive	Repair pavement/kerb	Roads
8964	Road/Footpath Defect	Firrhill Drive / Greenlaw Hedge	Repair carriageway	Roads

App 4: Weekly Planning Bulletin Report

26 November 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

Ward No.A17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: 12/04119/PAN for a proposed development of retail unit not exceeding a total of 5,700 sq m (GIA) over two levels at 1 To 77 Kinnaird Park, Fort Kinnaird Retail Park, Edinburgh, EH15 3RB

3rd December 2012

Application 12/04078/FUL to form a driveway in the front garden at 104 Colinton Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9DN.

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh:

Ward No. A05 – Inverleith: 12/04292/PAN for an erection of new buildings in existing nursery including glasshouses, vehicle storage shed, staff welfare building and ancillary buildings, alterations to entrance gates and associated external works. In preparation for the redevelopment of the research facilities in the north east corner of the main garden in Inverleith Row at Royal Botanic Nursery, Inverleith Avenue South, Edinburgh.

Ward No.A13 – Leith: 12/04262/PAN for a Section 42 application to amend the working of condition 1 of reserved matters approval ref 07/0007/REM to extend the period for commencing the development beyond the five year period started at Plots A2, B1 And B2, Western Harbour, Edinburgh, EH6 6NX.

Ward No.A17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: Thistle Foundation Conservation Area: 12/04260/PAN, the proposals include the construction of approximately 65-70 new build flats and houses. The development will also include access roads, car parking and landscaping at land at the Thistle Foundation, Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh.

No decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

10 December 2012

Application 12/04283/FUL to extend into external balcony and install new double glazed doors to rear at Flat 4, 14 **Oxgangs Farm Terrace**, Edinburgh, EH13 9QB.

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh:

Ward No.A12 – Leith Walk: 12/04360/PAN for a mixed use development comprising residential and other compatible uses at site 69 metres west of 7 Shrub Place.

Ward No.A17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: 12/04119/PAN for the proposed development of retail unit not exceeding a total of 5,700 sq m (GIA) over two levels at 1 To 77 Kinnaird Park Fort Kinnaird Retail Park, Edinburgh, EH15 3RB

No decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC

17 December 2012

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

Ward A13 – Leith : 12/04262/PAN for a Section 42 application to amend the working of condition 1 of reserved matters approval ref 07/0007/REM to extend the period for commencing the

development beyond the five year period started at Plots A2, B1 And B2, Western Harbour, Edinburgh, EH6 6NX.

31 December 2012

No applications for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

Ward A12 – Leith Walk : 12/04360/PAN for a mixed use development comprising residential and other compatible uses at site 69 metres west of 7 Shrub Place, Edinburgh

Ward A16 – Liberton/Gilmerton : 12/04555/PAN for the modification of condition 1 of 10/01185/PPP relating to structural landscaping at land 196 metres south of 49 Burdiehouse Road, Edinburgh.

Decision on application 12/03770/FUL for the formation of a double width car parking area, in retrospect at 100 Colinton Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9DN. Application granted.

7 January 2013

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC

No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh.

14 January 2013

No applications for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

Ward A16 – Liberton/Gilmerton : 12/04555/PAN for the modification of condition 1 of 10/01185/PPP relating to structural landscaping at land 196 metres south of 49 Burdiehouse Road, Edinburgh.

Decision: the application 12/04283/FUL to extend into external balcony and install new double glazed doors to rear at Flat 4, 14 Oxfords Farm Terrace, Edinburgh, EH13 9QB, has been granted.

21 January 2013

No applications for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC

Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh

Ward A02 – Pentland Hills : 13/00129/PAN for a residential development with associated landscaping, footpaths at land 300 metres west of 200 Mansfield Road, Balerno.

Decision: the application 12/04078/FUL to form a driveway in the front garden at 104 Colinton Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9DN, has been granted.

App 5: Correspondence List

By e-mail: all messages forwarded to members with this facility; some transferred to website where appropriate.

1. f by H Levy: Oxfords N'hood Centre Soup Kitchen, Fridays 11.30-1.30, up to 29 March.
2. " " " : Lifetime Counselling Service, one-to-one sessions for adults 18+ at Oxfords Care Office, 12 Firrhill Neuk. Tel: 0131-445 3332.
3. PC Graeme Howie: updated November Police Report.
4. S McDonald, SW Office: Presentation from Pentlands NP Business Mtg, 27/11/12.
5. Cllr Richard Lewis: Report on Constituent enquiries and answers for Nov. meeting.
6. Cllr Jason Rust: addresses & titles for B Torrance and A Barber, Services for Communities.
7. f by E Hewitt: changes to Planning legislation laid before Scot Pmnt – Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 – come into force 2 February '13 if approved.
8. Sarah Boyack MSP: November e-newsletter.
9. Scottish Water Consultation for 2015-20 Business Plan
www.scottishwater.co.uk/yourviewscount - respond by 12 Feb.'13 to FREEPOST RTBT-EEXB-ETRT, Scottish Water, Daldowie Office, Uddingston, Glasgow, G71 7RX.
10. S Farquhar, SW Local Env'ment Manager: reply to Sec's enquiry re progress on Braid Burn path project to alleviate flooding, a 'failed Capital scheme'.
11. Message from FCC website contact form: Baby Development Classes from 7 Jan. at ONC.
Contact Jane: edinburghcity@babysensory.co.uk
12. Gordon MacDonald MSP: December newsletter.
13. E Hewitt: Community Council Scheme review, summary of key findings. Draft Scheme & Report submitted to/approved by Council on 13 Dec.; now out for public consultation: Draft Scheme, Constitution and Standing Orders available to view at libraries and website
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils Comments in writing by 11 February to Eileen Hewitt, CCs Liaison Officer, Drum Brae Library Hub, 81 Drum Brae Drive, EH4 7FE or e-mail .
communitycouncils@edinburgh.gov.uk
14. S McDonald: paper on nomination process for Neighbourhood P'ship sub-group Chairs.
15. UK Honours: criteria for recognition for valuable voluntary or community work – info at
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/Honoursawardsandmedals/TheUKHonourssystem/index.htm>
16. Gordon MacDonald MSP: support for UK's largest dog welfare charity: www.dogstrust.org.uk
17. Gordon MacDonald MSP: media release re 'SeeMe' national campaign to end stigma and discrimination of mental ill-health.
18. Cockburn Assoc training on how CCs and amenity organisations engage with the next stage of Local Development Plan: 23 Jan, 5.30-8.30 pm, City Chambers [J Napier attending].
19. Council Leader's Report for December (includes Mortonhall baby cremations issue).
20. Cockburn Assoc: Section 179 of Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 permits planning authorities to serve a notice on the owner, lessee or occupier of land adversely

affecting the area's amenity. An **Amenity Notice** sets out the action to be taken to resolve the problem within a specified period. The Cockburn Assoc will compile a list of such sites where local groups feel action is required: assistantdirector@cockburnassociation.org.uk

21. S McDonald: Pentlands NP Public Meeting (postponed from 18 Dec) on 29 Jan '13, 7 pm, in Oxgangs Library.
22. " " : Edinburgh Police Plan community engagement: 24 Jan, 7-9pm, Tynecastle High.
23. E Hewitt: The Risk Factory interactive safety centre teaching for children/adults in how to avoid and deal with risks; staffed by Police + Fire & Rescue Services. Volunteering afternoons, 24 & 29 Jan, 1 pm & 3 pm. Tel: 455 8930 or www.theriskfactory.org
24. Cllr Jason Rust: confirmation that he is happy to take forward local flooding issues with CEC and Firrhill CC.
25. D Bewsey, Colinton Amenity Assoc: Pentlands NP has asked the ETI sub-group to invite the Flood Defence reps to a sub-group meeting in March. He will hold a fact-finding meeting with Flood Defence officers prior to that.
26. CEC info on waste collection days www.edinburgh.gov.uk/waste or Tel: 529 3030
27. Lothian & Borders Police Board Dec. Newsletter (including Police Reform).
28. Scot Pmnt contacts for assistance over winter months: CHAI 442 1009 chai@mail.wh1.org.uk ; British Gas Energy Trust financial assistance Tel: 01733 421060 or bget@charisgrants.com
29. CEC Petitions: ideas for new or improved services in the city can be heard before Council's Petition Committee. Submit a valid petition, online or in writing, and get 500 min. signatures. Criteria applies, see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/petitions [Leaflets for FCC members on 28/01/13]
30. E Hewitt: CCs can nominate projects (new build, restoration, conservation, redevelopment, landscape or public realm) for Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards (by 31 Jan '13); details at www.myplaceawards.org.uk
31. Sarah Boyack MSP: Dec e-newsletter + annual roundup of main issues worked on over 2012.
32. S Williams, SW Office: Estate Walkabout Diary for 2013 (incl. Firrhill & Oxgangs) + reply to her from J Napier asking about a set meeting place for walkabouts for promotion on FCC website.
33. E Hewitt: proposed CEC plans to amend requirements for Public Entertainment licensing, which should help community groups, consultation at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PLE2012>
34. S McDonald: Pentlands NP Digest for Dec. '12
35. B Torrance, Project M'ger, Flood Schemes: his response to FCC Sec's letter with summary of our Nov '12 meeting, which he attended, and our requests for info under Freedom of Information.

Info received: Braid Burn - drawing of whole flood defences scheme; Plans of work carried out by Mackenzie Construction, 2010-11, on package pumping station/overland flows/additional works at Oxgangs Primary, and additional drainage at Firrhill Drive and Firrhill Crescent; Plans of work at Oxgangs Road North. Info not received to date: number of complaints to Council from EH13 area on problems/issues since flood defences work was completed.

36. f by H Levy: initiative to share underused/unused garden space to grow fruit & vegetables – Tel: 0131 220 5067, or www.edinburghgardenpartners.org.uk

37. Cllr Elaine Aitken: report on possible enhancement of No 18 bus route considered at Council's Transport & Environment C'ttee. Proposal: to extend route to join new Public Link Route to Greendykes, and possibly Fort Kinnaird. Depending on costs, the service would be run by one bus company only, after a tendering process. [Will be discussed at FCC meeting on 28 Jan.]
38. Scott Neill: re proposed 'buildout' for bus stop on Woodhall Rd (from mid-Jan.).
39. S McDonald: suitable street names requested for new housing development off Comiston Rd (behind water works). E-mail appropriate suggestions to streetnaming@edinburgh.gov.uk
40. Edinburgh Assoc of CCs (EACC) Sec: Question Time with City Council CE Sue Bruce, and Leader Cllr Andrew Burns, re-arranged for Saturday 23 Feb, 10 am – 1 pm, City Chambers.
41. Gordon MacDonald MSP: January Report.
42. Scott Neill: Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme Open Fund, open to groups anywhere in Scotland, to mark the Commonwealth Games with cultural/arts activities. Project can be in 2013 or 2014. Applications by 22 Feb '13.
43. Cllr Elaine Aitken re No 18 bus (see 37, above): agreed by Committee that route will continue to Fort Kinnaird & Queen Margaret College; services will run on public holidays, and low floor buses will be used. Installation of bus tracker is possible but very expensive. Cross-ticketing would have to be discussed at both UK and Scottish Govt level because of legislation.
44. E Hewitt: list of firms offering free or cheap goods to community groups.
45. f by S Neill: 'Still Game', free programme at Big Hearts, Tynecastle Stadium, for 60+ people to take part in workshops, eg, Safety (Fire & Police), Mental Health Awareness, Player Talks, Stadium Tour, Football Memories. Call Ben on 0131 2007 204; or benedict@bighearts.org.uk
46. Cllr Elaine Aitken re Report to Finance & Budget Committee 'Use of Surplus Council Land at Oxfangs Brae' (former Oxfangs Social Work Centre + adjacent area of Housing Revenue A/c land between back of Social Work Centre and new path at library) to be considered.
47. Cllr Jason Rust: serious issues with above Report re important concerns in consultation omitted, and other inaccuracies. Result: Finance & Budget Committee withdrew this item so that Officers may consult further with Councillors and local community residents and businesses.
48. f by H Levy: Scot Gov Consultation: engagement process to develop future strategy on prevention of suicide and self-harm; 25 Feb-28 May, formal public events and feedback from organisations/individuals. Edinburgh meeting: 27 Feb, COSLA Offices, Haymarket Terr, 10am-1pm. Further info at <http://sg-suicideandselfharm-engagementevents.eventbrite.co.uk/>
49. S Neill: PNP Funding Panel meet 7 March; still funding in this year's budget for groups to apply for local community projects/ pieces of work that fit with Pentlands part of Local Community Plan.
50. f by H Levy: Wellness Recovery Action Plan introductory meeting for family/friends/partners of those experiencing mental ill-health: Cullen Room, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, 29 Jan, 10.30am-1.30pm, incl lunch. Contact Lorraine Keith, 0131-662 2280.
51. Sarah Boyack MSP: Jan e-newsletter: focus on transport – updates on trams + new proposals to deliver better bus services – also, violence against women.
52. Notice & Papers for PNP Meeting in Public: 29 Jan, 7 pm, in Oxfangs Library.
53. Pentland Community Centre: FREE Courses, January to March. Contact Mirren Vanko or Sagi Iluz: Tel 0131 445 2871, or pop in to Pentland Centre for details of what's on and when.

54. f by H Levy: meeting for those who use care and support services, their carers, and interested public: 13 Feb, City Chambers, 1.45-4.00 pm; Council looking for ways to give more choice and control over how their care & support needs are met. Register to attend by 8 Feb: 0131 553 8324.
55. Gordon Macdonald MSP re media release: **20 April 2014, 'phone calls to NHS 24 will be free on their new Tel No: 111 from that date.**
56. f by H Levy: Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre meeting for residents to consider/discuss what could be done to make Oxfangs better for all: Friday 1 Feb, 1.30-2.30 pm.
57. 1 Sarah Boyack MSP: briefing and consultation event organised along with Mark Lazarowicz MSP to provide an update on their parliamentary work. Guest Speaker Rushanara Ali MP, Shadow Minister for International Development. 9 Feb at Life Care, 2 Cheyne Street, EH4, 2-4.30 pm.
58. f. by Cllr Rust: Copies of Presentations + Q & A session at Flood Risk Workshop, 16 Jan. – for elected members, re the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act.
59. Council Leader's Report for Jan/Feb '13.
60. Cllr Jason Rust: apologies for non-attendance at, and Report for, FCC meeting.
61. Sent by Sec to B Torrance, re e-mail and letter to him (+ A Barber) on 11/12/12: further request for info not released to us under FOI.
62. f. by H Levy: info on TSB funding surgeries for charities being carried out on Skype - Tel 0131 444 4020 or e-mail enquiries@tsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk for appointment.
63. Scott Neill: reminder that Funding Panel's final scheduled meeting for 2012/13 is 7 March. Community groups must submit applications for funding by Tues 26 Feb to allow info to be processed and sent to panel members.
64. E Hewitt: request for items for next Community Councils Newsletter.

By Post

- 1 City Council: leaflets re new petitions service (Item 29, above)
- 2 'NHS Link': newspaper for Winter 2012/13
- 3 Edinburgh Tenants Assoc magazine 'Tenants Voice', Dec '12
- 4 Edinburgh's Strategic Skills Pipeline magazine 'Working Capital', Jan '13

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

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