

# Firrhill Community Council

*'Nec Aspera Terrent'*

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 22 April 2013

Held in Oxfangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

## Members:

H Levy (Chair)

A Hunter (Vice Chair)

P Wright (Secretary)

L Linn

G Hunter

S Duffy

F Gosney

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

## Apologies:

J Rust, Cllr

R Lewis, Cllr

## Visitors:

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

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes for meeting held on 25 March 2013 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by F Gosney and seconded by L Linn. Approved.

## Matters Arising

### Raised Garden at Police Station

This relates to the work carried out by an elderly resident living in the supported housing scheme at the police station. The Community Council through Cllr Aitken were seeking reimbursement to this gentleman from the City Parks Dept for the money he spent redeveloping the neglected communal garden. Cllr Aitken reported she had received a favourable response from Craig Dunlop and has forwarded the receipt to him.

**Action: Vice Chair to follow-up to ensure reimbursement paid.**

## Membership

A letter of thanks has been sent to Pauline with our best wishes and a few lines of verse from the Vice Chair.

Eileen Hewitt, Community Council Liaison and Development Officer, has been notified of the changes in membership and of our nominated *Returning Officer* for the community council elections in September.

### **Police Attendance and Reports:**

Email sent to Insp. Dolan on 26 March seeking clarification regarding future attendances and reports. Response received from Sgt Mackenzie and explained by PC Crawford at the meeting. Will be discussing matter with line managers and advise the Community Council in due course. From the Community Council's perspective it is preferred to have a community police officer who is familiar with the area covered by the Council, regularly reporting at our meetings and on those occasions, where unable to attend, to forward a report.

**Action: PC Crawford to report back**

### **Scottish Parliament Tour**

Chair advised that she been in touch with the organiser and is waiting on her to come back with proposed dates.

**Action: Chair to follow-up.**

### **Colinton Mains Pavilion Car Park: Installation of Lighting**

Received email from Cllr Lewis that he had been informed by the Council's Street Lighting Section that unfortunately the works planned for the car park at Colinton Mains Park have been delayed due to the bad weather we have had over the last few weeks. The Street Lighting Section are hopeful the work will be re-scheduled for mid-April.

Advised Cllr Lewis in response that as the overhanging branches along the hedge were cut back six months ago in preparation for installation of the lights, it can hardly be put down to bad weather.

Also wrote to Graham Croucher querying one of the projects put forward for 2013/14, which is to widen the Park entrance from Oxbgangs Road North to allow service vehicles access. As the gate is wide enough to take the waste refuse vehicle, it is a mystery as to why it needs to be widened.

**Action: Secretary awaiting a response to both these items.**

### **Flood Defence Work/OSIC Appeal**

Decision received from the *Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner* upholding the Community Council's appeal and requiring the City of Edinburgh Council to provide the information requested by the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Cllr Aitken advised she had been trying to get answers re the FOI and understands a letter was sitting with Legal Services department and this will explain the Department's problem with the FOI request, the apparent confusion with David Bewsey's request and the amount of work required to answer the queries. The letter won't actually give information about the questions so Tom Dougall offered to come to the meeting tonight to discuss them.

Cllr Aitken also indicated that she had asked the Department about the number of complaints they received but was advised complaints were not recorded up until recently where they are now logged on a database. Complaints are held as paper files and most concern only one street and the path.

The Chair advised she had discussed this with the Vice Chair and their opinion was for a separate meeting to be arranged with Tom Dougall to discuss ongoing issues concerning the flood defence works. The meeting was not for the purpose of discussing the Community Council's request for information and the OSIC decision.

**Action: Chair/Vice Chair to meet with Tom Dougall and report back**

### **Refuse Collections, Recycling, etc.**

Cllr Aitken advised they were receiving a lot of complaints about the new waste uplift service and cases of people putting their excess refuse bags into their neighbour's waste bins resulting in the neighbour receiving a warning from the City's Cleansing Service about their bin being overfull.

It was reported that the trade waste bin at the Oxgangs Broadway side of the 'Good Companions', which was the subject of a complaint at the last meeting, has been removed.

*Action: members to monitor situation in their areas.*

### **Littering at Site opposite Tesco**

No information available.

## **Community Police Report: PC D Crawford**

Since the last Community Council Meeting was held on 25th March 2013, Lothian and Borders Police, as well as the other Scottish Forces have passed into history and the police family is now known as Police Scotland.

The focus of Police Scotland is Keeping People Safe. National Priorities to achieve this are ;

- Reduce Violence, Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour
- Protect the Public
- Increase Road Safety and reduce Road Crime
- Tackle Organised and Serious Crime & Terrorism
- Police Major Events and Threats
- Maintain High Levels of Public Confidence in Police Scotland
- Deliver our Equality and Diversity Outcomes.

Police Scotland comprises of 14 Territorial Divisions of which Edinburgh Division takes over responsibility for the former A Division. Chief Superintendent Mark Williams is the Divisional Commander, with Chief Inspector Richard Thomas, based at Wester Hailes Police Station, being the Senior Officer in charge for the Pentland Hills area.

Inspector Stevie Dolan is Station Inspector at Oxgangs with Sergeant Robert Mackenzie.

The local Officers in the area are now no longer referred to as the Safer Neighbourhood Team, but are now known as Community Patrol Officers. Despite the name change, the role is still to provide a consistent and visible presence in the community and continue to work with partners to provide local sustainable solutions to matters arising. CPT officers generally attend lower priority calls but will attend higher priority incidents if they are the most appropriate resource. Our colleagues in Response Policing are routinely the first to attend to Emergency and High Priority Incidents.

A number of other Specialist Departments have come into existence since the advent of Police Scotland, most notably the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit ; Divisional Rape Investigation Unit and the Alcohol & Violence Reduction Unit. These Departments are responsible for carrying out a consistent and co-ordinated response to the investigation and prosecution of offenders of these crimes whilst supporting in a similar fashion, those who find themselves the victims.

Another change to the landscape of Policing in Scotland, was the introduction of the 101 Non - Emergency Contact Telephone Number. Since its inception on 21st February 2013, well over 100,000 calls have been made by the public to Police Scotland using this simple and easy to remember number. Its purpose is to allow the public to easily access to services of Police Scotland in our shared efforts of Keeping People Safe.

## Crimes of Note throughout the period

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the owner of a garage in Oxfangs Loan reported that a small number of items had been stolen from the building which had been left insecure.

Also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> the owner of a car which had been parked in Oxfangs Crescent found that his vehicle had been broken into and a Satellite Navigation Unit stolen. Enquiries are ongoing to trace a person suspected of being responsible for this crime.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, a report was made from the occupier of a flat at the east end of Oxfangs Avenue that what is thought to be an air gun pellet or similar object was used to damage a window at the property. No one was seen or anything heard at the time.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> following a fracas amongst a number of males in Oxfangs Road North in the middle of a Saturday afternoon, a local male was traced, arrested and charged with a number of Public Order offences including Breach of the Peace, Assault and Possession of an Offensive Weapon.

On the same day, a report was made that the window of a property in Oxfangs Place had been damaged. No persons were seen or heard at the time.

## Road Traffic Matters

On 2nd April, a minor road traffic collision happened in Oxfangs Farm Drive. Details were exchanged by the respective vehicle owners and no further police action was needed.

In the early hours of the 21st, a vehicle was stopped in Oxfangs Drive. The driver was found to be uninsured and was issued with a Conditional Offer.

## Statistics – Number of Calls

PF56	Fairmilehead / Swanston	47
PF57	Firrhill / Oxfangs	119
PF58	Clinton / Bonaly	81

## Community Patrol Team

As well as National Priorities, Police Scotland have built in Local Priorities to tackle issues which can blight communities. In the Edinburgh Division these are ;

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Housebreaking and Theft
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Violent Crime and Assault
- Road Safety

In Ward 8 – Colinton/Fairmilehead, the Local Priorities have been set given public concern on issues surrounding the misuse of: -     Drugs and Anti Social Behaviour

Housebreaking and Theft given recent local crime trends

Road Safety – especially surrounding local schools.

At the time of writing, arrests have been made regarding individuals involved in housebreaking and theft with remands in custody having been achieved.

An upcoming **Day of Action** will also be carried out in the local area involving the local Policing Team and Partner Agencies.

In the more medium term, a sustained approach to local issues will take place under the auspices of **Operation Cipher** which will run for a number of weeks and will again involve the local Policing Team and Partner Agencies.

A more detailed update of anticipated positive results can hopefully be made in the coming weeks.

Should you wish to contact us via e-mail, the address is now ;

[EdinburghCPTColintonFairmilehead@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTColintonFairmilehead@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Contact can also be made using the previously mentioned Non-Emergency 101 Telephone Number and you can also follow us on Twitter@PentlandsPolice.

*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**

#### **Firrhill Health Centre**

The preferred option remains to create a new Centre which will provide accommodation for both the Oxgangs and the Colinton Road surgeries of the Craiglockhart Practice as well as the Firrhill Practice. The existing Firrhill surgery should then be refurbished to provide a suitable venue for a psychiatric day service for older persons.

Edinburgh Council has confirmed its requirement for 10 workstations in the building which will enable it to provide a platform for a number of service departments to use when Council staff are working in the local area.

Community Physiotherapy has confirmed that it intends to deliver musculo-skeletal physio services from the new Centre. The physio suite will consist of four treatment cubicles, a private treatment area and a small gymnasium.

Grahams Construction has been selected as will be the main contractor for the project. Gareth Hoskins Associates have now been appointed as the lead design consultant to the project. GHA did the initial feasibility work last summer, so are very familiar with the project. The design stage is programmed to commence in late April.

A challenging timetable has been set which will require the production of the Outline Business Case by the end of August. During the months of June-July detailed designs will be presented to key local stakeholders and the general public in order to get feedback and make changes if necessary. The final designs will then form part of the Business Case which will be submitted to the Scottish Government in September.

The programme anticipates that a site start can be made in the summer of 2014 and if so the Centre should be open within 12 months of that date.

#### **Flood Prevention**

Tom Dougall has agreed to meet with the Chair and other members to discuss the issues with the outstanding queries. (*see under 'Matters Arising'*)

#### **Oxgangs Broadway**

Problems with trade waste have been reported and are being monitored. This area will be one of the target areas during Operation Cipher 3.

### **Janitorial Changes**

Facilities Management for schools and community centres moved to Services for Communities at the beginning of April and the new changes implemented. Pentland Primary School and Pentland Community Centre now share a janitor. A joint timetable has been arranged which will be reviewed to ensure appropriate cover for both facilities.

### **Refuse Collections**

Problems remain re assisted collections and bins whose lids are not closed. Some residents' bins have not been emptied because neighbours or others have been putting bags in their bins. I have highlighted this problem to the department for action. Communal bin collections are also either late or missed in some streets

### **Path from Oxgangs Road North to Oxgangs Street**

I have worked with officials to secure funding to upgrade the end of the path which goes across the green space from the bus stop in Oxgangs Road North to the drying areas in Oxgangs Street.

### **Suicide & Self Harm Engagement Event**

The group held a consultation event for the Scottish Government Suicide & Self Harm Awareness Strategy. This was attended by a number of local residents and practitioners who all made very valuable contributions. These will now be collated and submitted to the Scottish Government.

### **Hope Triangle Health Action Group**

The next meeting is on Thursday at 10am in ONC at which the group will discuss its development plan.

### **Chimney at Braidburn School**

This is being investigated and a Scientific and Environmental Officer is visiting asked one of my officers to visit the Braid Burn School Braid Burn School.

### **Oxgangs School Fair**

This will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 1pm. Some of the partners from Operation Cipher will have stalls at this event.

### **Pentland Crime Prevention Panel**

The next meeting is on 15<sup>th</sup> May and we will be participating in an event at Morrison's at Hunter's Tryst on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 11.30am as part of Operation Cipher.

### **Pentland Community Safety Sub Group**

The next meeting is on Monday 3rd June at 6pm at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

### **Publicity Drive for New Members**

Various actions were agreed at the last meeting towards running a campaign to attract new members into the Community Council. The first of these was to develop promotional material in the form of flyers, bookmarks and posters.

JN circulated a draft leaflet and poster to members for comment and a proposal to change round the last two paragraphs of the first page is the only alteration to date. With no other alterations this draft is accepted for publication. An error was noted in the poster re the address of the meeting place but no other comments were received. The Chair requested time to consult with someone experienced in advertising before the poster was sent to the printers. This was accepted.

**Action: JN to arrange for the printing of 1000 leaflets based on the approved draft.**

JN provided prices for the purchase of a rubber stamp but sought clarification as to its purpose. In discussion it was agreed there were no immediate requirement for this item and that it be deferred to a later time. No action.

AH reported on the research he was carrying out to build up a colour illustration of the work of the Community Council, and this is ongoing.

**Noted:** action ongoing.

**Action:** HL to arrange schedule for presentation boards to be displayed at suitable venues throughout the Firrhill CC area (churches, community centres and schools).

## Operation Cipher

### Quiz Night

The Community Council previously agreed to funding and organising a quiz night in support of Operation Cipher. Chair advised that the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre is unavailable and she is having difficulty in organising an alternative venue, thus no date set.

**Action:** Chair to seek alternative venue for Quiz Night.

### Operation Cipher Dates

The aim is to take this initiative to all local venues and events held between the launch date and the closing date which was the 27<sup>th</sup> May, such as school/church fairs, etc.

29 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday	12 – 2 pm	Tesco – launch event
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Friday	10:45 – 1 pm	Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre
4 <sup>th</sup> ..	Saturday	11:30 -	Morrisons
7 <sup>th</sup> ..	Tuesday	10:30 -	Pentland Community Centre
11 <sup>th</sup> ..	Saturday	10:00 -	Oxgangs Primary School
15 <sup>th</sup> ..	Wednesday	11:30 – 1:30 pm	Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre

## Amenity Notices

Part of the CEC's Planning Enforcement Charter, amenity notices can be served on landowners in regard to any property or area of land, the condition of which is considered to adversely affect the amenity of the area. Two members proposed that we seek to apply for a Notice on a property in the Oxgangs area.

**Action:** Agreed to hold action until further investigation is carried out.

## Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Reports

SW Area Board 16<sup>th</sup> April:

This meeting was held in the Wester Hailes Library and attended by J Napier:

### Minute of Previous Meeting

A copy of the minute is available for perusal.

NEPs Update: proposed project 639 (Cockmylane): still ongoing with no change to previous information.

### Shared Repairs Services

This was a presentation on the redesigned Property Conservation Service which has been under investigation for malpractice. Some of the history to this matter is covered in previous SWAB

reports<sup>1</sup>. The presentation was once again given by Libby Strong, Service Re-Design Manager, SfC<sup>2</sup> Property.

The Property Conservation Service - Resolution Team is still working on resolving complaints and projects that were started prior to the operation of the new service but all new work will be dealt with by the new *Shared Repairs Service*, which started operating on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This new service is geared to encouraging owners to take responsibility for the repair of their shared property and provide advice and information to support this. The service will retain statutory notice powers but this will be restricted to ensuring such work as necessary to maintain the stability of the building is carried out for the safety of occupants. The actual repairs will still be the responsibility of the owners and not the authority. An *Emergency Service* will continue to be provided on a 24/7 basis for emergency repairs where there is a risk to public safety or public health.

The Council website has been developed to provide guidance and information to home-owners.

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/1028/improvements\\_and\\_repairs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/1028/improvements_and_repairs).

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20090/closed\\_consultations/1807/property\\_conservation\\_redesign](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20090/closed_consultations/1807/property_conservation_redesign).

### **Landlord Performance – Debbie Herbertson**

A performance update for the 3 month period January to March was given

#### Well housed – Repairs completed within Target (98%)

South West figures for the 3 months were 95%, 96% and 95% respectively against a city wide figure 96%, 94%, and 95%. The current target is 98%.

#### Well housed – Average time to complete repairs to empty homes

South West figures for the 3 months were 11, 12 and 10 days respectively against a city wide figure 12, 12, and 11. The current target is 8.

Average time to complete repair to empty homes has increased citywide this quarter. Average for last quarter was 9 days

#### Well housed – Average time to let an empty home

South West figures for the 3 months were 25, 23 and 20 days respectively against a city wide figure 27, 25, and 26. The current target is 22.

The ongoing issue with use of sub contractors, high volumes of key returns and multiple refusals has resulted in this target not being met. An action plan is currently being drafted by EBS to identify areas for improvement. Empty homes staff will also review the Lettable standard, key flow monitoring and areas of work that could be carried out on occupation.

The kitchen and bathroom programme: currently working on ad hoc properties with the intent of moving to Calder's low rise properties by the end of this month (April).

#### Well housed – Cash value of current rent arrears (March 2013)

The current arrears City-wide is £2,346,141 against a target of £1,394,000. The March 2012 figure was £1,567,985. The current arrears within the South West is £699,980, against a target of £421,117. The March 2012 figure was £434,634.

The overall arrears are higher than last year, but given the difficult year with the introduction of new legislation, welfare reform and the problems with backlogs with Revenue and Benefits this has impacted on our city wide arrears figure.

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<sup>1</sup> Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012 & 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013

<sup>2</sup> Service for Communities



*(JN) Note: the performance measurement "Homeless advice cases which do not go on to present as homeless" was not included in this report. I have emailed DH through Graham Budd for clarification as to the reason. This may be as a result of proposed changes to a number of policies related to Welfare Reform, which were being considered at a Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee meeting on the same day- 16<sup>th</sup> April.*

### **Welfare Reform Information Event**

Good progress continues to be made by teams directly contacting those affected. Tenants affected by HB under occupancy indicated preferences currently shown:

- 18% interested in moving to a smaller home
- 44% wish to stay in their current home and pay
- 34% are undecided
- 4% may consider a lodger

Locally the South West Team have worked hard to make contact with all tenants who are affected by under occupation, with contact attempts made by telephone, home visits and if all else fails – by letter. Around 145 tenants living in the South West and Pentlands will be under occupying their current home by 2 or more bedrooms and are subject to a 25% penalty and 755 are under occupying by one room and are subject to the 14% penalty.

A Welfare Reform Information event was held in Oxgangs Library and attended by 3 residents. A further event was held on 11<sup>th</sup> April and again this event had low numbers attending.

### **Property Team Activity**

The property team are proposing to carry out a spring clean in the Oxgangs 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 4<sup>th</sup> April, I attended a walkabout with Tam Nisbet, Housing Officer, Estates and Property Management Team, SWNO along with James Fox, Community Safety, and Eddie Hume, Roads Inspector. Main issues identified were flytipping (5 trolleys, etc., in the burn); dog fouling; potholes and other road defects. A copy of the report on the issues raised will be attached to the minutes.

### **Election of Chairperson**

This is another matter that has been mentioned in my last two reports. A motion was submitted at the previous meeting by Redhall Tenants & Residents Group for the position of Chair to be rotated on a 3 yearly basis. Had concerns about the wording of the motion but support the principle of rotating the Chair. Submitted an alternative motion to the SWNO for consideration.

At the meeting, Debbie Herbetson, who was acting Chair in the absence of the Chairperson informed the meeting that she had been advised not to put the motion to a vote as the matter was under discussion within the Neighbourhood Partnership. The Redhall representative was justifiably upset that he had not been given prior warning of this stance.

I do think Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership need to review the structure of the sub groups and determine if there is a role for this particular group. The City of Edinburgh Council have a Tenant Participation Strategy to promote and enable tenants collectively or individually to get involved in improving housing services. The Edinburgh Tenants Federation is the recognised citywide negotiating body for Council tenants. Presumably the ETF meet with the relevant housing officers of the Council and other Housing Association to discuss matters that are relevant to the tenants of that social landlord. Whilst there is a role for the Neighbourhood Partnerships to discuss housing

developments within the context of the Local Development Plan, is there a role in the discussions on housing standards, repairs, maintenance and transfers.

The meeting was held in Wester Hailes Library and we are required to vacate the premises at 8pm thus due to the lack of time the community feedback from the local reps was not taken.

### **It's Your Neighbourhood**

Information on this non-competitive scheme was circulated by Debbie Herbetson. It is aimed at bringing members of the community together to make a positive change to the place they live, work or spend their leisure time. The scheme is open to groups of all sizes who are interested in cleaning up and greening up their local area, whether that is the street where they live, a derelict space on their estate or the grounds around the local community centre. **Registration closes at the end of April.**

### **Scottish Housing Regulator**

The Scottish Housing Regulator's role is to protect the interests of tenants, homeless people and others who use the housing services of councils, housing associations, co-ops and other social landlords. The Regulator is setting up a **National Panel** as one way to hear about tenants' priorities and the service they receive, using the feedback to help focus on the important things.

You can join if you are a tenant of a social landlord, are homeless, a home owner receiving factoring/common repairs services from a social landlord, or a gypsy/traveller who uses council/housing association sites.

### **Planning Applications Report**

Details of planning applications within the Firrhill CC area and proposals for major developments within the City area for the period from our last meeting are as follows:

**25 March 2013**

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area

#### **Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh:**

Ward A17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: 13/00928/PAN for a residential development and ancillary uses and formation of community parkland at South East Wedge Development Site, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh.

**2 April 2013**

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area

#### **Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh:**

Ward A02 – Pentland Hills: 13/00672/PAN for a proposed redevelopment of long standing brown field site with approx 170 new flatted and housing units at land 90 metres west of 95 Harvesters Way, Edinburgh.

**8 April 2013**

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area

No proposal of application Notices for the City of Edinburgh.

**15 April 2013**

Application 13/01095/CLP for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed dormer window to the rear of the property at 43 Oxbgangs Farm Grove, Edinburgh, EH13 9PP.

#### **Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh:**

Ward A17 – Portobello/Craigmillar: 13/01187/PAN for the erection of new Portobello High School and associated ancillary buildings, site works car parking, landscaping, pitches and floodlighting at Portobello High School, 1 Milton Road, Edinburgh, EH15 3BY.

No decisions for Ward 08 – Firrhill CC area

## **Treasurer's Report**

The change of mandate forms, etc., for the transfer of authorised signatories were posted to Barclays on the 11<sup>th</sup> April and a phone call this morning confirms that they have been received and the necessary changes made. Still waiting on the necessary information to enable online access to our account and this will take another week.

## **Correspondence**

All members had been provided with this list (26 Feb to 21 Mar) prior to the meeting, and printed updates to 25 Mar were handed out by the Sec at the meeting. (see App 1).

## **A.O.C.B.**

### **Neighbourhood Environmental Programme (NEP) Projects**

The NEP budget allocation for the Pentlands NP for 2013-14 is £166.250. A list of proposed projects has been circulated to relevant partners in the South West Area for consideration. Within Pentlands NP there are nine projects listed, four of which are in Firrhill Community Council's area. They are:

- 9 Oxfangs Park – landscaping and fencing rear garden area
- 1-3 Oxfangs crescent – fencing drying areas
- 20-22 Firrhill Drive – footpath and handrail
- 1 Oxfangs Drive – footpath and fencing

Whilst it is accepted that all of those projects will bring some benefit to the people concerned there are concerns about the assessments and values made. The funding for these NEP projects comes from the Housing Revenue Account.

*Action: JN to query .*

### **Cockmylane**

Reported that recent works done along the path between Oxfangs Hill and Pentland Primary School has damaged the improvement work carried out to the path under the Discretionary Roads and Footways Scheme 2010/11. Understand the railing was removed some months ago to allow access for machinery to cut back hedges/bushes. However, the railing has never been replaced, and nobody has any idea where it has disappeared to.

*Action: Secretary to write to Lloyd Richardson, Professional Officer South-West Neighbourhood Environment .*

## **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm.**

**Venue:** Board Room in the Oxfangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk.

The meeting ended at **10.00 pm.**

## Correspondence List

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

1. Tom Dougall: response, re data protection and many costly reports, to Sec's e-mail on behalf of Firrhill CC confirming that FOI requests are not being withdrawn.
2. Sgt R Mackenzie: apologies for no police presence or report at our meeting on 25/03.
3. f by H Levy: March newsletter from Parenting Across Scotland.
4. Mobile Library Service: info & timetable at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries/](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries/)
5. Cllr Lewis: lighting installation at new pavilion car park now scheduled for mid-April.
6. Sarah Boyack MSP: e-newsletter for March, including Council's re-designed statutory repairs service; call to end gagging clauses in NHS; community groups can apply to Big Lottery Fund.
7. E Hewitt: 'Influencing the Council' event, 30 April, 7pm, City Chambers [HL,AH,GH,SD]
8. Dr A Edwards: 'short list' of 17 projects for Ward 8, to be discussed at next NEPs meeting.
9. A Clark, SW Communities Forum: notes from 25/03, re possible development of greenfield sites.
10. N Tinlin: a) notes from EACC Question Time with Sue Bruce & Cllr Burns; b) submission made by EACC to Scottish Gov Planning Consultation.
11. E Hewitt re Zurich insurance for CCs; + copy of these documents from J Napier.
12. Sarah McDonald: update on Neighbourhood Partnership Review.
13. Gordon Macdonald MSP: April Newsletter.
14. f by J Napier: Community Councils publicity templates f. by E Hewitt, CEC.
15. EACC Sec: info on Keegan-Pennykid insurance for Community Councils.
16. H Levy: Suicide & Self Harm event, 15 April, ONC: programme for the day + Scot Gov paper.
17. Cllr Jason Rust: copy of letter from Tom Dougall re issues raised by residents: scouring damage to Braid Burn near Redford Neuk and dumping of debris on paths; rocks to form banking not concreted in and being lifted by heavy flow of water.
18. Eileen Hewitt: Britain from the Air Exhibition: walk-on map in Festival Square until 20 May.
19. Archie Clark, SW Communities Forum: CEC weblink to Site Index of larger brownfield areas.
20. Cllr Rust: copy of Planning Enforcement Investigation, Redford Woods adj. to Redford Rd, re drainage carried out by developer of Care Home and consequent mounds of earth left in woods: Planning Authority cannot take action to remove these – do not need planning application.
21. G Croucher, in reply to FCC Sec: has no knowledge of request for funding from NEPs budget re widening of entrance to CM Park from Oxbangs Rd North.
22. E Hewitt: info re Big Lottery's newly-launched Communities & Families Fund giving small grants to support projects working with young children.
23. Cllr Rust: response from Environmental Warden re complaints of litter collecting in field behind Tesco: MOD land, so Council can only liaise, but Task Force will attend re litter at Colin Primary.
24. Jim Napier: his amended motion on election/role of SWArea Board Chair [meet on 16 April].

25. f. by J Napier: acknowledgement by CEC that gritting must be done by hand at corner of Oxfangs Farm Dr/Oxfangs Rd North and down to bus stop + salt bin will be installed.
26. Tom Dougall re our FOI request: a response to us is drafted but quite a number of people are now involved (because of our appeal to SIC) who will have input before letter is sent to us.
27. J Napier: poster & leaflet to publicise Firrhill Community Council.
28. Scottish Gov: following topic of allotments included in Community Empowerment & Renewal Consultation, an Allotment Consultation takes place until 24 May. Documents & Response form: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/04/5940> E-mail address for questions/responses: [Allotmentconsultation2013@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Allotmentconsultation2013@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
29. Scottish Information Commissioner Decision: Council has until 30 May to give us a response to our letter for a review of their decision not to provide us with the information we requested. [This Decision also received from SIC by Recorded Delivery.]
30. PC D Crawford: confirmation that he is now able to attend our meeting on 22/04.
31. f. by H Levy: Scottish Ambulance Service Patient Focus Public Involvement Spring newsletter.
32. H Levy, Hope Triangle Health Group: 25 April, 10 am, 12 Firrhill Neuk.
33. EACC Sec: Meeting on Planning Issues, 16 May, 6-8 pm, City Chambers [to J Napier].
34. D Webster: Apologies from Cllr Lewis; his Report to follow.
35. Cllr Aitken: trying to get answers re FOI request. Letter compiled by Council but now with Legal Services. Number of complaints: not logged on a database until recently (paper files only), and most concern one street and path. Tom Dougall has offered to attend tonight's FCC meeting.
36. Proposed Waiting Amendments: waiting restrictions 8am-4pm, Mon-Fri; single yellow line on crossings opposite Oxfangs Primary + double yellow lines on both corners of Colinton Mains Gardens at junction with Oxfangs Road North.
37. Archie Clark, SW Community Forum: Agenda for meeting on Mon 29 April, 7.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall, Currie.
38. Chris Peggie: FOI Review Officer, with apologies, is not able to send out response for our 22 April meeting.
39. Legal Services Agency Leaflets [to H Levy]
40. CEC leaflets 'How to Make a Complaint', and 'Have Your Say' [distributed to members]
41. CEC leaflets on Development Plan Scheme, March 2013 [to HL, JN, PW; more copies requested by Sec.]