

# Firrhill Community Council

*'Nec Aspera Terrent'*

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 27 May 2013  
Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

## Members:

H Levy (Chair)  
P Wright (Secretary)  
L Linn  
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, Oxgangs Police Stn

## Apologies:

F Gosney

## Visitors:

## Non-attendance

Police Representative

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

## Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 22 April 2013 were reviewed and one correction to a street name on page 2 was made. There being no other corrections the minutes were moved for approval by L Linn, seconded by S Duffy and agreed.

*Action: Minutes Secretary to post the approved minute on website.*

## 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.

*Action: Cllr Aitken to follow-up to ensure reimbursement paid.*

### Police Attendance and Reports:

The formation of a new national Scottish Police Force, with changes in police duty systems and priorities, has resulted in the community council's monthly meetings held on a Monday being out of sync with the local community beat officer's rotas. It is unclear if there will be a regular police attendance / reporting at future meetings and the community council are seeking clarification. The matter is ongoing as there is no police attendance at this meeting.

### **Scottish Parliament Tour**

Chair advised that a tour of the Scottish Parliament for 12 people has been booked for the 5<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30 pm. Would like confirmation of attendance from community council members as members of the Hope Triangle Action Group have also expressed an interest.

*Action: Members to advise the Chair if they wish to attend.*

### **Colinton Mains Park:**

- **Notice board** has been re-instated, repaired and is now in use by the football club. Its location does not harmonise with the Pavilion notice board on the fence but is well situated for use by the club. It is noted that the other notice poles are still lying at the entrance to the park.
- **Car Park Lighting** has been installed and is working – matter is now resolved .
- **Refuse bin** at the back of the car park is not conveniently sited. Would like to see it re-sited on the pavement at the entrance to the car park where it can be used by schoolchildren using the nearby food outlets during their lunch break. Cllr Aitken advised she has asked for more bins to be set out in the Park.
- **Park Entrance:** There is no information regarding the proposed project, put forward for 2013/14, to widen the entrance from Oxbgangs Road North to allow service vehicles access.

*Action: Cllr Lewis to follow-up on the re-instatement or removal of other sign posts which were left lying after the completion of the Pavilion work; Cllr Aitken to follow up on the provision of refuse bins for the Park. Secretary to follow up on the proposal to widen the Park entrance.*

### **Flood Defence Work**

The Chair gave a report on her meeting with Tom Dougall and points of note are:

- in regard to responsibilities of occupiers where the flood wall forms part of the boundary to their property – a letter was sent out in 2003 covering this matter but as far as the City Council are concerned there are no legal responsibilities applicable.
- Landscaping- TD assured the chair that there was no restriction on what owners could or could not plant on their property although it would be useful if all manholes were kept clear. Outstanding landscape works are being investigated by Brian Torrance.
- underground spring/burst pipe- this is being investigated in Hope Triangle/Greenbank
- hogweed – Peter Watson is the FCC link to tackle this issue
- sluice gates at reservoirs feeding the Braid Burn are low just now due to maintenance work being carried out

L Linn indicated she was not aware of any letter issued in 2003 and would like some information from the City Council as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the shed in her garden that houses one of the pumps installed to pump ground water over the flood wall into the burn. It is assumed the Flood Prevention Maintenance Team, as part of the CEC's Transport Maintenance Team, would be responsible but it would be good to have this confirmed in writing. Tom Dougall is the current manager of the Transport Maintenance Team.

*Action: Report noted*

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

**Leaflets:** 5,000 as opposed to 1,000 leaflets had been printed as the difference in cost made it beneficial to go for the higher figure. This should be sufficient to meet our needs for the forthcoming election.

**Poster:** referred to a consultant. It was accepted that the use of a poster to raise the community council's profile would be more advantageous nearer the election time.

**Presentation Boards:** propose to circulate the boards round suitable venues to display some of the work the community council have been involved in.

*Action: Secretary to approach Colinton Mains Church for permission to display the boards within the church premises.*

#### **Operation Cipher:**

The Chair and Cllr Aitken gave reports on their involvement in Operation Cipher. The general view was the exercise had been a success but looking for feedback from all participants to get a proper perspective and therefore an end of project report is essential. Some groups participated more than others, with Edinburgh Leisure in particular having little involvement. One noted benefit was having different service representatives together at each venue. If a member of the public asked a question there was someone there who could give a positive answer.

#### **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. At the previous meeting, two members proposed we seek to apply for a Notice on a property in the Oxgangs area and it was agreed to investigate further before pursuing for a notice.

The property concerned is a business establishment with a yard at the rear used for storage. The boundary fence at the rear consists of sections of the type of open wire mesh fencing used for security on building sites enabling the yard and its contents to be seen by people passing by.

The surrounding area is mainly open grassed space, bordered by the frontage of buildings. This is the only property that backs on to the area and the storage area is an eyesore, detracting from the general appearance of the area.

*Action: to raise the issue with the landlord in the first instance and see if he is willing to take steps to resolve the matter.*

#### **PNP Reports: NEP Projects**

A list of projects proposed for the Firrhill Community Council area was presented at the last meeting and concerns were raised about their value in relation to neighbourhood improvements. The CC's views have been submitted to the SW Neighbourhood Office and an acknowledgement received.

*Action: matter ongoing*

#### **Cockmylane:**

It had been discovered that the railings installed at the Oxgangs Hill end of the path running up to Pentland Primary School had been removed by workmen at some point to enable vehicular access but the railings have not been replaced. The installation of these railings was proposed by the Community Council and carried out as a project under Discretionary Roads and Footways Scheme in 2010/11.

*Action: Secretary wrote to Lloyd Richardson, SWNO and he is making enquiries into the situation. Matter ongoing*

#### **Community Police Report:**

No report available.

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

### **1. Parking near Pentland Primary**

Once again, parents are restricting sightlines for children crossing at Oxfangs Bank and Green. I have reported this to the police and asked that traffic attendants visit the areas. I will also be monitoring parking personally at various times with PC Crawford.

### **2. Oxfangs Central Residents' Association**

I attended OCRA's AGM on Wednesday 24th April at which a number of local issues were raised for action.

One issue concerned possible double yellow lines. I asked Lloyd Richardson to monitor and assess two locations. His recommendations would be to promote double yellow lines for Oxfangs Place at Oxfangs Avenue and reassess the situation at Oxfangs Crescent / Firrhill Drive once the ongoing development has been completed.

Oxfangs Place and Oxfangs Gardens are on the capital list for resurfacing this financial year.

### **3. Chimney at Braidburn**

Last year during the Legionella outbreak in Edinburgh Scientific Services were contacted by an officer from the Neighbourhood Office saying that a concern about steam going into louvers at a school had been raised at a Community Council meeting. This was investigated at the time, as were many other leads when members of the public contacted us with suggestions for which we were very grateful. We reported back verbally to the Neighbourhood Office that the situation did not pose significant concerns. I apologise if that was not transmitted back through to the Community Council and yourself.

You may not be aware that the Council have a comprehensive programme of work to control the risk of legionella in their 300 plus operational properties such as schools. This involves regular measurements of water temperatures and flushing of little used outlets etc. As well as regular on site maintenance Property Services have engaged Scientific Services to do annual audits and inspections of all tanks and take samples for testing so that any potential problems are picked up early. For properties deemed to present a higher risk such as Homes for Elderly People these are tested on a six monthly cycle.

As a precaution I have asked one of my officers to visit the Braid Burn School to be sure that there are no additional risks present.

### **4. Op Cipher 3**

Launched 29th April at Tesco, a litter pick at Oxfangs Broadway took place on 17th May.

### **5. Crime Prevention Panel**

Met on 15th April. We are planning a joint initiative with the other panels in Edinburgh on bogus workmen, encouraging residents to have a nominated contact.

### **6. Firrhill Health Centre**

The architect has been appointed so an information session is required for the community.

## **7. Pentland Community Centre**

The follow through review is being prepared and will come to committee on 20th June. The centre will close on 1st July for the refurbishment.

**8. Marie Curie Summer Fete** is on Saturday 1st June, 10 am to 12.30pm.

## **9. New Bins near Firrhill HS**

New bins have been requested at the following locations: Oxfangs Road North foot path near the rear entrance to the school on the opposite side from the houses at Braidburn School near the pedestrian entrance to the gym hall, Firrhill astro turf entrance on the left as you walk up to the school, 2 on the footpath from Tesco to Oxfangs Primary and at Colinton Mains Gardens.

## **10. Refuse Issues**

There are still problems with refuse collections – the paper recycling bin at Oxfangs Broadway is not emptied, Oxfangs Loan again, Firrhill Park and Oxfangs Roads North. Two new food waste bins for Oxfangs House have been requested.

## **Councillor Lewis**

A list of constituent issues is attached as appendix 1. Councillor Lewis also raised the following matters arising from his remit as convenor of the Culture and Leisure Department:

### **National Performance Centre for Sport**

Plans continue to pick up pace for Edinburgh's bid to become the home of the National Performance Centre for Sport.

Attended a meeting at the end of April with Steve, Andrew Burns and Sue Bruce at Heriot-Watt University and discussed many aspects of the bid with Professor Steve Chapman, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of HWU, and his colleagues.

The project team are working on the detailed plans required for the new centre as part of the Stage 2 submission whilst I have convened a small group of officials from the Council and HWU to look at the media and communication plan in the lead up to the submission deadline and beyond. We are looking to develop a pledge web-page where the public, clubs and public figures can back Edinburgh's bid. We are also looking to sign up a selection of high profile sports stars to appear at photo calls and will be developing a number of other streams to make sure we get the message across that the best location for the new NPCS is in Edinburgh.

Tabled an emergency motion at full Council at the start of the month and a report will be going to Council on 30th May. I would be grateful if you could cascade your support for Edinburgh's bid and help me to promote our pledge page when this goes online – I will keep you posted on this!

### **Community Access to Schools**

Plans continue to be developed to improve community access to schools with an update report going to E, C & F Committee next week. The report confirms that the C&F department will be investing £160k in the sport facilities at Queensferry High School which is great news for this part of the city. I am also delighted to announce that, subject to Committee approval, Culture & Sport will be contributing up to £125k towards a new 3G synthetic pitch at Balerno High School.

### **Bongo Club**

I was delighted to be invited and speak at the launch of the Bongo Club's new home at the Central Library. As you may be aware, the Bongo Club previously rented premises at Moray House College but were asked to vacate due to plans to redevelop this space. Library officials have been working hard to put in place a lease and agreement for the Bongo Club to use 66 Cowgate whilst allowing Underbelly to continue operating their successful fringe venue during the Festival.

## **Councillor Rust**

Pentland Primary School Fair:

Colinton Mains Community Centre:

Refuse Collections: problems

Oxgangs Spring Clean:

Oxgangs Broadway: clean-up

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre: street notices installed giving directions to Centre.

## **Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Reports**

### **Business Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May:**

This meeting was attended by HL. The business consisted of a presentation on the regeneration of Clovenstone and updates from the various sub-groups.

### **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 up to 13<sup>th</sup> May were previously circulated and are contained in appendix 2. The details from the Bulletin dated 20<sup>th</sup> May is: Application 13/00908/CLP - to use part of front garden for a driveway at 8 Stark's Cottages, Edinburgh, EH13 9EF.

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

Ward No.A07 – Sighthill/Gorgie: 13/01820/PAN for the renewal of planning permission in principal (10/00953/PPP) for redevelopment of site for affordable housing and housing for sale with ancillary community facilities and associated landscaping and public realm at site 94 metres north of 376 Calder Road, Edinburgh.

### **Treasurer's Report**

All members had been provided with a copy of the Treasurer's report a copy of which is attached as Appendix 3. No matters arising.

### **Flood Defence Works: Request for Information**

The Authority's response to our request for information as required by the OSIC decision was received on 14<sup>th</sup> May and circulated to all members. The response is basically a refusal because of the cost in obtaining the information and is therefore considered to be "manifestly unreasonable".

In order to focus on the next steps JN has provided a review of the response (see appendix 4) and proposes the following actions in regard to it.

- CEC Response: the response lacks clarity and any clear offer to assist. We should refer to OSIC for advice before we accept the CEC's decision.
- Flooding of Properties: we advise the residents of the situation and ask for their views. If they wish us to continue to support their complaint, they will be required to assist.
- Flooding of the Braidburn Path: seek for the removal of the raised banking along the length of the flood plain and the reformed banking to be landscaped as a final solution to this problem.

After discussion, the above was agreed by the members.

**Correspondence:**

All members were provided with a list of the correspondence received between 23 April - 23 May, prior to meeting. An update of correspondence received between 24 – 27 May was read out at the meeting (see Appendix 5 for full list).

**A.O.C.B:**

- a) Chair intimated resignations of Alistair and Grace Hunter.
- b) Hope Triangle Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**Date and Time of Next Meeting : 24th June at 7.00 pm.**

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

This meeting ended at **10.00 pm.**

## **Councillor Lewis: Constituent Issues**

1. Letter received from constituent with regards the roads at Oxgangs Farm Avenue, Comiston Road, Morningside and Tollcross. Raising concerns has this is a danger to cyclists. Awaiting a response from the South West Roads Team.

2. Following a CC meeting, Councillor Lewis raised an enquiry regarding the street at Oxgangs Crescent. When work started on the new development it was agreed that the site traffic enter near St Marks Church on Oxgangs Avenue and exit the other end near the bridge on Oxgangs Avenue. This was to prevent heavy lorries trying to manoeuvre in a limited space but the site traffic did not adopt this approach.

This issue was raised with the local police, who investigated and advised that Oxgangs Crescent had a temporary traffic restriction order in place for the beginning of work when the heavy goods vehicles were moving all the bigger pieces of building material it is no longer in place as there are less instances of HGV's entering the site.

3. Following a CC meeting issues had been raised with there being no bus trackers in the Colinton Area. The following response was received from Transport. We currently have approximately 390 Bustracker signs placed throughout the city's network of 2500 bus stops. Our resources for new Bustracker signs now focus on key stops on routes with fewer and less frequent services. Key stops are ascertained by using a scoring matrix based on certain factors, such as their proximity to education centres, health facilities, shops, local centres and stops that can be used for interchange between different bus services. Our resources are limited and every new sign that we install commits the Council to ongoing year on year maintenance costs.

Currently we have two requests from local residents in the Colinton area on our list. These are Colinton Mains Drive opposite Colinton Mains Terrace (received January 2012) and Colinton Road opposite Thorburn Road (received January 2013). Both of these scored the same on our matrix and currently sit 10th and 11th on our list.

We will be looking to install some signs at stops from our list this year, however, we have not yet received confirmation of our budget for this year and I am unable to advise how many we will be installing.

Please note that Bustracker real time information can be found for all stops served by Lothian Buses on our website [www.mybustracker.co.uk](http://www.mybustracker.co.uk). Information can also be found there regarding accessing the information while on the move via our mobile phone site, WAP and smart phone apps.

4. Councillor Lewis asked about the possibility of a Zebra Crossing being put where there is an island on Oxgangs Avenue. A Road Safety team have confirmed they will carry out a further assessment of the location stated below for the crossing point.

5. Councillor Lewis raised concerns with Firrhill Drive/Oxgangs Crescent – does this area require double yellow lines, as there is an issue with cars parking on this stretch of road and traffic finding it difficult to pass by.

Response from the department was as follows. The parking restrictions request on both Oxgangs Crescent and Firrhill Drive I feel would receive a lot of objections due to the amount of residential properties in each of these streets. At the moment all the vehicles appear to be parking on the one side of the carriageways (east side) which only leaves half the width for moving vehicles.

The proposed restrictions would allow easier vehicle movement but this could cause speeding issue's as the carriageway would be free of parked cars allowing vehicles the freedom of the carriageway. This may cause more of an issue than the current vehicle movement one again due to the high amount of residential properties in the two streets. The restrictions would also significantly reduce the amount of area available spaces for residents to park their cars in.



## Report on Weekly Planning Bulletins

### 22 April 2013

No applications for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area

#### **No Proposal of Application Notices for the City of Edinburgh**

**Decision:** 13/00397/FUL: temporary planning application at Craiglockhart Reservoir for a temporary telecoms mast already in situ under emergency powers at Craiglockhart Reservoir, Oxbgangs Road North, Edinburgh has been approved.

### 29 April 2013

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area.

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

Ward No. A10 – Meadows/Morningside: 13/01468/PAN - Application for planning permission in principle in respect of the master planning of the Royal Edinburgh campus for healthcare purposes, including refurbishment, redevelopment and reprovision of the Royal Edinburgh campus and additional NHS services together with various works at Royal Edinburgh Hospital, 23 Tipperlinn Road, Edinburgh. EH10 5HF.

Ward No. A10 – Meadows/Morningside: 13/01470/PAN - Application for planning permission in respect of the phase 1 development of the healthcare master plan of the Royal Edinburgh campus together with various works at Royal Edinburgh Hospital, 23 Tipperlinn Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5HF

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.

### 6 May 2013

No applications for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area

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

Ward No. A15 – Southside/Newington: 13/01513/PAN for a proposed development of student residential accommodation (incorporating demolition of existing business units) with associated ancillary uses and amenity spaces at 20, 22, 24, 26 Bernard Terrace, 19B, 19C, 19D, 19E Lutton Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX.

**Decision:** application 13/00561/FUL has been granted for a proposed rear extension of house at 49 Colinton Mains Green, Edinburgh, EH13 9AQ.

### 13 May 2013

No applications or decisions for Ward A08 – Firrhill CC area

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

Ward No. A04 – Forth: 13/01705/PAN for the demolition of former college buildings and erection of residential development on the site at former 474A Pilton Avenue, Edinburgh.

(For 20<sup>th</sup> May see Planning Report)

## Treasurer's Report

### Insurance Scheme:

As you are aware we were advised by Eileen Hewitt that the insurance cover for community councils was coming up for renewal and asking if we wanted to continue with the block arrangement for deducting premiums from community council grants before they were paid. The Community Council were insured through Zurich Municipal but found their premium had increased from £53 to £79.50 due to the addition of a mandatory legal expenses cover where public liability insurance is held.

This substantial increase prompted a look at the other insurance provider offering this service to community councils and they are Insurance Brokers, Keegan and Pennykid, based in Edinburgh. They recommended the Royal & Sun Alliance insurers at a premium of £60 for basically the same cover.

The insurance scheme is titled the *Encompass Charity Scheme* and provides cover for liability risks, personal accident and professional indemnity. Notice of acceptance to the terms was sent to the Brokers and Eileen Hewitt on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### Accounts:

As reported at the last meeting the transfer of authorised signatories for the bank has taken place and I, as the interim treasurer, am now one of three members authorised to sign cheques. Our banking arrangements require two signatures on a cheque to authorise the transaction.

What has been harder to achieve is the online facility to view the Community Council's finances in order to facilitate an audit. A bank statement (issued on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013) covering the period 30 Nov 2012 to 29 April 2013 has been received and our final balance was £3,691.10. The only transaction recorded on the statement was for the sum of £170.00 to GreenPrint.

With reference to the leaflets, after clearing it with the Chair and Secretary, I ordered 5,000 A5 leaflets and not the original 1,000 as stated at our last meeting. The difference in price from the minimum advertised quantity of 2,000 to the order number was only £15.

There was only one other transaction which had not been cleared by the bank prior to the issue of the statement and that was a reimbursement to the Secretary for the sum of £14 for printer ink.

## Report on FOI Request for Information

The long awaited response has been received and advises that due to the estimated cost of finding and reviewing the information requested, the City of Edinburgh Council have deemed the request as *manifestly unreasonable* and as such are not obliged to respond. It has taken from the 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 to the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 for the CEC to work out this estimate, whilst at the same time seemingly unable to identify any actual files or records of relevant information related to our request.

We should be mindful of the fact that we have an email from Tom Dougall dated 19 March 2013, in which he states – *“I would suggest that you will not get copies of condition surveys unless the homeowner gives their consent. However the homeowner should already have a copy of the one relating to their property. David (Bewsey) did ask about modelling and there is a report relating to this which could be made available but I will warn you it is quite weighty and is of a technical nature. There is also a number of reports (generally of an environmental nature) available on our website.”*

What are condition surveys, what information do they provide and when were they produced? CEC could have been helpful and provided this information but they didn't. The same could equally be said about the *report which could be made available*. We asked for relevant internal/external reports and if it is not exempt why was it not provided – **because it was manifestly unreasonable to provide one report – surely not?**

The foregoing email was a follow-up to another from Mr Dougall, dated 12 March 2012, in which he states – *“As we discussed it would make life a lot easier for me and perhaps result in a more meaningful response if you and David could both could withdraw the FOI, as you would get a very formal response and not much useful information back. If you were to email me with something along the lines of that below it would be much appreciated.”*

What could be ‘a more meaningful response’. The Community Council are asking to see evidence of what has actually taken place – that is all. We are not asking for information to be created, which is what he is inferring. Our request for information on issues that have arisen since the completion of the flood defence works consisted of five parts

1. complaints – asked only for numbers not details – on the assumption that complaints are logged and categorised – by date; location; postcode; nature;?;?.
2. internal communications with local city councillors – there are three – Cllrs Aitken, Rust and ex-Cllr Barry and most internal communications are done by email – search facility?
3. internal reports - related top the issues covered in the letter
4. consultant reports – related to the issues covered in the letter
5. flood defence work drawings (worthless without the information asked in 1-4)

Tom Dougall is possibly correct that the residents in Oxbgangs Road North affected by the flood defence work would have some of the information requested and we did ask them to provided copies of their records. Unfortunately they were not forthcoming and as a result we were forced to go to the CEC with an all encompassing request in the hope of getting some answers.

At our meeting on 26 November 2012, Messrs Barber and Torrance advise the Community Council that consultants had been employed to assess if the flood defence works was a factor contributing to localised flooding but could provide no information in regard to their findings. We have to assume that there is at least one consultants report but unless we can identify the title, date and author – it is lost in the CEC / Iron Mountain files and, according to the CEC FOI Review Officer, it will cost hundreds of pounds to find it.

We should be mindful also that it took the CEC from August 2011 to February 2012 to send three workmen with a digger and a spade to dig a small channel through the raised embankment to resolve the serious flooding problem on the footpath at the flood plain in Oxfangs Road North. How many people over that period of time were inconvenienced by the Authority's failure to respond. When you read Tom Dougall's letter to David Bewsey, dated 13 March 2013, it becomes apparent that council officers still cannot seem to get their heads round the fact the path was not flooding because of an overspill from the burn but because rainfall could not drain naturally from the flood plain into the burn because of the raised banking.

A CEC email dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012, reports that the fore mentioned work (done in February) had been completed and that arrangements would now be made for the adjacent area to be re-seeded. Has this area ever been re-seeded – no – but this may be due to the following which discusses a more permanent solution to the problem.

On the 1 May 2012 Stewart Farquhar, Local Environment Manager - South West, emailed Brian Torrance advising that he had *'discussed the Braid Burn path flooding situation with the Neighbourhood Team and confirm we can undertake a remedial design to rectify the problem if this is what Tom is suggesting. As Core Roads are, like yourself, now under the Services For Communities Transport banner, I'm sure they will afford this project the necessary priority on completion of the design. Please confirm if indeed you require us to carry out this work, and if so, the folio code to be used.'* Is there any evidence of action taken in regard to this?

What is interesting about all of the communications we have received is the misunderstanding of what this is about. It is about obtaining evidence of what has taken place so that we can sit down with council officers and speak on a level playing field. We invited council officers to attend our November meeting and were clearly not impressed with the verbal responses given but we lacked information, other than that received from the resident who attended the meeting.

**Proposed Action:**

CEC Response: the response lacks clarity and any clear offer to assist. We should refer to OSIC for advice before we accept the CEC's decision.

Flooding of Properties: we advise the residents of the situation and asked for their views. In the event they wish us to continue to support their complaint then they will be required to assist.

Flooding of the Braidburn Path: seek for the removal of the raised banking along the length of the flood plain and the reformed banking to be landscaped as a final solution to this problem.

J Napier, Firrhill Community Council, 19 May 2013.

## Correspondence List

### Firrhill CC Correspondence from 23 April – 23 May '13

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

- 1 J Napier: copy of publicity leaflet for Firrhill CC sent to printer (5k copies)
- 2 Cllr Lewis re Museum of Edinburgh 'Silver of the Stars' exhibition (until 21 Sept)
- 3 Sarah Boyack MSP: April e-News, including update on Lothian Buses hybrid vehicles, and NHS 'whistleblowing' line.
- 4 Frank Ross: CEC Economic C'ttee re 'Investing in Jobs', update on Economic Strategy '13.
- 5 J Napier: Insurance quote from Keegan & Pennykid and acceptance by Firrhill CC.
- 6 E Hewitt: 'It's Your Neighbourhood' cleaning & greening support (register by 30 April)
- 7 Cllr Lewis: confirmation that lighting at new pavilion is installed and working.
- 8 E Hewitt: CCs Newsletter, with details of Community Councils Elections, Review of Scheme, and CC Engagement activities.
- 9 H Levy: internet security sessions at ONC (8 May) & Pentland Centre (14 May).
- 10 Council Leader's Report, April, incl updates on Council's Property Repairs Services, Trams, Bedroom Tax, and Community Planning.
- 11 E Hewitt re Main Issues Report: National Planning Framework & Scottish Planning Policy consultation documents and assessments  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/NPF3-SPP-Review>
- 12 Carol Marr, Team Leader, Oxfangs Library, confirming Firrhill CC Secretary's request for dedicated space on hallway notice-board to display notices, agendas, etc.
- 13 Gordon Macdonald MSP re 'Celebrate' grants from £500-£10k for communities across Scotland coming together through arts, heritage, sports and local celebrations of the Commonwealth Games, or celebrating people, places and culture of the commonwealth:  
<http://www.celebrateit.org.uk/>
- 14 Archie Clark: SW Communities Forum meeting, Currie, 27 May.
- 15 Jim Napier re AC Oxfangs notice-board, now reinstalled but damaged [Sec e-mailed John Giblin: enquired when damage was done, and if it had been reported, but no reply received.]
- 16 Gordon Macdonald MSP: May Newsletter, incl Edinburgh in the running for National Performance Centre for Sport [www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info](http://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info)
- 17 Sarah McDonald, SW Office: Public Exhibitions re Phase 1 Development of Healthcare Masterplan of Royal Edinburgh Campus: MacKinnon House, REH, Morningside Terrace, 6 June, 8 am to 4 pm, and Eric Liddle Centre, 15 Morningside Rd, 6 June, 5 pm to 8 pm.
- 18 Scott Neill: Pentlands Funding Panel Workshop, Oxfangs Library, 21 May, 5.45-7.15 pm: tips on what makes a good application to appeal to an awarding body. Only 20 places are available on this date, but reserve list for possible future event: Tel 0131-527 3800 or e-mail [sarah.mcdonald@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mcdonald@edinburgh.gov.uk)

- 19 CEC Traffic Orders: proposed 24 hr waiting restrictions to maintain line of sight at Oxfangs Path, Brae, and Road North; disabled parking place to be removed at Oxfangs Green.
- 20 E Hewitt, Review of CC Scheme: areas for further consideration. Copies of proposed Scheme on view at libraries and [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils) Responses by 31 May to [community.councils@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:community.councils@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- 21 J Napier: AC Oxfangs notice board: being used for notices, as Perspex front now replaced.
- 22 J Napier: copy of e-mail to Andrew Wallace re some issues with SW Area Board NEPs.
- 23 FCC's website builder: concerns re litter, especially between Tesco and Firrhill HS [passed to City Councillors]
- 24 E Hewitt: Scottish Voluntary Sector & Community Resilience Seminar, 25 June, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Scottish Gov, Victoria Quay, Leith, re planning for, responding to, and recovering from large-scale emergencies. To book: [Jenny.shepherd@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.shepherd@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
- 25 Lloyd Richardson re query from FCC Sec as to whereabouts of railing removed from Cockmylane to allow for cutting of bushes: currently awaiting info from Craig Dunlop.
- 26 E Hewitt: reminder of Special Meeting on Planning, 16 May, plus letter from Acting Development Manager, and Draft Planning Concordat [J Napier attending]
- 27 E Hewitt: presentations from Governance, and Petition Committee, given at recent meeting re Council's decision-making structures.
- 28 Cllr Aitken, in response to No 23 (above): she has requested more bins for streets around Firrhill High School.
- 29 Natalie Hoy re Review of N'hood Partnerships: report from workshops & online survey.
- 30 Cllr Rust: Oxfangs Community Clean-up, 17 May, part of Operation Cipher 3.
- 31 J Napier: feedback form re way that OSIC dealt with our appeal to them.
- 32 Compost available from Forth Resource M'tment, [www.caledonianhorticulture.co.uk/index](http://www.caledonianhorticulture.co.uk/index)
- 33 CEC FOI Review Officer: response to our review request dealt with under terms of Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.
- 34 Lloyd Richardson: revised list of Ward 8 NEPs suggestions, and possible dates for meeting to discuss these.
- 35 Cllr Lewis re Edinburgh Leisure's £10 monthly Get Active pass (for those on low incomes)
- 36 E Hewitt: request for info on CC campaigns, events, etc prior to CC elections.
- 37 Craig Dunlop: info requested by FCC Sec, that grass-cutting at Community Centres is remit of SW Environment & Roads Services (Sharon Niven): covers all environment issues.
- 38 Jill Walker, OSIC: explanation that they were concerned only with ensuring that CEC responded to our review request, not the quality of that response.
- 39 D Webster obo Cllr Lewis re residents asking for pedestrian crossing in Oxfangs Ave, so info requested from FCC Sec: replied that this site used to be on the Council's list for a crossing, but it was re-assessed as not being justified so a refuge island was installed instead.
- 40 S Boyack MSP: May e-newsletter, incl new findings on impact of welfare reform; reaction to staffing pressures in emergency medicine, NHS Lothian; concerns re future of the 'Engine Shed' [www.sarahboyack.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/-newsletter-May-2013.pdf](http://www.sarahboyack.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/-newsletter-May-2013.pdf)
- 41 H Levy: Hope Triangle Health Group meeting, 23 May – notes from April meeting and Draft Development Plan 2013-15

- 42 Cllr Lewis: Fashion exhibitions at City Art Centre; photography & paintings; June-Sept.
- 43 Lloyd Richardson: now no meeting re Ward 8 NEPs; members to give approval by e-mail.
- 44 E Hewitt: National Planning Framework 3/Scottish Planning Policy: Public Consultation Event at The Gyle Centre, 30 May, 9 am to 9 pm.

**By Post**

City of Edinburgh Council: Edinburgh Local Development Plan - Proposed Plan, March '13,  
+ wire-bound books:

- (a) Proposed Action Programme;
- (b) Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment
- (c) Education Appraisal
- (d) Transport Appraisal Vols 1 & 2
- (e) Environment Report Vols 1 & 2
- (f) Habitat Regulation Appraisal
- (g) Consultation Responses

**Correspondence Update: 24-27 May**

- 1. Debbie Webster (for Cllr Lewis): local issues re HGVs accessing and leaving Oxfangs Crescent building site via Oxfangs Avenue + misunderstanding re Oxfangs Grove being a one-way street (sorted out by Euan Durie, Police Scotland).
- 2. Various e-mails re problems at CMCEC with (a) grass-cutting operatives behaving recklessly, and (b) alarm/lights testing workers overstating by far the time spent at the Centre. [Cllr Rust has taken these issues further and investigations are on-going.]
- 3. Ward 8 NEPs: Secretary's e-mails to/from Lloyd Richardson re what we consider to be inequitable division of the budget between our community, Colinton and Fairmilehead.
- 4. Papers for PNP EIT Group meeting: Monday 3 June, 2.30 pm. [P Wright can't attend on this occasion; asked S Duffy to stand in.]