

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 23 September 2013

Held in the Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 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, Oxfords Police Stn

Apologies:

F Gosney, Cllrs E Aitken & R Lewis

Visitors:

J Burt, Resident; P Valentine, OCHA

N Tinlin, Fairmilehead CC

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 26 August 2013 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by P Wright, seconded by S Duffy and agreed.

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

Matters Arising

Police Attendance and Reports

Secretary emailed Sgt Mackenzie re police reports for our monthly meeting but he is on leave.

Secretary also emailed Inspector Duthie re our concern on future community policing. In reply, the Inspector stated "... at this time there are no imminent retirements of community police officers or the school link officer for Firrhill High. Edinburgh Division have a succession planning process in place that deals with back filling of posts that will become vacant" and Sgt Mackenzie is carrying out a review of shift patterns.

In response to our request for a copy of the police profile for the area carried out prior to Operation Cypher (for the purpose of assessing how successful the event was), Insp. Duthie investigating if such a report was done and if so, would forward a copy to the Secretary. Was also going to ask PC Brown to forward a police report for this meeting but this has not been received.

Cllr Rust received the following email from Richard Thomas, Chief Inspector, Pentlands NA, 'E' Division, Police Scotland:

"I understand from Mike Avery that some concerns were raised last night about police attendance at local community council meetings, and that this was not helped by the lack of police attendance at the Partnership meeting itself.

I hope I can allay your concerns to some extent by assuring you that we remain committed to Community Council and partnership meetings and that we are currently undertaking a review of Community Police Team resources and shift patterns to provide greater resilience in that regard. You may be aware that our current shift model means that CPT officers are not on duty on Monday and Tuesday evenings when many of these meetings take place. Some officers will readily change their shifts to accommodate these meetings but we rely entirely on their availability and goodwill. This isn't ideal and I have been asked to review the CPT shift patterns for the city to hopefully address this issue in due course.

Inspector Liz Duthie has been holding the fort for me while I have been seconded to this project and I know that she was covering operational duties yesterday, hence it was unfortunate that there was no police representation at the meeting, for which I can only apologise.

The issue of retirals from certain posts also caused some concern at the meeting, but I can assure you that Police Scotland strongly supports the use of School Link Officers specifically and community policing in general. There are 10 School Link officer posts in Edinburgh, which we consider to be of great value, and we would seek to fill any vacancies as they arise.

I sense that there may be wider concerns about the future of community policing in Scotland? If anything Police Scotland places more emphasis on community policing than was previously the case, with a larger proportion of officers likely to be committed to working in local Neighbourhood Areas alongside partners and community leaders in future. I am confident that the ongoing review will provide an effective community police presence going forward to better engage with communities and offenders, and keep people safe.

If you have any further concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to let me know and I will try to keep you as informed as I can during this period of organisational change."

Evening News article indicates CEC may withdraw funding for community policing if such initiatives are not maintained. Growing concern that the Scottish Police priorities no longer reflect those held by the City Council.

Action: Reports noted

Flood Defence Work: Questionnaire.

The Secretary reported on the responses to our questionnaire. No further returns received, from the 60 posted out only 4 residents replied, providing the following information:

Respondent 1 replied to that question "Have you ever received a letter from the local authority covering the preservation of the flood wall?" indicating "No".

Respondent 2 replied to the question "Nature of the problem" referring to ground saturation and poor drainage with standing water and possible contamination. Also states it is difficult to grow things in the border by the wall. This respondent also advised they did not live here when the wall was built. Has not reported the problem but now considers the matter more of an issue. Has not received a letter from the local authority covering the preservation of the flood wall but would like one. As the resident did not live here when the wall was built, this does not mean a letter was not sent to the previous occupier.

Respondent 3 also advises they did not receive a letter from the local authority covering the preservation of the flood wall. Replied to the question "Are there any other issues" and they would like notification when access to garden is required for maintenance of pump. They also asked if general maintenance will be done on shed and who to contact.

Respondent 4 replied to the question “*Nature of the problem*” stating “that the earth is full of stones and the rain does not drain away. If you want to plant anything there is no earth, you cannot dig down because of stones.” They were aware of problem and saw someone from the council. He came round and picked up surface stones, I gave him one the size of an ostrich egg. They do not consider the problem has been resolved. Respondent did receive a letter from the local authority but only to tell us the wall was council property, although they believe part of their garden was used in the process. In response to the question “Are there any other issues” the respondent stated “We received an arbour to replace the one torn down. The first puff of wind blew it over. We tried to anchor it down but it is all torn with the winds of the last few years”.

In summation the low number of responses from residents to our questionnaire indicates that the flood defence work has not caused any ongoing problems with the exception of 3 localised areas. It is agreed many residents in the community will, in time, have cause to be thankful for the flood defence work. Propose that in view of this, the Community Council take no further action other than to forward those specific issues from the residents who have responded, to the relevant department of the City Council for their information. As we clearly stated on the questionnaire that we would not pass on any details without the consent of the individual this would need to be done first. This was agreed.

Action: Secretary to write to the individual respondents to obtain their consent.

Flood Defence Work: FOI Request for Information.

As you are aware a modified request for the information, drafted by Chris Peggie, the CEC-FOI Officer, was submitted on our behalf on 6th August. As no response was received other than an acknowledgement within the statutory 20 working day period, I sent a request for a review on the 3rd September. I have not received a response but the Authority have until the 1st October to do so.

Action: Matter ongoing.

Flood Defence Works: Braid Burn Path

A report on this matter was circulated at the meeting. A copy of the correspondence that has taken place between Firrhill Community Council and Mr Brian Torrance, CEC Flood Schemes Project Manager¹ is attached as appendix 1. In view of Mr Torrance’s response and taken in conjunction with the responses to our questionnaire there does not seem much point to the Community Council continuing with this matter at present. Agreed no further action by the Community Council.

Cllr Rust offered to use his office and raise the matter with the department and this was accepted.

Action: Matter closed

Publicity Drive for New Members

JN reported that from the 5000 flyers received from the Printers; approximately 2000 had been used to promote the community council during Operation Cypher. The remainder, with the exception of approximately 100, have all been posted through letterboxes or distributed to community centres since our last meeting.

The Secretary reported that she had received a few enquiries through our website.

The Chair thanked all members and prospective members for the work they did in putting the flyers out. Summing up the work done and the interest it had provoked she expressed a confidence that the Community Council will have gained in strength and continue to function for the next term.

¹ Transport: Maintenance Team Plan 2012

Action: Matter closed

Colinton Mains Park - Sports Pavilion

At our previous meeting Cllr Lewis revealed the pavilion was closed due to a problem concerning the temperature of the water held in the cold water storage system and a consequential risk of the legionella bacteria forming. It is understood the storage tank has been replaced by a smaller tank and the Pavilion is again open for business.

Secretary reported she received an email from Cllr Lewis on 11 August, re the state of the grounds around the Pavilion, advising that the weeds at the pavilion were sprayed on 6 Sept. Once the weed killer has taken effect, the team will return and remove the dead weeds, this will be around 2-3 weeks. The team will then carry out any further maintenance deemed necessary. Secretary noted that not only have the weeds been removed in one area but also the plants.

With regards the derelict signs, they should have been removed by the contractor prior to handing back to the City of Edinburgh Council, as this has not happened, Craig Dunlop, CEC Parks Manager, is organising for the signs to be removed and this should be completed within the next 2 weeks.

Action: Report noted

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 Rust

1 Proposed Firrhill Medical Centre

I had a meeting with Councillor Elaine Aitken and Heather Levy with Steve Whitton and Maggie Gray of NHS Lothian. The message is that the Health Centre is still going to come about, but there have been delays with the Planning situation and the business case will likely not be ready until early 2014. Later the same day at the Economy Committee meeting it was agreed that the disposal of land next to the existing Firrhill Medical Centre site to NHS Lothian was agreed - another small step forward.

In response to a question about the access road issue referred to at the last meeting, Cllr Rust and the Chair indicated that the designs were progressing on the basis that the intended access road was adopted by the council. This had been intimated to NHS Lothian by council officers during the negotiations to purchase the site. At a meeting with the CEC PPP 1 Team, on 5th August, it was confirmed that this road was not adopted. At this meeting it was also confirmed that the CEC PPP 1 Team would not support the use of this road for access into the partnership centre. Initial feedback from the planning department also indicated they thought that the footprint of the building was too large for the site.

The design team has been working on alternative proposals for the both the footprint of the building and for access to the site, with specific consideration on how NHS Lothian will manage deliveries, waste uplift etc. The current proposal has incorporated the following changes:

- Access to and from the site will be located at the current entrance to Firrhill Medical Practice
- The footprint of the centre has reduced, however, the number of rooms, services etc remains unchanged.
- A turning circle has been included to allow trade vehicles to enter the site safely.

(A copy of the site plan, demonstrating the turning circle, will be attached as an appendix, when the minutes are published).

It is not anticipated that these design changes will impact on the overall programme and financial close for the bundled projects remains at August 2014. There is also no impact on the budget from these changes.

The impact and timing of these changes derailed the original events planned for the community. The timescales for these will have to be revised to reflect the design changes and we are working with the design team to confirm when the community events can be rescheduled.

2 Colinton Mains Park

AC Oxgangs have contacted me with regard to the issue of dog fouling in Colinton Mains Park and bins are currently being sourced for the park with the hope of installation early next year.

3 Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre

ONC is looking for volunteers to assist with both the Community Cafe and with the Garden. Anyone interested should contact Robert Scott at the Centre.

4 Supply Staff

I have submitted a request for answers at Full Council in respect of the situation with supply staff in Edinburgh schools given recent press comments regarding classes having been cancelled.

5 Refuse Complaints

There continues to be issues with the refuse collection service, various complaints have been received from across the area.

Action: Report noted.

Councillor Lewis

Extracts from written report submitted to the Secretary.

Constituent Enquiries:

1. On the 11/09 a constituent complained he had a blocked sink and water would not drain away. He had been advised by EBS that as this was not an emergency a plumber would not fix blockage until 23/09. *Contact was made with EBS to explain that this was not acceptable and a plumber was arranged for the following day.*

2. Concerns raised with regards the water temperature at Colinton Mains Pavilion. *Advised that the water issues would be sorted by the 10th of September.*

PNP Reports

South West Area Board – 27 Aug

See attached report distributed at the meeting – appendix

Health, Community and Employment Sub Group – 29 Aug

Date of this meeting has been changed to the 3rd October

Community Safety – 2 Sept

This meeting was attended by A Hunter, but no report available.

Pentlands Funding Panel – 4 Sept

Code/Application Name: NP7/03/13:Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre

Application: Amount requested £5,000

To upgrade the current kitchen which is not fit for purpose. The funding would be used to purchase kitchen units.

People to benefit all local people of all ages in the surrounding area.

This project overall cost is near £20K, of which the management committee have raised £16k.

The facility offers a wide range community programme and is well supported by the local residents, clubs and groups.

Project is not time bound

If successful create funding caveat regarding tie up of project with Pentlands Local Community Plan priorities –

- o Children, Young people & Families – LCP 5- Increase access to affordable facilities and activities for all areas of the community.
- o Health & Wellbeing – LCP 2 – Increase access to affordable leisure and recreational facilities for all age groups.
- o Safer Community – LCP 1 – Develop positive activities for young people, increasing access to youth groups and facilities in partnership with local service providers.
- o Employment & Skills – LCP 2 – Improve links with local businesses to get more work experience and increase access to local jobs for all ages.
- o Employment & Skills – LCP 4 – Work with cross agency to develop volunteering opportunities for local people to help improve work skills.

Code/Application Name: NP7/05/13: Juniper Green Village Hall Organisation

Application: Amount requested £5,000

Development of a community garden next to Village Hall

This project is to tidy up the land where the janitor cottage was demolished. The group wish to tackle this project in two phases and have the support to an extent of a developer.

CLD and the Children & Families have given permission for this project to go ahead, however there is doubt over the public liability if a member of the public was injured whilst using the proposed community garden.

The group do not wish the funds they seek immediately but are looking for a delayed award (later in financial year) in principle.

Two members of the JGVHO will be in attendance on the night to give a short briefing and take question.

If successful create funding caveat regarding tie up of project with Pentlands Local Community Plan priorities –

- o Environment & Green space – LCP 1- Increase community participation to improve green spaces and open ground.

- o Environment & Green space – LCP 3 – Promote green space by increasing the number of community events, walks across the community
- o Safer Communities – LCP 1 – Develop positive activities for people, increasing access to facilities and activities in partnership with local service providers.
- o Health & Wellbeing – LCP 5- Promote healthy living through increased physical activity.

Code/Application Name: NP7/05/13: Buckstone Youth Club

Application: Amount requested £1,500

Associated costs of activities during autumn and Christmas, specifically funding will be used to cover transport and activity costs.

The group have raised over £1,100 towards the total cost of £2,700.

Approximately 140 young people will benefit from the planned events & activities.

If successful create funding caveat regarding tie up of project with Pentlands Local Community Plan priorities –

- o Children, Young people & Families – LCP 5- Increase access to affordable facilities and activities for young people.
- o Safer Communities – LCP 1 – Develop positive activities for young people, increasing access to facilities and activities in partnership with local service providers.
- o Safer Communities – LCP 1 – Tackle anti social activity and reduce the harm associated with various behaviours.

PNP Public Meeting – 10 Sept

Meeting was held in Colinton Bowling Club with the theme: Young People working in Partnership.

1. Pentlands Partnerships Meeting schedule for 2013/14 session – Formal approval from Partnership Board (see item 6.1 for complete Partnership meeting schedule for session 2013/14)
2. Pentlands Youth Forum, production of DVD promoting activities in the area – various speakers. To be officially launched on the 21st October.
3. Activities and programmes for young people in the Pentland - South West Libraries Team
4. Herriot Watt University Community Sports Hub – Chris Sellers, Co-ordinator, Herriot Watt Community Sport Hub. Made the point that none of the activities were going to impact on us as our schools are PPF so we cannot access them.
5. Pentlands Sub Group Chairs Feedback:
 - Environment, Infrastructure, & Transport
 - Community Safety
 - Economic Forum
 - Area Board
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Funding Panel
6. Motion from Norman Tinlin, Fairmilehead – to congratulate Margaret Walker on being awarded the Sir William Y Darling Award for Good Citizenship for 2012-13

Noted there was no police attendance at this meeting and asked for our concerns to be brought up about the lack of police reps at community meetings.

Planning Applications Report

2 Sept 2013

Application 13/03387/FUL to erect single storey rear extension at 99 Oxfangs Bank, Edinburgh. No Decisions or Major Development Notices (PANs)

9 Sept 2013

Applications 13/03279/FUL and 13/03278/ADV for the installation of a new ATM machine and a non illuminated surround in existing shop front at 2 Oxfangs Broadway, Edinburgh.

Decision: application 13/01981/FUL for a proposed hydro scheme at the reservoir at Oxfangs Road North has been granted. No Major Development Notices (PANs)

16 Sept 2013

No Applications, Decisions or Major Development Notices (PANs).

23 Sept 2013

No Applications Major Development Notices (PANs)

Decision: Application 13/03387/FUL to erect single storey rear extension at 99 Oxfangs Bank Edinburgh EH13 9LN has been granted

Treasurer's Report:

Received notice via the Chair that the community council grant had been paid into our account. Also received notice from Eileen Hewitt, CEC Community Liaison Officer, advising us of the following:

1. The community grant has been transferred directly into the community council account.
2. As a result of changes to the Community Council Scheme, the per capita component of the grant will be based on population figures for the CC area rather than electorate figures and this should result in a small increase in the grant.
3. The annual premium has been deducted from the grant and any accommodation subsidy has been added. I am not aware of any accommodation costs over the previous reporting period but the current subsidy is £100 to CCs paying £125 or less and £150 where they are currently paying more than £125.

Correspondence:

All members were provided with the correspondence list for the period 27 Aug to 19 Sept prior to meeting. The list was update at meeting. (see App 2).

A.O.C.B:

Annual General Meeting

The Chair reminded members that our next monthly meeting which will be the first after the Community Council Elections will be an AGM and would like to discuss the content of the meeting. Suggestion made that it should be a single issue meeting on the subject of refuse and litter. Considered this was a subject of local interest going by the number of complaints made to the local Elected Councillors since the City Council overhauled its refuse collection service and the number of times issues such as litter and dog fouling has been raised at Community Council meetings.

Colinton Mains Drive at entrance to Oxfangs PS car park:

The fencing round the triangular land between the drive to the car park entrance and the “janitor’s” house is in need of attention. Parts of the fencing are dangerously sharp especially the part next to the bus stop.

Action: Cllr Rust to make enquiries with Amey

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 28th October at 7.00 pm.

This will be our **Annual General Meeting**.

Venue: Board Room in the Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk unless another venue can be arranged.

This meeting ended at **09.00 pm**.

Report on Braid Burn Path

In an attempt to seek a more sustainable conclusion to the Braid Burn Path flooding problem the Secretary wrote to Brian Torrance in the following terms

"Dear Mr Torrance

The concerns of Firrhill Community Council about the incidences of flooding of the Braid Burn path at the bottom of the ramp from Oxgangs Road North, where it runs west to Colinton Mains Drive, have been well documented for a number of years now, with no real solution to date, and we feel that this should be addressed as soon as possible.

The problem arose because the new path was laid at the same level as the flood plain and not at the same height as the embankment that runs along the side of it. With the embankment between the path and the burn being higher, this prevents rainfall water from running away. Whilst the rain water on the flood plain naturally soaks into the ground, the water lying on the tarmac path forms a large pool which takes much longer to evaporate or soak away. Every time there has been a moderate or heavy rainfall the path has become flooded, causing a hazard to those using the path as they resort to walking on the slippery embankment to get round it. It should be remembered that this path is one of the Council's 'Safer Routes to School' and, in these conditions, it is anything but.

The Community Council suggested that digging a channel through the embankment would provide a solution, and this was eventually done. However, this simple answer needs a bit more effort to make it a sustainable solution to the problem. The dug channel is disappearing due to the growth of vegetation along the embankment, and so the problem will no doubt return.

We are asking for a more permanent solution to this problem, either through creating a more sustainable run-off from the path into the burn or, alternatively, raising the level of the path to the level of the embankment. Either way would enable rain water to run off into the burn and/or the flood plain.

We understand from previous statements that the City Council's engineers have looked at raising the path slightly and putting in a drain, but this has been discounted because water might come up the drain when the burn is at a high level. Our proposal does not include the use of a drain but for natural run-off to take place, either into the burn or - if the path is raised - into the flood plain.

The Community Council is proposing what we consider to be the cheapest option, ie, for the embankment at the edge of the footpath where the flooding problem occurs to be levelled off to the same height as the path in a manner that will ensure excess water is able to run freely off the path into the burn.

It is acknowledged that during periods of heavy rainfall the height of the water in the burn may rise and flow onto the path, but we would expect it to clear itself as soon as the rain stops and the water level drops. If this becomes a major issue, then we may have to revisit the matter again with a view to the path being raised to the same height as the embankment.

We trust that you will give our proposed solution to this matter your careful consideration, that you will find it acceptable, and that action can be taken this financial year. If you have an alternative solution to what has been proposed, or if you consider that a meeting would be beneficial, please advise."

The following response was received on the 16th September:

"Dear Mrs Wright

Thank you for your recent email, dated 4 September, regarding the concerns of the Firrhill Community Council about flooding of the footpath alongside the Braid Burn between Oxgangs Road North and Colinton Mains Drive.

I must advise you that as it is now some years since the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme was completed there is no budget for new works as suggested by the Community Council. Responsibility for the maintenance of this footpath reverted to the local neighbourhood team on completion of the flood defences in 2010.

The flood scheme has been constructed in accordance with the terms of the Flood Order granted by the Scottish Government in January 2005 and the time for challenging the design of the scheme has long since passed.

Any significant alteration to the height of the footpath relative to the flood storage area would compromise the design of the flood scheme and is not permitted. Minor adjustments to the vertical alignment will simply move the location of the low point. Now that the grass has been re-established adjacent to the path it is less likely to be covered in mud during periods of heavy rainfall. To remove the low embankment between the path and the burn as suggested would simply increase the likelihood of the path flooding from the burn and do little to resolve this issue.

You mention that the footpath is a designated safe route to school; however, there is an alternative route along Colinton Mains Road which does not involve crossing roads and avoids any puddles on this path during wet periods."

Whilst I disagree with Mr Torrance's response on a number of points, it is clear from the tone of his email, taken in conjunction with his lack of response to our request for information, that there is a reluctance to engage in further discussion on the matter of the Braid Burn Path or indeed the Flood Defence Works.

The low number of responses from residents to our questionnaire indicates there have not been many problems, which can be interpreted that overall the flood defence work has been a success and I am sure many residents in the community will have cause to be thankful for these defences.

Whilst it would be wrong not to pass on any specific issues that have been raised by the questionnaire, there does not seem much point to the Community Council continuing with this matter at present. It is unlikely the situation with the Burn path has been permanently resolved and it will become a hazard once again. It is to be hoped it does not come back on our agenda as a result of an injury.

Jim Napier

Member, Firrhill Community Council, 23 September 2013.

Report: South West Area Board

Date and place of Meeting: 27 August 2013 at Wester Hailes Library

1. Nominations for Position of Chair:

Maude Wylie was nominated and selected for the position of Chair for the 2013/14 session.

Norman Tinlin was nominated and selected as Vice Chair.

A general information paper covering the remit of the Area Board and its Chair was provided.

2. Calder's Public Realm Briefing:

Heather Kirkland, SfC Project Manager, provided an update on the plans for public realm improvements in the Calder's Estate that have been done by the landscape architect consultancy, Urban Design Futures, who were appointed to progress public realm improvements through:

- Part 1: Preparing a Public Realm Improvement Strategy
- Part 2: Developing design proposals for priority projects
- Part 3: Administering and supervising the construction works contract subject to funding being available

Urban Design Futures have now completed Part 1 - The Calders Public Realm Improvement Strategy, with a prioritised action plan. The action plan is split into five phases. Part 2 of the project is now underway. The estimated budget to complete Parts 2 & 3 and deliver the phase 1 projects is £534,000.

Oxgangs Central Residents' Association

Maureen Jarvis submitted written comments on a number of items on the agenda including this one. She makes the point this project is being funded by the Housing Revenue Account and as the HRA is 'ring-fenced' for use on housing assets her Association does not feel it demonstrates good value for money. Considers tenants as taxpayers already make a contribution from their council tax to cover these items and asks the CEC to provide the criteria they used to assess the Calder area for this investment above other council areas in the city as the decision making process does not seem very transparent?

Maureen's comments were submitted too late for circulation prior to the meeting but I would have to agree with the sentiment. The selling off of Council housing has resulted in the demise of council housing schemes and it would seem reasonable for council tenants to object to the HRA funding public realm improvements, which benefit everyone and not just council tenants. I understand from her email that guidance in relation to this matter is being consulted on by the Scottish Government.

Neighbourhood Environmental Programme (NEP)

Due to the long break between the last time this matter was discussed and this meeting, I had a feeling this matter was going to be a fait-accompli and all previous comments redundant. A paper was circulated covering the responses to comments, etc., previously made but I do not consider it provided new information to that already in the project papers.

The listed Pentland NEP Projects 2013/14 for the Firrhill Ward are:

896 – 9 Oxgangs Park: to landscape and fence rear garden area

897 – 1-3 Oxgangs Crescent: Secure Drying Area

898 – 20-22 Firrhill Drive: footpath and handrail

899 – 1 Oxgangs Drive: Fencing and new access to Colinton Mains Park.

Cllr Aitken raised the matter of the footpath that runs the grass from Oxgangs Street to the bus stop half way up the brae at Oxgangs Road North and this was agreed. (Interesting to note that work on this new project has already started – if not completed.)

Action List

1. Proposed project 639 (Cock My Lane) – which was to investigate if this project could be part funded by the Parks budget and if there are plans for street lighting. No further forward with joint funding. There are no immediate plans to provide street lighting to this part of the footpath lighting for this path. Matter ongoing.
2. The findings from the Dunedin Canmore pilot on Welfare reform to be circulated. Still awaiting.
3. The process by which Community Representatives can put forward roads projects was provided in a form. If a project is identified by a group or member of the Public they should relay this to either their local Community Council or Local Councillor with as much information as possible. The proposal will then be raised with the Neighbourhood Roads Team and a feasibility assessment will be carried out. The results of which will be relayed back to the Community Council or Councillor.

All projects that are suitable for inclusion will be discussed by the Community Councils, Councillors and the Neighbourhood. A decision will be made on which projects can be or will be delivered that financial year.

Oxgangs Walkabout

I missed this walkabout, which took place on 29th August, arriving slightly after the meeting time and finding no-one there. Had a search around but could not locate the group. The information comes from the report done by Tam Nisbet, who was the lead officer.

- Oxgangs House – defective street light / litter collecting in drying areas
 - Oxgangs Grove – street light obscured by trees / street light defective
 - Oxgangs Drive – 2 street light obscured by trees / pothole
 - Oxgangs Road Nth – dog fouling
 - Oxgangs Avenue – fly-tipping at No.15
 - Oxgangs Crescent – overgrown foliage / pothole / street light obscured by trees.
-

Correspondence List

Firrhill CC Correspondence from 27 August – 18 September '13

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

- 1 Cllr Lewis: poet, Gavin Douglas, to be commemorated at Makars' Court Hall of Fame.
- 2 J Napier: Election flyers for Firrhill CC delivery list.
- 3 Cllr Lewis re free exhibition of Disney's musical 'The Lion King': City Art Centre from 28 Sept for 15 weeks.
- 4 Cllr Maureen Child re CC grants: per capita component of grant will now depend on population of each CC area, not electorate figures, so there should be a small increase.
- 5 Cllr Lewis: late opening hours at City Art Centre & Museum of Childhood now finished.
- 6 Edinburgh Economic Strategy Communications Survey 'A Strategy for Jobs 2012-17' at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9W6Q29S>
- 7 Council's TRO/13/19 re double yellow lines at corners of Colinton Mains Gardens (at Oxbgangs Rd N). See www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders
- 8 CCs Election Publicity: PDOs providing advice/support: SW = Eileen Hewitt.
- 9 Cllr Lewis re Park Pavilion: tank size to be changed/cleaned/refilled for 6 Sept re-opening.
- 10 Cllr Lewis re 6th Green Pencil Award for creative writing: theme "Scotland's Wonderful Weather?!" to tie in with the Year of Natural Scotland. Competition open to all P4-7 pupils until 11 Oct. Green Pencil Award info from libraries.
- 11 Eileen Hewitt re full draft Local Transport Strategy for comments. Printed copies at libraries or see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localtransportstrategy. Comments, until mid-October, to localtransportstrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk.
- 12 New Community Councils Scheme approved by Council. See www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils.
- 13 Cllr Lewis: constituent enquiries for August (now included in FCC's Aug 26 Minutes).
- 14 Oxbgangs N'hood Centre: request to put their link on our website [to J Napier].
- 15 Council's recycling campaign aimed at students: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycle
- 16 Gordon Macdonald MSP Sept Newsletter, including 'Greenbelt Under Threat' re developers' interest in 10 locations for 1200 new homes in Juniper Green, Currie & Balerno + 5500 houses proposed by Murray Estates in Edinburgh's Garden District surrounding Hermiston Village. Exhibition/consultation in Currie Bowling Club, 3 Oct, 8 am-8 pm.
- 17 Cllr Rust re roads resurfacing in Oxbgangs during September [see Item 31 below].
- 18 Scott Neill: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/representativesreflectingsociety> (to 30/09).
- 19 EACC Sec: a) Question Time cancelled for Sept; b) next Executive Meeting Thurs 03/10; c) AGM Saturday 9 November.
- 20 J Napier: Decision letter for Planning Application 13/01981/FUL re proposed hydro scheme at the reservoir on Oxbgangs Rd N (behind Caiystane Ct flats): application granted. For full details, including report assessing the application see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning. Specific enquiries re application to A Trigger Tel 0131-529 3931.

- 21 f by H Levy re Joint Carers Strategy Consultation: 2 Sept-31 Oct. For more info see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jointcarersstrategy or tel. for form to 553 8468.
- 22 Firrhill CC's website builder: messages from residents possibly interested in joining us.
- 23 Eileen Hewitt re 'Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City'. Bristo Square: 'Feed the 5000' event, Sat 5 October (free lunch).
- 24 H Levy re Hope Triangle Health Group Training: Thurs 3 Oct – Jan Goulding 'Suicide Awareness', 9.30-noon, 12 Firrhill Neuk. + Charity Night, Sat 30 Nov, for Cystic Fibrosis.
- 25 ONC in partnership with Aspire Oxgangs: 'Ladies Time' new Women's Group, 10.30 to 12.30 on 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month.
- 26 Cllr Lewis: news that Edinburgh has the winning bid to host National Sport Performance Centre (to be built at Heriot-Watt campus, Riccarton).
- 27 Reminder that Scot Gov Consultation 'Towards a Litter-free Scotland' closes 27 Sept.
- 28 E Hewitt re Scottish Draft Budget 2014-15: Equality Budget Statement (see Scottish Gov Home Page under 'Official Publications').
- 29 E Hewitt in response to Firrhill CC Sec's e-mail that there are no paper copies of CC Election Applications in Oxgangs Library: these have now been sent.
- 30 TRO 13/47: two disabled bays being made at Caiystane Ct, Oxgangs Rd N (Firrhill end).
- 31 TTRO Street Notice 128/SW/2013 re road resurfacing at Oxgangs Cresc & Firrhill Drive.
- 32 TRO 13/49 re two new disabled parking places in Oxgangs Library car park.
- 33 B Torrance: reply to Sec's e-mail re unresolved problem of flooding on Braid Burn path. Advised that footpath maintenance reverted to local neighbourhood team in 2010.
- 34 J Frew: FCC's application to Commissioner still on-going after submissions from Council.
- 35 Morningside Farmer's Market: 3rd Sat of each month, 9.30-3.30, 'The Merlin' car park.
