

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2013

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

Residents: J Burt; S Duffy; F Gosney; H Levy; L Linn; J Napier; P Podd; P Wright.

Visitors: G McDonald, MSP; PC D Crawford, Oxfangs Police Stn, N Tinlin, Fairmilehead CC.

Apologies: Cllr Aitken; Cllr R Lewis; Cllr Rust; V Garden;

Non Attendance: G Duncan

Approval and Adoption of the Constitution

The City of Edinburgh Council's Scheme for Community Councils requires newly established community councils to be supplied with a model constitution by the Council for adoption at the community council's inaugural meeting. The Model Constitution was presented for adoption and there being no matters arising, was moved for acceptance by PP and seconded by JN. Adopted.

Action: *Secretary to send copy of signed constitution to Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer.*

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 28 October 2013 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by PW, seconded by LL and agreed.

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

Matters Arising:

Amenity Notice

Due to the absence of Cllr Rust, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Oxfangs Police Station

Matter in hand.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank PC Crawford for his service to the Firrhill community over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement from the police force. PC Crawford spoke on his 16 year service in this community and of changes that had taken place over these years

Operations Cypher

The Chair has received an electronic copy of the report and will circulate to those members who can receive it in that format. A copy of the report will be made available on the Community Council's website. It was noted that Environmental Wardens only patrol the Firrhill ward on a Friday morning.

Action: *Chair to circulate report*

Flood Defence Work:

Report on this matter was circulated at the last meeting for members to consider for this meeting. The information received from the City of Edinburgh Council was on the Community Council's website. (The main information consisted of a 100 page report thus it was being made available electronically rather than printed out.) Recommendation was to close this matter for the time being. No further information from the community was provided through the questionnaire and our request for information is well recorded if required for future reference. The request has produced a detailed project note (184) which covered '*surface water and sewage flooding behind flood defences for the Colinton Mains site*' and will take a while to assess fully. The information obtained from the project note may lead to other requests for information but this can be taken up as new business.

In regard to the Braid Burn path, there was every possibility this issue would crop up again in the future. PW suggested writing to the CEC asking for a warning notice to be placed at the top of the path, beside Colinton Mains Drive bridge, to follow the CEC's recommendation that people should use the alternative route of Colinton Mains Rd when there is inclement weather.

Action: Secretary to write to the CEC accordingly, otherwise accepted this matter be closed.

PNP Representation:

Agreed that JN be the CC's representative to the PNP's Community Safety Sub Group.

Police Report

No report available at this time. Discussion took place regarding the future arrangements for police attendance and reports at meetings.

Action: Secretary to write to Inspector Duthie re possible police surgery before FCC meetings.

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' and MSP Reports:

Gordon Macdonald, MSP

Closure of Fire Controls

As part of the transfer to a single national fire service, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has announced its intention to reduce the number of fire control rooms within Scotland from eight to three. The fire control covering Strathclyde will be one of the three with the other two still to be decided from the following four areas - Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness. The decision has been postponed until a further meeting in Perth on 30 January 2014.

This may result in the potential closure of the fire control room in Edinburgh Tollcross Fire Stn with all emergency calls from the Lothian and Borders Regions being rerouted to fire controls in Strathclyde or one of the other two control centres to be retained.

Oxgangs Path Site up for sale

The sites of the former Oxgangs Social Work Centre & St John's Parish Church at Oxgangs Path, have been put up for sale by the CEC. The closing date for offers was the 29th November 2013.

The planning information given states: "The Edinburgh City Local Plan identifies the site as being within the Urban Area. A comprehensive development of the site will be required. This should

contain community uses. A mix of community uses and residential is likely to be preferred. A retail proposal for the site may be acceptable in principle if it can comply with all aspects of Policy Ret 5 relating to Out of Centre development. Part of the site falls within an area of designated open space and any loss of this space will be measured against Policy OS1. Any design proposals for the site are required to be informed by an urban analysis which must include the wider area to ensure comprehensive development, in particular with neighbouring buildings and public open space. This information will be required in support of any bid for the site. Gross Site Area 0.466 Hectares (1.15 acres)

Offers are invited for the heritable interest of both properties with the benefit of vacant possession. A single price should be submitted for the combined sites. The vendors are particularly interested in offers incorporating a profit share/overage payment and/or clawback agreement, all of which will depend on the structure of the offer received. It should be noted that the price stated in any offer will be deemed to be net of any cost deductions. For the avoidance of doubt no discussions with any preferred bidder will be entered into regarding deductions from the original offer price for demolition, ground conditions, S75 contributions etc. In order for the vendors to assess and evaluate offers, bids must include: **a.** concept drawings, including any proposed demolition and new build on site; **b.** timing of the development programme; **c.** dates for capital receipt to the Council and Church of Scotland; **d.** detailed timescales for purification of any suspensive conditions; **e.** any other relevant considerations; **f.** proof of funding. It should be noted that the Council and Church of Scotland are required to obtain the best possible price in any disposal.

Referendum: Scotland's Future - Your Guide to an Independent Scotland

The White Paper on independence, which was overwhelming endorsed by the Parliament, has just been published. This paper sets out the process that would follow a Yes vote in the independence referendum next year up to the first elections for an independent Scottish Parliament in spring 2016.

The Chair prompted a discussion on the proposed 'referendum' event that we were intending to hold in the early part of next year. The 24th March was agreed as the target date, and as this was the 4th Monday in March, our usual FCC day the meeting time would have to move back to 7.30 pm for this month. Agreed to invite a spokesperson from each political party.

G McD suggested that in the interest of fairness that there should be a balance between those who support independence and those against.

Action: Secretary to write to each of the political parties within the Scottish Parliament, or where appropriate their locally elected representative, advising them of the event and invite them to speak or provide a speaker for the event.

Councillor Jason Rust

1. I was pleased to be asked along to the Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church. It was a very moving service, well attended by lots of people who had associations with the Church over the years and a number of people from other local congregations. It was also interesting to hear some of the history of our area.
2. I attended the Budget Engagement event at Tynecastle High School. The deadline for responding is 20 December 2013.
3. The next public meeting of Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership will be at Pentland Community Centre on 17 December 2013. The main agenda item will be the new Firrhill Health Centre. I hope as many local people as possible turn out given the importance of this local issue and since we have changed the venue from Juniper Green.

4. The closing date for the Oxfangs Brae/Path site was last week and a number of offers were received. A decision will be made by the Finance and Resources Committee. I am meeting officers to discuss.

Councillor Richard Lewis

Constituent Enquiries

Constituent enquiries have quietened down although I am still receiving the occasional waste enquiry. I have also received some personal enquiries which have been dealt with appropriately.

Colinton Library Opening

I was delighted to officially re-open Colinton Library after recent refurbishment works.

Robert Louis Stevenson Statue Unveiling

The new statue of Robert Louis Stevenson as a boy has been unveiled in Colinton village. The statue was commissioned and paid for by Colinton Community Conservation Trust.

Community Access to Schools Working Group

The latest meeting of this group took place in the beginning of October.

Leith Waterworld

The process to complete the sale is moving forward with missives now signed by both parties. A&G are now progressing the necessary permissions required to change the use of the venue and are hopeful that the new facility will be open next year.

Meadowbank Sports Centre

The **consultants** have now completed their options appraisal and a report will be going to Culture & Leisure Committee in December then to full Council in February.

PNP Reports:

Health – 3rd October (HL)

Verbal report given.

South West Area Board – 8th October (JN)

No attendance. See appendix 1 for information extracted from the business papers for the meeting.

Pentlands Funding Panel – 6th November (HL)

Verbal report given.

Environment, Infrastructure and Transport – 11th November (PW)

Summary Report of Meeting from P Wright, Firrhill CC rep.

1. Transport Strategy Consultation 2014-19

David Bewsey (Colinton AA, Chair) introduced **Lynda Haughney, Strategic Planning Officer**, to give a brief on the City's Transport Strategy Consultation 2014-19, which will guide service delivery. The overall vision is that "by 2030, Edinburgh's transport system will be one of the greenest, healthiest and most accessible in Northern Europe".

Of the ten main issues, high public priorities are **(a)** The Council supports affordable fully-integrated ticketing across public transport modes and operators, but at present this is not possible to implement because of the EU ruling that it would be anti-competitive. Lothian Buses' Ridacards and Day Tickets are valid on all LBs, and will be on trams. **(b)** Real-time info will be extended to cover trams and perhaps city periphery areas such as ours – but very expensive to install, and many people now use 'phone apps. [Problem if there is no info: when buses are diverted by a different route because of road accident, fire or flooding, it means they will not turn up at all at many of their usual stops!] **(c)** The Council will investigate a budget proposal to increase funding for more support for bus services which are commercially non-viable or low frequency [such as No 18?] **(d)** Speed reduction in housing and shopping areas, and in school streets - including possible closure of these streets at start and end of school day. **(e)** Air pollution: reduction involves fewer vehicles entering the city; fewer private and commercial diesel vehicles (Lothian Buses have already invested in several 'green' buses); more support for car clubs; more out-of-town parking with good park & ride bus services; making walking and cycling more attractive. Problem highlighted: how can the CEC anticipate future public transport needs and take-up? – residents can not know how they will travel from A to B until they see what public transport is available. Miss Haughney confirmed that the EIT group has until 25 November at the latest to respond as a body to this LTS document. [David and Scott Neill will send a letter.]

2. Parks and Green Spaces

Craig Dunlop, Senior Parks Officer, reported on invasive plant species such as Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Treatment of these is a central function, not a neighbourhood one: Parks & Greenspace (parks@edinburgh.gov.uk) have the chemicals and protective clothing necessary. To report invasive non-native species on Council-owned land, e-mail the Invasive Weed Control Team or Tel 0131-657 4815. To report these species on privately-owned land, e-mail Council's Environmental Health Service or call 0131-529 3030. Any problems re trees is the responsibility of the Forestry Dept.

Also: New signage has been erected in parks to encourage responsible behaviour. Commercial dog-walkers are being registered on a Council database.

3. Other Points

(a) Housing development contributions ('Section 75') to the Council, which may previously have been used to benefit local schools, groups, etc, now goes into a central 'pot'. [But this is not new here: many years ago money contributed by Tesco developers for our local 'wish list' was not ring-fenced; it went into the Council coffers.]

(b) It now seems to have been accepted that part-flooding of the **Braid Burn path** was intended in the original design - but there is no money available to remedy what has turned into a problem for pedestrians.

(c) Public waste bins: more have been ordered but there's a problem with procurement which it is hoped will be sorted out soon. [I have asked once again if the bin at the entrance to Colinton Mains Park can be moved to the pavement corner of the new car park for passers-by to dispose of take-away papers etc.]

Action: Secretary to complete ETI Aims & Priorities form and send back to Scott Neill.

Planning Applications Report:

There were no applications within the reporting period. JN presented a paper concerning the proposed Edinburgh Local Development Plan and the current consultation concerning the Scottish Government's draft consultation paper 'Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land (Nov 2013)'. See appendix 2 for details. The consultation period closes on 23rd December 2013. Whilst it was open

to everyone to submit comments in response to the consultation it was agreed the Planning Spokesperson should respond on behalf of Firrhill Community Council.

Action: JN to respond to the consultation expressing the Community Council's views in regard to this guidance paper.

Correspondence

Members were provided with the correspondence list for the period 24 Sept to 24 Oct prior to meeting . (see App 3).

AOCB:

Budget Meeting: Cllr Richard Lewis

"Further to previous discussions about the Council's plans to consult the public on its proposals for the 2014/15 budget, I have arranged for officers to present to community groups in the Colinton/Fairmilehead ward on 18th December 2013, 7pm at Firrhill High School.

This event is open to all members of the public and I would be grateful if you could promote around your community groups and local contacts.

Please note this meeting will be dependent on the level of public demand therefore anyone who wishes to attend should RSVP to debbie.webster@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 469 3859. I will be back in touch to notify you of the level of interest."

Action: Put information on the website

The Big Debate:

Chair gave a reminder that the next meeting is on Thursday, this week.

Tesco Trolleys:

Secretary reported on a complaint she received from a resident concerning Tesco trolleys being taken from the store and left abandoned. The complainant raised it with the store manager twice, with no action being taken, which is an indication they do not take the matter seriously.

This topic has been raised several times at the community council and, despite action by the local Councillors and the CEC Environment Officers, the store refuses to adopt a system that would prevent trolleys from being removed.

Action: Secretary to write letter of complaint to Tesco manager re abandoned trolleys.

Oxgangs Street: Kerbstone:

JB reported that a kerbstone outside Nos 6/8 Oxgangs Street had lifted from its seating and become a trip hazard.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 27th January 2014 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 2.30pm.

South West Area Board

Date and place of Meeting: 8 Oct 2013 at Wester Hailes Library. Apologies submitted.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting/Action List from 27 August 2013:

A report of this meeting was provided for the Community Council's September meeting.

Action List and Comments

A. Who is responsible for the upkeep of the Wester Hailes Civic Square, considered to be in a dangerous condition.

C. *The SWNO are responsible for the civic square and currently carry out maintenance as required. To address the problem and provide a permanent solution requires capital funding and at present there is no funding available. Issue completed 8/10/13.*

A. Proposed project 639 (Cockmylane)

C. *The ownership of this land still eludes officers. Part of the land sits on Parks & Green space account while the other section on the HRA account. Some work has taken place via the central roads team and it is hoped through time the remaining area of road will be completed. To check with Mike Avery. Issue ongoing.*

A. Future Landlord Performance reports to include graphs for the comparison of figures

C. *Reports provided. Issue completed 27/8/13*

A. The findings from the Dunedin Canmore pilot on Welfare Reform

C. *DH to contact Dunedin Canmore to see if a more general report is available. Issue ongoing*

A. Possibility of future information events for tenants

C. *None planned for the foreseeable future. Completed 27/8/13.*

A. Timescales for holding spring cleans in Oxbgangs

C. *These took place earlier in the year. Completed 27/8/13.*

A. The drains around 73/4 Dumbryden Gardens and 27 Murrayburn Gardens.

C. *This issue has been passed to the Roads team for attention. Completed 27/8/13*

A. The process by which community reps can put forward roads projects

C. *Process circulated. Completed 27/8/13*

2.Landlord Performance:

Well Housed – Average time to let an empty home (target is 22 days): 24 days

You will note that South West has failed to meet the target of 22 days over the last 3 months; this has been a difficult time with exceptionally high numbers of properties, returned in poor condition and in need of clearout. Although narrowly missing target this month, the 23 day re-let figure is a 3 day improvement on July's performance figure.

Properties let:	June	42
	July	59
	August	49

As for the month of July, South West saw significant numbers of properties requiring multiple offers before being let, with 3 properties in particular equating to 98 days void with a total of 14 offers made. Local actions are being taken to improve performance concerns and South West is looking to

reinstate pre final snag viewings where key safes are available on empty properties w/c 23/9/13 in an attempt to reduce re-let times.

Well Housed – cash value of current rent arrears: £1,330,466

Arrears have increased by £135,150 since last month to £1,330,466 and are 84% higher than at the same period last year. South West continues to have a high level of Housing Benefits backlogs. There are ongoing discussions between our Service Support Unit and Revenues and Benefits to provide additional resources in neighbourhoods to address backlog of Housing Benefit cases. Staff will continue to prioritise tenant contact at all stages but particularly at initial stage of debt recovery process in an attempt to deal with increasing volumes of tenants now entering into arrears. Under occupancy: South West currently have 679 tenants affected, 650 are in rent arrears.

Well Housed – housing advice cases which do not go on to present as homeless:

The South West Team achieved a figure of 74% which is well above the current target of 55%.

Welfare Reform Information

Citywide update on Under-Occupation

- As at end of Aug 76% of tenants affected by under-occupation (2,602) were in arrears with a total debt outstanding of £1,248,826.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

The Scottish Government has now agreed £20m to assist LAs in topping up DHPs which is most welcome. It is expected that Edinburgh's share of this will be £2.1m. The following provides a summary of the current work underway and plans to use additional DHP funding for those council tenants who are receiving Housing Benefit (HB) and struggling to pay their rent.

- Joint working with Revenues & Benefits managers to revise the current DHP policy. The changes include ensuring those people who would have been previously considered as may be entitled will be moved into the 'will be entitled' category. Also a disregard will be applied to the income/expenditure ensuring that more people will be entitled if there are borderline struggling financially.
- Revenues & Benefits will be carrying out a review of those DHP applications previously refused or where partial awards were made based on the revised criteria.
- The next rent statement is due to be sent to all council tenants around 23 October 2013 and this will also raise awareness of DHP to all tenants receiving housing benefit.
- A revised HB under occupation leaflet is in its final stages of consultation and will include what advice and help is available through DHP and other sources.
- Edinburgh Tenants Federation has also agreed to run an article in a future edition of their Tenants Voice publication and this is being arranged.
- The welfare reform transition team being set up includes targeting council tenants affected by HB under occupation and welfare reform that are not currently receiving DHP and assisting them to apply. It will also look at supporting tenants find longer term solutions if they are in receipt of DHP.
- The next corporate welfare reform core group meeting is set for 6/11/13 and further discussions are expected on wider promotion and communication on DHP. Further local neighbourhood initiatives are also being explored.

Homes and Energy - Saving energy at home

Greener Scotland offers advice and information on how to save energy and reduce energy bills. The Council's [Energy Advice Guide](#) gives advice to Council tenants about their heating, appliances, tariffs and energy use. Much of the general information is also useful to private tenants and homeowners. (A copy of this guide provided to all board members).

Update on Property Team Activity.

Bulk Items Amnesty

Property team completed a spring clean amnesty in Hailesland and Oxbgangs and they were very well received.

If you have any requests for this in your area, please contact myself or your local housing officer.

Walkabout Calendars

New calendar dates will be issued for next year's walkabouts in December can everyone make sure they speak to the lead officer for their walkabout, ASAP, to confirm if any specific dates/day time does not suit. We will be taken account of full council dates for next year and walkabouts will not be scheduled on these dates.

Housing Advice Roadshows

Staff will be available at various venues citywide, (copy of flyer attached) to offer Housing Advice to tenants.

Sign up to improve housing services!

The Scottish Housing Regulator's (SHR) 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 SHR is setting up a National Panel as one important way to hear what people think.

The SHR wants to understand your priorities, experiences and views of the services you receive and will use your feedback to help make sure that they are focusing on the important things.

You can join the Panel if you are a tenant of a social landlord, are homeless, a home owner who receives factoring or common repairs services from a social landlord, or a Gypsy/ Traveller who uses a council or housing association site.

As a Panel member, the SHR will send you occasional surveys asking for your views - no more than 2 or 3 a year. Surveys will be quick and easy to complete. The SHR may also ask you to provide feedback in other ways.

Sign up online at <http://www.craigforth.co.uk/nat-pan/> or ring Craigforth (who manage the Panel) on 0800 027 2245 or e-mail shr@craigforth.co.uk.

Tenants' Survey Update

On 18 June 2013, the Health, Well-being and Housing Committee considered a report on the tenants' survey. Over 1000 City of Edinburgh Council tenants were asked their views on a range of topics, including landlord services, satisfaction with neighbourhoods, energy efficiency and welfare reform. The main headlines are below.

The results of the survey are very positive. On key services and landlord functions, the Council enjoys satisfaction ratings that are as high as, if not higher than, those of other comparable landlords. In some cases the Council is at the top of its peer group.

- Overall, 90% of tenants were satisfied with the housing service they receive and only 4% were dissatisfied.
- 92% of tenants were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live and only 2% were dissatisfied.
- 90% of tenants rated staff as helpful and 80% rated staff as able to deal with queries quickly and efficiently.
- 87% of tenants were fairly or very satisfied with their most recent repair and only 4% were fairly or very dissatisfied.
- 73% felt the Council listened to their views and acted as a result.
- 76% felt that the Council was good at keeping them informed about the services it provides and only 5% were dissatisfied with this aspect of the service.

The survey has revealed some concerns, particularly around fuel poverty, welfare reform, digital exclusion and low awareness of advice agencies. Exploring how tenants can be supported well is a key priority for the Council and an action plan, based on the survey results, is being developed to improve services. If you want a copy of the full report please let me know and I will arrange for you to receive this.

Future Dates for Area Board Meetings

21 January 2014

22 April 2014

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 this 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.

Planning Report: Edinburgh LDP

Supplementary Guidance - Housing Land

This draft *Supplementary Guidance* (SG) is currently out for consultation from 12 Nov to 23 Dec 2013. Its purpose is to provide further information in support of *Strategic Development Plan* (SDP) Policy 5 (Housing Land), which will provide direction for *Local Development Plans* (LDP) as to how much of the overall land requirement should be met in each of the six member authority areas. This electronic consultation is in regard to a number of questions relating to the SG that the planning authority are seeking comments on.

Concerns that are being expressed is the impact this direction may have on the green belt land around the city. At present the SDP identifies two main strategic areas for housing development on green belt land - West Edinburgh and South East Edinburgh but more land may be required for future development. The *South West Communities Forum* (SWCF) have concerns that whilst the CEC Planning maintain there are sufficient brownfield sites available on which to build the majority of the 27,000 new homes, the banks holding on to land till the 'value' rises will result in sites with minimal constraints being developed first, leaving brown field sites untouched.

Housing developers are submitting planning proposals for new sites on the green belt.

Should we take an interest? There is a need for new housing but should it be left to the developers to determine where these houses should be built? Is the housing land requirement by local development plan area fair to the City of Edinburgh in view of its land size in comparison to the other authority areas? Further background information is provided below

SESplan

SESplan is the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and south east Scotland. Its members are the councils of the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. SESplan is required to prepare and maintain a SDP for its area.

Following an independent examination and report, the city region's first SDP was approved by Scottish Ministers on 27th June 2013. In approving the plan, Scottish ministers made a number of modifications, including the requirement for SESplan to prepare supplementary guidance to establish the housing land requirement by council area.

Key Changes to the SDP

The reporters' recommendations included two significant changes to the SDP. They sought to increase the housing land requirement to match the figures set out in the *Housing Needs and Demand Assessment* (HNDA). The other change was a requirement to maintain a 5-year effective land supply at all times.

These changes will require new housing land to be allocated in some or all of the LDPs of the SESplan member councils. This will have a significant impact on LDP programmes.

Scottish ministers have altered the revised Policy 7. This allows a site to be granted consent within *Strategic Development Areas* (SDAs) as well as out of them if it is required to maintain the 5-year effective land supply and subject to other criteria. The purpose of the original policy has been altered to allow a greenfield site anywhere across the Council area to be considered against the criteria within the policy, when a five-year housing land supply is not being maintained.

In approving the plan, the Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan is superseded and ceases to form part of the statutory development plan. Its policies, housing land targets and mechanisms for maintaining a five-year effective housing land supply no longer apply.

Ministers have not introduced any transitional arrangements so, until the new supplementary guidance is approved, it will not be possible to assess the adequacy of the five-year supply.

New Supplementary Guidance

The SDP as approved sets out what the housing land requirement is for the SESplan area as a whole (for the periods 2009-2024 and 2024-2032). It now requires significantly more land for housing to be allocated in LDPs in the earlier phases of the SDP. However, it does not set out the requirement for each member council's area. Therefore, ministers require supplementary guidance to be prepared by SESplan to define the requirement per authority.

The additional housing numbers to be found in each SESplan council has not been determined but it is very likely that CEC will be required to allocate significantly more housing land in the Edinburgh Local Development Plan. In those circumstances a modified LDP stage would be needed; if the changes would affect the Plan's settlement strategy, a second Proposed Plan could even be required.

Next Steps

SESplan and its constituent authorities are working together to prepare the supplementary guidance. The aim is to prepare and approve it within one year of SDP approval – the timescale expected by ministers.

A timetable will be published shortly and will include a six-week public consultation stage.

Until the Strategic Development Plan's supplementary guidance is adopted, Local Development Plans cannot be submitted to ministers for examination.

Web Links

Strategic Development Plan: <http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/assets/files/docs/proposed-plan/Proposed%20Plan.pdf>

Local Development Plan: <http://217.174.251.127/plans/ldp/LDPProposedPlanMarch2013.pdf>

SESplan: www.sesplan.gov.uk

Reporters' report: <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/Documents/qA313854/A5695393.pdf>

Ministerial approval: <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/Documents/qA313854/A6276918.pdf>

The two documents are complementary; the SDP sets the broad regional spatial development strategy which in turn sets the parameters for the Local Development Plan.

(The above information was extracted from CEC Planning Information Bulletin 6/ 2013.)

South West Communities Forum

The SWCF comprises of the community councils of Ratho & District, Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton Amenity Association and was formed to present a unified approach the consultations concerning the proposed LDP. Whilst we have not participated directly the Forum has kept us well informed of their activities and representations.

Edinburgh Proposed Local Development Plan (March 2013)

The above proposed plan has been in the public domain since 1st May 2013 for a six week period to enable members of the public to see the City Council's determination of the plan and make further representations if they so wished. In October 2013 the representations were published online and a new Development Plan Scheme, setting out the programme for preparing the LDP, was issued.

As a consequence of our comments on the Main Issues Report, we were invited to attend an event to discuss how the engagement process for the Edinburgh LDP has gone so far. Its purpose was to assess if there were improvements that could be made for the future, bearing in mind this is a rolling

5 year process. The event was held on Thursday 28 Nov 2013 at the City Chambers and was well attended by community council and other community representatives.

Proposed Scottish Development Plan: November 2011

Policy 7: HOUSING LAND DEVELOPMENT OUTWITH STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Greenfield proposals outwith the identified Strategic Development Areas will not be supported except those identified through Local Development Plans and where they satisfy all of the following criteria:

- a) Development is small scale and in keeping with the character of the settlement and local area;
- b) Development will not undermine Green Belt objectives; and
- c) Any additional infrastructure required as a result of the development is either committed or to be funded by the developer.

Policy 4 – Paragraph 112

The majority of land allocated for housing within LDPs will be located within the identified SDAs. Exceptions for small scale development outwith SDAs which will contribute to the SDP's housing provision as set out in Table 3 have been made for Fife and the Scottish Borders, reflecting the specific circumstances of these LPAs. This allows for local needs to be met, whilst contributing to the overall SDP housing land requirement. Policy 7 also makes provision whereby the other LPAs can identify small scale housing proposals outwith their SDAs, so long as these are justified by LDPs.

Correspondence List

Firrhill CC Correspondence from 26 Oct – 28 Nov '13

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

- 1 Eileen Hewitt re Draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP): see Scottish Gov website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/10/3406> (responses by 16 Dec.) to update Scotland's 3rd National Planning Framework (NPF3).
- 2 f by H Levy - David Cameron: Introduce a new 'Liability for Suicide' criminal offence re women who commit suicide because of domestic abuse.
- 3 Sarah McDonald: Edinburgh's Local Transport Strategy Consultation – Presentation on Agenda for PNP EIT sub-group meeting on 11 Nov.
- 4 Eileen Hewitt re Action Earth 'Grab a Grant': up to £250 to spend for community volunteers improving outdoor spaces or creating wildlife habitats – or up to £500 for work on a local nature reserve. <http://actionearth.csv.org.uk> (Tel: 0131-222 9083) up to December '13.
- 5 Scottish Fire & Rescue PR Event, 27 Nov, City Chambers [H Levy attending]
- 6 Sarah Boyack MSP: Oct e-news, incl her campaigns re 'party flats' (statutory notices given out); CCTV for Telfer Subway, and debate on 'stricter liability' proposals for road safety.
- 7 Network Rail website re on-going works for new rail link: www.Bordersrailway.co.uk
- 8 E Hewitt: Consultation on Review of Polling Places, 1-22 Nov [FCC submitted the view that more residents in central Oxfangs area should be able to vote at Colinton Mains Church.]
- 9 Council's proposed waiting, loading & unloading restrictions at Oxfangs Bank & Rd North: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders
- 10 Edinburgh Pentlands CLP: backing Evening News campaign to keep open police station front counters, particularly in Oxfangs and Balerno.
- 11 Eileen Hewitt re Edinburgh Libraries community info website to find out what's going on in your neighbourhood www.youredinburgh.info. You can also register online if you belong to a local group/club and advertise its details.
- 12 Cliff Beevers, SW Forum: questions to Housing Minister, Derek Mackay MSP, and his answers + FOI re housing needs/demand over SESplan area, ie, the green belt.
- 13 S Jackson, CEC Sports Officer, re nominations for any community volunteer to take part in the Queen's Baton Relay for Commonwealth Games. Edinburgh leg: 14 June '14. More info a www.glasgow2014.com/baton-relay
- 14 Consultation on the Legislative Framework Governing Allotments: Consultation Report at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/4291>
- 15 S McDonald re event to learn of Council's budget proposals for 2014/15: Tynecastle High School, 25 November, 7 pm [being attended by several Firrhill CC members]

- 16 Gordon Macdonald MSP: Nov Newsletter, incl details of funding for new community transport vehicles, eg, Dove. Gordon.Macdonald.msp@scotpmnt.uk
- 17 Scott Neill: Youth Projects funding for secondary-age young people.
- 18 Cllr Aitken: info on works at A720 Dreghorn WP Onslip (planned for 24/25 Nov)
- 19 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill: consultation opened by Minister for Local Gov & Planning. Aims include to support local democracy and decision-making and deliver improving public services and community planning. For paper copy Tel 0131 244 0382; for details on website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current>
- 20 Cllr Rust: 'Clean up Edinburgh Campaign' for SW area starts 29 Nov, Wester Hailes
- 21 Cllr Burns: Council Leader's Nov '13 Report
- 22 S McDonald: **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting in Public: Tues 17 December in Pentland Centre at 7 pm**
- 23 **NHS Firrhill Partnership Centre Public Info Event: Saturday 30 Nov, 11am-1pm, Oxfangs Library**
- 24 Cllr Lewis: Usher Hall 100th birthday concert, 6 March '14. Tickets now available at www.usherhall.co.uk (Tel: 228 1155) – also has info on other centenary concerts/events
- 25 Cllr Lewis: half of 'bedroom tax' tenants are getting into rent arrears but not applying for Discretionary Housing Payments which they may be entitled to from funds given to Council by Scottish Government.
- 26 Gordon Macdonald, MSP: info on last Christmas post mailing dates for UK and abroad.
- 27 Cllr Ross: news of further large-scale investment and jobs in the city.
- 28 Scott Neill: Actions & Priorities form to be filled in by all CCs in Pentland NP area.
- 29 MSPs Gordon Macdonald and Sarah Boyack re impending closure of 2 fire control rooms in either Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen or Inverness following amalgamation of the 8 former fire brigades. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service will decide which will close on 30 Jan '14, but Gordon & Sarah have both held meetings with fire chiefs, written letters, and campaigned for keeping open the control room at Tollcross.
- 30 Cllr Rust: info re festive period waste collections: none on 25 Dec (will collect on 28th), or on 1 Jan (will collect on 4th). 26 & 27 Dec + 2 & 3 Jan collections will have reduced staff.
- 31 Sarah Boyack MSP: e-newsletter for November, including action on Payday loans and recent developments in build-up to referendum.

For more detail on any of the above contact the Secretary:

Peggy Wright, 531 9796; peggy.wright@live.co.uk