

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 24 February 2014

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

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

Visitors: Cllr Aitken; Cllr Rust; PC R Wood, Oxfangs Police Stn, N Tinlin, Fairmilehead CC; D Williams, Oxfangs Broadway, P Valentine, OCRA

Apologies: Cllr R Lewis; P Podd; V Garden; G Duncan.

H Levy in the Chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 27 January 2014 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by FG, seconded by LL and agreed.

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

Matters Arising:

Oxfangs Police Station

Due to the closure of the public desk at Oxfangs Police Station the local community police hold a police surgery in Oxfangs Library every Wednesday (excluding Christmas and New Years day) between 5pm and 6pm for members of the community to speak with a police officer. To facilitate those less able to climb the hill the Community Council have suggested to the Police that they set up a similar arrangement at the Lochan View Community Business Centre before FCC meeting. PC Wood reminded the CC that the police station is still manned and members of the community can arrange to see an officer at the station by phoning the police non-emergency call number 101.

Action: *Matter ongoing*

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

Chair confirmed that this event will be held in the sports hall at Pentland Community Centre from the earlier time of 7.00pm on Monday, 24th March, which is our normal meeting date. The time was brought forward to facilitate the Centre staff. The Secretary advised that she has been in touch with the various parties asking for speakers and is waiting on confirmation as to who will be attending.

Chair advised that she has costed the purchase of a PA system for the event but does not have the information with her. She has also spoken to the Community Centre about their equipment and has arranged to meet with the Centre Manager to test it out.

Action: *Matter ongoing.*

Oxgangs Path: Sale of Land:

This relates to the proposed sale of the former Oxgangs Social Work Centre and St John's Church sites to the preferred bidder ALDI, the retail supermarket chain. A condition of the offer was the inclusion of the remaining area of HRA amenity land between the site on offer and the Good Companions. This has resulted in a local consultation exercised being carried out by the CEC.

D Williams advised that he had complained about the lack of time and had it agreed that the period of consultation be extended to 27th February. He was seeking the support of the Community Council in opposing the sale of this land and reported that he had received a large response to his petition.

The Chair responded that the CC had agreed to carry out a local consultation in the area surrounding the development site to ascertain the feelings of the community and that a leaflet had been drafted for this purpose. However with Mr Williams' own consultation and that of the MSP, Gordon MacDonald, it was felt that this was not the time to run another and that it would be more useful to wait until the planning stage before conducting our own consultation.

J Napier voiced concern about the possible loss of the new pathway that aided the access/egress of those in wheelchairs and with prams/buggies in that area.

F Gosney voiced concerns about the previous consultation on the development of the social work site and HRA amenity land. A large number of objections had been raised opposing the use of this land for social housing.

After a lengthy debate it was accepted that the Community Council should wait until ALDI submitted their proposed plans for the site, ensure the information was put out to those most affected by the development and seek to get a community response.

Action: Matter ongoing.

Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC Ricky Wood to our meeting. PC Wood gave the following report for the Oxgangs area:

In the period between 27th January and 24th February, 171 calls were made to police with 59 reported crimes.

Overnight between the 29/30 January there was an attempted motor-bike theft in Colinton Mains Road.

On the 17th February there was a house break-in and theft of a motor vehicle. The criminals forced a window, climbed through and stole keys for the vehicle. Confronted by the home owner but made off in the car. Two males have been subsequently arrested for the offence.

Overnight between the 17/18th February there were a number of garage break-ins. Garage doors were forced in Colinton Mains Grove, Green and Oxgangs Terrace. On one occasion the suspect was disturbed and nothing was taken in any of the incidents.

On the same night there was another attempted theft of a motor-bike in Colinton Mains Road and an actual theft of a motor-bike from Firrhill Loan, which has since been recovered.

Community Policing Team – Operation RAC

Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, ie, anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101 or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.

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:

Councillor Elaine Aitken

Firrhill Health Centre

The plans are available for comment on the CEC Planning Portal until 25th February. The reference is 14/00335/FUL.

Land Sale at Oxgangs Brae

This is covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Pentland Primary School

I received complaints about leaves and litter being blown from the school grounds onto surrounding paths so I arranged for this to be cleared.

I will be having a meeting with the Facilities Manager to discuss the report by Scottish Agriculture College on the drainage in the playing field.

Oxgangs Primary School

Parking and lack of a School Crossing Attendant continue to cause problems and I am monitoring both.

Street Lights

Ongoing issues with lights in Oxgangs Gardens have hopefully now been resolved.

Right First Time

There appeared to be some confusion whether this was continuing this and. Following my enquiry, I received the following response: Right First Time, RFT, surfacing enhancement programme work continues to be carried out by the 6 Neighbourhood Roads teams under their Neighbourhood management structure.

In this current year, £1.8M of the additional £12M Capital Roads and Pavements budget, confirmed in June 2013, is split between the Neighbourhoods for RFT work. This budget must be used for RFT surface enhancement but can be added to by each Neighbourhood's own Revenue repair budget. Neighbourhoods can use their own Revenue budget for other ad-hoc repairs as well, but can only use their Capital budget allocation, out of the £1.8M, for RFT repairs.

Traffic Regulation Order

The TRO to install double yellow lines at the corners of Oxgangs Place, Street and Rise with Oxgangs Avenue has been submitted to the Traffic Orders Team. This will now be going through the full legal process which will take a minimum of 9 months.

Pentland Community Centre

Trade Waste collections have been missed on a number of occasions. This has now been rectified.

The wheelchair lift will be installed as soon as the building warrant is in place.

The new programme is now available on the website.

Oxgangs Care

The Oxgangs Care “Community Flat” is now open and a number of drop in sessions have been organised. We hope to encourage local people to visit the flat to talk to us about what services and activities for older people are needed in the area.

Councillor Jason Rust

1. Firrhill Drive – complaints about the number of potholes.
2. Local Development Plan – Community Councils Briefing.
3. PNP – community grants.
4. Oxgangs Walkabout – Thursday 27th February at 10.00am.
5. Oxgangs Broadway – individual tripped on the paving, question of ownership.

Councillor Richard Lewis

Report on enquiries received and other matters covered by his remit submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

Aldi

Ongoing enquiries being received regarding the land sale at Oxgangs.

New Wheelie Bins/Recycling

We are still at the project planning stage and hoping implementation will be within a month but no date confirmed. Once implemented it will be done on a phased in basis.

Roads

Ongoing complaints being received regarding the state of the roads around the City. I have asked the department for a response.

Edinburgh Golf

I chaired a meeting between Edinburgh Golf (a conglomerate of private golf clubs across Edinburgh) and Edinburgh Leisure to investigate potential partnership arrangements that would benefit all and boost golf attendances and the numbers playing golf across the city. Private golf clubs are facing tough times at the moment, with a number of courses closing over the last few months, and clubs are recognising that they need to change their strategic approach to membership and casual use if they are to survive.

Swanston Farm Ltd

I had an interesting meeting with Alastair McClung from Swanston Farm Ltd about his plans to develop mountain biking trails across his 700 acres site. The potential development could also extend to a new hotel, bike hire centre, cafe, shop and changing facilities.

PNP Reports:

Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Sub-Group – 10th February (PW)

Priorities and Actions

A list of the priorities and actions agreed by the sub group are attached as [appendix 1](#).

Edinburgh Road Works Ahead Agreement Relaunch

Delegates were given a presentation on the above document and its effects citywide. This document ties together road works and road services. Comments are still welcome at this late stage but the deadline is 18 March before the report is signed off by the full Council. A copy of the hand-out is attached as [appendix 2](#).

Members' Reports:

Planning Report:

Planning Applications/Decisions

Application 13/04935/FUL for a single storey bedroom extension at the rear of property at 22 Oxgangs Terrace, Edinburgh EH13 9BY has been granted

16th December 2013 – application 13/05166/FUL for the provision of a side and rear extension at 102 Oxgangs Road has been granted.

30th January – application 14/00335/FUL for the erection of a new build 2.5 storey building which will house 2 GP practices, NHS day services and Edinburgh City Council offices spaces at 167 Colinton Mains Drive. Expiry date – 25th February 2014.

10th Feb 2014 - application 14/00461/FUL for the construction of an external ramp for disabled access at 39 Colinton Mains Crescent.

Edinburgh Garden District – 4th February Public Meeting (JN).

I attended a public meeting organised by Currie Community Council to enable local residents to see and hear about the proposed plans for the Edinburgh Garden District and express their opinions. The proposed plan has been put forward by Murray Estates, who were there to present it. The meeting filled the large hall with an estimated 100+ people attending. A report is attached as [appendix 3](#).

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received during this reporting period is attached as [appendix 4](#). For more detail on any of the correspondence listed contact the Secretary, Peggy Wright; Tel: 531 9796; email: peggy.wright@live.co.uk

AOCB:

Website Report

A tabled report on the Community Council's website activity is attached as [appendix 5](#).

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 24th March 2014 in the Pentland Community Centre at 7.00pm. This will be a public meeting to debate the referendum for Scottish Independence.

EIT Sub Group: Priorities and Actions

1. Improve and maintain parks and green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways and safety • Planting bulbs, and fruit or flowering trees, including wild flower. • Provide more recreational provision, especially for youths such as skateboarding and other non mainstream activities. • Work with local Friends of Parks and wider community to improve local green space
2. Investigate community growing and allotment projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments, investigate allocation to provide communal access to allotments • Community growing options in area • More information on the Edible Estates¹ initiative.
3. Improve bus services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote bus tracker provision for more isolated areas • Investigate avenues to allow more community consultation • Monitor community input into review of community transport particularly for those residents who are elderly, disabled or live in an area of deprivation
4. Improve cycling connectivity and improve pedestrian provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with Spokes and Council Active Travel Team to review existing cycle route maps and signage. • Map current main cycle routes and identify gaps for development. • Ensure that surfaces are not flooded (gully maintenance) and potholes are monitored and repaired particularly at carriageway edges. • Ensure that verges, footways and footpaths particularly in rural areas are properly maintained and overhanging growth is reduced.
5. Reduce parking problems	<p>Review parking issues in each area and identify possible actions & solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of parking provision especially in shopping areas
6. Road Safety/ Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that rural areas used by walkers have clear verges for safety.
7. Maintain a Clean & Safe Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help keep Pentland NP free from litter by conducting regular clean-up campaigns • Promotion of the young environmental wardens course in primary schools • Support community efforts in recycling initiatives • Ensure sharing of good practice amongst local communities
8. Local Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canal - liaise with all relevant parties to ensure maintenance of canal paths

¹ "Edible Estates is an initiative to promote best practice in the regeneration of greenspace within social housing estates"

Edinburgh Road Works Ahead Agreement Relaunch

Presentation by Stuart Harding, Performance Manager, Roads Services

SH delivered an update on the above document and its effects citywide supported and led by Cllr Hinds. This document ties together road works and road services. Comments are still welcome at this late stage and can be fed into SH or via the local office. The deadline is 18 March '14 before the report is signed off by Full Council.

SH covered the following areas in the document:

The proposal is to re-vitalise and re-launch the Edinburgh Road Works Ahead Agreement (ERWAA) with greater emphasis on customer needs and remove aspects of the previous agreement that proved to be ineffective.

The report going to Committee on 18 March proposes a way forward in partnership with Public Utilities to deliver improved performance.

Included in the agreement are new initiatives to address issues of frustration regarding road works that are reported to the Council by both pedestrians and road users. Examples of these initiatives include:

- moving any temporary traffic lights when they are not required to allow two-way traffic to flow, specifically at weekends where work has paused; and
- placing additional information signs at sites that require to be vacated for a period of time.

The Council has worked in partnership with the main Public Utility (PU) companies through the 'Edinburgh Road works Ahead Agreement' (ERWAA), since the original launch in 2007.

It is known that customers are frustrated by, what appears to be, endless sets of road works within Edinburgh delaying their journeys, excavations left open with no apparent work being undertaken, and reinstatements not being carried out correctly. This frustration is frequently documented through customer contact and local press.

This proposal to re-launch and re-vitalise the ERWAA aims to improve customer communication and perceptions and deliver robust working relationships, based on joint objectives, to deliver infrastructure improvements in the city.

A new need for specific traffic management will be assessed to include the relaxation at weekends, or at the end of working shifts, to help reduce delays experienced at temporary traffic lights. The intention is to ensure two-way traffic flow can resume where road works are not actually taking place, especially on traffic-sensitive roads.

The customer should see improved and acceptable work sites. Sites should be clean and tidy with information boards indicating reasons and timings for the works. Standard and consistent styles of traffic management layouts, signs and barriers will give the customer a better understanding of road works restrictions and how they should be interpreted.

Definition of works surface failures categories are as follows:

- Type A Inspections – Inspections undertaken during the progress of the works. Live sites to check traffic management and backfilling of trench etc
- Type B Inspections– Reinstatements inspected within six months of the interim or permanent reinstatement.
- Type C Inspections – Reinstatements inspected within three months preceding end of the guarantee period.

The Chair opened the session up to members' questions:

NT – The subject of local people taking an interest in monitoring works was mooted 2 years ago: no further word, is there an opportunity now?

SH – In the new document there is provision for lay inspectors.

NT – Scottish Roads Work Register seems to list road works as predominantly emergency works, is this an actual reality?

SH – Code of Practice clearly sets out standards of classification. In the City two utility companies use this classification, Gas & Water, for obvious reasons.

JC – If a utility company does not have permission are they asked to stop, and do they make works safe before departing the scene?

SH – Private companies such as those laying fibreoptic cables can apply and receive a “109” notice and can start work 2 hours before the notice is provided to the Council. However if the inspection team do come across unauthorised works they are asked to stop and backfill before leaving area.

DB – Noted that two inspectors were recruited on a limited contract of 2 years. Could the Pentland NP suggest to the Council the need to make these positions permanent?

SH – This would be welcomed by the team. [DB will write to City Council.]

NT – Wider Council road works carried out by contractors?

SH – Yes, these types of jobs are overseen by the local neighbourhood teams.

PW – removal of barriers, cones, signs etc often takes ages after works are completed. Who is responsible for this?

SH – The utility companies carrying out the works are responsible for removal of their equipment, including signage.

The Chair thanked Stuart Harding for attending and updating the group members. SH remarked that he would be happy to return at a later date if required.

Note: if a pedestrian crossing has to be put out of action because of road works, there is no legal obligation to put in a temporary crossing.

[NT: Norman Tinlin; DB: David Bewsey; JC: Johanna Carrie; PW: Peggy Wright]

Edinburgh Garden District

I attended a public meeting organised by Currie Community Council on the 4th February in the Gibson Craig Hall to enable residents of the village and neighbouring areas to see and hear about the proposed plans for the Edinburgh Garden District and express their opinions. The area of land under discussion is that area situated on the west side of the city bypass and encompasses the green land between the villages of Juniper Green and Currie and the Lanark Road and the land from the Lanark Road to the M8 motorway. The proposed plan has been put forward by Murray Estates, who were there to present it. The meeting filled the large hall with an estimated 100+ people attending.

The (14th Jan) Evening News report on the proposed plan gave the following description:

“PLANS for a £1 billion “Garden District” have gone on show for the first time as a major public consultation gets under way.

About 3500 homes would be built on green-belt land beyond the City Bypass to the west of the Capital in the blueprint drawn up by Sir David Murray’s development firm.

It features a 60-acre National Garden – known as the Calyx – which will include water features and research facilities near 600 new homes.

Another 1500 homes would be built within walking distance of Edinburgh Park and 1400 as part of a University Village near Heriot-Watt.”

The proposals also include new schools (3 primary and 1 secondary), a conference centre, hotel and a sports hub (if a separate company is prepared to build a sports stadium).

The argument put forward for the proposal is basically that with the city having an estimated housing need of 48,000 houses to be built in the next decade, some of them will have to be built on the green belt and other greenfield sites as the land already designated for housing development (strategic development areas) is insufficient to meet that need.

Not un-expectantly there was substantial opposition to the proposals.

Archie Clark gave a short presentation on the growth of the city over the last century and the effect of that expansion if it continues for the next century. He also spoke on the loss of prime agricultural land in a country where only 9% of its land mass is in that category and a substantial proportion of that is located in the central belt

A number of people spoke on the effects such a large scale development would have on the road network which was already under pressure from existing traffic. In addition to the thousands of new homes and the many tourists attracted to the planned National Garden, etc., there was also massive house-building in West Lothian coming in towards Edinburgh. Even if people use public transport, there will still be an increase in traffic.

There are a number of other sites in the Balerno area that are attracting the interest of other developers. Property firm Gladman Developments wants to see 120 homes built on high-quality agricultural land in the green belt at Balerno (Ravelrig Road). Other areas being targeted by speculators were prime sites at Harlaw Gait, Glenbook, Currievale and Goodtrees.

Comments:

Colinton Mains, Firrhill and Oxbgangs were all built on prime agricultural land in the circa 1950s. I do not know if there were any objections at the time but presumably the argument of housing need overcame that of loss of farmland. Edinburgh’s expansion has been rapid over the last hundred years but other cities such as Glasgow have grown even larger, swallowing up towns, villages and farmland in the process. Should Edinburgh be any different?

Does Scotland have enough farmland left to sustain even one of its cities? If not, does it matter if we lose that 9%?

There is no question that with an expanding population there is a housing need throughout the country never mind the city and as long as there are no controls other than affordability that situation is unlikely to change.

However should we accept developers at face value, this apparent crisis in housing developed because it was not in the best interests of financial institutions and developers to build houses and it is only now when housing has become unaffordable that there is a move towards building more housing.

Equally should we accept the authorities at face value? National Government actions over the years have tended to support the financial institutions and developers rather than the need for social housing. Local governments have concentrated in getting rid of their responsibility for social housing rather than the need to provide more housing.

Now we have a SES plan drawn up by the city and county planners of the constituent authorities, which sets out the strategic development areas in response to the Scottish Government's demand for land to be made available for house building, as if that was the problem before – a lack of designated land.

The one way to make sure you can get your own way is to make something into a crisis. By setting an arbitrary figure and demanding all the land sufficient to meet that need, the SG created a crisis. Considering that we are talking about a plan that supposedly started in 2009 and this is 2014 with barely a brick laid the SG has ensured the pressure is on local authorities to give developers what they want. Who does it benefit?

Despite all this land being made available for housing developers, they still want to build in areas that have not been designated for that purpose. Why?

Concern must be expressed that developers will only build in the areas they want to build on and they will only build sufficient housing to enable the housing market to recover. Greenfield sites are preferred by developers and speculators as they realise maximum profit, but what of the city and the people who live and work within its boundaries?

Firrhill Community Council should support moves that will ensure brownfield sites and those areas identified for housing development are used first before any further erosion of agricultural or greenfield land.

J Napier, Firrhill Community Council, Report for 24 February 2014.

Correspondence List

By e-mail: all messages forwarded to members with this facility; some transferred to website where appropriate. N.B. Items in bold are of particular interest.

- 1 J Harbison & Co: e-mails from/to re Aldi Presentation to FCC members & Councillors.
- 2 Canal College (Scottish Waterways Trust) offers free heritage training skills to young people 16-25 yrs not currently in work, training or education. Call Danielle Moore on 07795 645 683 for more info and/or to register.
- 3 Denis Williams: to Mark Borthwick, City Council, questioning his decision not to hold consultation on sale of land at Oxgangs Path site [comments on proposal: until 28 Feb]
- 4 E Hewitt re Licensing Forum: Jan Minutes; list of all city centre licensed premises; nine premises in Shandwick Place granted licenses.
- 5 Cllr Lewis: Chamber Street Museum's new exhibition 'Historic Edinburgh from above', early 20th C photos: britainfromabove.org.uk
- 6 **H Levy: Health Fair, Saturday 1 March, Oxgangs Library, 11 am – 1 pm. PNP Health & Well-being Feedback Form and Questionnaire.**
- 7 E Hewitt: NHS information bulletin No 46
- 8 E-mails to/from various MSPs/MP re Firrhill CC's proposed Referendum Debate.
- 9 Cllr Lewis: Usher Hall Centenary Programme line-up. Tickets: 228 1155 or usherhall.co.uk
- 10 Mark Borthwick: Jim Napier's questions re make-up of bidders for Oxgangs Path site have been referred to Graeme McGartland, Corporate Property.
- 11 Cllr Andrew Burns: Council Leader's Report for January.
- 12 Gordon Macdonald MSP re Council's £1 sale of land to Places for People for affordable homes at Wester Hailes. This HRA site has lain derelict for 9 years.
- 13 N Tinlin: LDP Briefing – Wed 26 Feb [H Levy & J Napier attending].
- 14 EACC Sec: Notice of Exec Meeting – Thurs 27 Feb, 7 pm, City Chambers
- 15 C Marr, Oxgangs Library: agreement to Sec's request for questionnaire mailbox in library.
- 16 C Tuzun, Pentland Centre: agreement to Sec's request for mailbox in PCC.
- 17 TRO: 24hr waiting restrictions proposed for Oxgangs Green and Hill.
- 18 TRO: new disabled parking bays at 102 Oxgangs Gdns, 8 Oxgangs Ave, and 2 OXG Park.
- 19 TRO: waiting/loading restrictions: Oxgangs Ave at junctions with Oxgangs Place, Street and Rise; Oxgangs Rd North at junction with Oxgangs Bank
- 20 S McDonald: Events in Parks Consultation, Review of Manifesto. Survey closes 21 Mar. Info: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/eventsinparks; Tel 529 7921 for paper copy of survey.
- 21 C Beevers, South West Communities Forum (SWCF) re their continuing challenge to stop new housing on greenbelt land: includes statements from G Macdonald MSP to clarify some misunderstandings: (a) The Scot Gov does not set housing targets for the 32 Local Authorities – only issues broad guidelines for LAs to follow; (b) SESPlan as an organisation represents the six LAs in SE Scotland; (c) An independent Housing Needs & Demand Assessment was carried out for each Council for their area as part of their Local Development Plan; (d) Edinburgh has so far

failed to identify enough land for their HNDA, but it tried to argue that the immediate housing need identified should not be fulfilled in period to 2019 but extend beyond 2024.

- 22 S McDonald re Dunedin Canmore Pilot and Universal Credit; also, 'Your Rent Your Priorities Presentation at SW Area Board meeting.
- 23 Chief Supt M William, Edinburgh Area Commander, re Police Public Counter Review: letter + police station opening hrs chart (Oxgangs stays closed).
- 24 TRO: waiting restrictions proposed for Oxgangs Path at junctions with Oxgangs Brae and Oxgangs Brae [website for all TROs: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders]
- 25 Cllr Lewis: 7th successive freeze in Council Tax maintains Edinburgh's Band D rate as the lowest of Scotland's four major cities.
- 26 **Recycling: Residents with 'assisted' bin collections already have their 2014 calendar.**
Others: green & brown bins + kitchen waste: paper copy of collection days Tel 529 3030, e-mail waste@edinburgh.gov.uk , or check at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bindays Red/blue box calendar online from end of March. Garden waste: back to fortnightly in March.
- 27 J Napier: complaint to Council re TRO maps being sideways on screen = difficult to read. Reply from TRO Admin Officer: cannot change format on her computer PDF software.
- 28 S McDonald: amended EIT group Minutes of 10 Feb + Priorities Action List.
- 29 E Hewitt: free training re Petitioning the City of Edinburgh Council – Tues 25 March, 1.30-3pm, Drum Brae Library.
- 30 G Cameron: apologies that Annabel Goldie MSP can't attend our Referendum Debate.
- 31 A Clark: Notice of SWCF Meeting No 7, 4 March, Currie [J Napier will attend].
- 32 EACC Sec: Agenda for Exec Meeting, 27 Feb, + Minutes of Oct '13 meeting.
33. Warning about rogue traders: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, ie, anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101, or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.

For more detail on any of the above contact: Peggy Wright, Tel 531 9796, peggy.wright@live.co.uk

Website Report: Feb 2014.

Google Analytics:

In looking at the reports provided by Google Analytics it appeared that over the past year we have averaged out at just under a hundred visits a month, however the information was misleading as a fairly high number of visitors were from outwith the Edinburgh area.

In looking at the Edinburgh figures the website seems to be attracting between 30 to 40 visitors per month but included within these figures is a high proportion of first time visitors. This will only be positive if in fact our visitor numbers go up.

New Posts

Oxgangs Path – Sale of Land

In anticipation of the need to provide information on the sale of the land and its subsequent development, a new sub page has been created under “Consultations”. This page currently holds information on the advertisement of the land and CEC decisions in relation to the social work building and the HRA land.

In an attempt to generate some feedback, a question has been posed on the “Guestbook” page and highlighted on the “Home” page.

“Sale of Land at Oxgangs Path The sale of this combined social work/church site is currently on the books with ALDI being the likely buyer. In considering the Scottish Government's requirement for the City of Edinburgh to provide land for the building of 30,000 homes between now and 2024 and the pressure from developers for the release of green belt land for this purpose, is the building of a new supermarket the best use for this site?”

Doorstep Crime

A new sub page has been created under our “Useful Info” section to display the information we received from Trading Standards and links provided to the relevant page on the CEC’s website and other agencies. The subject is also highlighted on the “Home” page with a link to the new page

In regard to the “Police” sub page this has been updated as a consequence of the new set-up.

The ‘*Information Bulletin*’ on the “Useful Info” page has also been updated (Jan14).

Operation Cypher

Reported on the “News” page along with information on the Traffic Regulation Order for Oxgangs Avenue.

Calendar

Not being used to its full potential and we need to work on this as it may be the page most likely to attract people to the website.