

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 26 May 2014

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

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

Visitors: Cllr Rust; PC R Wood, Oxfangs Police Stn; N Tinlin, Fairmilehead CC.

Apologies: P Podd; G Duncan; L Linn; Cllr R Lewis; Cllr Aitken;

H Levy in the Chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 28 April 2014 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by JB, seconded by PW and agreed.

Matters Arising:

Oxfangs Police Station

Refer to previous minutes for details.

Action: JN to raise at PNP Safety Sub Group on 2nd June.

PA System

Chair reported back on the information she had obtained and recommended the purchase of QTX Sound QR12PA Portable PA System with Wireless Mics at a cost of £259 from Real Dog Music.

Specifications: Built-in amplifier operating from mains or internal re-chargeable battery powering a main driver and compression driven horn unit. A pair of VHF handheld wireless microphones are included with the receiver built into the mixer/amp section at the rear along with 2 further mic inputs (with echo), auxiliary line input and integral USB/SD media player. A moulded handle and pole mount are included and a retractable trolley handle and rear wheels provide easy portability.

Advised that the size of the audience you can use the QR12PA with is dependent on a number of factors but as a general rule the QR12PA will cater to audiences of up to 80.

To hire a PA system can cost from £50 to £250 per day.

Other systems looked at were Gear4Music's Sub Zero at £185 and HiFi Tower's Ibiza 400W + Microphones at £150 and their Karaoke System at £100.

After discussion it was agreed that we defer the purchase until we had confirmation of the Pentlands Community Centre management committee's offer regarding the storage of the equipment and if they were interested in sharing the cost.

Action: Matter deferred to next meeting. Chair to discuss with Pentland Community Centre Management and report back

Oxgangs Path: Sale of Land - Update on developments

Secretary had received copies of the Community Engagement Report and amended plans from James Harbison & Company (circulated). She reported that she had 'phoned him to discuss these plans regarding (a) the inclusion of a ramp (at the bottom of the site) for wheelchair users, and was told that this would be made long enough to avoid any steepness of incline; (b) a potential traffic issue - to which Mr Harbison said that Traffic Impact counts had been carried out for the junctions at the site access, Oxgangs Farm Avenue, Oxgangs Path, and Redford Rd. These used a 'trip model' based on a large supermarket, not a small store, ie, a worst case scenario. The final analysis will be included in the Planning Application. Mr Harbison also confirmed that Aldi now owns the site.

After discussion, it was agreed that we would not at this time put in any response to our stance on the proposal (as requested on p8 of the Community Engagement document): we will wait until the plans come into the public domain for feedback and then respond to the Council.

See also under Planning Report and AOCB

ELREC:

The Secretary read out the response received from ELREC and it was agreed there was no clear purpose as to why the Community Council should affiliate with this organisation. No further action.

Community Safety Presentation

Unfortunately the Community Safety representative was unable to attend due to illness and therefore this item was cancelled. Agreed it be rescheduled for our AGM in July.

Action: Secretary to contact Community Safety to confirm their availability for the 28th July.

Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC Ricky Wood to our meeting and invited him to give a police report for the Oxgangs area.

PC Wood advised the Council that during the period between 28th April and 26th May, they received 197 calls from the Firrhill/Oxgangs area. A large portion of these calls were generated from the Young Persons' Centre on Oxgangs Avenue or were concerns for persons.

Crime

Crimes of note in the Area

- 4th May – Pentland Primary School. Youths setting fires, near to school and placing objects that will explode within. Police have carried out high visibility patrols of area.
- 6th May – Motorcycle stolen from Oxgangs Terrace. Recovered shortly thereafter by police near to initial call.
- 9th May – Chip Inn break-in. Police are currently following up positive lines of enquiry.
- 11th May – Theft of bikes from outside Oxgangs Library. Ongoing enquiry.
- 14th May – Minor sexual assault committed at Oxgangs Road North, Edinburgh. Offender traced and charged.
- 15th May – Housebreaking at Greenlaw Hedge. Offender traced and charged.
- 19th May – House breaking Colinton Road. Ingoing enquiry.

Community Policing Team

Should you wish to contact the Community Policing Team, you can do so by email at EdinburghPentlandHillsCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or by telephoning the new national non-emergency number **101**. You can also follow them on twitter @PentlandsPolice .

If there is anything in particular that you wish to bring to their attention, please get in touch. Partnership working requires participation.

Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, i.e., 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 Jason Rust

1. The planning application for an extension to a licence for a Hot Food Take Away for the premises at **76 Colinton Mains Drive**, the last shop on the right in the parade of shops at Colinton Mains, for opening hours of 8am-11pm (currently 8am-6pm) is under consideration. There are 19 objections and 1 comment, plus supporting statements. June 9th is the date for determination.
2. Following the **European Elections**, Scotland now has 1 Conservative, 1 UKIP, 2 Labour and 2 SNP members. Dr Ian Duncan who was at the Firrhill Community Council referendum debate was elected as the Conservative member.
3. The **Local Development Plan** is due to be voted on next month. It was delayed for one month. Planning Committee members will have a vote.
4. The police have been in attendance at **Oxgangs Farm Avenue** to monitor parking and speed of vehicles.
5. There have been further complaints about **refuse collection**. Oxgangs Road North and Oxgangs Loan are among the most frequently affected.
6. There are problems with heavy vehicles parked in **New Swanston** outside Morrisons, preventing access to the pavement on which they are parked and causing safety issues regarding sightlines.
7. Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre is hosting **The Big Lunch** on Sunday between 1pm and 4pm.
8. The next **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership** is on 10th June at Balerno High School at 7pm. This will be a review of the year and look ahead to the new Community Plan - the Conference is on 14th June in the City Chambers.

Councillor Richard Lewis

Constituent Enquiries

He has received enquiries regarding non collection of waste in the Oxgangs area and been advised that this is a breakdown in communication within the Operations Department.

Concerns have been raised regarding parking at Pentland Primary School. Liaising with the department on this.

Enquiries have been received regarding quality of cycling in our streets (create space for cycling). Advised that it is our council pledge to keep investing one percent more each year on cycling (now up to 7% of transport spending) and Scottish Government initiatives (such as the £5million in Leith Walk announced earlier this year) we are at least now on the right track, albeit with a long way to go.

(Above report forwarded by Cllr Lewis along with his apologies)

PNP Reports:

Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group – 8th May (HL)

- Inviting the Army to have a presence on Sub Group
- Provision of data on recent consultation on the Edinburgh Leisure Community Programme
- Final feedback on the Pentland Health Fair event that took place on Saturday 1st March at Oxbgangs library.
- Health Questionnaire – discussion on the next steps
- Pentlands NP Library Questionnaire - headlines from paper and online survey

Funding Panel – 21st May (HL)

Application NP7/01/14: Harmeny Wood Management Group – partial award £1000

- Request for funding £1,987
- Time bound due to commence in June
- Funding for various activities, similar to application made code NP7/25/12 for £3,255.
- A high proportion of funding seems to be going to ELGT?
- Area to benefit Balerno, Juniper Green & Currie.
- Number of people to benefit – 6000 (population of Balerno)
- Project based at Harmeny Woodland, Balerno.

Application NP7/02/14: Currie Riding of the Marches – too late, the event has already taken place.

- Request for funding £1,330
- This project has already taken place on 1 May 2014.
- Application was similar to two coded NP7/26/10 and NP7/38/12 for similar amounts
- Funding cannot be given retrospectively
- Panel recommended to Decline application

Application NP7/03/14: Juniper Green Community Council – partial award £2300

- Request for funding £2,416
- Not Time bound
- The funding is requested to procure and install a community notice board for the area.
- Number of people to benefit - all residents in the JGCC area.

Application NP7/04/14: Wester Hailes Community Council – full award

- Request for funding £400
- Event time bound due to take place on 15 June 2014
- Funding requested to purchase finisher bags.
- This application is similar to two which went to the SWFP codes NP6/47/13 and NP6/34/12

- An estimated 200 runners will take part.
- Start and finish of event will be at the WHEC with the middle part of race taking place round Clovenstone Community Centre

Application NP7/05/14 Currie Rugby Football Club – further info was needed but in the end they were awarded £2500

- Request for funding £4,100
- This application is time bound due to commence sometime in July
- Funding requested to create a disabled friendly entrance and parking space at the clubhouse.
- Club is used by the wider community for a variety of local community events.
- Project based in Currie
- Number of people to benefit will be approximately 150

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Annual Review

Proposal to change the delivery structure for Sub Groups to be more dynamic and action orientated. To review the sub-group activities and a name change to address new focus – considering renaming as ‘action groups’. Look at membership of groups and their role, the leaders for each piece of work, the key partners and the information providers. Produce action plans from minutes

Members’ Reports:

Planning Report:

The Planning Report is attached as [appendix 1](#).

Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of the Treasurer no report available. Secretary confirmed the annual insurance had been settled with Keegan and Pennykid Insurance Brokers. (See under Correspondence, item3.)

Action: No action.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received during this reporting period is attached as [appendix 2](#). For more detail on any of the correspondence listed contact the Secretary, Peggy Wright; Tel: 531 9796; email: peggy.wright@live.co.uk.

AOCB:

Oxgangs Street

JB raised a complaint about the state of Oxgangs Street due to dog fouling and litter.

Action: Cllr Rust to make enquiries about having a litter bin located in the street and for the Environmental Wardens to do increased patrols in this area.

Land at Oxgangs Brae

Secretary circulated copies of a letter received from N Tinlin, Secretary, Fairmilehead CC, proposing joint action by the two community councils to lobby for a housing solution for the Social Work site along with the protection of the existing open space.

N Tinlin was at the meeting and invited to present his argument.

In the following discussion it was pointed out that the City Council initially looked at a housing solution for this land and carried out preliminary consultations with neighbouring occupancies. We believe they recorded a substantial number of objections to it being used for social housing.

Firrhill CC do not want this site to end up like the Hunters Tryst PS site lying derelict for years due to lack of interest. The addition of the Church of Scotland land has made the enlarged site a more attractive option to developers and therefore increased its sale value to the City Council and the Church. The site now looks to be developed sooner rather than later and will create a number of new jobs in the area for local people.

The CC recognise there is a housing shortage and would have preferred to see this site used for housing but in seeking the views of our community we have not received any feedback that would indicate a clear mandate to oppose this sale, indeed the opposite seems to be the case.

The CC do not consider that action to stop the joint sale to a commercial developer would be successful and if it were, could result in negative consequences for the community.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 23rd June 2014 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 7.00pm. At this meeting we have invited Stuart McLean to give a presentation on how to correctly petition the city council.

Planning Report: May 2014

SDP: Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land: Update

The document went before the Planning Committee on 15 May 2014. The full document is 357 pages, so members will understand I have not read it. This refers to a SG requirement for SESplan to prepare supplementary guidance on housing land that requires the City Council to identify more land for this purpose. The City Council's decision has yet to be published but it is unlikely they are in a position to knock it back. See also Councillors Rust's email circulated by the Secretary 8th April.

SESplan: Influence the Plan

I reported at the last meeting, SESplan are now starting to consider the contents of the second SDP (SDP2) and are seeking comments. We recently received an email from the SWCF commending the comments proposed to be submitted by the Cockburn Association.

I read through their submission and my only adverse comment is that it focuses too much on preserving 'green belt' land as opposed to green spaces. There is a difference. Within Firrhill there is a lot of affordable housing but there is an increasing demand for more and its provision should not be left to the dictate of the housing developers. Although it is recognised within their comments I would like to have seen a bit more on this problem. Does the Council wish to support the Cockburn Association's submission or do something different. Submissions must be submitted by 30th May.

EIR Request for Information: Purchase of land at Oxgangs Path

I submitted a request to the city council asking for information on what arrangements they had made with Aldi in regard to the area of land currently the library's car park. Received a response intimating my request has been refused because it is contrary to the commercial interests of the preferred bidder – Aldi

I cannot understand how arrangements in regard to a shared piece of land can be exempt on the basis of 'confidentiality of commercial or industrial interests'. I am sure there is nothing wrong with having such an arrangement but the extended car park area will be predominately Aldi's. It is in the public interest to know if the land has been gifted to Aldi and if not what arrangements have been made in the event either one of the two participants decide to move out/sell up.

Thus to promote transparency and accountability, I will be asking for a review.

Interesting note, I was warned it is the Council's policy to publish all request details and responses made under freedom of information legislation. This information will be made available through the Council's website and will not include your personal details. The disclosure log is available at the following link: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/homepage/175/foi_disclosure_log. When I tried to access the log the page was unavailable, however I tried again last night and found I had asked for 'information regarding any discussion between departments/services relating to the possible sale/disposal or other use of the Oxgangs library car park'.

Weekly Planning Bulletins

14 April 2014: Application 14/01398/FUL for the installation of external ducts to side elevation, new entrance door arrangement, removal of condition 6 to permit opening hours until 11pm at 76 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9BJ. Comments due by 09.05.2014. *The application appears to be a change of use from hairdresser/barber to hot food retail outlet, which it was previously.*

I have to apologise in regard to this application which was reported at the last meeting. I was tasked to seek further information and failed to do so. In looking at the application on the CEC Planning Portal, I can say that there were 20 comments submitted but whilst the City Council are willing to

identify the people who submitted comments, they are not so keen to identify their content. I can request this information (suitably redacted) if the Community Council so wish, although I note in the Correspondence List (item 20) an email from Cllr Rust "*re applications for licences for Hot Food Takeaway and extension of hours (8am to 11 pm) at 76 Colinton Mains Drive. Currently 17 objections to both, and could still be more before applications are determined on 9 June*".

19 May 2014: Decision: Application 14/00889/FUL for the erection of a two storey rear extension together with decking and ballustrading in conjunction with re-division of existing two storey terraced house into two separate dwellings at 36 Colinton Mains Road. Application was **refused** for reasons that the *proposed extension by reason of its design, scale, form and prominence is an incongruous addition that will be detrimental to neighbourhood character. The proposal is contrary to local plan policy Des 11 and non-statutory 'Guidance for Householders'*.

Correspondence List: 29 Apr – 22 May 2014

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 Eileen Hewitt: Neighbourhood Partnership Spring Newsletter.
- 2 Various e-mails re SGF's letter to Economy C'ttee on Oxgangs site proposals.
- 3 Keegan & Pennykid confirming renewal of Firrhill CC's insurance cover.
- 4 Cllr Lewis: tribute to John Muir, conservationist, at Makar's Court Writers' Museum – inscribed flagstone commemorating centenary of his death.
- 5 Cllr Rust re Police Scotland's Operation Wolf – Pentlands Day of Action, 7 May, in Gorgie and Dalry area.
- 6 Graham Croucher's response to FCC Sec's report of alarm inside Colinton Mains Park Pavilion continually going off: problem was due to a faulty detector, now replaced.
- 7 Cllr Maureen Child re community councils' induction event: video footage of presentations and other induction materials are available on the CC Induction page of NP website.
- 8 Stuart McLean, following Sec's e-mail to him: confirmation that he can attend Firrhill CC's meeting on 23 June to give a presentation on how to petition local authorities.
- 9 E Hewitt re rollout of Edinburgh's tram service on 31 May.
- 10 Cllr Rust, f. from Debbie Herbertson re Housing Surgeries at Oxgangs Library. For info Tel Ruth Kennett 0131 527 3862; e-mail ruth.kennett@edinburgh.gov.uk Firrhill CC is to be provided with a link to that info for our own website.
- 11 Dr Andy Edwards re N'hood Environment Projects: NEPs current list for 2014 includes proposed projects for our community (including more lighting in park) + Fairmilehead and Colinton areas. Request for more project ideas to add to the list.
- 12 Cllr Aitken: info on e-addresses for Community Safety personnel so that Firrhill CC can arrange a presentation at one of our meetings.
- 13 Cllr Rust, confirming that defects in pavements around St Mark's PS will be repaired.
- 14 Jo-Anne Jamieson re Planning Training: Sec has booked HL & JN on this event on 27th May, 5pm - 9 pm, at the City Chambers [confirmation of bookings + Agenda received].
- 15 Firrhill CC Sec to Lloyd Richardson re bad potholes (reported to her by a resident) at corner outside Oxgangs PS. [LR confirmed that Roads Inspector has looked; item put on Emergency Defects Schedule, and should be repaired in a few days.]
- 16 Irene Beautyman: reporting on revised Lothian Development Plan has been postponed to meeting of Planning Committee on 12 June to allow time to study large amount of info. The period for representations is likely to start late summer.
- 17 Sarah McDonald: reminder/poster for Pentlands Local Community Plan Public Meeting, 14th June, 10 am - 12 noon, City Chambers. Anyone can attend.
- 18 Cllr Rust: notification of Lothian Buses service changes from 1 June (minor changes only on our routes).
- 19 Mitra Black: response to Firrhill CC Sec's questions re ELREC.

- 20 Cllr Rust re applications for licences for Hot Food Takeaway and extension of hours (8am to 11 pm) at 76 Colinton Mains Drive. Currently 17 objections to both, and could still be more before applications are determined on 9 June.
- 21 Scott Dobie: confirmation that HMO application for 14/5 Firrhill Drive has been granted.
- 22 E Hewitt: consultation on Scottish Gov website – call for evidence to support a policy review of noise regime under the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 to ensure implementing regulations remains fit for purpose (consultation until 25 August '14) – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/05/9660>
- 23 Sgt Mackenzie: PC Ricky Wood will attend FCC meeting on 26 May.
- 24 Scott Neill: recent rise in theft of 'branders' (steel grid covers for gullies) for scrap value. This has Council budget + safety issues. You are asked to report any sightings of suspicious activity to Police Scotland (Tel 101) or roadsouthwest.vip@edinburgh.gov.uk
- 25 Scott Neill: NP EIT group Agenda and Papers for meeting on 26 May at 2 pm.
- 26 Stockbridge & Inverleith CC Planning reps: reasons for their not signing up to the Planning Concordat (sent by City Council to all CCs in Dec '13).
- 27 Eileen Hewitt: NHS Information Bulletin 48.
- 28 Secretary, Fairmilehead CC: letter asking us to support them in their quest to get housing at ex Social Work Offices site on Oxfangs Path (they are against Aldi proposal).
- 29 NHS Invitation to Edinburgh CCs re presentation on 10yrs Strategic Plan.

23 - 28 May Correspondence Update:

- 1. Council Leader's Report, including a) following fatal collapse of free-standing wall at Liberton HS, inspection of all Council properties; b) eulogy to Margo McDonald; c) Mortonhall Report intimidation; d) Tram Project latest.
- 2. Public Policy Network (PPN) Citizen Participation Group, including the Community Councils Report.
- 3. Eileen Hewitt: Funding Newsflash for March & April combined.

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