

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 23 June 2014

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

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

Visitors: Cllr Aitken; Cllr R Lewis; PC G Howie, Oxfangs Police; N Tinlin, EACC; P Valentine, OCRA; K Levy, Resident; S McLean / M Smith, CEC Petitions.

Apologies: P Podd; Cllr Rust;

H Levy in the Chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 26 May 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

Secretary reported on a response received from Sergeant Cavaroli indicating our proposal to extend the police surgery arrangements was not feasible at this time. The current arrangement is a weekly surgery at Oxfangs Library on a Wednesday evening between 5 and 6pm. Matter concluded.

PA System

Chair reported Pentland Community Centre management have agreed to store the PA System.

Members agreed the purchase of QTX Sound QR12PA Portable PA System with Wireless Mics as specified at the previous meeting.

Action: *Chair to progress with the purchase.*

Oxfangs Path & ALDI Development

It was reported that subject to planning permission being granted, Aldi have owned the site for approx the last two weeks.

Secretary gave an update on recent communication from James Harbison, representing Aldi, and on the receipt of Aldi's plans for Oxfangs, forwarded by him. The company are looking to lodge their planning application on the 4th July. Two hard copies of the proposed plans along with supporting reports, including their community engagement report were received. These have partly been circulated electronically to members prior to the meeting. Noted a path suitable for wheelchair users has been designed into the corner of the site nearest the Broadway.

James Harbison would like to include in the community engagement report a reference to the Community Council's position in regard to their proposals and this is up for discussion at tonight's meeting.

N Tinlin indicated he has still to receive a response to the letter he presented to the Community Council at the last meeting. The Secretary acknowledged the omission but considered that as he was at the meeting and sent a copy of the minutes, as requested, that a letter was not necessary, however she would send a reply asap.

Also up for discussion is a complaint received from Linda Williams, Broadway Premier Store, in regard to the minutes of the meetings of Firrhill Community Council. It is alleged that the minutes give the impression there is little local support for a housing solution on this site. Maintains the Premier Store has a petition signed by approx 500 local residents in favour of this option and that the community council are obliged to take this into consideration as part of the democratic process.

The Chair proposed that the matter of the complaint be discussed privately at the end of the meeting.

Action: Secretary to advise James Harbison of the Community Council's position.

Action: Secretary would send a response to NT, Secretary of Fairmilehead Community Council.

Oxgangs Street:

Complaint about dog fouling and litter. See under Councillors' Reports - Cllr Rust's report.

Citizen Participation in Local Authority Petitions

A presentation on the CEC's petition process was given to members by Stuart McLean and Maurice Smith, Petitions Officers from the City of Edinburgh Council.

Taking part in a petition is one way to get involved in what the City Council does. An individual or a business can start a petition to raise an issue of public concern. A community group or organisation can also do this, through an individual acting on their behalf.

There are certain criteria that apply for a petition to be valid and it must have the signed support of at least 500 citizens on the City of Edinburgh electoral roll. If it is about a local issue or related to a community of interest, the Convenor of the Petitions Committee may accept a reduced number of at least 250 signatures as meeting the criteria. Petitions submitted by a business have different conditions.

The CEC provide an online facility as well as paper petition forms for use when submitting a petition. More information as well as some history of petitions submitted or found invalid can be found on the Council's website at: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/petitions>.

Police Report

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

PC Howie reported that during the period between 23rd May and 23rd June, they received 257 calls from the Firrhill/Oxgangs area. There were 38 calls regarding nuisance / loud music and neighbour disputes. There were also several domestic incidents. The Young Persons' Centre on Oxgangs Avenue continues to generate a fair number of calls. Below is a summary of more noteworthy crimes over the last four weeks:

- 24th May – a fake £20 note was tendered at a business premises on Colinton Mains Drive
- 30th May – theft of a leaf blower from Oxgangs Street.
- 6th June – two cars damaged on Oxgangs Road North.

- 6th June – theft of bikes from outside Oxfangs Library. Ongoing enquiry.
- 7th June – theft of a chair from Oxfangs Library.
- 13th June – housebreaking at an address in Colinton Mains Drive. Piaggio scooter (moped) stolen.
- 17th June – housebreaking at an address in Firrhill Crescent. Electronic console, games and jewellery stolen.

Also reported that a number of ATMs, including the two banks at Fairmilehead have been hit by the scammers. People should be cautious when using ATMs, check them carefully, ensure you cover the keypad when entering your pin. If your card is not returned, it is preferable to stay at the ATM and try to contact the police (this is where carrying a mobile phone comes in handy).

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 Elaine Aitken

Refuse Collections

Collections continue to be missed in Oxfangs Loan and Oxfangs Broadway. I've asked the Waste Manager to ensure these areas receive collections on schedule.

The long awaited bins requested for locations near Firrhill HS should be installed over the summer. I have also requested bins for some new locations including the field at Colinton Primary School.

Flooding Issues

I've received complaints about flooding in Colinton Mains Road recently. This is being investigated by our Roads Manager.

Pentland Community Centre

I complained about the poor quality of the cut of the grassed area in front of the centre and received this response:

"The Task Force Manager advises that after the 2nd/3rd cuts of the season he anticipates the standard to be the quality expected and he will monitor the area around Pentland Community

Centre. His team weed sprayed yesterday in the area and will return and trim when the weeds have reduced.

In general we do have a resource problem with our Ground Maintenance operations at the moment. The departmental resourcing exercise undertaken last year determined that South West required an establishment of 17 gardeners, although due to financial restraints approval to advertise was delayed and our establishment figure was reduced to 16 for the 2014 programme. The employment process is underway, however we are currently operating with 11 No permanent staff assisted by 3/4No temporary staff. The reduced number of suitably trained operatives and the delay in progressing the employment process has affected the progress of our grass cutting and weed spraying programmes which we are trying hard to overcome without the option of the staff overtime budget level previously available".

Pentland Primary School

Parking is, once again, causing problems at Oxgangs Brae. Cars have been parking on both sides of the road and allowing children to alight directly on to the road. I have brought this to the attention of the police and requested that parking attendants visit the area.

The grassed areas in the cul-de-sac leading to Cockmylane and Pentland Primary School will be attended to, along with any strimming.

Operation Wolf

I joined Officers at Oxgangs Police Station on their day of action on Monday 26th May for Operation Wolf. This month long initiative involving our local police tackled local issues reducing crime and increasing public confidence.

City of Edinburgh Council South West Neighbourhood Team and other partner agencies were also involved in this initiative. Activities included road checks, execution of warrants, targeted high visibility patrols in hot spot areas, licensed premises checks, domestic bail checks and visits to tenants who behave in an anti social manner.

Oxgangs Broadway

Two loose paving slabs at the Post Office side of the Broadway were reported and will be repaired.

Oxgangs Road North

The section of footpath opposite the Library will be resurfaced as part of the capital scheme for Oxgangs Road North due to start 17th July 2014. The street lighting will be upgraded and the footways resurfaced.

Tree Planting in Oxgangs

I have requested that a Neighbourhood Environmental Project for Tree and Bulb Planting in the Pentlands Area is raised.

Lothian Bus

A series of changes to our bus services will be implemented on 1st June 2014. Those affecting our area are:

- Service 16 - Revised Timetable

More buses are introduced in the evenings with the Monday to Saturday service increased to every 15-minutes and on Sundays to every 20-minutes.

- Minor changes will be made to the following services: 4, 18, 27, N16.

Events

I attended Oxgangs, Buckstone and Pentland Primary School Summer Fairs. All were well organised and very well attended.

I also drew the raffle at Mhairi Hogg's "Stars for the Night" dance show. It was a very enjoyable show and impressive to see so many girls of all ages dancing with great skill and enthusiasm.

Councillor Jason Rust

1. Assisted with the adult tombola stall at Pentland Primary School Summer Fair on 31st May.
2. Served at the "The Big Lunch" Barbeque at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on 1st June.
3. Chaired Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting at Balerno High School on 10th June.
4. Tesco has now replaced the bus shelter outside their Colinton Mains store following my intervention.
5. Written articles about new Community Plan and Local Community Grants Fund applications for Currie & Balerno News.
6. Attended Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Community Conference at the City Chambers on 14th June. Firrhill was well represented compared to other areas. Thanks to those who attended.
7. Submitted written questions for Thursday's Full Council on the number of trips made by the economic development service, costs and accommodation; and written questions on the district heating system for flats in East Edinburgh.
8. Moved an addendum at Health Committee calling for a report on the rechargeable repairs policy and the report will be coming forward in September. Only 1.36% of rechargeable repairs costs were recovered in year 2013/14.
9. Questioned community safety officials about the service level agreement which the Council has with Police Scotland. Those officers whom the Council contribute towards should not be going outwith Edinburgh, other than in extenuating circumstances such as the Commonwealth Games.
10. Arranged for a new litter bin to be installed in Oxgangs Street next month.
11. Following up on complaints about parking on the yellow lines on Oxgangs Avenue.

Councillor Richard Lewis

Skate Park

Two young local boys recently attended his surgery and handed him a petition for a local skate park. He would like to let everyone know about it and find out the level of support for such a project. Has discussed with the other local councillors and with Gordon MacDonald and Council officers. The est. costs for Drylaw Skate Park is £232k and the total project cost of Saughton Skate Park was c.£800k.

There has been discussion on this before with Gordon McDonald, who provided pictures of skate parks in West Lothian. General agreement that facilities in Colinton Mains Park for local youth are poor in comparison to many other parks and the provision of a skate park would improve its image. Firrhill Community Council support the initiative providing it is of a size and design that will make it sufficiently challenging for those taking up the activities associated with skate parks.

Constituent Enquiries

Ongoing enquiries being received regarding non collection of waste/recycling, etc., in Oxgangs Loan and St Marks Primary School. Although all these bins have now been collected, I have asked for a full update on why bins are still being missed.

PNP Reports:

Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Sub-Group – 26th May (PW)

The draft minutes of this meeting are attached as [appendix 1](#).

Community Safety Sub Group – 2nd June (JN)

Report is attached as [appendix 2](#).

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Public Meeting

Unfortunately there was no attendance at this meeting, therefore no report available.

Members' Reports:

Planning Report:

The Planning Report is attached as [appendix 3](#).

Treasurer's Report

L Linn reported that there had been no finance transactions since the last report.

Action: No action.

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:

There was no matters raised under Any Other Business

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 28th July 2014 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 7.00pm. After discussion it was accepted this meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and we have invited Gail Dickson from the SW Neighbourhood Community Safety Team to give a presentation on the role and work of the Community Safety Sub Group.

Oxgangs Path Sale of Land: Complaint

The Community Council met in private after the meeting to discuss the complaint received from Linda Williams, a proprietor of the Oxgangs Broadway Premier Store. A statement on the various issues discussed and agreed is attached as [appendix 5](#).

Action: Secretary to respond to Linda Williams re the decisions of the Community Council in regard to the sale of land at Oxgangs Path formerly occupied by the Social Work Centre.

Pentlands Environment, Infrastructure & Transport Group

2pm, Monday 26 May 2014 South West Neighbourhood Office

In Attendance

Norman Tinlin	Fairmilehead Community Council
Kate Watt	Ratho & District Community Council
Neil Ingram	Juniper Green Community Council
Steuart Campbell	Longstone Community Council
Bruce Rae	Colinton Amenity Association
Pauline Newton	Natural Heritage Service
Scott Neill	Partnership Development Officer

Apologies

Peggy Wright	Firrhill Community Council
Johanna Carrie	Transition Edinburgh Pentlands
Stewart Farquhar	Local Environmental Manager
Craig Dunlop	Community Parks Officer

Welcome & Apologies

SN opened the meeting by welcoming members. He outlined the process for selecting a new Chair as a result of the resignation of previous Chair David Bewsey. The only nominee Norman Tinlin was seconded by Steuart Campbell and was formally returned as the groups new Chair.

NT promptly thanked everyone for their support and outlined the role of the group and the proposed changes which will be outlined at the partnership meeting to be held on 10 June at Balerno High School.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, 10 February 2014, were approved with minor changes as a correct record.

Matters arising:

- Under AOCB actions allocated to SN were:
 - Tesco recycling paper bin volume of rubbish underneath when lifted. Co-ordinated approach when bin is emptied. NT confirmed that a joined up approach was now taking place.
 - Possible additional clear glass recycling bin at Tesco site. Current bin being emptied more frequently which is addressing the original issue.
- Note to Stuart Harding, Central Roads whether report to the ET Committee was approved and the retention of the extra inspectors?

4. Priorities & Local Actions:

4.1 Update on the 2014-17 Local Community Plan Development

SN gave a update of the Pentland local Community Project Plan timeline (see attached example) key dates are:

- 30 June completion of online and papers surveys
- 31 July Data impute completed to include external sources
- Mid August the development of key priorities
- 30 August draft priorities presented to subgroup Chairs
- Mid September draft priorities presented to the Partnership for approval
- 30 September new LCP is published
- Mid to end of October sub group develop action plans with performance framework

4.2 Update on themes coming through various forums and surveys

Environment and Transport lie currently in second and fourth places in the list of priorities. Local priorities see specific environment/ transport issues come to the fore in the developing list:

1. Improving parks/ green space
2. Reducing dog fouling
3. Developing community gardens or growing opportunities
4. Improving play areas
5. Promoting recycling reducing litter
6. Access to public transport
7. Promoting road safety

5. AOCB

Members - Were interested to find out the cost of collecting grass rather than leave lying in parks and in some cases is strawn on paths and roads as a slipping concern.

- Members - were interested to know if the council were looking at setting up composting initiatives?

NT informed the members that at the Chairs strategic meeting there was a move to hold meetings three times per session rather than the current frequency.

- This proposal will go before the partnership for a decision in September.

NT informed members about the recent Pentlands Digest (May issue) and issues affecting the roads service.

Members were asked to think about whom in terms of partners should be invited to the table. This will be clearer when the priorities are set.

- In the new schedule the SW Roads and Parks & Greenspace Teams will be invited. SN advised members that SF had a clash of meeting preventing his attendance at this meeting.

SN provided members with a briefing note on cycle projects, which included a map of completed, planned and future projects (see attachments)

BR -noted a parking issue on pavements in JG. The Chair advised members that they should contact the Parking Operation Team on 0131 469-3698 to request leaflets for issues specifically double parking and parking on pavements. By putting one on the offending drivers car may prompt a positive response in future.

South West Neighbourhood – Cycle Projects

Background

The Council's Active Travel Action Plan outlines our commitment to increasing levels of walking and cycling in the city. A main part of the cycling strategy is to develop a 'Family Network' of cycle routes which are suitable for less confident cyclists and families. The principles of this network includes the use of quiet roads and traffic free routes/facilities.

Some of the 'Family Network' is already in place. Its core is the off-road routes in the city, mainly using disused railways, but there are important gaps. This plan proposes prioritised progress towards a comprehensive longterm network.

The 'Family Network' maps highlight the existing routes and both short term and long term links which are required. Listed below are projects in the South West neighbourhood area which are contributing to the development of our 'Family Network'.

Complete Projects

1. Union Canal LED Lighting: New LED stud lighting along edges of canal towpath. Lighting now in place up to city bypass boundary. Complete March 2014.
2. Water of Leith path: Minor drainage improvements complete 2013.

Planned Projects

3. Cultins Road: New widened shared use path along length of Cultins Road. Improving access to Tram stop and connectivity in Area. Currently in land negotiations, planned construction 2015/16.
4. Roseburn to Union Canal: Major link in Family Network connecting the NEPN with Union Canal. Large scale project which will require 3 new bridge structures crossing railway lines, Dairy Road and possibly Western Approach. Feasibility, Consultation and Design planned 2014/15.
5. Union Canal to Meadows: Off-road family cycle route planned using new Lochrin Basin development, via Lochrin Place, Home Street, Tarvit Street and Brougham Place. Design workshop held in February 2014; public consultation planned summer 2014; and construction end of 2015/16.
6. Broomhouse Road: Post tram minor improvements (surface repairs). Working with SW neighbourhood who will be adopting path. Planned construction late 2014/15.
7. On-road parallel route to Union Canal: On-road parallel route to the Union Canal is being considered. Plan to commence designs on Fountainbridge/ Slateford Road 2014/15 which will include on-road cycle lanes and feasibility into off-road facilities.

Future Projects

8. Canal Towpath surfacing: No immediate plans to progress resurfacing of towpath from Hermiston to Ratho. Current cost estimate £300,000-£350,000.
9. Braidburn Path: Works required to improve crossings at Comiston Road and other links to the Braidburn path. No programmed works, however, is a priority within the ATAP.

Contact: Paul Matthews, Professional Officer (Cycling)

Community Safety Sub Group: 2nd June 2014

The above meeting was held in the Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre. Whilst the report focuses on matters appertaining to Ward 8 (Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership) and where relevant, the Firrhill area, it should be noted that similar actions apply in Ward 2 (SW Neighbourhood Partnership area).

Ward 8 Community Priorities: Outcome reports and actions

Dog Fouling

The Action Plan was to use various methods such as letters, stencils, signage, patrols and enforcement action to decrease the incidents of dog fouling within the ward 8 area.

RIPSA¹ sought for areas within Ward 8 where most recorded complaints received from: Spylaw area, Colinton Mains area, Bonaly and Torduff Reservoir. Patrol matrix prepared.

Staff identified to carry out high visual patrols of all Ward 8 areas and covert patrol's of identified areas above.

Outcomes:

- 12 complaints concerning dog fouling received from 3rd March 2014 – 26th May 2014.
- Letters sent to all tenancies complained against from these named complaints.
- Stencils/signage put up in areas of complaints and areas identified as problem areas.
- 39 man hours spent patrolling Ward 8.
- 1 dog fouling fixed penalty issued.

Community Feedback: Visual improvement in area.

Littering from school children at Firrhill High School and surrounding Primary Schools.

The action plan was for Environmental Wardens to patrol during the school lunch break and speak to pupils they witness dropping litter. If pupil over 16, they will be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice. If under 16, they will have their names and addresses taken. These names and addresses will be shown to the school for confirmation, then logged on an enforcement database.

Outcome: Following report at last CSSG, patrols were carried on the selected dates:

Report detailed below appendix 1. PC Gillanders carried out a litter pick with a Firrhill pupil on 2 May 2014 following the incident of litter dropping on 20 March 2014. The litter pick took place along Colinton Mains Gardens, Colinton Mains Drive and the right hand side of the land beside Oxfords PS opposite Tesco. He then continued the pick along the public footpath in Oxfords Primary School and into Firrhill High School where he deposited 4 full black bin liners into the skip there.

All Primary Schools were contacted on 12 March 2014 to arrange for community safety staff to speak to their Primary 7 pupils, aiming to give them a better understanding about litter and the effect of dropping litter to the community. Two schools responded and were visited.

Ward 8: House breaking and acquisitive crime

The action plan was for hotspots to be patrolled by officers on foot, bicycle and within vehicles both in uniform and plain clothes in order to both deter and detect offenders. This was part of a

¹ Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000

nationwide housebreaking and acquisitive crime operation (Operation RAC) and was undertaken with two officers per shift allocated 'dedicated' patrol time within the 'hot spot' areas.

Areas affected by acquisitive crime have been lettered & leafleted to warn other residents and social media has also been used to inform the community of issues.

Outcome: Persons have been arrested and reported to the PF. There has been a reduction in break-ins to houses. Persons have been arrested and reported to the PF. There has been a reduction in break-ins to houses, sheds, garages and businesses in West and Pentlands in April 2014 when compared to the previous year.

Community Feedback: Housebreaking and acquisitive crime will affect the community due to the ward area being a hot spot area for this crime type and also the geography of the area which allows easy access and getaway for travelling criminals. This type of crime remains a priority of Police Scotland.

Proposed Community Priorities

Basically no change from previous priorities

Youth Tracking System

Youth Calls		Ward 2	Ward 8
March	3 named	7 calls	2 calls
April	9 named	11 calls	7 calls
May	1 named	11 calls	8 calls

There are no specific areas identified as hotspots

Fire Service Statistics

The following edited information was received in the form of a written report from John Hanlin, Station Commander at Sighthill Fire station. A rider was attached indicating that whilst the author believed the statistics to be correct they had not been fully audited and thus not for general circulation or reproduction. Consequently I have not included information that may be deemed sensitive. Where figures are given they are as per the original report.

Reported there were 44 incidents recorded for the Pentland Ward from 1ST April to 26th May, broken down as follows

- 29 attendances due to Automatic Fire Alarms in business or commercial type premises.
- 11 fires - this is further broken down into
 - 7 accidental primary fires in domestic premises (mainly burnt food type incidents)
 - 4 deliberate secondary fires (namely rubbish being set alight)

During the same period, a total of 55 smoke detectors have been fitted in the Pentland Ward area
Fire and Rescue Service priorities for the Pentland ward for the coming fiscal year are:-

- 1 to reduce the number of unwanted AFA's to commercial or business premises
- 2 to reduce the number of secondary fires in this ward area
- 3 to increase the uptake of Home Safety visits from Fire Service Personnel and increase the number of smoke detectors fitted.

To achieve these priorities the following work is underway:-

- 1 Engaging with Heriot Watt University staff to reduce unnecessary callouts to these premises.
- 2 Campaign within the Wester Hailes area to raise awareness of fires within common stairs. The aim would be to focus on an area, raise awareness of the hazards of storing combustibles materials in the common stairs, and prevent these fires occurring. seeking to organise another amnesty for unwanted items to be placed in a communal skip and clear stairs of combustible materials. This has been successful in previous campaigns.
3. There was a recent fire death at Wester Hailes Park on the 8th May. It was stated that fire crews from Sighthill FS visited this property several times to offer advice on fire safety and the installation of a free smoke detector. Whilst on one occasion the crew were able to give advice the offer of a free smoke detector was not taken up.

After this fire, crews from Sighthill FS carried out a campaign in that immediate area to drive home the benefits of having a smoke detector and a fire action plan. The crews did receive a good response with over 40 requests to take up this free service after visiting over a 100 flats. The crews are now currently working through this workload.

This will increase the uptake of Home Safety Visits and installation of smoke detectors in the Ward area, but we still remain proactive in identifying specific streets in the Pentland Ward with a low uptake of our Home Safety Visits and target them to take up this service.

Doorstep Crime (Chris Bell)

Interesting presentation on the subject, unfortunately hand-outs were not provided. Discussion mainly centred on the setting up of 'No Cold Calling Zones'. This can be done in any area where a majority of residents state they do not want traders to call at their homes without being invited.

No Cold Calling Zones are designed to:

- reduce instances of doorstep crime, bogus workmen and distraction burglaries
- deter cold callers
- educate residents and empower them to refuse cold callers.

There are apparently 54 zones throughout the city and further zones are under development.

The City's Trading Standards Department are working very closely with Police Scotland. When the police receive a report of a bogus workmen incident they will liaise with Trading Standards so that a joint response can be made.

A number of traders have received formal warnings and have been reported to the court, with results including imprisonment for 18 months, community payback orders of 270 hours, and vehicles and equipment being seized.

Another aspect that was promoted was for neighbours to safeguard each other and in particular make arrangements to provide assistance to vulnerable neighbours.

AOCB

A proposal was submitted for CCTV to be installed at Gillespie Cross Roads following recent incidents of people being attacked in this area and has been referred to the appropriate department for a feasibility study.

Planning Report: June 2014

LDP: Second Proposed Plan

Members will be aware that due to changes in the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for South East Scotland, the City Council's Proposed LDP had to be revised to provide more housing land. This revised plan is referred to as the Second Proposed Plan and was submitted along with associated papers to the Planning Committee on the 19th June for approval.

The reason for revising the Plan is to provide more housing land. This is a consequence of the Scottish Ministers' approval of the SDP, with major changes, in June 2013. Part 1, Section 3 of the Second Proposed Plan summarises the housing land needed and how it is to be provided from various sources. Further detail, for example on the assumptions about existing supply, demolitions and brownfield and windfall supply, is set out in a background document – the Housing Land Study.

The revised Proposals Plan and associated papers are available on the CEC website and no doubt paper copies will be available in the City libraries.

A Coalition Motion requires parties who made representations on the first proposed plan (LDP1) resubmit their representations as appropriate on the second proposed plan (LDP2). All those who made representations to the first Proposed Plan (LDP1) will be informed that they need to resubmit their representations, as required by legislation, and offer any assistance that they may require.

SDP: Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land: Update

At the meeting of the Planning Committee on 15th June, ratification was sought for the decision made by the SESplan Joint Committee to approve the Supplementary Guidance for submission to Scottish Ministers and to adopt the Guidance following expiration of the 28 day Ministerial consideration period. The Supplementary Guidance provides further detailed information for Local Development Plans on how much of the overall housing land requirement should be met in each of the six member authority areas in the period to 2024.

A motion to ratify the decision was contested by an amendment to refer the matter back to the SESplan Joint Committee for further consideration in order to address the flaws in the process and in the assumptions used in calculations of housing land need.

However the motion was carried and the following decision reached:

- 1) To ratify the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve editorial changes of a non-policy nature to the Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land and its accompanying documents as set out in the appendix to the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To ratify the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve the Supplementary Guidance subject to the minor editorial changes and to submit the Guidance to Scottish Ministers.
- 3) To adopt the Supplementary Guidance following the expiration of the 28 day Ministerial period for consideration, unless Scottish Ministers direct otherwise.

(References – Planning Committee 23 October 2013 (item 2); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

South West Communities Forum

The SWCF held their 8th meeting in the Gibson Craig Halls on the 3rd June. I was unable to attend the meeting but did receive a copy of the notes from that meeting. One of the items on the agenda were draft policies on:

- (1) repelling building on the Green Belt;
- (2) supporting Brownfield redevelopment through incentives;

(3) resisting coalescence and maintaining open green spaces.

and Forum members are asked to review the drafts (see below) and make comment prior to the next meeting when the policies will be discussed, after which they will be offered to the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership for adoption. If anyone would like a copy of the full note of meeting, please let me know.

P1 - Draft Local Green Belt Policy – *the Green Belt and its inner boundary shall be maintained, using historical physical and recognisable natural or man-made features (e.g. hedgerows, field divisions, stands of trees) to protect farmland and other open land from development, and communities from coalescence while ensuring that the quality and character of the landscape setting and identity of Edinburgh and its outlying communities are retained.*

No development proposals shall be made without an assessment of the amount of growing potential and biodiversity that would be lost and an assessment of the cumulative pollution levels that developments (such as transport links and housing developments) may produce.

P2 - Draft Brownfield Policy – *Following an assessment of the characteristics of a site (historical significance, topography, previous uses, impact on the environment, etc.) and its relationship to land use in the vicinity, proposals should be developed that will minimise additional traffic in the area and avoid extensive commuting between places of work and dwellings. Where the site has previously provided workplaces, a Balance of Local Needs Analysis should be made to strengthen the viability and sustainability of communities by provision of workplaces, commercial facilities and the like and minimising outward travel to distant locations for shopping, communal facilities etc.. Where necessary to avoid a site lying vacant for over three years, national government, local authorities, or other organisations (EU?) should be asked to provide enabling finance to draw up masterplans, provide infrastructure, clear contamination and make it attractive for potential developers.*

P3 - Draft Coalescence and Open Green Space Policy – *Individual residential communities shall take such steps as may be needed to maintain their identity by ensuring that where a reasonably strong physical division exists between them (such as a field, football pitches, park, stand of trees, allotments, river, etc.), that development that is contrary to preserving the character of the area, as a buffer against such development, is resisted. An exception would be where development could enhance the use of such space, while ensuring that physical coalescence does not occur (such as the provision of changing rooms for sports facilities or a wildlife centre set in open space).*

Weekly Planning Bulletins

26 May 2014: Application 14/01778/FUL for the removal of fencing and a hedge in order to create a run in for 1 vehicle (car), erect new fencing and form a standard footway crossing (dropped kerb) at 60 Colinton Mains Grove, Edinburgh, EH13 9DQ.

26 May 2014: Application 14/01982/FUL to erect 1.8m high timber fence to parts of existing front garden (as part of a disabled adaption) at Flat 1 7 Oxfangs Row, Edinburgh, EH13 9LE. This application has since been **granted**.

26 May 2014: Application 14/01989/CLP to remove the narrow kitchen window and fit a new door to provide access to the garden from the kitchen at GF2 4 Oxfangs Row, Edinburgh, EH13 9LE. Application **granted** on 13 June 2014.

23 June 2014: Application 14/00335/FUL for the erection of new build 2.5 storey building which will house 2 GP practices, NHS day services, and Edinburgh City Council office spaces at 167 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9AF has been **granted**.

Correspondence List: June '14

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

- 1 **TRO: disabled parking bay will be introduced at 25 Firrhill Crescent.**
- 2 Sarah McDonald re Edinburgh Partnership & Neighbourhood Partnerships 'Family Gathering' to look at the challenges and successes and how the Partnerships family can take forward the new Community Plan priorities: 28 October (details t.b.a.).
- 3 Scott Neill: Draft Minutes of EIT group meeting on 26 May (circulated to FCC members) + reply to query re picking up grass cuttings: the Council does not have the machinery to do this.
- 4 **Cllr Rust re John Burt's complaint about dog fouling and litter in Oxfangs Street: reply from Gail Dickson that this street is patrolled regularly by Env. Wardens; that stencils and posters will be put in place, and she has requested Ward 8 as a priority re dog fouling at meeting of Pentlands Community Safety group.**
- 5 **Cllr Rust re imminent closure of Waverley Station to all vehicles except pre-booked cabs/coaches for disabled groups. No other station allows vehicular access now.**
- 6 Jim Napier, FCC: response requested from Information Compliance re Council's refusal to give out info on status and long-term position of library parking area on the grounds that it is 'commercially sensitive'.
- 7 **Darren Cavaroli, temp Police Sgt: FCC's idea to have a police surgery at the 'bottom end' of Oxfangs before its monthly meeting is not feasible at present: community police officers will be utilised at the many summer events being held in Glasgow and Edinburgh city centre.**
- 8 Archie Clark: Minutes of SW Community Forum meeting on 3rd June.
- 9 Julie Dickson re improving communication with CC members (info already sent to CC Secretaries).
- 10 Eileen Hewitt re Council's draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) to reduce energy use and carbon emissions. Consultation document is on Council website until 25 August. E-mail sustainable.economy@edinburgh.gov.uk; Tel: 529 3230.
- 11 **Marius Hince re Edinburgh Local Development Plan Update: on website at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3426/planning_committee**
- 12 James Harbison (re Aldi): will send draft copy of community engagement report to Sec's address for FCC members' perusal [she also requested copy of revised plans to see how issues raised have been addressed].
- 13 SW Office: Proposal of Application Notice re housing development on land west of Ravelrig Road, Balerno.
- 14 **Paul Clark, Customer Service Officer, SfC in response to FCC Sec's report of badly damaged lighting column in Colinton Mains Park: will be seen to as part of ongoing programme of column replacement works, but a considerable backlog may mean that it takes several months.**
- 15 Linda & Dennis Williams: FCC consideration requested to their petition in favour of housing [not a supermarket] at Oxfangs Path site.
- 16 Eileen Hewitt: Licensing Forum Agenda for 25 June meeting.

- 17 Eileen Hewitt: Members' Briefing re probable closure of BUPA's Pentland Hill Nursing Home, Corstorphine, as not up to current health & safety standards; discussions with Council re possible way forward.
- 18 Cllr Burns: Council Leader's Report for June '14.
- 19 **J Napier, FCC re Development Management Committee's consideration of planning application 14/01398/FUL for installation of external ducts on side elevation and new entrance door arrangement at 76 Colinton Mains Drive + opening hours until 11 pm.**
<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol> (09/00897/FUL)
- 20 Eileen Hewitt re 'Get Up & Go' Awards for those working/volunteering with Older People: nominate yourself or someone else (closing 29 Aug); Tel Ramsay Geddes, 0131 242 8124; more info: <http://talesofonecity.wordpress.com/getupandgoawards/>
- 21 **Marius Hince re Local Development Plan meeting to discuss Planning Committee's decision on 19 June: Wed 2 July, 6 pm-9 pm, open to one member per CC who responded to the Proposed Development Plan; reply by Frid 27 June.**

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

Statement on the Sale of Land at Oxgangs Path

A complaint was received from Linda Williams, a proprietor of the Oxgangs Broadway Premier Store, in regard to the minutes of the meetings of Firrhill Community Council. She alleges that the minutes give the impression there is little local support for a housing solution on this site. Maintains the Premier Store has a petition signed by approx 500 local residents in favour of this option and that the community council are obliged to take this into consideration as part of the democratic process.

The Community Council (CC) has stated in its minutes of meeting a preference for social housing on this site but has not received sufficient evidence from the community to campaign for this. The Broadway Premier Store, a local city councillor and the local MSP all decided to run their own community engagement exercises. The CC took the view that another survey to enable us to gather the same evidence would only complicate matters. The CC did carry out that part of its function, which is to inform the community of the proposed sale of the land and later the proposed development. We also sought comments through our website and Facebook page.

The only formal input we have received in regard to this matter has been from the proprietors of the Broadway Premier Store, who attended our meetings in January and February to express their views. The CC realise the trade of the Broadway Premier Store may be harmed by the opening of a new store next door to the Broadway but it also recognises that other businesses at this location may benefit from the development. Competition between traders is not a matter the CC considers it can become involved in. The loss of a service within a community is another matter.

The CC has concerns about the conducting of the petition by the proprietors of the Broadway Premier Store in view of their very understandable opposition to this development. Consequently we have not endorsed their statement. We presume however the CEC will take the support for this petition along with responses received by the local MSP and councillor into their deliberations.

The CC tried to obtain information about the bidders for the land from the local authority in order to identify the type of developments being proposed for this site but the request was refused. The CC is not impressed by the local authority's lack of community engagement on the sale of land and whilst a reason for this has been given by a local councillor, the end result has been a fait accompli as far as the community is concerned. It is also contrary with the sentiment expressed in the minutes of the Finance and Budget Committee meeting held on 21 February 2013 in regard to the sale of Social Work and HRA land at Oxgangs Brae.

Aldi did contact and meet with the CC to discuss their proposals and have been prepared to engage with the community and local businesses. In order not to compromise our position the CC has refrained from stating support for, or opposition to, this development but acknowledge Aldi's voluntary community engagement actions.

It is also recognised that Aldi have had an interest in this site for many years and appear keen to redevelop the site sooner rather than later. The CC is anxious to ensure this site did not end up like the derelict Hunters Tryst Primary School site at Oxgangs Green.

After discussion it was agreed the CC's position is as stated in previous minutes of meetings and further comments would be in regard to any matters arising from the planning application.