

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 23 February 2015
At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

Members: H Levy; J Napier; L Linn; S Duffy; P Wright; P Valentine.

Ex-officio Members: Cllr E Aitken.

Visitors: C Harvey;

Apologies: F Gosney; N Peachey; L McGurk; R Kelk; Cllr J Rust; Cllr R Lewis.

H Levy, in the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for their attendance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 26 January 2015 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by PW, seconded by LL and agreed.

Matters Arising:

Flood Risk Management - Consultation:

It was agreed we should promote the [consultation on the website](#) and seek feedback from the community and this has been done. The consultation closes on the 2nd June.

Webpage on Domestic Abuse

It was agreed we should promote the CEC's "Speak Up – Speak Out" campaign on the website and this has been done. <http://firrhillcommunitycouncil.btck.co.uk/UsefulInfo/DomesticAbuse>

Aldi Development Plan

See Planning Report.

Police Report

No attendance or report.

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](#).

MSP/Councillors Reports

Gordon MacDonald, MSP's monthly constituency report for January was circulated to all members and should be available to view on his website. Councillor Lewis submitted a copy of his Convenor's report for Culture and Leisure, which was circulated to all members.

Councillor Aitken

Winter Weather

I received reports of lack of gritting in a number of roads, including Oxfangs Farm Loan, Avenue and Oxfangs Terrace. I also arranged for grit bins to be replenished.

Crime Prevention Panel

PC Kenny Welsh is organising a meeting on Tuesday 17th March, venue to be announced. Items for discussion include the smartwater project and setting up communication streams. *It was agreed the CC should send a representative to this event.*

Community Safety Action Group

The next meeting is on Monday, 2nd March in Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre at 6pm. The high number of incidents of vandalism in Oxfangs and possible safety implications of the new lighting in Colinton Mains will be raised.

In discussion about representation at PNP Action Group meetings, it was agreed PV attend meetings of the CSAG as the Firrhill Community Council representative (she already attends as the OCRA rep).

Action: JN to notify Gail Dickson, Team Leader, Community Safety South West Neighbourhood

TROs

The Orders for double yellow lines at Oxfangs Avenue, Oxfangs Place, Oxfangs Rise and Oxfangs Street are out for consultation until 27th February.

I have asked the officials to investigate when the TRO for Oxfangs Gardens will be advertised.

The TROs for new disabled parking spaces in Colinton Mains Crescent, Firrhill Drive and Oxfangs Farm Avenue are also out for consultation from 20 February 2015 until 13 March 2015. *JN noted the location of the disabled bay at Firrhill Drive seemed to be on a corner, according to the plan. Whilst vehicles are always parked at this location, wondered whether the City Council were correct to make it legal.*

Action: JN to follow-up

New LED Lighting

I have received a number of complaints about the low level light from the new LED lighting which is currently being installed in Colinton Mains. Residents feel that the amount of light has been dramatically reduced and this could compromise public safety. I have asked that the change in the amount of light is measured and monitored. I will also raise it at the Community Safety Action

Group. *CC members indicated they had also received complaints and were concerned at the poor quality of lighting in particular in those residential streets off the main roads.*

Pentland Primary School

Parents are concerned about that safety of children when crossing busy roads and enquired about possible crossing attendants.

Also, some cyclists have been cycling at speed in Cockmylane when parents and children have been walking to school. I have enquired about appropriate signage to alert cyclists.

Aldi Planning Application

The application was granted but concerns about access for emergency vehicles to the library and the need for lighting on the path beside the library remain. I have raised these with the planner for further comment.

Oxgangs Broadway

The footpath and steps down to the Broadway from Oxgangs Brae are in a poor state and I have asked that they be repaired.

Inspection of Firrhill Learning Community

This learning community inspection will take place within the context of the Scottish Government's revised strategic guidance for Community Planning Partnerships on Community Learning and Development (CLD) in June 2012 Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships and the Scottish Statutory Instrument 2013 no. 175. The inspection will take place from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th March 2015. *Community Learning and Development* staff are currently preparing for the inspection. The Inspectors will be based in Pentland Community Centre.

Councillor Rust

1. A number of complaints have been received regarding the **new energy street lighting** at Colinton Mains Road and surrounding area. I have raised these with officials and an assessment will now be undertaken. I will report back on the results of this appraisal. There are community safety concerns at present.
2. The **Local Development Plan** has again been delayed. It is really appalling that communities are left in limbo with needless uncertainty simply because the Council Administration cannot agree on the Plan. This now opens up the possibility of sites being picked off one by one by developers through appeals.
3. There are **changes to bus services** including the 16 - I have forwarded changes in separate e-mail.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

Report on Executive meeting held on 29th and the Workshop meeting on the 31st January.

Members will recall when we received notice of these events, indications were that all was not well within the Association with a growing demand for the aims, purpose and working practices of the EACC to be reviewed. The Chair and I are both of the view that whilst FCC may not participate in the activities of the Association, there is a need for a forum in which community councils can debate those matters that affect us all. As a result we attended both the Executive meeting and the workshop to listen to the problems and partake in any discussion on its future role. The full report is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

PNP Reports

Environment & Transport – 2nd February

JN attended on behalf of PW (see report attached as [appendix 2](#)), and it was agreed that he will represent Firrhill CC at E&T Action Group meetings from now on.

Action: Secretary, PW, will inform SW Neighbourhood Office of this change in representation.

Members Reports

Planning Report: (JN)

Report tabled, see [Appendix 3](#)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reported that due to an oversight Statement of Accounts for the financial year 1013 – 2014 had not been sent to the CEC Community Liaison Officer. This required having the finance records audited and this has just been completed by Mr Eric Barry. A copy of the statement is provided below:

Firrhill Community Council			
Statement of Accounts from 1 st April 2013 to 31 st March 2014			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance at Bank	3,861.10	Internet and Consumables	134.00
CEC Community Grant	723.60	Printing	620.00
		Refreshments	17.00
Total Income	4,584.70	Total Expenditure	771.00
		Transfer of Funds to Hope Triangle	578.62
These accounts have been examined and found to faithfully represent the finances of Firrhill Community Council. I make one observation on the accounts and that is the late presentation to the bank of cheque number 100043 for £17. At 31 st March 2014 there was a bank balance of £3252.08 with a liability of £17.00 net £3235.08.		Balance at Bank	3,235.08
		Total	4,584.70
Auditor: Eric Barry, HMRC Registered Tax Practitioner.			
Date: 23 rd February 2015			

Statement of accounts as presented by the Treasurer accepted by the meeting.

Action: Treasurer to send signed copy of the statement of accounts to Julie Dickson, Community Council Liaison Officer, CEC.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence processed 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.

Re Item 28: Invitation to CCs re Support & Development Session on N'hood Partnerships and their importance to CC members. Wed 18 March, 6.30-8.30 pm in City Chambers.

Action: Secretary to book a place for LL and SD.

AOCB:

As the meeting was running late, the following items were noted:

Digital Engagement Workshop for CCs

We received an invite to a workshop about digital engagement for CCs, held on Friday 30 January at Edinburgh Napier University. The workshop's aim was to bring together CC members who work on their CCs' websites, twitter feeds, Facebook pages etc. To find out the problems CCs experience when using digital techniques to engage with their communities; to share solutions that individual CCs have developed and to help create relationships between CC members to support their work on digital engagement.

A report on this workshop is attached as [Appendix 5](#).

Oxgangs Gala

The Chair gave an update on the progress of the management committee. Proposed date for the Gala is the 13th June and many individuals and local groups are signing up to become involved. There are still others who need to be contacted so the Gala can present a good variety of activities and stalls on the day.

The Committee are seeking to persuade local businesses who collect the 5p plastic bag charge to make a donation to the Gala. There is no obligation on how the money raised is used; however the Scottish Government encourages retailers to donate the net proceeds to good causes in Scotland, particularly ones that benefit the environment and to publish information on donations.

Whilst the Gala is not likely to benefit from this, this year, it may prove to be a way to raise funds for future events.

Supported Bus Services

The Secretary attended a public consultation on supported bus services, held at the City Chambers, because of the decreased budget for supported services. It was facilitated by two engineering consultants/transport planners.

The Secretary's report is attached as [Appendix 6](#).

HMICS: Local Policing Survey (Stakeholders)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS) is undertaking an inspection of local policing in Edinburgh Division. This is part of a rolling programme of inspection during which all 14 local policing divisions in Scotland will be inspected over the next three years. The inspections are to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of policing. We have been identified as stakeholders for this inspection and are being asked to express our views on policing in Edinburgh by completing an online survey. The deadline for completion is Friday, 6th March 2015.

We intended to complete this as a group, but due to time constraint it was agreed members should take the survey forms provided by the Secretary and complete them at home.

Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee: Referral Reports

The Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on 6th February 2015 considered the following reports

- a report by Police Scotland's Divisional Commander for the City of Edinburgh detailing performance information for the period April to December 2014.
- the performance report to December 2014 for the Local Fire and Rescue Plan of the City of Edinburgh 2014-15, along with the performance report for Prevention and Protection activities for the same period.

The Committee referred both reports to all Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Councils for information and noting.

Action: Reports to be placed on the website (Police page) for information until superseded.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Monday **23rd March 2015** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **7.00pm**.

Note: We are now resuming our normal evening meetings starting at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at approx 1700 hours

App1: EACC Executive Meeting & Workshop

Held on 29th and 31st January respectively.

Members will recall when we received notice of these events, indications were that all was not well within the Association with a growing demand for the aims, purpose and working practices of the EACC to be reviewed. The Chair and I are both of the view that whilst FCC may not participate in the activities of the Association, there is a need for a forum in which community councils can debate those matters that affect us all. As a result we attended both the Executive meeting and the workshop to listen to the problems and partake in any discussion on its future role.

EACC Executive Meeting:

With the absence of the EACC Chair and Secretary due to ill health, the meeting was organised by the Vice Chair and Treasurer and held in the City Chambers (Dean of Guild Room). It was not well attended (15) in relation to the number of community councils within the Association (44) but perhaps better than the norm and certainly in view of our past history it is not a matter we can take issue with. The following items comprised the agenda:

A Green-Print for Edinburgh

Jenny Fausset, Senior Policy Officer, Corporate Policy and Strategy, gave a presentation on behalf of Councillor Hinds on “*A Green-Print for Edinburgh – a call to action*” along with Ben Twist, who is a Director for Creative Carbon Scotland¹. This “*action*” policy was rolled out at the Edinburgh Partnership themed meeting held on the 4 December 2014 and is led by the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP). The presentation slides are contained in 193 page document that was produced for the December meeting and is on the City Council’s website if you are interested in finding out more. *A Green-Print for Edinburgh* is about an action plan for a sustainable city and was presented to the EACC to discuss how this voluntary sector can take part in Edinburgh’s Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

EACC Reports

The various EACC reports from the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer along with a report on the Planning Sub Committee were circulated by the FCC Secretary on the 8th January to those members who have email addresses. For those who do not have emails I have put the reports on the website (*Minutes and Documents* web page)

The Role of the EACC ‘Workshop’

There is an element of discontent within the EACC, questioning its purpose, structure and functions. It had been agreed at the previous meeting to hold a workshop and allow for fresh ideas to be expressed. A report on the workshop is appended below, the main discussion at this meeting was on the arrangements for the workshop.

¹ Creative Carbon Scotland is a partnership of arts organisations working to put culture at the heart of a sustainable Scotland

EACC Workshop

The 2 hour workshop was held in the City Chambers' Business Centre and attended by about 25 CC representatives. An independent facilitator had been organised at the last moment to run the event and the format was to split the attendees into smaller groups of about 5 or 6 to debate each question in turn, reporting back to the full meeting after each question before moving on to the next one.

The questions were fairly basic:-

- What does your CC need to do a great job?
- How could CCs help each other to do a great job?
- What Next – How might we achieve this?

..... but they did provide a focus for thought. Each group was to report back on what they thought was their most important response to the question but not to repeat any that had already been given. This worked fairly well although a few of the responses, whilst stated differently, really were saying the same thing.

Not surprisingly, there were no great revelations (although the Chair may disagree with her support for an 'Urban Edinburgh Parliament') but I do think that what the workshop did achieve was a recognition that there is a need for the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and that there were ways in which the Association would benefit and assist community councils to represent their different communities.

I have not gone into detail on the responses that arose, needless to say you have probably thought of many of them yourselves. The facilitator was asked if he would collate all the differing responses and produce a report on the workshop which would go out to all the CCs and their members, with a view to determining the next steps in this exercise and that will be the time to really debate this item.

Report provided by Jim Napier, Firrhill Community Council, 03/02/2015.

App2: Environment & Transport Action Group

Meeting held in the South West Neighbourhood Office on 2nd February 2015 and attended by 4 community council reps, 1 TEP rep and 3 SWNO partnership officers. A number of papers related to this meeting have been temporarily put on the website for members' information (Minutes & Reports page). They will be removed a short time after the FCC meeting.

Briefings

Written briefs supplied by Stuart Lowrie, Acting Public Transport & Accessibility Manager and presented by the Chair for the Group, N Tinlin.

Community & Accessible Transport Agreement

This relates to a report to the *Finance and Resources Committee* on 15th January, titled “*Extension of Existing Community and Accessible Transport Agreements from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016*”. The report seeks Committee authorisation to extend a number of service level agreements with Third Sector community transport organisations. This is to ensure that the provision of services to users will be maintained while phase 2 of the *Community and Accessible Transport Review* is concluded and a framework for group travel is put in place.

Basically this is simply to maintain the existing services arrangements until the change document is concluded and agreed. The proposal for change is to bring the management of the existing services under one roof in an attempt to get better value for money.

Assessing Supported Bus Service

This relates to a report to the *Transport and Environment Committee* on 13th January, and the summary states:

“The Council spends around £1.3 million per annum on supporting a range of bus services across the city. A growing demand for supported services, increasing costs for bus operators and pressure on Council budgets results in a need to prioritise service provision and improve service efficiency.

This report seeks approval for a proposed set of criteria to evaluate supported bus services and develop a methodology that will assess both value for money and non-financial benefits.”

Work is being undertaken by a specialist independent transport consultant to produce a framework and methodology for assessing supported bus services using the proposed criteria. This will include consultation with key users and stakeholders as well as assessing the existing supported bus service. The work when completed will form the basis of a report to this Committee at its meeting on 17 March 2015.

There was a discussion on this with reps expressing a general view that it is difficult to assess these issues if information on the service usage and level of subsidy is not forthcoming from either the bus companies or the local authority.

New Local Community Plan - Update

Friends of Parks:

Craig Dunlop presented his apologies for not attending the meeting but submitted two papers for consideration, covering the potential new promotion of the *Friends of the Park Scheme* and a potential action plan development at a number of *large public parks*.

The Friends of the Park paper gives information on what such a group is, what they do and the support provided by the city council. There is also a Friends of Edinburgh Parks Forum which aims to provide a collective voice for the groups; increase their influence; promote sharing and discussions;

improve the dialogue between the Groups and the City Council and have an input into strategic issues. There are approximately 20 Groups actively involved with the Forum, which meets quarterly.

The potential new promotion seems to be in regard to “Edinburgh Outdoors”, which is a new web platform and app that provides information about each of the Council’s parks. Members of the public can add photos and Groups are able to contribute to the content about their site or post any events they may be having. There are also associated Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Edinburgh Living Landscape

The introduction states this*is a long-term programme made up of a range of projects that will create, restore and connect green areas of the city to make attractive and bio-diverse landscapesthat are healthy, nature rich and more resilient to climate change.* The programme is to be trialled at suitable/selected parks. The Braid Burn is identified as a local nature conservation site.

Edinburgh Canal Development Board:

A note of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 was handed out to representative. Kate Watt, Ratho & District Community Council is the ETAG rep to this Board and spoke on the issues raised at the meeting. If anyone wants a copy of the notes please let me know and I will scan a copy for you.

Recycling:

Mal Adebulehin presented his apologies for not attending the meeting. No update paper was handed out but as this gentleman attended our last meeting. As he attended our last meeting, I assume FCC members already have this information.

AOCB

Sustainable Partnership Group

This was raised by Johanna Carrie, Transition Edinburgh Pentlands, and relates to the same subject covered in the EACC Report under the heading - *A Green-Print for Edinburgh.*

Date of Next Meeting: 25 May 2015.

App3: Planning Report: February 2015

Aldi Development – Update

Following a site visit by the city councillors, the application to demolish the existing buildings and erect a retail foodstore, etc., was considered at the Development Management Sub-Committee on the 11th February with a recommendation that the application be granted subject to conditions. These related to safeguarding the amenity of neighbouring residents and the interests of archaeological heritage. There were also conditions to ensure that the approved landscaping works are properly established on site.

- 1. Deliveries and collections, including waste collections, from the site to be restricted to between the hours of 07:00 -21:00 Monday to Saturday and 9:00 - 17:00 hours on Sundays.*
- 2. Prior to the use being taken up, the 2m high 10kg per sq metre dense acoustic barrier shall be erected in accordance to drawing reference 0095 / PL208 E dated 22 July 2014 should be implemented.*
- 3. No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (level 2 historic building survey including annotated plan, photographic and written report prior to demolition works commencing) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.*
- 4. The approved landscaping scheme shall be fully implemented within six months of the completion of the development.*
- 5. That two existing memorial cherry trees be replaced within the site as part of the construction programme, e.g. transplanted or replaced by two heavy standard trees of the same species.*

Brownfield Land Priority

Cllr Rust passed to us a copy of a letter from David Cooper, Acting Senior Manager – City Wide, Planning and Building Standards, Services for Communities, CEC., dated 30 Jan2015 and addressed to Councillor Perry, Convenor, CEC Planning Committee.

“Council officials have now discussed with the Chief Planners Office (CPO) the concerns raised by the Planning Committee in relation to the amount of ‘greenfield’ land being released for housing development, when there is ‘brownfield’ land already available and undeveloped. The CPO understands the concerns raised but advised that an effective housing land supply was necessary and that in preparing the Development Plan this objective must be met. We were directed by the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) as the Scottish Government’s position on this matter. I have summarised the key issues below.

The SPP requires planning authorities to maintain a five effective housing land supply with the requirement for new housing established through the ‘Housing Needs and Demand Assessment’. This often means that the Council will have to allocate Greenfield sites, through the Development Plan, in order to achieve the effective land supply.

Once the land is identified in the Development Plan there is a presumption in favour of development (provided that the proposal complies with the terms of the Development Plan) unless material considerations indicate otherwise. There is no legislative provision that allows a planning authority to refuse planning permission on a Greenfield site on the basis that there is a preferable brownfield site, provided of course that the Greenfield site is identified in the Development Plan.

We will continue to explore the best means of achieving effective land supply through the Development Plan in partnership with the SDPA partners and the Scottish Government.”

SWCF Meeting 11 Feb 2015

The meeting was held in Hall 3 of Juniper Green Parish Church on 11th February and I attended to listen to a presentation by Willie Towers, from the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen. His talk was on the ***Land Capability for Agriculture Classification***, its methodology, assumptions and outputs. The talk was illustrated with slides. It was interesting and although I found some of the statistical slides meaningless, the point that Scotland has very little prime agricultural land, including land currently not cultivated, was certainly made.

Planning Bulletins

Planning Applications from Weekly Lists

Proposal of Application Notice 15/00169/PAN for a development of mountain bike trails and other activities using the terrain and location of the site to suit a wide range of abilities and interests. The creation of a trailhead facility based around the existing former Clubhouse building with some external alterations. To support the publicly accessible trails, there would be a mix of other activities, including ropes course, ziplines, alpine roller luge, gardens, camping and overnight lodges at the Clubhouse, **Lothianburn Golf Club** 106 Biggar Road. This proposal application was approved on 29th January. Earliest date for planning application 10.04.2015. Info at Oxgangs Library

Application 14/04761/FUL to erect a single-storey extension to rear of house at **328 Oxgangs Road North** has been granted.

Application 14/04587/FUL to erect a single storey, 3-classroom building within the grounds of **Pentland Primary School** has been granted

Application 15/00258/FUL to erect a conservatory to the rear of the building at **96 Oxgangs Bank**. As this is a permitted development, no decision is required.

App4: Correspondence List

By e-mail, forwarded to members where possible; items in bold of particular interest.

1. Gordon Macdonald MSP: January e-Newsletter
2. Angus Dodds: Proposal of Application Notice for Hermitage Golf Course: clubhouse redevelopment + diversifying leisure activities including mountain biking and disc golf.
3. Michael Edwards: papers for PNP EIT meeting, 2 Feb [f. to J Napier, attending; see his Report for 23 Feb FCC meeting]
4. f. by Colin Harvey: Edinburgh's Budget Challenge feedback (a record) to Dec '14 – 1719 responses to online planner; 782 'phone calls, emails, letters; 145 budget leaflets returned; 524 comments on social media.
5. CEC Phase 3 of new recycling service going live in March: streets beginning 'Oxgangs Farm ...' and a few streets in Colinton Mains.
6. Supported Bus Services Consultation: 4 Feb, 2.30 pm Lothian Chambers [PW attending; see her Report for 23 Feb FCC meeting]
7. Cllr Andrew Burns: Council Leader's Report
8. a) Sec, Northfield & Willowbrae CC: summary of EACC meeting, 31 Jan, but mainly concerned with Development Fund Proposal; b) Roger Colkett, Tollcross CC: does not see need for a Development Fund at present, as EACC has £979 in funds [both emails f. to H Levy & J Napier, who attended this EACC meeting]
9. PC Derek Brown: as requested by FCC Sec to Inspector Duthie, crime prevention booklets have now been delivered to Oxgangs Library
10. FCC websitebuilder: message from Janice Brown, Group Scout Leader, offering their help at proposed Oxgangs Gala Day [f. to H Levy for attention]
11. Julie Dickson: Council's planned discussions by CCs and Registered Tenants' Orgs. Re setting out how services will be provided to support a) improved life chances for people of all ages through learning; b) personal development and active citizenship; c) stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities. Meetings on Tues 17 & Wed 18 Feb. [HL booked for 18 Feb meeting, which was later cancelled through lack of uptake]
12. Ruth Kennett: restarting Housing/Rent Surgeries at Oxgangs Library – every Thursday from 2 pm – 4 pm [also on FCC website]
13. Joanna Drapper: HMICS Local Policing Survey [Sec printed out for members]
14. Julie Dickson re Planning Democracy – campaigning for a fair and inclusive planning system in Scotland, including Equal Right of Appeal: Sat 25 Apr, 10am-4.30pm, Trades Hall, Central Glasgow, for anyone affected by planning decisions or who has concerns about the way the Scottish Planning System works. £10 charge for community groups; info@planningdemocracy.org.uk or Tel 0781 387 4805 for more info/to book [f. to JN]
15. CEC Planning Support: notice re Committee consideration of Aldi's Planning Application on 11 Feb (report to Committee at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol)
16. TRO/14/10C: proposed amendments to waiting restrictions for painting of double yellow lines at junctions of Oxgangs Green/Hill/Loan.

17. TRO/14/11B: proposed amendments to waiting restrictions for painting of couple yellow lines at junctions of Oxfords Avenue/Place/Rise/Street. Objections to proposals by 27 February.
18. Julie Dickson: EACC Workshop, 31 Jan, Report by Osbert Lancaster, facilitator.
19. Proposed Mountain Bike Trail Centre at former Lothianburn Golf Course, Biggar Rd.
20. Pauline Valentine re double yellow lines proposed for Oxfords Ave/Place: OCRA had requested these for Oxfords Gdns/Place, but these are not included in map of proposals. Cllr Aitken will query this.
21. Julie Dickson: Feb Newsflash on funding for voluntary groups; includes two new grants – Sainsbury's Scottish Community Grant Fund (from sale of carrier bags), and Asda Carrier Bag Community Grants.
22. Julie Dickson: news of death of David Salton, Chair of EACC for many years.
23. Amanda Hoggin: new licence application by Sideburns Barber Shop, Oxfords Broadway, for skin piercing/tattooing, Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm.
24. Planning Support: Decision on PA14/103807/FUL, 18 Feb: CEC "was MINDED TO GRANT LEGAL AGREEMENT consent subject to the conclusion of a legal agreement". Details at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning
25. Suzanne Lowden re Health Inequalities Grant Programme [to H Levy]
26. Performance Reports up to Dec '14 for Police and Fire & Rescue Services: referred by Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee for noting by our CC.
27. TRO/13/49: intimation of two disabled bays for outside library. [J Napier has written to question this, after P Valentine pointed out that these are already there.]
28. Julie Dickson: Invitation to CCs re Support & Development Session on N'hod Partnerships and their importance to CC members. Wed 18 March, 6.30-8.30 pm (tea/coffee from 6 pm) in City Chambers. [Contact me to book a place.]

For more information on any of the above, please contact Firrhill Community Council Secretary:

peggy.wright@live.co.uk

App5: Digital Engagement Workshop

“How can your CC use the internet to increase engagement with citizens? A workshop for CC members.”

30 January 2015, 10am-4pm, at Edinburgh Napier University

I attended this event in recognition of the need to investigate new methods of communicating within the community we represent and hoped to get new ideas, etc. At our December meeting in our review of the past year, we recognised that whilst we were putting out a lot of information, it was predominately one way. What feedback we were getting was through ad hoc verbal discussion with individuals or groups within the community. Whilst this has to be acceptable it lacks the element of evidential information necessary to sustain our decisions and representations on behalf of the community.

The workshop was attended by representatives from all over Scotland – north, south, east and west – some of whom had experience in the electronic communications field but most were like myself, interested but with a lot to learn.

The aim of the workshop was not to teach people how to use the various tools, such as websites, Facebook, Twitter, etc., but to discuss how they could be used by community councils to engage with their communities. In this respect, I was partly out of synch with the organisers as I was looking for practical advice on how to use and manage those options that are available to us.

Whilst it may not have been what I was looking for, it did turn out to be an informative exercise and it showed community councils face similar problems when using this *digital* form of community engagement. The organisers hope that bringing together community council members, working in this area, could help create a forum that would enable them to help each other. It would also provide evidence for those interested in supporting community councils to fulfil their role.

An online community group (*‘Scottish Community Councillors Online’*) has been set up on Knowledge Hub to facilitate this and all community council members, interested in progressing digital engagement, are invited to use it. The number of people who attended this workshop was small in comparison to the number of community councils in Scotland, but if it can generate interest and communications between this small group and the CCs they represent then perhaps, each will get better in communicating with the people we are all supposed to represent and in doing so become a model for others to follow.

Whilst I accept and support much of what was discussed at this workshop, I am still of the opinion that community councils need to routinely promote themselves by the distribution of a newsletter or some other form of hard copy communication that goes through the letter boxes.

J Napier

Firrhill Community Council Member

App6: Supported Bus Services Consultation

(4 Feb '15, Lothian Chambers)

This Public Consultation was held because of the decreased budget for supported services, Councillors and Bus Operators having already gone through the consultation process. It was facilitated by two engineering consultants/transport planners.

Considering the importance of this event, it was of great concern that only nine reps from Edinburgh's Community Councils and Residents' Associations attended, possibly because only a few days' notice were given, but also because it is likely that it is only those who are on affected routes who would be interested in participating.

Although we were asked to consider all 12 supported services (run by E & M Horsburgh, Lothian Buses, Edinburgh Coach Lines, First Bus, and Waverley Travel) it was accepted that we could relate only to those services known to us personally and, with the small number of reps present, this meant that just two were actually discussed/written about at length - the No 20 and the No 18 – which we used to fill in a sheet with 'Strengths' and 'Weaknesses'. As bus support is based on need, I obviously had plenty to write about the No 18, which is essential for social inclusion: the route covers hospitals, a hospice, health centres, high school and centres of further education, leisure centres, the local employment office, several supermarkets/shopping centres, and our Neighbourhood Partnership offices. The main weaknesses are, of course, that this service is covered by two bus companies, with no cross-ticketing; the timetable starts too late (especially at weekends) and finishes too early for many shift workers in hospitals and shops; the hourly service can mean having to get a bus an hour early just to make sure of being on time for an appointment at hospital, employment office, etc; and there can be several days over Christmas and New Year when there is no service at all.

We also had 'Proposed Criteria' forms to fill in re our respective services: Developing the Economy; Enhancing Access and Social Inclusion; Protecting the Environment and Reducing Congestion; Value for Money – Cost, being asked to give each category a weighting out of 100.

It is unknown whether our input will actually be considered during the decision-making process regarding which bus services will get the financial support required to carry on running. Nor do we know whether there will be any feedback on the overall consultation – apart from noting, at some point in the future, which buses are still running (or have stopped running!).

Peggy Wright's Report for Firrhill CC, 23.02.15