

## Firrhill Community Council

*'Nec Aspera Terrent'*

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 23 March 2015

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

### Attendance and Apologies:

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

**Ex-officio Members:** Cllr E Aitken.

**Visitors:** PC Neil Fergusson.

**Apologies:** P Wright.

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 23 February 2015 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by LL, seconded by SD and agreed.

### Matters Arising:

#### **PNP Changes to Representation:**

The Secretary has notified to the Community Council Liaison Officer and SWNO of the following changes in representation:

- Community Safety Action Group: from J Napier to P Valentine
- Transport, Environment & Infrastructure: from P Wright to J Napier

#### **TRO Disabled Parking**

JN was to raise concerns re the corner location of the proposed disabled parking bay at Firrhill Drive but discovered the area had already been marked out. On making enquiries was advised that the purpose of the new TRO notifications was to apply the new enforcement regulations to disabled parking bays.

#### **New LED Lighting**

See Councillor's Report.

### Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC Fergusson to the meeting and invited him to give his report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area for the period 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

PC Fergusson reported that during this period there have been 149 incidents reported to Police ranging from minor matters to serious crimes, of which there were 32. In comparison to the previous reporting month, this represents an 18% decrease in incidents reported to the Police and a 43% decrease in crimes.

A break-down of crime types recorded within the area is as follows:

3 housebreakings (2 domestic, 1 business); 1 housebreaking with intent to steal (to business); 1 theft; **12 acts of vandalism**; 1 theft from within a car; 3 assaults; 2 breaches of the peace; 2 acts of culpable and reckless conduct; 1 possession of drugs; 1 indecent exposure; 6 other miscellaneous offences, covering breaches of bail, internet offences and police assault/obstruction.

Reported that tackling housebreakings is a key priority for Police Scotland and the above HB-related crimes have been passed on to their specialist housebreaking unit for investigation.

It has also been noted that there has been a stark rise in the number of vandalisms, primarily smashed windows, caused by youths in the Oxfangs Avenue/Place/Street areas. The police are aware of the annoyance and financial implications caused and endeavour to increase foot patrolling in the targeted areas between 1900-2100 where possible. Additionally the police would urge residents to phone them on 101 should they see youths acting suspiciously in these areas.

### **Crimes of Note**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March, at about 0330 hours a black 4x4 rammed the security shutters of a local business. The intruders gained entry and stole cash and produce from within. Vehicle is linked to 2 other housebreaking incidents across West and Pentlands area. Enquiries ongoing.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, suspects gained entry to detached house by breaking through a rear window whilst residents away on holiday. The car was stolen.

*This type of crime has been common across Edinburgh, where thieves are breaking into houses for the purpose of stealing car keys. **Residents are strongly advised not to leave car keys in the vicinity of the entry points to their homes and ensure doors are locked at all times.***

### **Road Traffic Matters**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February a youth was seen riding his moped at speed on grass and footpaths.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March at Oxfangs Road (Nth) and Colinton Mains Road there was a hit and run incident involving an elderly driver striking two parked cars and failing to stop.

### **Community Policing Team**

Current priorities for the area are: housebreaking; antisocial behaviour; road safety and drugs.

Current operations in the area are:

*Operation Peloton* – officers on patrol in key areas being targeted by housebreakers. Does not include this area but does list the areas around Firrhill CC's area. Also involved pro-active actions such as executing warrants on known recidivist offenders linked to housebreakings and other crimes of dishonesty.

*Operation Quarterlight* – officers on patrol in key areas being targeted by housebreakers, but varying from *Peloton* in that it focuses on the theft of vehicles accompanying recent housebreakings.

Should you wish to contact the Community Policing Team, you can do so by email at [EdinburghPentlandHillsCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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

### Councillor Aitken

#### **Domestic Security Event**

Sgt Watt, Oxfangs Police Station, organised a domestic security event on 18/03/15 at Pentland Community Centre. It was attended by 120 residents who heard presentations by officers from the Interventions and Preventions department about crime prevention specifically in regard to house-breaking and personal safety. Peter Kirwan from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland also gave a presentation.

#### **Crime Prevention Panel**

In light of the Domestic Security Event held this month, PC Kenny Welsh will organise a meeting next month. The smartwater project and setting up communication streams will be discussed.

#### **Community Safety Action Group**

The group met on Monday 2nd March on Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre at 6pm. The high number of incidents of vandalism in Oxfangs, house break ins and possible safety implications of the new lighting in Colinton Mains were discussed at length and agreed for continued priority.

Your representative, Pauline Valentine, will report on the actions we set.

#### **Local Crimes**

At my meeting with Inspector Duthie, we discussed the spate of vandalism in the area and house break-ins.

#### **Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)**

The parking at Oxfangs Gardens/Oxfangs Place is being reassessed and should be advertised shortly.

#### **New LED Lighting.**

I have received more complaints about the low level of light from the new LED lighting which is currently being installed in Colinton Mains. The night light appraisal has been done and I am waiting for the results before arranging a site visit.

I have also discovered that similar complaints have been made in a number of other areas in the city.

#### **Oxfangs Primary School**

Parking is, once again, causing concern amongst the parents. I had a site visit with one of the parents last week to observe the problems. The Crossing Guide at Oxfangs Road North has resigned and the post has been advertised. I have followed up queries with the Schools Safety officer.

#### **Pentland Primary School**

I reported last month on cyclists travelling at speed in Cockmylane when parents and children have been walking to school. The Cycling and Park sections will be erecting signage at the location highlighting that this is a mixed used route and both cyclists and pedestrians should take caution.

## **Oxgangs Walkabout**

I attended the walkabout round Oxgangs Crescent, Oxgangs Avenue, Oxgangs Street and Oxgangs Broadway. Issues raised included lack of benches in Colinton Mains Park, no dropped kerbs at the corners of Oxgangs Crescent and Firrhill Drive and at the disabled parking bays in Oxgangs Crescent and poor road and footpath surfaces.

## **Inspection of Firrhill Learning Community**

Two inspectors attended the Community Safety Action Group and discussed the role and actions of the group with members. They also asked about community councils and Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership. The initial feedback from the inspection was positive and the report will be received next month.

## **Pentland View Close Support Unit**

The Close Support Unit has now closed and the property will be advertised for sale.

## **South West Area Board**

I attended the meeting last week to hear feedback on the NEPs projects completed and decisions on projects for the coming financial year. Your representative, Jim Napier, will report on the projects.

## **Aldi Development**

Given to understand that it is hoped the clearance of the site will commence sometime during the later part of this year.

## **Other matters raised**

Colinton Mains Park: Lighting.

Oxgangs Street: Scaffolding - SD raised during Oxgangs walkabout.

There was a discussion on the maintenance of trees in the area. Recent activity has seen trees being cut or trimmed back and members would like to see more trees being planted. Chair proposes to put this item on the agenda for the August meeting when we should seek to obtain a tree planting package.

## **PNP Reports**

### Funding Panel – 2<sup>5th</sup> February

Meeting cancelled due to lack of funds

### Community Safety Action Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> March

## **New format of recording meeting**

New documentation of the Community priorities set on 3 Nov 2014 to link activities to priorities set out in the local community plan, which are to:

- make the community a safer place to live and work (*The Community with Partners will work to achieve this by tackling anti-social behaviour and helping to improve home and personal safety*).
- ensure public space and parks are well maintained (*The Community Plan with partners will tackle dog fouling and litter, encouraging use of parks for play and leisure, promoting friends of parks groups, and making recycling easier*).

The Action Group has an established process for identifying community safety priorities from each multi-member ward, the action plan sets out activity relating to cross service working, where priorities raised by the group do not involve cross service working these are incorporated into internal service plans.

### **Current Actions/Priorities (Firrhill)**

1. Community representatives to publicise the service priorities set by the Action Group and increase input from the community.
2. Key partners to investigate and establish a plan of activity to reduce fire-raising in Ward 8. There have been a number of incidents of fire-raising in the common area of Dunedin-Canmore properties in and around Firrhill Park
3. Key partners to investigate and establish a plan of activity to tackle anti-social behaviour at Oxfords Crescent in Firrhill.
4. By tackling dog fouling and litter, encouraging use of parks for play and leisure, promoting friends of parks groups, and making recycling easier. Looking to increase community input to the Dog Fouling Tracking System. People witnessing such incidents are asked to notify the Environmental Wardens and give details of the time and place as well as a description of dog and owner.

### **Proposed Community Priorities**

- Break ins
- Vandalism
- Dog Fouling and Litter
- Fire Raising

Date of next meeting 1 June 2015

### **SW Area Board – 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Report tabled, see [appendix 1](#).

List of the proposed NEP Projects for 2015/16 provided for information – see [appendix 2](#)

## **Members Reports**

### **Support and Development Session: 18<sup>th</sup> March (LL, SD, FG)**

Part of the CEC's support and development programme for Community Councils this session was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March in the City Chambers and attended by three members from Firrhill CC.

The subject area for the session was Neighbourhood Partnerships (NP) and how you as a community councillor can contribute and influence the work of the NP.

All three members found the information interesting, giving them a better understanding of how the Partnership worked.

They also reported their concerns that the event was intended for new community council members but there were a number of well established community councillors in attendance. Their presence tended to overshadow the input from new members who were made to feel excluded.

### **Planning Report: (JN)**

Report tabled, see [appendix 3](#).

## Treasurer's Report

No change from previous statement.

## 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](mailto:peggy.wright@live.co.uk).

## AOCB:

## EACC Update

Verbal report given by HL and JN on the Steering Group meeting that took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> March in the Community Room of the Drumbrae Hub.

## Oxgangs Gala

The Chair gave an update on the work being carried out by the Gala organising committee and the support received from various groups not only in funds but also in equipment and services. The PNP agreed to make an award of £1,700 to the Oxgangs Gala group we are representing.

## Inspection of Firrhill Learning Community

See Councillor's Report

## Firrhill Partnership Centre

*Report extracted from the notes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and updated by Cllr Aitken.*

## **Future Use of Firrhill Surgery**

DMc, Older Persons Mental Health Clinical Manager had not yet visited the Firrhill Surgery as requested. SW had not received any further information on the planned review of mental health day service and would now seek to escalate this matter with REAS.

## **Site Boundary**

This continued to be a concern and NHSL were relying on the Council to expedite the matter. ESP, the landlord of the school property, had raised no objections to NHSL's proposal on the retaining slope but action was now needed to conclude an agreement in order for the site acquisition to go ahead.

## **Project Update**

### **Financial Close and Site Start**

Hubco had reported that due to the volume of work required to conclude the Bundled Projects legal agreements, financial close was now not expected until April 9th and as a result the site start was now expected in late April instead of the earlier March date.

However a further issue had now arisen which could delay this further. The new EU regulations, ESA10, which governed the accountancy treatment of revenue funded public sector property developments, had come into effect. This had significant balance sheet implications for both the UK and Scottish Government. At the present time SFT were trying to find a solution to this problem in Scotland but so far none had been found for the hub DBFM projects. This issue was now in the public domain. CK would keep everyone informed of any progress.

It was noted that the Oxfangs Surgery lease extension was due to expire on in October 2016 and so there was little scope for any further delays.

### **Value Engineering Exercise**

CK confirmed that the outcome of the VE exercise to date had not resulted in any changes which would impact on the Practices.

### **Design Issues**

It had transpired that the proposed design solution for the shutters to close off each Practice area was not deliverable since it would contravene the fire strategy. CK would share the revised proposal with the GPs when it became available.

### **Centre Artworks**

SW proposed funding should be allocated from the project budget to develop public arts work that would enhance the Centre and its immediate environs. The intention was to work with suitable partners and engage local residents and/or schoolchildren in the production of quality artworks. This would give the community a greater sense of ownership of the Centre.

CK confirmed that this approach was being taken with the other bundled projects and the sum of £12K would be available for this purpose from the project budget.

There was some concern that this would reduce the budget for other items but it was small sum compared to the overall cost of the project and the Board would have oversight of any creative works to be installed.

Further details of the art project would be reported to the Board in due course.

### **Move Plan**

A list of tasks to be undertaken prior to commissioning and moving to the new Centre was tabled. This would require a significant commitment of time, but in many cases this could be delegated to other members of the Practice team.

### **Naming the Centre**

The period for nominations was drawing to a close. So far about 20 names had been forwarded electronically, but paper forms had still to be collected from the High school and surgeries.

SW aimed to ask the panel to select the shortlist w/c 16th February and the public voting would take place until mid March. It was then intended that a small event would be organised to announce the winner and award a prize to the winner. The SG and elected representatives would be invited to the event but the protocols surrounding purdah would have to be observed.

In view of the uncertainty about the site start, it was felt it would be premature to have the event in late March as the financial close could well not have been achieved by then.

An update on this was given by Cllr Aitken who attended a further meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. Approx 50 responses received with the majority being in favour of Allermuir, Caerketton or Robert Louis Stevenson as names for the new health centre. This shortlist will go to a final vote.

### **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:**

Monday **27<sup>th</sup> April 2015** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at approx 9.30pm

## App1: South West Area Board

### Minutes of Previous Meeting: 14 August 2014

I commented on the draft minutes of the previous meeting, specifically that part of the minutes under Item 3, Neighbourhood Environment Projects, namely:

*The Board noted the objections to all three projects from Oxgangs Central Residents Association (OCRA). However, the Board voted to approve the new projects. The Board expressed the general feeling of disappointment that OCRA continue to abstain from attending Board meetings.*

*Discussion took place, on acceptance of comments on projects by Board Members who are not able to attend the Board meeting (on the evening of any selections).*

***It was agreed that any comments provided by Board Members will be tabled on the night for the Boards members in attendance consideration.***

At the meeting I raised an objection to the fact the comments by OCRA had not been circulated to the Board by the Partnership Development Officer for members to consider prior to the meeting. It seemed Partnership Officers were able to consult with others on the content of OCRA's objections but members of the Board were denied the opportunity.

I was concerned my objection led to an *agreement* that NEP comments submitted by Board members will not now be circulated as part of the business papers for a meeting irrespective of when they were submitted. Members of a Board or Committee should have a right to information which may affect their own views and to have the information in advance of the meeting, where this is feasible.

Unfortunately my concerns were not supported by the other members of the Board and the minutes were approved unaltered.

### NEP Projects for 2014/15

List of projects within the Firrhill CC area. With the exception of Project 1054, all have been completed.

1. 1024: Oxgangs Crescent: footpath
2. 1054: 2 Firrhill Drive: fencing (see 2015/16 list)
3. 1057: Oxgangs Brae: security lighting
4. 1061: 32-34 Oxgangs Avenue: drying area/gardens
5. 1065: Firrhill Drive: footpaths 18-20
6. 1066: Firrhill Drive: footpaths 26-28

### NEP Projects for 2015/16

List of projects within the Pentland NP area.

1. 1054 – Fencing at 2 Firrhill Drive, £10,273.12
2. 1067 – Hard Landscaping at 23-26 Clovenstone Gdns, £19,011.73
3. 1116 – Footway Improvement at 262-290 Oxgangs Rd N, £121,871.18
4. 1126 – Hard Landscaping at 137-139 Main St Ratho, £7,950.03
5. 1181 – Footway Improvements at Oxgangs Avenue, £27,646.74



6. 1187 – Hard Landscaping at Wester Hailes Park, (£55,000)
7. 1229 – Multi-Aspect Project at Craigpark Cres/Ave, (£30,000)

Oxgangs Central Residents Association (OCRA) in response to the reply to their earlier comments, submitted further comments in relation to a number of projects proposed within the South West Neighbourhood Area, expanding on their previous email. On this occasion the SWNO responded and circulated their response to all board members prior to the meeting.

OCRA's comments mainly focus on interpreting the procedures, guidance and principals applicable to NEP Projects. In particular that part of the guidance covering projects in areas of mixed tenure, in other words, in places where other tenants/home owners who are not council tenants and who have not contributed to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), are receiving a benefit from a project.

The guidance does provide for the Authority to seek a financial contribution from elsewhere, either from those non-council tenants, etc., who are benefiting or from some other council budget holder. It also provides as an alternative solution - that is to transfer the land out of the HRA.

OCRA considered these options applied to a number of projects, including Oxgangs Avenue, which is described as footway improvements but in fact is a woodland trail (Cockmylane) leading up the hill from Oxgangs Avenue to Oxgangs Hill, where it crosses and then becomes a paved up to Pentland primary school, then reverts back to its unpaved status up to Caiystane Gardens. As the funds for these projects come from tenants' rents, I have to wonder how many council tenants in the Oxgangs Hill/Fox-Swan Springs/Caiystane area.

There is clear merit to OCRA's argument and no doubt it is being taken forward by the Edinburgh Tenants Federation but this is not reflected by the resident associations on the South West Area Board. As a result all the projects were approved by the Board.

That funds obtained from tenants rents should be used for the benefit of tenants goes without question. If you are seeking exclusive use of such benefits unless they are jointly funded does creates serious difficulties on the part of the administrators irrespective of what the guidance says. Housing estates are no longer under the exclusive ownership of one landlord and therefore such exclusiveness has become almost impossible.

It begs the question as to why such guidance was drawn up by the Authority if it was so difficult to administer. Would it not be better to fund the neighbourhood environmental programme from some other budget and leave the HRA fund to the building of new social housing?

## App2: Pentlands NEP Projects 2015/16

The Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) was introduced by the City Council in 2004/05 as a more effective way to respond to environment issues arising in CEC housing schemes. This housing based programme was widened in 2008/09 to bring together funds from other SfC<sup>1</sup> service. Now the Housing NEP and the Roads NEP are drawn from 2 different SfC service capital programmes with the potential to operate as a combined fund at Neighbourhood Partnership level. Funding can be used across the whole community for both “one off” projects and to deliver the outcomes of Local Community Plans at a Partnership level.

The following is a list of the proposed projects to be carried out in the Pentlands area during the financial year 2015/16.

### 1054 – Fencing at 2 Firrhill Drive, £10,273.12

Reason: Residents complaining about rotten and rusted hurdle bar fencing.

Proposal: Install new metal bow top fencing with galvanised finish which will improve the aesthetics of the area and will require no maintenance.

### 1067 – Hard Landscaping at 23-26 Clovenstone Gdns, £19,011.73

Reason: Soft landscape planters in front of common stairs are overgrown and *difficult* to maintain.

Proposal: Remove all vegetation and dig out soil, resurface with resin bound gravel planting architectural shrubs. This will reduce annual maintenance costs to the Council and improve the aesthetics of the area.

### 1116 – Footway Improvement at 262-290 Oxbgangs Rd N, £121,871.18

Reason: No existing footpaths to rear of property or drying areas

Proposal: Install new footpaths to rear of property and provide footpaths on drying areas. Give proper access to rear of property and drying areas.

### 1126 – Hard Landscaping at 137-139 Main St Ratho, £7,950.03

Reason: Difficult to maintain area with stones set in concrete border.

Proposal: Uplift the concrete and stones, resurface the area using with resin bound gravel. Planting architectural shrubs. Create a more aesthetically pleasing area reducing maintenance costs.

### 1181 – Footway Improvements at Oxbgangs Avenue, £27,646.74

Reason: Footpath surface has deteriorated over the years, creating a health and safety issue, trip hazards on the areas where the footpath has a steep slope

Proposal: Re-establish the footpath edges and resurface footpath with 20mm whin chips and dust. The steep parts of the footpath will be resurfaced with 10mm open tarmac to eliminate water erosion on the slope; this will eliminate the trip hazards.

*Comment: Should this not be a Roads NEP and thus referred to the Transport & Environment Action Group?*

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<sup>1</sup> Services for Communities

1187 – Hard Landscaping at Wester Hailes Park, (£55,000)

Reason: Soft landscape garden areas in front of common stairs are overgrown and expensive to maintain.

Proposal: Remove vegetation, dig out soil and resurface with 6mm close finish tarmac/resin bound gravel planting architectural shrubs and trees. This will reduce maintenance costs to the Council and improve the aesthetics of the area for local residents.

1229 – Multi-Aspect Project at Craigpark Cres/Ave, (£30,000)

Reason: Request to redevelop an area of land by the local residents.

Proposal: Create a community living space by refurbishing and developing the area for community use.

## App3: Planning Report:

### Planning Bulletins

#### **Planning Applications from Weekly Lists**

23-02-15	No items
02-03-15	<p>Application 15/00775/PNT of Prior Notification of Intention to install Telecommunications apparatus at Proposed Telecoms Apparatus 24 Metres Southeast of <b>227 Oxgangs Road North</b>.</p> <p>Application 15/00788/PNT of Prior Notification of Intention to install Telecommunications apparatus at Proposed Telecoms Apparatus 33 Metres Southeast of <b>5 Firrhill Drive</b>.</p> <p>Application 15/00789/PNT of Prior Notification of Intention to install Telecommunications apparatus at Proposed Telecoms Apparatus 60 Metres Southwest of <b>66 Oxgangs Farm Drive</b>.</p> <p>Application 15/00842/PNT of Prior Notification of Intention to install Telecommunications apparatus at Proposed Telecoms Apparatus 15 Metres Northeast of <b>20 Oxgangs Hill</b></p>
09-03-15	No items
16-03-15	<p>Application 15/00996/FUL for the formation of new opening and installation of French doors to dwelling flat at 13 Oxgangs Terrace.</p> <p>Application 14/05136/FUL to replace old wooden framed shop frontage with new aluminium shop frontage at 82 Colinton Mains Drive has been granted.</p>

Note: all the Telecom applications are permitted developments.

### SWCF: Brownfield Land Priority

SWCF have been pushing for brownfield land to take priority over greenfield / green belt land for new housing developments. Correspondence to Cllr Ian Perry from David Cooper (City-Wide) indicates that once land has been identified in the Development Plan there is a presumption in favour of development unless material considerations indicate otherwise. There is no legislative provision that allows Planning Authorities to refuse permission on the basis there is a suitable alternative brownfield site. In order to comply with the provision of the Scottish Planning Policy a five year effective housing land supply had to be identified. To meet that target, greenfield / green belt land had to be included in the LDP. Developers can pick and choose with the result brownfield sites can be ignored for development purposes.

### SESplan: E-Bulletin-March Update

#### **SDP1 – LDP Progress**

All SESplan member authorities have now completed the MIR stage of the Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation process. A pre-publication version of the City of Edinburgh Proposed Plan is available online. The consultation period is closed.

#### **SDP2 – Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA)**

The second SESplan HNDA was submitted to the Centre of Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) in October 2014. CHMA advised in December that HNDA2 had the potential to be robust and credible

subject to addressing nine recommendations. The final document has been resubmitted to CHMA and robust and credible is expected within the next few weeks. A detailed Report will be considered by SESplan Joint Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

### **SDP2 – Main Issues Report (MIR)**

The team are finalising the MIR and supporting documents. All statutory documents will be considered for approval and subsequent ratification at the SESplan Joint Committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### **SDP2 – Participation and Engagement**

The team have drafted an Engagement Strategy for the MIR and are keen to speak to as many groups as possible and receive further suggestions through Twitter or Facebook. The MIR and all supporting documents will be available on the SESplan website from the **11 May 2015**. The official consultation via the SESplan Consultation Portal will run for 8 weeks from **21 July 2015 until 15 September 2015**.

### **Social Media**

Twitter – SESplan now has 295 followers and is tweeting regularly, follow on @SESplan.

Facebook – SESplan has created a new Facebook page ahead of the MIR consultation, we will be posting updates and news, Like us here.

### **SESplan Relocation**

The core team have relocated to the West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston

### **Recent Publications across Scotland**

Recent relevant publications include:

- Withdrawal of West Edinburgh Planning Framework due to its aims being superseded by the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), City of Edinburgh's LDP, and SDP1;
- RTP1 paper on Strategic Planning: *Effective Co-operation for Planning across Boundaries*.

## App4: Correspondence List

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

- 1 Morningside CC: complaint from Greenbank resident re noise from Dreghorn ranges; query whether this has been an issue for Firrhill CC. Sec replied in negative, but got feedback from Cllrs Aitken and Rust re a few complaints from Fairmilehead and this area + same person in Greenbank. They are both taking this forward.
- 2 **Sec's email to SW N'hood Office giving notification of our changes in representation: Pauline Valentine will take over CSAG from Jim Napier, who will take over ETAG from Peggy Wright.**
- 3 **J Napier to Traffic Orders Admin Officer re 'proposed' TRO/13/55E, disabled parking space at 9 Firrhill Drive, pointing out that this space is very close to a corner – but it has already been marked out, so why are members of the public asked to comment now?**
- 4 **J Napier confirming that Referral Reports from Council's Police & Fire Scrutiny C'ttee have been put on Police page of Firrhill CC website.**
- 5 Marius Hince: Edinburgh LDP consultation to find out views on best places for student housing: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/studenthousing> (until 24 April)
- 6 Archie Clark, SWCF: forwarded paper giving more info on student housing (re above)
- 7 **New CCs Liaison Officer: [Breid.Croal@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Breid.Croal@edinburgh.gov.uk); Tel 0131 469 3838**
- 8 Breid Croal: EACC proposed Q & A Session with Cllr Maureen Child, Convener of Communities & Neighbourhoods Committee, and Nick Croft, Edinburgh Partnership Corporate Policy & Strategy Manager: Sat 25 April, 10.30am-12.30pm, City Chambers. [But Geoff Pearson, via 'Basecamp', is suggesting having EACC AGM on that date.]
- 9 f. by Cllr Rust: Scottish Water's latest campaign to avoid plumbing problems and wasting water. **Note: Scottish Water's Customer Contact Centre 0800 0778 778 (open 24 hrs, seven days a week), or e-mail [customer.service@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:customer.service@scottishwater.co.uk)**
- 10 Eileen Hewitt: Cllrs approved new speed limit network for Edinburgh on 13 Jan, after 3 yrs consultation and research. There will be an extensive education & awareness campaign before the changes are implemented. Any questions: Tel 20mph Project Team at 0131 469 3502.
- 11 Cllr Aitken re Public Consultation on Flood Risk Management: 2<sup>nd</sup> stage commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> March; can be accessed at <https://frm-scotland.org.uk> ; hard copies in libraries.
- 12 Breid Croal: **Meet the Funders Event: 23 April, 1-4 pm, Central Library, George IV Bridge: public market place drop-in event giving access to funding info for community projects.**
- 13 Many emails from CCs (via 'Basecamp', initiated by Geoff Pearson) re the way forward for EACC – but no definite decisions on what will happen next (should be decided at March Steering Group meeting).
- 14 **Reply from Inspector Duthie re FCC Sec's enquiry: Sgt George Richardson is new contact, replacing Sgt Robert Mackenzie, and she has requested him to email a Police Report before our meeting on 23 March.**
- 15 Canal Development Board (SW NP E & T Action Group): concerns re maintenance regime (litter, dredging, vegetation, etc) mainly because of lack of clarity as to designated ownership between Council and Scottish Canals, and so boundaries are being checked by CEC to ensure their task forces operate appropriately. Also, Scottish Canals has been asked to refresh poster campaign on all aspects of safety and conduct, and send regular info to communities/schools.

- 16 Patricia Eason: papers from EACC Exec Meeting on 29 Jan '15 – Treasurer's Report, and Draft Minutes [attended by HL & JN]
- 17 Julie Dickson **confirming receipt of FCC Sec's booking for LL & SD at Council's Training Session on Neighbourhood Partnerships, 18 March, 6.30-8.30 pm.**
- 18 Julie Dickson: Older People's (Age Scotland Partnership) Event, 19 March, 10am-3pm [no FCC rep able to attend]
- 19 Julie Dickson **confirming receipt of FCC Jan '15 Minutes from JN and 2013-14 Statement of Accounts from LL.**
- 20 Cllr Burns: Council Leader's Report for March – includes 'Restoring Stability to Lothian Buses', and 'Towards a City Deal': Edinburgh + 5 neighbouring local authorities have signed up to pursue a deal for more spending powers (must be agreed to by UK & Scot Gov)
- 21 Archie Clark, SWCF: copy of letter forwarded from Alex Neil, MSP, re the argument of Greenfield v. brownfield sites, includes the paragraph 'A key principle of the SPP (Scottish Planning Policy) is that the planning process should direct the right development to the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost. SPP is clear that this includes considering the re-use or re-development of brownfield land before new development takes place on Greenfield sites.'
- 22 Emma Pattinson, Community Navigator, SW LOOP, re possibility of having a stall at Oxfangs Gala Day [to HL for response]
- 23 Helen Ogg, with links to procedures for deputations to CEC Committee meetings.
- 24 Angus Dodds re Proposal of Application notice, Hermitage Golf Course: drop-in event on 24 March, noon to 8 pm, at Hermitage café, Braid Hills Drive (paper posters received by Sec)
- 25 **f by H Levy: notes on Firrhill Partnership Board meeting, 5 Feb '15 (printed out for members)**
- 26 **Cllr Aitken, re above: confirming that new EU legislation is complicated and Firrhill Health/Social Care Centre is one of many delayed projects (on FCC Agenda for 23 Mar)**
- 27 J Napier: **report on Pentland SW Area Board NEPs (printed out for members); also, forwarded response from Mike Avery, SW Neighbourhood Manager, to points raised by Maureen Jarvis on behalf of OCRA.**
- 28 Geoff Pearson, Northfield & Willowbrae CC: Motion to EACC Executive meeting on 26 March that arrangements be made for an AGM to be held on Sat 25 April (see No. 13, above)

By Post for noting or distribution

- 1 'Health Link' NHS newspaper.
- 2 Hermitage Golf Course development consultation posters.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Firrhill Community Council Secretary:  
[peggy.wright@live.co.uk](mailto:peggy.wright@live.co.uk)