

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 27 April 2015

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

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

Ex-officio Members: Cllr J Rust; Cllr R Lewis.

Visitors: N Peachey, Resident; PC James Jackson (Oxgangs Police station).

Apologies: Cllr E Aitken; P Valentine.

The Chair, H Levy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 23 March 2015 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by LL, seconded by FG and agreed.

Matters Arising:

New LED Lighting

See Councillor's Report.

Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC Jackson to the meeting and invited him to give his report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area for the period 23rd March to 26th April.

PC Fergusson reported that during this period there have been 192 incidents reported to Police a large number of these relating to missing person and concern for persons due to the location of the Oxgangs YPU. 38 of these incidents have resulted in a crime report being submitted.

In comparison to the previous reporting month, 22nd February 2015 to 22nd March 2015, this represents a 29% increase in incidents reported to Police and a 19% increase in crimes reported. This increase in incidents and reported crimes is consistent with an increase across the West of the city of Edinburgh but shows a lower percentage increase than other beat codes in the area. The increase is likely linked to an upturn in the weather as well as the recent school holidays.

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

1 theft by housebreakings (shed); 3 attempted housebreaking with intent to steal (1 to a business, 1 non-dwelling, 1 dwelling); 7 theft; 6 acts of vandalism; 3 theft/attempted theft theft from within a car; 6 assaults; 5 breaches of the peace; 1 indecent exposure; 2 fireraising; and 4 other miscellaneous offences, covering breaches of bail, fraud, driving offences etc.

As mentioned in the last meeting, tackling housebreakings has been a key focus in recent months. It can be seen from this report that there was one theft by housebreaking in the last period and this was from a garden shed and the stolen property was quickly recovered. Focused high visibility foot

and mobile patrols are still being conducted on a regular basis to further reduce the likelihood of housebreakings in the local area.

In the last meeting the rise in reported vandalism was brought to light. We are happy say that the number of reported vandalisms in the local area has dropped in this period from 12 to 6 with a decrease of 50%. Officers did respond to the concern in relation to anti-social youth behaviour being the main cause for these vandalisms and this behaviour is currently being tackled by officers.

(No information on domestic abuse figures)

Crimes of Note

On the 3rd April, a number of small fires were lit on all 3 floors of the social work department on Oxgangs Path. The fires appear to have been started with rubbish and toilet paper, most likely by local youths. Required 7 fire engines, 2 ambulance vehicles and 5 police vehicles purely as a precaution until the fires were extinguished. No persons were injured in any way.

On the 8th April, 3 youths attempted to force entry into the storage unit at Colinton Mains public park. All 3 made off on police arrival with one being detained at the scene and the other two later traced and charged at home.

On the same day, there was a housebreaking with intent to steal. Both occupants were in the house at the time but heard no noises during the night. When they went downstairs in the morning they found the rear patio door glass had been smashed and the door was open. The glass is shattered but only a hand sized hole is in the glass. At this time no items are missing and nothing seems to have been disturbed within.

Road Traffic Matters

On the 7th April, a car travelling at speed along Oxgangs Road North, went out of control and struck a central traffic island, destroying a keep left illuminated bollard on the island. The vehicle continued along the road for a considerable distance before destroying metal fencing at the side of the road at an automated crossing. The female driver was taken to hospital for assessment but had only superficial injuries. This has not been recorded as a drink driving offence.

Community Policing Team

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

Current operations in the area are:

Operation RAC – uniformed and plainclothes officers on patrol in marked and unmarked cars in key areas being targeted by housebreakers. Does not include this area but does list the areas around Firrhill CC's area. Operation adapts to where the offenders have been hitting.

RFG Nominals – officers have now been assigned named youth offenders who meet the criteria of Recently, Frequency and Gravity. These are youth offenders who either come to police attention in a recent time span, or on a frequent basis or have come to police attention for a serious offence. Officers are tasked with keeping track of the nominal's offending behaviour, taking intervention measures where possible.

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

Councillors Aitken & Rust

Cllr Aitken was unable to attend due to other commitments but submitted the following written report. **Cllr Rust** expanded on some of the items.

Domestic Security Event

Events were held in Pentland Community Centre and Currie and one is planned for Colinton in May. Others are taking place throughout the city. Attendees have found the information given and the discussions extremely helpful.

Crime Prevention Panel

A provisional date of Wed 27th May 2015 has been set and PC Kenny Welsh will confirm once he has booked a venue. The smartwater project and setting up communication streams will be discussed.

TRO

The TRO for double yellow lines at Oxbgangs Rise, Street and Place at the junctions with Oxbgangs Avenue becomes effective on 11th May. The lines will be installed after this date.

Former Hunter's Tryst School Site

The land is currently offered for sale, possibly for housing. I have asked if a path/access through the site could be included. This was discussed when housing was considered there some time ago and would reinstate the access which was stopped when the schools amalgamated.

Aldi Site

- A fire was reported at the former Social Work Office on 3rd April. A number of small fires had been set within the building and were extinguished. No one was hurt and the building has been secured.
- Notification of the Stopping Order for the road and car park in front of the library has been lodged. I enquired about access to the library during construction and received this response:

"Following your email below I am happy to confirm that access will be maintained to the library for the bus during the construction period. There may, on occasions, be short periods of time where access is not possible due to works being completed within the immediate vicinity of the access point. These periods will be strictly controlled and coordinated with the library to minimise any disruption to access and also to keep the period as short as possible. During these periods arrangements will be discussed with the library to ensure an adequate alternative is provided.

Please note that this email refers to vehicular access not pedestrian access. The pedestrian route will be maintained 100% throughout the construction period".

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.

Dementia Friendly City

I attended dementia awareness training and have asked for information on signage which could be used in our community centres and local shops.

Firrhill Walkabout

I attended the walkabout round Firrhill Drive and Crescent. Fly tipping, pot holes and choked gulleys were reported. I also reported litter at Oxfords Broadway and on the land beside the Good Companion.

Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Action Groups

The Chairs of the groups met last week to discuss priorities and joint projects.

Councillor Lewis

Skatepark:

Cllr Lewis gave an update on the actions taken since he received a petition from a local school resident, for a Skatepark in Oxfords. Council officers are in the process of carrying out a feasibility study and will report back their results.

The Chair noted this project has been adopted by the Community Council as one of its objectives and has been discussed several times over the years with thoughts on it being sited in Colinton Mains Public Park or within the grounds of Pentland Community Centre at Oxfords Brae. The police and youth organisation support for the project and we would be keen to see it progressed.

Colinton Mains Park

Received comments from constituents about the lack of benches in Colinton Mains Public Park and is proposing to take this to the next Board meeting to see about funding.

PNP Reports

Neighbourhood Environment Programme: Road and Footpath Projects

Received notice that Community Councils can submit a maximum of 2 potential projects either from those listed (only one in our area), new projects or a combination of both) for consideration in their area. Proposals to be submitted by 14th May and the question being asked is “do we wish to submit any other proposal?”

The proposed project listed concerns a footway improvement along section of Braidburn core path from St Marks School to Firrhill Park. The reason given is that the access and paths are in poor condition. As the footpaths in the park were done as part of the recent Flood Prevention / Colinton Mains Park works it does not stand up to scrutiny.

It was also noted that due to limited funds being available it was envisaged that neighbourhood improvement projects would be limited to approximately 2 projects per neighbourhood area.

Action: Item noted with no other suggestions

Community Council Support and Development

Reported on at the last meeting where the 3 members who attended the first session on 18 March 2015 indicated they found the subject matter interesting but where overshadowed by long-serving community councillors who dominated the discussions. Since our last meeting one of the members had put her complaint in writing and sent it to the Community Council Liaison Officer

The second session on Community Engagement is to be held on 20th May and will look at what it means and how Community Councils can effectively communicate with the communities they represent, gather their views and keep them informed, using a variety of methods.

Action: Secretary to book places for four members (LL, FG, SD & JB) to attend.

Members Reports

Planning Report: (JN)

Report tabled, see appendix 1.

Treasurer's Report

No change from previous statement.

Correspondence

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

AOCB:

Firrhill Walkabout 9th April: Report

LL and JN attended this walkabout along with Cllr Aitken, K Annan, Environmental Warden and Kim Aitchison, the lead NP Officer.

Firrhill Drive – noted a number of road defects, a choked gulley opp. no. 49 and incidences of fly tipping as well as a lot of litter and rubbish. KA arranging for an uplift to remove the articles dumped and a litterpick to tidy up the area. The road defects will be reported to the Roads Dept. There are two disabled parking spaces in the new parking area opposite number 41. In view of the recent enforcement actions being taken by the Council in regard to disabled spaces, we queried if these would be affected.

Firrhill Crescent – noted a choked gulley o/s no. 24 and the old style litter bin on bridge next to St Mark's Primary School missing its front panel.

Oxgangs Road North – noted the tarmac on the raised islands had not been finished when repairs carried out to the bollards. Noted the lack of maintenance of the amenity grassed area running along both sides of the burn to Colinton Mains Drive.

Firrhill Loan – noted potholes in the road outside the community centre and a dumped television. An uplift to be arranged for the dumped television and the potholes reported to the Roads Dept.

Introduction of 20mph Speed Limit

The City Council's proposal to promote an order which will introduce a 20mph speed limit on many of the city's roads, includes the following roads in our area - Oxgangs Farm Avenue, Oxgangs Farm Drive, Oxgangs Farm Gardens, Oxgangs Farm Grove, Oxgangs Farm Loan, Oxgangs Farm Terrace,

Oxgangs Terrace, Colinton Mains Crescent, Colinton Mains Grove, Colinton Mains Loan, Colinton Mains Road.

Action: Item noted

Application for House of Multiple Occupation

Address: 342 Oxgangs Road North – noted

EACC Update

HL and JN gave a verbal report on the Q&A meeting they attended on the 25th April in the City Chambers. The meeting had been called by Councillor Maureen Child, Convener of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council to promote community council engagement with the Edinburgh Partnership (EP). She was supported by Nick Croft, Corporate Policy and Strategy Manager of the Edinburgh Partnership and David White, Assistant General Manager, NHS Lothian, who is their representative on some neighbourhood partnerships. The EACC have one representative on the EP.

A copy of Nick Croft's presentation on *Community Planning and the Edinburgh Partnership* is attached as [appendix 3](#).

Action: report noted

Oxgangs Gala 13th June: Update

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.

Action: report noted

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Monday **25th May 2015** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at approx 9.00pm

App1: Planning Report

Planning Bulletins

Bulletins from 24/03/15 to 13/04/15, no applications or decisions reported. Of interest:

08/04/15: Application 15/01566/FUL for a change of use for twelve parking spaces to hand car wash and valeting operation including installation of an office and erection of a canopy at Tesco, 10 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9AH (Colinton CC area)

Bulletin 20/04/15: 1 application:

Registered 25/03/15: Application 15/01426/FUL to demolish existing conservatory and garage to side and rear of the property. Erect semi-pitched rear single storey extension to form new sun lounge and utility room. Form new single storey semi pitched roof garage to gable area of building linking to rear utility room. Enclose existing open steps to front entrance with enclosed pitched roof porch. Upgrade existing parking and driveway area to the front of the property at 344 Oxfangs Road North. Comments due by 08.05.2015

Bulletin 27/04/15: no applications or decisions reported.

Hunters Tryst Primary School Site

The former Hunter's Tryst Primary School site at 4 Oxfangs Green is about to be placed on the market as a residential development opportunity.

Cllr Aitken has asked if a path/access through the site could be included. This was discussed when housing was considered there some time ago and would reinstate the access which was stopped when the schools amalgamated.

Estate Services: Properties for Sale

FOR SALE – Residential Development Opportunity, Former Hunter's Tryst Primary School, 4 Oxfangs Green, Edinburgh.

Location

The former Hunter's Tryst Primary School is located on the south side of Edinburgh in the residential suburb of Oxfangs. The surrounding residential area is a mixture of semi detached and terraced one and two storey houses with three/four storey flats on Oxfangs Avenue to the north of the site. The site is well placed for easy access to both the city centre and Edinburgh bypass. Amenities in the area include a local retail centre and library to the south, where Aldi are progressing a planning application to develop a new store. Pentland Primary School is situated to the south east.

Description

The site slopes downwards towards Oxfangs Avenue. The site comprises level areas, a result of the demolition of the former school buildings, situated between sloping sections. There is vehicular and pedestrian access from Oxfangs Green and pedestrian access from Oxfangs Rise.

Area

The site extends to approximately 1.403 hectares (3.467 acres).

Spring

There are two historic spring heads located within the grounds which are owned by Scottish Water. These are Grade B listed.

Planning

The site lies within the urban area where new housing development is supported subject to the consideration of other policies within the Local Plan. Any development should consider the setting of the category B listed spring heads within the site. Full landscaping details will also be required. Further guidance on design within the site is contained within the Edinburgh Design Guidance available online at

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20069/local_plans_and_guidelines/63/planning_guidelines.

Alternatively contact the Planning Department, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG on 0131 200 2000 or email at planning@edinburgh.gov.uk Smith Scott Mullan Associates have prepared an indicative capacity study of the site for the Council. This can be made available to parties noting interest.

Terms

The property will be sold by way of disposition and associated Deed of Conditions containing such reservations, burdens and conditions as the Head of Legal and Administrative Services may consider necessary to protect the Council's interest. These may include reservations regarding minerals, services etc and provisions regarding maintenance, insurance, uses, etc.

Fees

The purchaser will be expected to pay the Council's reasonably incurred legal costs, plus corporate property costs of 2.5% of the purchase price.

Offer Guidance

Offers are invited for the heritable interest of the property with the benefit of vacant possession. Offers should include the following:

- Headline Price
- Concept drawings including nature of intended use
- Conditions of purchase and timescales for purification
- Schedule of abnormal costs
- Proposed timescale for acquisition/development
- Confirmation of funding

Viewing and Further Information

For more information or to arrange a viewing of the site please contact: Graeme McGartland on 0131 529 5956, email graeme.mcgartland@edinburgh.gov.uk or Frances Maddicott 0131 529 5828, email frances.maddicott@edinburgh.gov.uk

SWCF Report: Presentation - Estimating and Projecting Population in Scotland

The office bearers of the SWCF attended a meeting with National Records of Scotland (NRS), along with representatives of the Cockburn Association to learn more about how population numbers are gleaned and interpreted. A copy of the presentation was attached to their email if anyone wants a copy please let me know. The crux of their information is a general agreement that the population figures for Edinburgh show a migration rate of 3,700 people per annum and a natural growth rate of 1,300 people per annum.

They also had a meeting with two senior officials at CEC on 25th March to try and learn more about the way the Local Plan is put together, covering subjects such as Edinburgh's population past and future (projections), housing provision for a changing population and the use of brownfield sites. The City officials consider the current population increase in Edinburgh is about 5,000 people per annum and are unconvinced about the high migration element of the figures presented by the NRS. They pointed out that population projection is but one of the variants they have to consider in preparing the LDP.

App2: Correspondence List

- 1 Re Training Session on NPs (18 March), the Community Councils section of the NP website has been updated with the materials provided at that session.
- 2 Next CC Support & Development Session: 'Community Engagement and What it Means for CCs' – Wed 20 May, 6 pm-8.30 pm, City Chambers. Places to be booked by FCC Sec by 8 May [on FCC's Agenda for 27 April]
- 3 Norman Tinlin: notification that he has resumed duties as EACC Sec and that all requests etc should go to him. Also: adjourned EACC AGM will be held on Thurs 21 May, 7-9 pm, City Chambers.
- 4 Ros Wilson re Election on 7 May: all proxy voting replies to be in by 28 April; only proxy voting notification allowed thereafter is by 5 pm on 7 May for voting after 5 pm on grounds of medical emergency or for work reasons.
- 5 Marchmont & Sciennes CC Sec: info on its many ways of communicating with residents and finding out their view (but admits that monthly meetings are still poorly attended).
- 6 Cllr Elaine Aitken: ex-Hunters Tryst Primary School site is now (again) being offered for sale by City of Edinburgh Council.
- 7 H Levy: Oxfangs Gala, Sat 13 June, 11 am to 3 pm – invites sent out to police and fire and rescue service.
- 8 Cllr Frank Ross: Update on Edinburgh's Economic Strategy – see info at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/economicstrategy
- 9 Lynne Duffy: licence application for House in Multiple Occupation at 342 Oxfangs Rd N; 5 tenants, 5 bedrooms (objections to be in by 27 April).
- 10 CEC Traffic Orders Admin Officer re new 20 mph speed limits on residential roads, especially near schools, several being in and around our area. Info (can be viewed at library): www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph These proposals will be advertised. Comments by e-mail to Citywide.20mph@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 0131-469 3122.
- 11 Breid Croal: Public Toilets Survey, started 13 April until 25 May; public being asked to comment on any of CEC's list for closure (includes Morningside) as they want to close 10 public toilets to save money; suggest we use public buildings (eg libraries); closures scheduled for 2015/16 <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/public-toilets-survey>
- 12 Kim Aitchison - notes from Walkabout on 9 April: Firrhill Drive/Crescent/Loan.
- 13 Cllr Jason Rust, f. from Police Scotland: Holiday Security Checklist.
- 14 Jim Napier re Tesco: change of use for 12 parking spaces to hand car wash and valet operation, including installation of an office and erection of canopy + new signs.

- 15 Michael Edwards, SW N'hood Office re Roads & Footways projects currently banked for Ward 8 (Colinton, Firrhill & Fairmilehead CC areas). Also, there are new rules and criteria for projects from this NEP fund. [On Agenda for Firrhill CC meeting 27 April.]
- 16 New kerbside recycling service: Colinton Mains, Oxfangs & Firrhill will be included in next phase starting 1-26 June; info leaflets, calendar and sticker for blue recycling box go out in April & May; 18 May-12 June grey landfill bin will be delivered; larger, old green bins to be used for recycling.
- 17 TTRO Street Notice 1811/SW/2015 for replacement of defective iron work between 34 & 40 (both sides) Firrhill Drive, Wed 29 April. Emergency vehicle access and pedestrian flow will be maintained.
- 18 Inspector Liz Duthie re Police Reports. To ensure that CCs within the West and Pentlands Local Policing Area are provided with useful and relevant info about the policing priorities recently identified by local communities for 2015/16, it has been decided that the Report will be amended to focus on Multi Member Ward Priorities from May '15. It will also include info on local crime trends if these crimes fall outwith the MMWPs.
- 19 Michael Edwards, SW N'hood Office: request for info on local summer events where the '20mph Team' can publicise the proposed new streets to be regulated [FCC Sec replied with details of Oxfangs Gala Day on 13 June].
- 20 Cllr Andrew Burns: Council Leader's Report for April.

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

App3: Community Planning and the Edinburgh Partnership

Aims

1. Why community planning?
2. What are the big national changes in community planning in recent years?
3. What is Edinburgh's response?
4. What are the consequent challenges for Community Councils and the EACC?

1. Why Community Planning?

- Wheatley Commission
- Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 – 9 regional councils, 53 districts, 3 island councils and Community Councils
- Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 – 32 councils in 1996
- Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 – Best Value, Community Planning and Power of Wellbeing
- Community Planning Aims – improve public service coordination, community engagement and links to national priorities
- Single Outcome Agreements
- Role of Audit Scotland and Scottish Government

2. The National Changes

- Christie Commission – Public Sector Reform
- Dr Harry Burns – Prevention and Health Inequality
- Community Planning Statement of Ambition
- National Community Planning Group
- Health and Social Care Integration – Localities
- Children's Services Integration
- Police, Fire, College and Criminal Justice Reform
- What Works Scotland
- Audit Scotland Community Planning Report
- New Community Plan Guidance
- Community Empowerment Bill
- Smith Commission

3. Edinburgh's Response

- Neighbourhood Partnership Review
- Local Community Plans 2014/17
- Revised Community Council Scheme
- Natural Neighbourhoods Project
- Total Place Projects
- Council Transformation Programme (formerly BOLD)
- COMPACT 10
- Integrated Joint Board for HSC

- Integrated Children's Services Board
- EP Board Community Plan and Governance Review

The Edinburgh Partnership: Arrangements 2015-2018

Edinburgh Partnership Board

Strategic Partnerships: delivering strategic priorities and incorporating prevention, sustainability and reducing poverty and inequality

Advisory Groups: providing information, advice and support

Localities: co-ordinating Partnership delivery of services co-produced with communities
(*Neighbourhood Partnerships*)

Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan Delivery

Community Plan Vision + Strategic Outcomes

Edinburgh is a thriving, successful and sustainable city in which all forms of deprivation and inequality are reduced

- Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential.
- Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all.
- Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health
- Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.

Neighbourhood Priorities

1. Improving employment opportunities
2. Building a healthier community
3. Supporting children, young people and families
4. Create safe clean and strong communities

City Wide Priorities

Tackling Poverty and Inequality:

1. Low pay and unemployment
2. Health inequalities / balance of care / drugs and alcohol misuse
3. Early support / children in need / positive destinations
4. Harm, violence and ASB / reoffending / community infrastructure / affordable housing / energy and environment

Agreed Common Areas for Localities Partnership Working

Neighbourhood Offices

North West

North East

South West

South East/Central

Neighbourhood Partnership Areas

Almond – Forth – Inverleith – West Edinburgh

Leith – Craigmillar/Duddingston – Portobello/Craigmillar

Pentlands – South West

City Centre – South Central – Liberton/Gilmerton

Prevention Plan

“Actions which prevent problems and ease future demand on services by intervening early, thereby delivering better outcomes and value for money”

The Challenges Ahead

- New EACC Executive
- EACC Representation on the Board
- EACC three year funding
- EACC Development Programme
- Community Empowerment Bill
 - participation requests
 - engagement and outcomes
 - asset transfer
- Relationship with third and community sector
- Community Councils and Localities – service delivery partner