

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 25 May 2015

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

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

Ex-officio Members: Cllr E Aitken.

Visitors: WPCs McGarvey/Dowie (Oxgangs Police Station).

Apologies: P Valentine; Cllr J Rust; Cllr R Lewis; N Peachey.

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 27 April 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 the two officers to the meeting and invited them to give their report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area since our last meeting.

WPC McGarvie reported that during this period there have been 162 incidents reported to Police. Between 25/04/2015 and 25/05/2015 there were 29 crimes recorded as having been committed in PF57 area, 12 of which have been solved, which is 41%, with the accused being reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter and the majority of the others have enquiries ongoing.

The recorded crimes can be broken down as follows:

- Vandalisms/malicious mischief – 6 (1 solved)
- Assaults – 5 (4 solved)
- Breach of the Peace/S38 – 4 (2 solved)
- Theft M/V – 3 (0 solved)
- Breach of bail – 3 (all solved)
- Communication offences – 2 (0 solved)
- Theft Others – 1
- Misuse of Drugs – 1 (solved)
- Opening a lockfast Place – 1
- Fraud – 1
- Serious assault – 1
- Sexual assault – 1 (solved)

- Housebreakings/attempt housebreakings - 0
- Road traffic offences - 0

There have been 162 incidents created for the PF57 area, which include Police generated activity and calls from the public (only 29 crimes recorded). This is similar to the PF58 and PF56 areas with 114 and 92 calls respectively.

In the Firrhill area itself, there are not many crimes reported. There was an incidence of vandalism at 4 Firrhill Loan on 17/05/15 whereby the front entrance door was smashed. Enquiries are ongoing.

There was a domestic incident on 28/04/15 at Aldermoor Avenue whereby a vandalism and S38 offences were detected and an ex-partner was shouting and swearing and kicking at the door. A report has been submitted to the PF.

A further domestic S38 was reported on 25/04/15 to Firrhill Drive, Edinburgh whereby there was shouting and swearing by an ex-partner. A report has been submitted to the PF.

Crimes of Note

On the 25th April a serious assault to place in Oxfangs Road North. The complainer was hit to the head with a bicycle frame. This is not an unprovoked attack by 2 suspects and it is believed this is as a result of outstanding debts. The complainer sustained a fracture to left wrist. Enquiries are still ongoing.

On the 26th April a motor cycle was stolen from Colinton Mains Road

On the 28th April a motor car was hotwired and stolen from Colinton Mains Drive

On the 12th May a 14 year old was stopped on Colinton Mains Terrace. He was searched and found in possession of herbal cannabis, approximately 1 gram with a value of £10-£15. A police warning was given.

On the 16th May a sexual assault was reported at Oxfangs Row and a case has been prepared to the Procurator Fiscal. In summary, the perpetrator was known to the victim and this occurred in a private dwelling. This was not a stranger attack.

On the 19th May a motor cycle was stolen from Oxfangs Farm Grove

There were 6 reported assaults, however all of which were known to the victim, to include family members and acquaintances. One of which was a domestic assault. There were no "random assaults" reported. 4 of the assaults have been solved with one having enquiries still ongoing.

6 Vandalisms have occurred, mainly the smashing of windows, a bus stop and a motor vehicle. A door also got kicked which was part of a domestic incident.

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

Councillors Aitken

The Cockit Hat Woodland

I received a complaint about the state of the woodland between Oxgangs Road North/Redford Road and Oxgangs Farm Avenue. It was extremely overgrown and had a large amount of litter.

I contacted Craig Dunlop, Community Parks Officer, who visited site to assess the general condition. A litter pick of the area was arranged and this was carried out by the South West Neighbourhood Task Force on Thursday 7 May 2015.

Craig also spoke with colleagues in the Forestry Section who will arrange for the fallen branch and any other necessary works carried out shortly. As part of this a condition survey of the woodland area will be undertaken to assess any additional works that are required to maintain the trees going forward.

Oxgangs Bank

I was notified that local youths had overturned a large trade waste bin which was full of glass. The youths then scattered the glass in the street and neighbouring gardens.

Council Community Safety Officers visited the site. The police and the School Link Officer have been informed and the owner of the trade waste bin is taking the actions necessary to prevent this happening again.

Walkabout

Last week, Lloyd Richardson, Roads Officer, and I undertook a walkabout in and around Oxgangs Crescent with a resident who uses a wheelchair. He highlighted a number of difficulties he experiences finding suitable crossing points and poor access at bus stops. As a result, new dropped kerbs and steps taken to improve access will be installed in various locations.

Oxgangs Broadway

In response to complaints, a number of problems were investigated:

- Oxgangs Broadway - damaged and crumbling walkway. This issue has been raised at the Oxgangs Walkabouts on a number of occasions. This section of walkway does not belong to CEC and is the responsibility of the shops along the south side. I believe this has in the past been brought to their attention, but nothing has been done.
- Oxgangs Broadway North Side - Missing bin cupboard doors. An inspection can be carried out of the bin cupboards belonging to the CEC flats and repairs carried out. However, due to the restrictions currently governing shared repairs, we would carry out work to the privately owned bin cupboards.
- Oxgangs Broadway - Courtyard. Boarded up windows and fallen lumps of concrete. It is the responsibility of the owners of the shops to carry out maintenance works to their properties.
- Oxgangs Broadway. Library path leading to the Broadway. A litter pick can be carried out on the Council side of the fence. Good Companions pub is responsible for maintaining the ground on the other side of the fence.
- Damaged railing around ornamental bed. CEC to instruct the damaged railing to be repaired.

The shrubs/grass in the four planted areas have now been cut and tidied up. Unfortunately, these areas have not been adopted by Task-force; therefore work is carried out on an ad hoc basis. Repairs

have been carried out to the area at the top of the steps at the East end of the precinct. The steps have also been repaired/overhauled.

Oxgangs Road North

An area of about fifty feet was dug up and patched less than two months ago by the bus shelter in Oxgangs Road North (by Cockit Hat) and already there are significant cracks and holes in this area. When I reported it, the Roads Officer in the South West Office was aware of it and the contractor will repair the defective area at their cost. This should be repaired within the next three weeks.

Oxgangs PS

A new Crossing Attendant has been recruited for Oxgangs Road North which will help the pupils to cross safely. Measures are being considered for other locations i.e. extending double yellow lines to protect sightlines.

Crime Prevention Panel

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th May 2015 at 7pm in Pentland Community Centre. All welcome.

Former Hunter's Tryst School Site

The marketing of the site is ongoing. There has been a reasonable amount of interest from developers for residential development. A closing date should be set by the end of June.

Councillor Lewis

Cllr Lewis submitted a report on some of the items he has been involved in as Convenor of the Culture and Sport Department of the City Council. His report was not received until after the meeting and was subsequently circulated to all members.

Ward issues raised by constituents with Cllr Lewis over the past few months were:

- Non collection of refuse;
- New kerbside recycling service;
- New street lighting lanterns;
- New 20mph rollout;
- Dog fouling;
- Planning concerns in relation to the Aldi Development;

PNP Reports

Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP): Road and Footpath Projects (JN)

The secretary and JN along with other CC representatives attended a meeting with the SW Roads Manager Andy Edwards on 13th May at the SW Office to discuss the new NEP process that would be applicable in Ward 8.

The Neighbourhood Environmental Programme for local improvements is administered by the Neighbourhood Partnership Offices which supports local activity. There are two funds, one for roads and footpaths and the other relates to housing estates. This meeting related to the arrangements for the selection of projects which will be funded from the roads and footpaths allocation.

The procedure for nominating local projects was developed in 2014 and invites any group or member of the public to pass on as much information as possible to either their local community

council (CC) or their local elected member. They can, if they wish, contact the Neighbourhood Manager or the South West Roads Team directly. Information required is;

- Street Name
- Location
- Plan
- Photograph
- Description of project

Any potential project could be raised with the Roads Team and a feasibility assessment would be carried out. The results of this process would be fed back to the CC's and the elected members.

Traditionally, meetings are held with elected officials and community representatives to consider which roads & footway (NEP's) on streets and parks will be taken forward. Any project that is put forward should meet the key criteria areas listed below before being considered. These areas are;

- **Satisfying Capital Spending Rules** – Best Value
- **Significant Environmental Feature** – Legislative Responsibility
- **Condition** – Duty of Care
- **Project Impact in Community** – Community support

It is now proposed that the selection process be amended to offer groups and elected officials more time to decide the project they would wish to see going forward. It should be noted however that the limits referred to in the report at our last meeting on this matter still applies, i.e., community councils, elected members and the Roads Team can only submit a maximum of 2 potential projects each.

In considering the revised process, we agreed opening the process to the wider community may result in good worthwhile projects being put forward that will benefit the local community. We also recognised that due to limited funds being available it was envisaged that such projects would be limited to approximately 2 per neighbourhood area.

New potential projects would be added to a list maintained by the Roads Team and scrutinised each year prior to selection. Projects on the list for a number of years may be dropped unless there was adequate support for maintaining them

Re the proposed project on the list concerning a footway improvement along section of Braidburn core path from St Marks School to Firrhill Park. We did not support this project at this time as there is a good footpath on the other side of the burn enabling people to bypass this area.

Alternative suggestions for consideration by FCC:

Colinton Mains Park: Improve play facilities for teenagers and children.

Renovate the disused toilet building in the centre of the Park.

Improve the service roads within Colinton Mains Park

Provide a screen along the edge of the footpath to the rear of the Good Companions. *Not supported as a NEP project.*

Also noted that the crash barrier on the corner of Colinton Mains Drive and Colinton Mains Green is in a disgraceful condition and severely in need of preservation work. Have sent an email asking if there are any plans for this to be carried out during this financial year? *Not supported as a NEP project.*

Action: Report discussed and noted.

Community Council Support and Development

The second session on Community Engagement was held on 20th May and attended by 3 members of the Community Council (LL, FG, & SD). This session was to look at what the expression means and on how Community Councils can effectively communicate with the communities they represent, gather their views and keep them informed, using a variety of methods.

In giving their report the members indicated they found it better than the previous session. It was held in the City Chambers' Business Centre and after an initial introduction into the subject matter, the audience were divided into smaller groups enabling everyone to contribute to the discussions.

Action: report noted.

Members Reports

Planning Report: (JN)

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

Treasurer's Report

Renewal of Insurance: LL reported she has checked the cost of renewal with the Insurance Company and on being advised the cost would be similar to last year, has instructed the CEC Community Council Liaison Officer for payment to be made. Awaiting confirmation.

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:

Oxgangs Walkabout 14th May: Report

JN attended this walkabout along with Alan Paterson, Environmental Warden and Kim Aitchison, the lead NP Officer.

Oxgangs Grove – noted a number of black bags containing garden waste left at recycling point. No containers available for garden waste. Also noted were a number of potholes at the entrance to the 2nd car park.

Oxgangs House – noted a large amount of litter trapped in the drying areas and moss on the footpath. Passed to South West Task Force for action.

Oxgangs Avenue – noted trailers at corner of Oxgangs Street, one in the car park and the other on the grassed area. An electric cable runs from flat No.8/5 Oxgangs Avenue to the other trailer.

Oxgangs street – noted items dumped o/s No. 16. Also noted the drying area next to this address was in need of a cleanup and a bed frame removed. Passed to the concierge for action.

Oxgangs Park – noted pavement defect o/s No.54 – passed to Roads for action

EACC Update (JN)

This month the main item of business concerned the rescheduled AGM and the nomination and election of office bearers. The adjourned AGM was held on 21st May and prior to this, Community Councils had been asked to submit nominations. Our nominations were:

- Chair: Michele Mulvaney as an independent

- Vice Chair: Helen Ogg, Juniper Green CC.
- Secretary: David Bewsey, Colinton CC.
- Treasurer: Judy Wightman, Ratho & District CC

The nominees for Chair and Secretary must have declined as their names were not included in the circulated list of nominees standing for election.

The main business of the adjourned AGM was the election, which was carried out by Michele Mulvaney, as an independent Chair and the following were duly elected:

- Chair: Eric Dobie, Gilmerton & Inch CC
- Vice Chair: Alistair McKillop, Currie CC
- Secretary: Geoff Pearson, Northfield & Willowbrae CC
- Treasurer: Judy Wightman, Ratho & District CC, (elected unopposed)

After the election the new office bearers took up their positions. The new Chair spoke of his aspirations for the Association and stated an intention to come back to the member Councils as soon as possible with a list of proposals for action.

Whilst Firrhill CC has not engaged with the EACC for many years, I do consider there is good reason for ensuring the continued existence of this forum and we should make every effort to support its aims and actions. It is unlikely a change in office-bearers will see a major revival but it might be enough to start it on the road. I hope the new officers take note of the points made during the January workshop and seek to avoid calling meetings without previously circulating appropriate documentation and seeking feedback on the business to be discussed.

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.

Letters being sent out to local businesses seeking asking for donations of sweets/prizes for the children and other goods, etc., for the raffle/tombola stalls. Flyers and posters advertising the event to be distributed to appropriate outlets.

Also reported that the Gala Action Group do not wish to constitute themselves as a separate organisation but would wish to remain under the umbrella of the Community Council as a sub group. This will require further consideration.

Action: report noted

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting (AGM):

The next meeting will be the AGM. After discussion it was agreed to put back the meeting, due to take place on 22nd June, to the following week to allow time for preparation.

DONM: Monday **29th June 2015** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at approx 9.00pm

App1: Planning Report

Planning Bulletins

- 05/05/15: no applications or decisions reported
- 11/05/15: 1 decision– application 15/00996/FUL for the formation of new opening and installation of French doors to dwelling flat at 13 Oxfangs Terrace was **granted**
- 18/05/15: no applications or decisions reported

Planning Committee: Local Development Plan (LDP)

Members may have noted the recent stories in the Edinburgh Evening News about the LDP. The initial story referred to discussions taking place on changes to the LDP which would allow the development scheme proposed by Murray Estates for the area referred to as Edinburgh's "Garden District" (or part thereof).

It turned out the Planning Committee more or less stuck to their original proposals and agreed the LDP should be moved on to be examined by the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government. However it also agreed to a motion to highlight to the Reporter possible changes to the plan as a result of representations made in which they see merit. One of which was the "Garden District" proposals and another related to the proposed development sites in the Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green areas.

It is unlikely the Planning Committee will come out unscathed from this exercise. Accusation will be made that they have avoided taking unpleasant decisions by passing the buck to the Reporter. I could not help feeling they were placed in this position by the Scottish Government in its demands for the Council to identify excessive amount of land for development. Thus enabling developers to cherry pick the sites which will give them the biggest return and making the local planning authority powerless to ensure areas of derelict land within the city will be developed.

Contrary to this opinion however is a paragraph on housing requirement in a Housing Land Study, published in June 2014, which states:

"These requirements are based on assumptions of economic recovery and a significant increase in house-building activity. The LDP aims to provide a flexible approach to meeting housing and supporting housing development. The Council sees no merit in introducing artificial phasing constraints on the release of LDP housing sites. The LDP therefore brings together the requirements for 2009 - 2019 and 2019 -2024 into one requirement of 29,510 for 2009 -2024."

We are perhaps fortunate that the brownfield sites within our area are at long last moving towards some form of development.

- The clearance and redevelopment of social work/church site at Oxfangs Path into a new Aldi store is expected to be started this year with completion sometime next year.
- The redevelopment of the brownfield site at Colinton Mains Drive may take a bit longer due to a recent EU hiccup but the necessary approvals for the new Health Centre has gone through all the bureaucratic processes and development is expected to start soon.
- The recent advertising of the brownfield site at Oxfangs Green may hopefully see this area developed in the not too distant future.

App2: Correspondence List

- 1 Breid Croal: confirmation that Firrhill CC Sec has signed up L Linn, S Duffy, F Gosney and J Burt for Community Engagement Support Session on 20 May, 6.15-8.30 pm.
- 2 Lindsay MacLean: **re Council and advertising partner JC Decaux starting programme to replace/improve bus shelters. Two in our area are included – at Colinton Mains shops and Oxbgangs Rd North. Takes about two weeks for foundations, electrics and installation; temp. bus stops will be put in place. Note: Council-owned bus shelters (no advertising) will be replaced in a future programme.**
- 3 Breid Croal re EACC Q & A Session on 25 April: summary of post-meeting discussion re voting (for/against e-mail voting) + other issues. Feedback: a) Election to be early in resumed AGM; b) Distance voting by email only supported 7:4; c) Each CC entitled to have one member on Exec C'ttee and may have a substitute; d) No hustings.
- 4 Wanted for Tablet for Healthy Ageing Study': people 65-75 yrs – memory/attention tests done before & after 10 week course (1 class per wk) using a tablet PC provided. If you are likely to be interested contact Ria Tel 0131 451 8009; e: vaportzis@hw.ac.uk
- 5 Scott Neill re **Transition Edinburgh Community Fair: Sat 30 May, 10am-3pm**; Thomson's Land, Moray House School, St John's St (between Holyrood Rd & Royal Mile): stalls; bring & share lunch; overview of Edinburgh Sustainable Energy Action Plan re food, waste, energy and transport.
- 6 **J Napier: his Proposed Revised Constitution for EACC.**
- 7 J Napier: emails sent to Roads in SW N'hood re our opinion that crash barrier at corner of Colinton Mains Drive/Green needs preservation work; covered in rust and needs treatment to stop corrosion + paint to enhance look of this serious eyesore. Reply: no current plans to renew or recondition this barrier, but SW Roads Officer has looked at it – does not know why that type of barrier was erected there (usually installed at locations where lorries etc could overturn). P Wright asked someone who lives there: was put in after a serious accident in early '90s – but may not be needed now, as road was reconfigured in late '90s when Tesco roundabout was made. Response: treating & re-painting would be as expensive as putting in a new barrier (but would be type usually found on corners in area).
- 8 SW Office re Proposed NEPs Projects for 2015-16. We still await confirmation as to whether our lighting project for Colinton Mains Park (Phase 2) will go ahead later in 2015.
- 9 f by H Levy: Statutory Consultation on proposed change to licence conditions for second- hand dealers: https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/licensing-conditions-for-second-hand-dealers/consult_view. Questions to 469 5774; e: Gordon.hunter@edinburgh.gov.uk
- 10 EACC Nominations put in by H Levy on behalf of Firrhill CC: Vice-Chair Helen Ogg, Juniper Green CC; Sec David Bewsey, Colinton CC; Treasurer Judy Wightman, Ratho CC
- 11 Breid Croal re National Confidential Forum for Scots who spent any time in care as children to share their experiences in a safe, non-judgemental setting. This Forum builds on the successful 'Time to be Heard' pilot of 2010. Info is on their website at www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk

- 12 Breid Croal: Women's Fund Grants up to £2k available for charities & community groups helping to improve women's health, well-being, employability, and moving on from violence. For info: www.womensfundscotland.org
- 13 Michael Edwards, SW Office: Consultation on Social Care Contribution-based Charging Policy arising from the laws Social Care (Self-directed Support)(Scotland) Act 2013. People will now have a personal budget based on assessment of needs, and the Council wants to hear views on how to work out how people can make a contribution to their personal budget.
<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/hsc/draft-contribution-based-charging-policy/>
- 14 Dr Edwards, SW Roads Manager re meeting to discuss Pentland New Roads & Footways NEPs Process, 13 May, SW Neighbourhood Office [J Napier & P Wright attending]
- 15 Kathryn Dolan: request to advertise Marie Curie Hospice Summer Fete, Saturday 6 June, 10 am to 12.30 pm [see Firrhill CC website's calendar page + poster]
- 16 f by Cllr Rust: Public Call for Evidence & Issues re investigation into Edinburgh Trams Project: a) what issues should the Inquire be investigating in detail; b) what direct evidence does the public have on the consequences of failure to deliver the project in time, with budget, and to the extent projected. Survey at www.edinburghtraminquiry.org; or Tel 0300 244 1940 (up to 4 Aug)
- 17 Police Scotland leaflets on personal safety, home and data protection [information is on Firrhill CC's website]
- 18 Edinburgh Living Streets Group 'Making Edinburgh fit for walking' launch event is on 1 June, 6-8 pm, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace.
- 19 Christopher Reay re People's Climate Assembly: 23 May, St Thomas of Aquin's.
- 20 Breid Croal: Mission Statements from nominees for EACC AGM.
- 21 Michael Edwards: papers for E & T meeting, 25 May [f. to J Napier, attending]
- 22 f. by Cllr Rust: Oxfangs Stopping Up Order: concerns raised by Jason & Cllr Aitken about access to library during Aldi development; confirmed that link bus will be maintained during construction; when immediately adjacent to access point Aldi will co-ordinate with library to minimise disruption. There will be pedestrian access at all times.

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