

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 29 June 2015

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

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

Resident Visitors: L Supron, Resident.

Other Visitors: Cllr Aitken; Cllr R Lewis; PC K Welsh, Oxfangs Police.

Apologies: Cllr Rust; R Kelk; N Peachey; L McGurk;

Non attendance: J Burt; G Duncan;

H Levy in the Chair.

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting:

The Chair advised that as the minutes of the last AGM were approved at the following meeting (Aug 2014) and have been available on the Firrhill Community Council website since that time, they were being presented for comment or discussion only and invited questions. No issues were raised.

Chair Report:

Welcome everyone to the 2015 Firrhill Community Council A.G.M.

We had our usual busy year and it is worth noting we are one of the few if not the only CC that meets all year round, every month the year 2014/15. We have community council members representing the people of the Firrhill ward on the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership and its various working groups – Community Safety; Infrastructure, Environment & Transport; Health & Well Being; Funding and the South West Area Board. We also have representation on the Hope Triangle Health group and Jim & I have been attending the EACC.

We have had a regular Police presence at our meetings and we are also very fortunate to have continued regular attendance, reports and support from our local councillors, Elaine Aitken, Jason Rust & Richard Lewis. I would remind people that a Police surgery is being held in Oxfangs Library on Wednesdays between 6-7pm. We had 3 new members although we lost one of them when they moved house outwith the Area. We held an End of Year evaluation in Dec 2014 for the first time which I felt was useful to keep us focused.

Events: Oxfangs Gala
Firrhill Diversity Day

Talks: Community Safety
Diversity talk from Firrhill High School

Petitions Officers
 Doorstep Crime
 Loops
 New Recycling System

Development: Firrhill Health & Social Care Centre
 Skate Park
 Aldi
 New Recycling Points

Issues: Domestic Abuse
 Flooding
 New LED Lighting

Partners:

Thank everyone for their ongoing support and advise that the July meeting be an evaluation of the Gala and hope to hold a hustings for the Scottish Elections- Hire the P.A system

Treasurer's Report:

Statement of Accounts from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance at Bank at 1 st April 2014	3235.08	Internet & Consumables	46.99
CEC Community Grant	623.60		
Total Income	3,858.68	Total Expenditure	46.99
		Balance in Bank 31 st March	3,811.69
		Total	3,858.68

Action: arrange for account to be audited – agreed to ask Eric Barry to oblige us again.

Election of Office Bearers:

Cllr Aitken took over the Chair for this part of the proceedings and expressed a vote of thanks to the outgoing office bearers for their work over the past few months since the last AGM. In respect of this she noted this was held in October 2013 and asked the outgoing office-bearers if they were willing to continue to continue in office for another year. PW gave notice she was willing to stand for re-election but this would be her last term. On this being affirmed she proposed that in order to progress the business of the meeting and subject to there being no dissent from the meeting that the previous office-bearers be re-elected for a further year. This was agreed.

Office-bearers are: Chair – H Levy Secretary – P Wright
 Treasurer – L Linn Minutes Secretary – J Napier

Presentation on the Oxfangs Gala

The Chair apologised but she was unable to give the intended presentation on the Gala. Due to technical difficulties, she had been unable to complete the PowerPoint presentation. As the Gala Organising Group members were also unable to attend this meeting, she proposed to defer it to the next meeting and to enable a full review it would be the only item on the agenda.

After a lengthy discussion, this was accepted.

Business Meeting

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for the meeting held on 25 May 2015 were missed out during the meeting and therefore not reviewed or approved. Min Sec has placed the draft minutes on the website for information and will seek the normal review and approval at the next meeting.

Matters Arising:

No matters arising

Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC Welsh to our meeting and invited him to give a police report for the Oxgangs area (Beat 57). PC Welsh reported that during the period between 25th May and 29th June, they recorded 215 incidents within the Firrhill/Oxgangs area of which 43 are deemed as crimes.

In regard to recent incidents of fire-raising, two young men have been charged with this and with breaking into CM Parish Church.

Housebreaking: during this month there were no reported incidents of this type of crime. Operation RAC, an initiative to target housebreakings in Edinburgh, is still continuing. Numerous offenders have been charged with housebreaking offences and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. We are working hard to reduce the number of housebreaking through prevention, gathering of intelligence and enforcement. Please continue to report any suspicious activity to the police.

Assaults: there were 3 minor assaults reported in June. In all cases the victim knew the assailants.

Road Safety: There were no major road safety issues in June, but several complaints about inconsiderate parking.

Theft: the following incidents were recorded:

- a slip-in theft at an address in Oxgangs Street on 6th June.
- reports of an attempted theft of a motorcycle also from Oxgangs Street;
- a theft of a trailer from Oxgangs Farm Grove;
- theft of a reclining garden chair from an address in Oxgangs Rise;
- two vans broken into in Oxgangs Road North, whereby tools were stolen, and
- a similar theft from a van in Oxgangs Bank.

Please be vigilant and remember to make sure that your house and car are secure at all times.

PV reported on the much needed door entry systems that were required in Oxgangs and on the delays which are occurring due to the Council's Housing Property Services dragging their feet as well as some property owners and landlords not showing any interest in progressing their installation.

EA reported the City Council seeking service level agreement with Police Scotland that will see a return of named community police officers assigned to city wards.

In the discussion it was noted that the building currently occupied as Oxgangs Police Station was bequeathed to the community by the last owner of Oxgangs Farm.

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.

Police Surgery – Wednesdays between 1700 hours - 1800 hours at Oxgangs Library.

Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, i.e., anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101 or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online [Giving Information Form](#).

Ward Councillors' and MSP Reports:

Councillor Elaine Aitken

Oxgangs Road North

Last month, I reported on defects in an area of about fifty feet by the bus shelter in Oxgangs Road North (by Cockit Hat). This repair has now been completed.

Crime Prevention Panel

The group met to discuss future plans and meetings. PC Kenny Welsh is now arranging the AGM.

Recycle delays

I've received many complaints about late collections. The delays were caused by a high number of vehicles being off the road.

LED Street Lighting

Following my complaints, I received this response:

"I can advise that a night time appraisal of the new lighting in Colinton Mains Road has been completed and this appraisal confirmed that this new lighting met the required British Standard for street lighting. However, taking due cognisance of concerns raised by residents, it was decided that the new lighting should be upgraded by increasing the light output from the new lights.

This work was subsequently completed and whilst accepting that the new street lighting materially changed the lit environment within Colinton Mains Road I trust that the recently completed remedial work has fully addressed residents' concerns."

Schools

Pentland PS: Inconsiderate parking by a small number of drivers is still causing problems. I am checking ownership of a parking area off Oxgangs Bank.

Following the complaint about cyclists travelling at speed on the paths to the school, I asked for signs to be installed warning that children used the route to school. The signage will highlight that this is a mixed used route and both cyclists and pedestrians should take caution.

Oxgangs PS: A new Crossing Attendant has started at Oxgangs and an extension to double yellow lines is under consideration.

St Mark's PS: I was delighted to be invited to present the awards at St Mark's Awards Assembly last week. The pupils had been very active with awards for swimming, life saving, football and cycling. I shared their excitement when the house awards were announced.

Firrhill HS: Head Teacher, Sarah Brown has left to take up the post of Head Teacher at Kinross High School. The post at Firrhill will be advertised after the summer break.

Hope Triangle Health Group

AGM is on Tuesday 7th July at 4.30 pm in the board room at Firrhill Neuk. All welcome. Jacqueline Kirkland, the new Development Worker, will talk about her work and plans for the Hope Triangle and the group.

Former Hunter's Tryst Site

The closing date for bids is 10th July.

PNP Reports

Community Safety Action Group: 1st June 2015

As there was no attendance at this meeting the following is based on the issued business papers.

Local Community Plan 2014 – 2017 : Actions

1. Publicise the service priorities set by the Action Group and increase input from the community.
2. Reduce fire-raising in Ward 8 (Fairmilehead / Colinton)
3. Tackle anti-social behaviour at Oxfords Crescent in Firrhill
4. Tackle dog fouling and litter, encourage use of parks for play and leisure, promote Friends of Parks groups and make recycling easier.

Dog Fouling Tracking System Presentation

A presentation was given in regard to a report on the subject of *Dog Fouling Prevention* which had previously been presented at the Transport and Environment Committee on 2 June 2015. It had been acknowledged more needs to be done and a refocused citywide dog fouling campaign will focus on enforcement. The approach will consist of a number of elements, including:

- A zero tolerance policy towards dog fouling;
- Examination of use of plain clothes wardens to catch offenders;
- Increased priority given to dog fouling by Environmental Wardens and through local Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPs);
- A high profile communications campaign, including chalk stencils in places where people have been issued with Fixed Penalty Notices;
- The use of Council and neighbourhood social media to highlight number of FPN's issued on a weekly basis;
- A education programme, with a schools poster campaign on the dangers of dog fouling;
- Harnessing community energy around this issue by piloting approaches in common grounds, alongside partner community groups; and
- Inclusion of dog fouling as a key part of the new Cleansing Strategy being developed by Waste Services.

Proposed Refocused Framework for Tackling Dog Fouling

The Council's objective is to operate a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling and will rigorously enforce this stance.

Legislation: Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 – this Act makes it an offence for any person in charge of a dog not to immediately pick it up and dispose of its fouling in an appropriate manner. This applies to ALL public places.

PNP Public Meeting: 16th June 2015

Meeting we held in the Gibson Craig Hall, Currie and attended by the Chair and JN. The main item of business was to present the Annual Review Report by the various Action Groups.

The Annual Review Report is on the PNP website at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3694/pentlands_neighbourhood_partnership

Community Grants Fund Report

The PNP Community Grants Fund revenue budget allocation in 2015/16 is £43,583 and a grant of £2,315 has already been awarded, leaving a balance of £41,268.

Applications received and settled:

60th Braids (Buckstone) Scout Group requested £4,292 to procure large tent, equipment and expenditure relating to transport and selected activities. Partial award - £3,340

42nd Pentland (Currie) Scout Group requested and received £1,500 to procure folding tables and chairs.

Impact Youth Club requested and received £1,150 to purchase equipment for the club.

Bernardo's Scotland requested £3,513 to carry out a number of landscaping projects as well as purchase of equipment and materials. Partial award - £730

Date of next PNP Public Meeting - 29th September 2015.

Members Reports

Planning Report:

The Planning Report was circulated at the meeting and is attached as [appendix 1](#).

Treasurer's Report

PA system: Members had previously agreed to this purchase. Chair indicated that whilst she had initially proposed this action, in exploring the costs and having experience of the system used for the Gala, she was now of the opinion that hiring one, as and when required, would be the better option. This was accepted.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received 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:

There were no matters raised under Any Other Business

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 27th July 2015 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 7.00pm.

Planning Report: June 2015

Planning Bulletins

- 26/05/15 1 application 15/02323/PNT - High Speed Broadband Project on behalf of BT Openreach at Telecoms Apparatus 26 Metres Southwest of 229 Oxgangs Road North. Permitted development recorded in bulletin dated 02/06/15.
- 1 decision – 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 Oxgangs Road North.
- 02/06/15: 1 application 15/02353/PNT – High Speed Broadband Project on behalf of BT Openreach at Telecoms Apparatus 50 Metres Southwest of 66 Oxgangs Farm Drive. Permitted development recorded in bulletin dated 09/06/15.
- 1 decision recorded, see application 15/02323/PNT above
- 09/06/15 no applications reported, 1 decision recorded see previous application.
- 16/06/15 no applications or decisions reported.
- 23/06/15 no applications or decisions reported.

Former Hunters Tryst Primary School site

The site is now being advertised for sale and development. Advised by Cllr Rust that a closing date for the site was set on 10th June with all bids to be received by 12 noon on Friday 10th July.

Development Plan Scheme May 2015

This is the Council's 9th Development Plan Scheme and replaces the one published in June 2014. The Development Plan Scheme sets out the updated programme for preparing Edinburgh's LDP.

The Local Development Plan accompanied by a summary of unresolved representations, is currently at a stage where it has been approved for submission to Scottish Ministers who will appoint a reporter to undertake an examination. The examination is to independently test the issues arising from the unresolved representations. It will focus on the issues raised rather than every individual representation. A report from the examination is expected within 6 to 9 months of submission.

SESplan : Main Issues Report

The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the first stage in the preparation of the second Strategic Development Plan (SDP). It is not a draft plan but sets out issues and options on how to plan for future growth in the region. It is a consultation document and is the primary opportunity for everyone to influence the next Plan. It raises key questions on the scale and direction of development over the next twenty years and beyond and how the infrastructure and services needed to support that development can be provided.

The consultation on the Main Issues Report will run from 21 July to 15 September 2015. SESplan have identified community councils in their list of stakeholder engagement activities and are intending to hold a consultation event in each Member Authority area.

Correspondence List: June '15

By e-mail: all messages forwarded to members with this facility; some transferred to website where appropriate.

- 1 Breid Croal: notes from EACC Question Time, 25 April, on Community Planning and Edinburgh Partnership.
- 2 Ria Vaportzis confirming receipt of FCC Sec's email re people interested in Tablet for Healthy Ageing Study + further info that participants will be divided into 2 groups after initial tests, one group to use tablets, the other not. Likely start July. [Study info sheet printed out.]
- 3 Geoff Pearson, new EACC Sec, querying how we wish to receive communications as he has no access to previous Sec's files at present [replied the Council's CC list is best for us].
- 4 Findlay Robertson: Amey is contracted by Transport Scotland to provide services relating to management and operation of Forth Bridges Unit, looking after bridge maintenance work and ensuring bridges and approach roads remain safe and well maintained. When the new Queens-ferry Crossing opens in Dec '16, this will be included in the Forth Bridges Unit, and the existing Forth Road Bridge will become a dedicated route for public transport.
- 5 Gordon Macdonald MSP: monthly report for May.
- 6 Breid Croal re Licensing in Edinburgh. Alcohol focus Scotland is working the Edinburgh Drug & Alcohol P'ship on a project to reduce alcohol harm. A main priority is supporting communities to influence availability of alcohol in their area. AFS will provide guidance re objecting to licence applications, including how communities can gather evidence:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/89510.asp>
- 7 Cllr Lewis: Young People's Survey re possible skateboarding in Colinton Mains Park, aiming to gather views of around 200 local young people (until 26 June only).
- 8 Breid Croal: public consultation re NHS Catering Strategy aiming to transform catering services: cateringstrategy@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk
- 9 Breid Croal: power point slides used at Community Engagement Training event in May [pros & cons of different engagement techniques printed out].
- 10 Yvonne Georgeson re volunteers recruitment campaign for Care & Repair Edinburgh: charity service for older residents, from small repairs by volunteers to larger works by professionals Tel: 0131 337 1111; email: reception@careandrepaiiredinburgh.org.uk
- 11 Michael Edwards: papers for Pentlands NP Public Meeting (16 June, Currie).
- 12 FCC Sec sent request to Insp Duffie & Sgt Richardson for Police Report given at our May meeting (no response had been received to JN's previous e-mail).
- 13 Cllr Rust re Hunters Tryst site: closing date for bids is Friday 10 July.
- 14 Breid Croal re Community Empowerment Bill – Stage 3 Amendments – lodged by Marco Biagi MSP relating to Community Planning; Participation Requests; Asset Transfers; Non- Domestic Rates; Community Right to Buy; Allotments.
- 15 Breid Croal: EACC Questionnaire from Eric Dobbie, Chair [to be completed and returned by HL and/or JN for next EACC meeting on 25 June].
- 16 Cllr Rust forwarding response from Street Lighting re his enquiry about complaints from Colinton Mains Rd residents. Appraisal confirms this meets required BS for street lighting, but light output has been increased there anyway.

- 17 Cllr Rust: matter raised by him with Council Leader re new Health Centre delays. Reply from John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister: NHS Lothian and Scot Gov remain committed to this project, due to reach financial close this year. His officials are working with the ONS re clarification of interpretation of the Eurostat ESA10 classification rules introduced in Sept '14 so that affected projects can move forward.
- 18 Cllr Burns: Council Leader's June Report, including (a) making progress on business case (expected in autumn) for extension of tram route to Leith; (b) essential savings by CEC of £107m over next 5 yrs; (c) new online directory 'Trusted Traders Edinburgh': contractors who have been checked out by CEC Trading Standards.
- 19 Cllr Ian Perry: invitation to Community Event re new Strategic Development Plan Main Issues Report (MIR), the consultation document setting out key challenges facing Edinburgh Region (Edinburgh City, Lothians, Borders & Fife) re the scale and direction of development and how the infrastructure and services needed can be provided by these councils. Start of Consultation 20 July; event on 1 July, City Chambers [HL, JN, LL & FG booked for this].
- 20 Julie Dickson from Scottish Civic Trust re new award scheme for heritage volunteers: <http://www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk/> for info (closes 30 June).
- 21 Andy Edwards/PW/JN: various emails re traffic barrier at corner of Colinton Mains Drive/ Green: this has been assessed as unnecessary (but will be re-assessed) and may be removed when resources allow.
- 22 James Harbison: Aldi alcohol licence approved at CEC Board meeting on Monday.
- 23 Scott Neill re July Pentland Digest: articles wanted, 150-250 words + photo re project showing partner collaboration, by Frid 10 July [Oxgangs Gala Day?]
- 24 Sean Webster, CEC: Edinburgh Sports Awards '15 – nominations for sports coaches/ clubs/volunteers for year to 31 July '15. Forms (to be in by 3 August) available from <http://www.clubspotedinburgh.org/page/EdinburghSportsAwards.php>
- 25 Breid Croal: Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill passed by Scot Pmnt, 17 June (see Scottish Parliament's website for details).

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