

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 24 August 2015

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

Members: P Wright (Sec); J Napier (Min Sec); L Linn (Treasurer); S Duffy; F Gosney; J Burt.

Ex-officio Members: Cllr Aitken; Cllr J Rust; PC G Howie (Community Police Officer).

Visitors:

Apologies: H Levy (Chair); Cllr R Lewis.

J Napier took over the Chair in the absence of the Chairperson, and welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for their attendance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was agreed the meeting held on 27 June 2015 would be devoted to reviewing the Oxgangs Gala and the Chair (HL) is to provide a note of that debate. In order to record the meeting, its attendance and the report given by the Police, the Minute Secretary has provided a draft minute for members to review. The papers circulated by the Secretary prior to the meeting will be attached to the minute along with the note of the debate. This was accepted and there being no corrections the minutes as presented were moved for approval by LL, seconded by FG and agreed.

No matters arising.

Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC G Howie to the meeting and invited him to give a report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area for the last reporting period. Noted that the system has changed and the reporting period would be the previous month – in this case July.

Housebreaking

During July 2015, there was 1 domestic housebreaking and 1 business housebreaking in PF57 area. There was also a business housebreaking with intent to steal on 17th July.

Week commencing 13th July – HB Business @ Oxgangs Primary School; HBWI @ St.John's Church, Oxgangs Road North

Week commencing 27th July – HB @ Oxgangs Street

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.

Assault

There were 5 minor assaults reported in July. In all cases the victim knew the assailants.

A male was arrested for indecent behaviour in Colinton Mains Drive on 22nd July.

Road Traffic Matters

There were no road safety issues other than several complaints about inconsiderate parking.

Thefts

3rd July - theft from an address in Firrhill Drive.

13th July - Overnight there was a theft from a garden shed and from an address in Firrhill Loan and two further crimes of dishonesty, including theft of a Mountfield Lawnmower from Colinton Mains Road and a computer hard drive from Oxfords Bank.

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

Community Policing Team

Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers – PC Howie provided a hand-out on this subject titled “*Keep Safe from Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers*”. The Police are keen to maintain people’s awareness of this crime. Acknowledged Firrhill Community Council does cover this matter on its website with links to the Police site. The Chair indicated that the community council are considering putting out a newsletter later this year primarily to cover the Oxfords Gala and this subject could be one of the articles in the circular. (See appendix 1 for copy of hand-out.)

Action: JN to check website and update as necessary

Housebreakings - Operation RAC, a Police Scotland initiative to target housebreakings in Edinburgh, is continuing. This involves dedicated Housebreaking Team officers, supplemented by uniformed officers and plain clothed officers working in key locations at key times of day. Roads Policing (Traffic) officers are also being utilised for their advanced driving skills.

Numerous offenders, both adult and juvenile, have been charged with housebreaking offences and reported to the Procurator Fiscal or Childrens’ Reporter.

Forensic evidence obtained from housebreakings or recovered stolen vehicles, is now being fast-tracked to obtain quicker DNA results.

Police Scotland is working hard to reduce the number of housebreaking through prevention, gathering of intelligence and enforcement. Please report any suspicious activity to the police.

Should you wish to contact the Community Policing Team, you can do so by email at EdinburghCPTColintonFairmilehead@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 Rust

1. The **Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland** is undertaking its periodical review of local government ward boundaries in Scotland and is now consulting publically on its proposals. In terms of the proposals for our ward, Ward 8, Firrhill High School is to be moved from the Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart to join our ward. This makes sense and simply tidies the northern boundary. The other change is to the western boundary, splitting Colinton and removing the Hailes and Spylaw areas to ward 2, Pentland Hills which becomes a four member ward. I am objecting to this proposal along with local residents, Colinton Community Council and Colinton Amenity Association. The proposals would remove Colinton Parish Church, Colinton War Memorial, Colinton Cemetery, the Robert Louis Stevenson statue and part of the Heritage Trail from our ward. Spylaw Park would also be removed and the conservation area would be split between wards. Hailes and Spylaws are part of the Council's "Natural Neighbourhood" of Colinton and have long been considered part of our area. Residents have until 22nd October to make comments on the proposals.
2. The site of the former **Hunters Tryst Primary School** now has a preferred bidder and negotiations are underway. Hopefield Partnership has a proposal for the development of 79 houses for affordable tenure, in conjunction with a housing association. I have raised with Estates the importance of an access through the site from the Oxfangs Green side to the shops and also discussed the wellheads with them.
3. Interviews for the new **Firrhill High School** Head Teacher are due to take place in Sept 2015.
4. I attended the Civic Reception for **Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre's** 20th anniversary at the City Chambers at which the Lord Provost congratulated the staff, volunteers and centre- users.
5. The next public meeting of **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership** is on Tuesday 29th September 2015 at the Gibson Craig Hall in Currie. The next again after that will be at the Pentland Centre on Tuesday 15th December, both at 7pm.
6. There have been parking issues at **Firrhill Park**. I have been in touch with the roads department and local residents.
7. The "**Aldi site**" remains within the joint ownership of City of Edinburgh Council and the Church of Scotland due to ongoing legal issues. I have requested a tidy of the site meantime given complaints.
8. Paul Lawrence has been appointed as the **Executive Director of Place** at City of Edinburgh Council. This role will oversee roads and pavements, street cleansing, refuse collection and housing.
9. I am attending a workshop on CCTV on Thursday. It is aimed at improving and better integrating public space CCTV across Edinburgh.

Councillors Aitken

Recycle delays

Once again, I've received many complaints about late collections. Also, the bottle banks at Harperrigg Way were not being emptied. I reported this and, hopefully, they will be emptied on schedule.

Schools

Pentland PS –

- Parking will be assessed again now that the double yellow lines have been installed in Oxfangs Green.

- Three new classrooms have been installed to help

Firrhill HS: interviews for the Head Teacher will take place in September.

Hope Triangle Health Group

Following the AGM, a number of members put forward some ideas for works in the Hope Triangle and ideas for speakers and health topics. A worker from RSPB approached Jacqueline Kirkland, the new Development Worker, to discuss some partnership working as part of their "Giving Nature a Home" initiative.

Pentland Community Centre

Members of the Management Committee will be attending meetings to discuss potential new ways of working following cuts to CLD staff.

ALDI Development

Further site investigations were done at the end of July. When the legals have been concluded, the site will be passed to ALDI.

Former Hunter's Tryst Site

Following the closing date for the sale of the former Hunter's Tryst Primary School site in Oxbgangs Green on 10th July, preferred bidder status has been awarded to Hopefield Partnership.

Hopefield's proposal is for the development of 79 houses for affordable tenure, in conjunction with a housing association.

Six bids were received at the closing date, all for residential developments. Two of the six bids offered a mix of affordable and private housing however both of these bids were based on a lower number of units and consequently at a substantially lower potential receipt than that offered by Hopefield.

Legal discussions to conclude a missive for the development of the site, which will contain strict timescales on the developer in terms of site investigations, submission of planning application etc, are ongoing.

Pentland View Close Support Unit

The closing date for offers for the property has passed and 18 offers were received, all for residential use. Officials are now carrying out a best value analysis and the preferred bidder should be known in a few weeks.

Boundary Commission Proposals Consultation

Changes to the Council ward have been proposed. These include including Firrhill High School within the ward. But the Boundary Commission also propose moving properties in Hailes and The Spylaws to the Pentland Hills Ward increasing the number of residents in the ward and increasing the number of Councillors to 4. One of the consequences is that Colinton Parish Church would no longer be in Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward. It also breaks up a natural neighbourhood.

Colinton Amenity Association plans to lodge an objection and it has been discussed at Colinton Community Council. Fairmilehead Community Council meets on 1st September and will consider the proposals then.

Items raised by members:

SD raised concerns about the difficulty she and her neighbours had when the bin men somehow managed to put two communal bins in one bin store leaving their store empty.

PW raised concerns about the lack of maintenance to the garden area in front of the new Pavilion at Colinton Mains Park.

Action: Councillors to raise with relevant departments.

Members Reports

Planning Report: (JN)

Planning Bulletins

27/07/2015 no applications or decisions reported.

04/08/2015 Application 15/03358/FUL to widen existing driveway with a drop kerb at 100 Colinton Mains Road.

Application 15/03555/PNT to install high speed broadband cabinets at COLINTON Exchange for the High Speed Broadband Project on behalf of BT Openreach at Proposed Telecoms Apparatus 27 metres southeast of 5 Firrhill Drive. Permitted development approved 17/08/2015.

10/08/2015 Application 15/03567/FUL to erect a single storey extension to the side and rear of the property at 81 Colinton Mains Road. The proposal links to a separate application to No 83 which is the upper villa and is owned by the same person.

Application 15/03568/FUL for an extension to the first floor over the proposed ground floor extension to no 81 which is owned by the same company at 83 Colinton Mains Road. Redcroft Care Ltd., FAO: Mr Rajan Mawjee, 267 Redford Road

17/08/2015 no applications, 1 decision reported – see application 15/03555/PNT above.

Information Note: Redcroft Care Services are a private organisation providing care services to adults with Learning Disabilities, Special Needs and Complex Health Needs in Edinburgh and the Lothians. It currently consists of 3 houses, Redcroft House, Lundie House and the Annex. Redcroft House can take up to 9 Service Users. Lundie House has 5 Service Users and the Annex can take 2 Service Users. The Homes are situated in the suburbs of South West Edinburgh. Future developments include services in Colinton, Oxgangs, Kirkliston and in Mid Lothian.

Action: no action, there are no concerns about this property development?

SESplan: Main Issues Report (MIR)

Members were reminded that the MIR consultation exercise is due to close on **15th September**.

To assist members, a new sub page has been created under the “Consultations” webpage on the website to provide access to information relevant to this consultation. A copy of the SWCF note of their 1st July meeting has also been put on our “Reports and Minutes” page for members.

Action: Members to take away the paper provided (see appendix 2) for the meeting and consider the options set out. In order that a collective response can be made on behalf of Firrhill Community Council, members should send their responses to JN. This does not exclude individual members making their own response to any or all of the options.

Planning and Building Standards – customer engagement

In June this year the Planning Committee approved a draft *customer engagement strategy* which explains how they intend to engage and communicate with all of their customers. They are also proposing changes to their *customer charter*, which sets out the level of service the public should expect from them.

These changes are due to a number of factors such as increasing demand, how customers access the service and how they can continue to improve performance.

There are two short surveys on the draft *engagement strategy* and revised *customer service charter* and they would appreciate our views on both.

Hunters Tryst Primary School Site¹

Following the closing date for the sale of the former Hunter's Tryst Primary School site in Oxgangs Green on 10th July, preferred bidder status has been awarded to Hopefield Partnership².

Hopefield's proposal is for the development of 79 houses for affordable tenure, in conjunction with a housing association.

Six bids were received at the closing date, all for residential developments. Two of the six bids offered a mix of affordable and private housing however both of these bids were based on a lower number of units and consequently at a substantially lower potential receipt than that offered by Hopefield.

Legal discussions to conclude a missive for the development of the site, which will contain strict timescales on the developer in terms of site investigations, submission of planning application etc., are ongoing.

Action: Report noted

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave a breakdown of the transactions recorded covering the Gala period and noted the sum of the receipts received exceeded the sum of the cheques paid out. Still waiting on the income received from the tombola, etc.

Total in Bank @ 29/04/2015		£5,511.69	(£3,811.69 + £1,700.00 Gala Grant)
Income:	Annual Administrative Grant	623.60	(recd 6 th August 2015)
	SPCA	10.00	(Gala donation - banked)
	DunedinCanmore	100.00	(Gala donation - banked)
		£733.60	
Total Income:		£6245.29	
Gala Expenditure to date		1,231.20	
Sum paid out by cheques		1,131.85	(for Gala expenditure)
Sum still to be reimbursed		99.35	

¹ Information obtained from Graeme McGartland | Acting Principal Project Manager | Estates Services | Corporate Property | Services for Communities

² Website: www.hbjgateleywareing.com

Other Expenditure:	20.00	(Garden Party Transport)
Total Expenditure	£1,151.85	
Cash in Bank:	£5,093.44	@ 28/08/2015

Action: Treasurer to confirm with Chair above statement and reimburse as appropriate, any outstanding transactions.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence processed during this reporting period is attached as appendix 3. For more detail on any of the correspondence listed contact the Secretary, Peggy Wright; Tel: 531 9796; email: peggy.wright@live.co.uk.

AOCB:

Seagulls

JB asked if there was any action the City Council could take to deal with aggressive seagulls. EA responded that the gulls were protected by law, therefore there was little the City Council could do. In discussion it was noted that the community could help itself by disposing of food waste properly and thus discourage gulls from flying in this area.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Monday, **28th September 2015** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at approx 9.00pm.

App 1: Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers

Keep Safe from Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers

What is doorstep crime?

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative and often very convincing.

Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con artists. However, the over 60s are often specifically targeted.

What types of doorstep criminals are there? There are two main types:

Bogus callers try to get into your home or obtain personal details by pretending to be someone they're not, including council staff, charity collectors, meter readers and police officers. In reality, they are criminals trying to steal money and valuables.

Rogue traders usually cold-call, claiming to be workers offering to sell services, make repairs or carry out work on your house, garden or driveway. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or unnecessary work.

We **DO NOT** recommend dealing with cold-callers for property maintenance and home repairs.

How can I spot a Rogue Trader?

- They may tell you the work is urgent and needs to be carried out immediately.
- They will normally ask for payment there and then and may offer to come to the bank with you if you don't have the cash at hand.

How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly.
- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar - use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment and you have confirmed they are genuine.
- Always ask for identification badges of anyone you answer the door to, but don't rely on them. Identity cards can be faked - phone the company to verify their identity.
- Some companies offer a password system. Ask your utility providers if this can be used and if you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.

- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home even if they are asking for help - they may not be genuine. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Remember, it's your home. There's no reason why anyone should ever enter your home against your wishes.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

For more information about how to secure your home and the property within it, see our advice on how to Keep Your Home Safe

What else can I do to stop being defrauded by a Rogue Trader?

Trading Standards advice is:

- Don't feel pressurised into agreeing to immediate work or buying a product or service.
- Don't agree to buy from the first person who calls.
- Don't pay cash up front or offer to go and get money.
- Shop around if you decide you need work done.
- Ask what your cancellation rights are.
- Report them.

What action should I take if someone visits me and I think they're a doorstep criminal?

- Keep the caller out of your house, ask them to leave and call the police immediately by dialling 101.
- You might also want to try to alert a family member or attract a neighbour's attention but you should always contact the police first by dialling 101. The police would much rather attend a false alarm than have someone fall victim to a doorstep criminal.
- If the person refuses to leave your door, or you feel threatened or scared - Call 999 and ask for the police.
- Note down their description and the description of any vehicle they're using, including make, model, colour and registration number.

How can I protect my family, friend and neighbours?

Discuss the advice on this page with family, friends or neighbours who are older or vulnerable. There are also other things you can do to help protect them against bogus callers - everyone has a part to play to keep the community safe.

- Keep an eye out for strange vans in your neighbour's driveway.
- Make sure your relatives are not regularly taking large amounts of cash out of the bank.
- Make arrangements to ensure your relative's house looks well maintained and, for example, that it is not immediately obvious that an older person lives there alone.
- Doorstep criminals will often target the same victim more than once, so be particularly alert if someone has previously been a victim.
- Police Scotland has a 'Nominated Neighbour Scheme' which can assist those who prefer not to answer the door to those they don't know. Read our Nominated Neighbour leaflet.
- Look out for your community and report any suspicious activity immediately to Police Scotland on 101 or your local authority Trading Standards.
- For more information on doorstep crime or assistance regarding home security contact your local Community Policing Team on 101.

MIR Consultation: Options

Below is a list of the options contained in the Easy-Read version of the MIR. To each option the same basic question is asked – “do you support the preferred option, the alternative option or none of the options?” The easy-read version of the MIR provides only a summary of the detail contained in the MIR and its many supporting documents.

The SESplan Vision:

The Vision for SDP2:

“The south east Scotland region is a thriving, successful and sustainable area in which all forms of deprivation and inequality are reduced and the region is internationally recognised as an outstanding area to live, work and do business. We will build on the strengths of all parts of the region and identify opportunities for growth and development while conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment.”

Options

- A. The preferred option for the vision is set out above. It aims to build on the strengths of Edinburgh and South East Scotland, address its challenges and set a clear direction for its future growth.
- B. The alternative option is that we maintain the vision of SDP1 which was ‘By 2032 the Edinburgh City Region is a healthier, more prosperous and sustainable place which continues to be internationally recognised as an outstanding area in which to live, work and do business’.

The Spatial Strategy

This chapter looks at how the plan can best support sustainable economic growth in the region. Three options are presented with each addressing growth in a different way.

Options

- A. The preferred option is Option 3- Growth Corridors.
- B. The alternative option is Option 1 – Concentrated Growth.
- C. Option 3 – Distributed Growth.

A Place to do Business

This chapter deals with employment, tourism, minerals, waste and renewable energy.

Options

- A. The preferred option is to identify significant business clusters which reflect the different economies of the city, towns and rural areas in the region.
- B. The alternative option is to limit the identification of business clusters to Enterprise Areas, National Renewable Infrastructure Plan sites and groups of industries identified as growth sectors by Scottish Enterprise.

Visitor Economy

Option

- A. The preferred option is for Local Development Plans to safeguard nationally and regionally important tourism and recreation development and emerging tourism opportunities.

Wind

Question

Do you support the emerging content of Strategic Development Plan 2 relating to wind energy?

Minerals

Options

- A. The preferred option is to continue the approach of the first plan and identify areas of search for aggregate minerals and surface coal mining areas or where appropriate specific sites. There will be no spatial guidance on the location of onshore oil and gas installations.
- B. The alternative option to identify broad areas of search for aggregate minerals and surface coal mining across of the region based on environmental factors. Areas will be further defined by Local Development Plans.

A Place for Communities

This chapter looks at the predicted number of houses required over the 20 year plan period, and where the need and demand for houses occurs. It also considers affordable housing needs, town centres and green networks.

Options

The option we prefer is to base the housing numbers on economic growth continuing at a steady pace. This provides the housing figures for Option 1. Options 2 and 3 set higher figures but these are considered unrealistic for a number of reasons, including issues with delivery.

Question

As the basis for deriving the housing supply targets and housing land requirements within Strategic Development Plan 2, do you support the preferred option, either of the alternative options or none of the options?

Housing in Edinburgh

Options

- A. The preferred option is option 2 - Edinburgh meets an increased proportion of its own housing need.
- B. An alternative is option 1 - Edinburgh meets all of its own housing need.
- C. Another alternative is option 3 - Edinburgh meets a lower proportion of its own housing need.

Affordable Housing

Options

- A. The preferred option is to direct Local Development Plans to require a 25% minimum of the total number of houses provided on a site to be affordable but allow plans to vary this where justified by local needs.
- B. The alternative option is for Local Development Plans to seek minimum levels of affordable housing above 25% to meet identified need with no flexibility for local circumstances.

Town Centres

It is proposed to retain a town centre first policy, whereby retail and certain commercial uses are directed to town centres. It is proposed to extend this to include a wider range of uses. Other uses which will be encouraged in town centres including office, leisure and housing in order to create vibrant town centres.

Green Networks

Options

- A. a The preferred option is to identify priority areas for green networks in the Strategic Development Plan.
- B. b The alternative option is to support a strategic green network but with the identification, prioritisation and development undertaken by Local Development Plans.

A Better Connected Place

This chapter looks at how we can encourage more people to walk, cycle or use public transport and ensure that development supports improved public transport and infrastructure.

Option

- A. The preferred option is to amend parts of Policy 8 in the first plan to better direct development areas that support walking, cycling and public transport.
- B. The alternative option is to retain Policy 8 of the first plan without modification.

Funding Transport Infrastructure

Option

- A. a The preferred option for member authorities is to work towards developing sub-regional development contribution framework. This could pool contributions from a number of authorities to support strategic infrastructure with benefits to the wider area.
- B. b The alternative option is to maintain the current position and seek developer contributions on a case by case basis.

Transport Priorities

Options

- A. The preferred option is for SDP2 to prioritise infrastructure to ensure delivery of key projects to maximise economic potential, enable planned development and increase accessibility by sustainable transport networks.
- B. The alternative option is to identify a long list of strategic transport infrastructure priorities without prioritisation.

Report summary.

If you want further information on the issues raised you can read the Main Issues Report in full and reference the supporting documents via the further reading links.

You can respond to the questions raised here via the SESplan Consultation Portal available on our webpage. All responses must be complete by 30 September 2015.

Correspondence List: August 2015

- 1 P Valentine, Firrhill CC: offensive graffiti on old changing block in park, reported by her to SW Roads Team, has been painted over. Also, bent lamp standard in park has been removed and should be replaced soon.
- 2 P Valentine, Firrhill CC re query about new LED lighting in stairs: only fully Council owned having first, then may be installed in majority Council, then 50/50 with private ownership, then minority Council. Cllr Aitken is looking into this further, as contract has been questioned by Councillors.
- 3 SESplan Main Issues Report Consultation: CCs (south) event: 9 Sept, 6-8 pm, City Chambers [or 3 Sept (city-wide), 6-8 pm, Waverley Court]
- 4 Breid Croal: EACC Minutes of meeting on 25 June.
- 5 M Edwards: re Living Landscapes Photo Competition (until 11 Sept): take a photo of the city's natural beauty, eg, a floral meadow in bloom; email photo to parks@edinburgh.gov.uk; public will vote on Edinburgh Outdoors facebook page from 16-23 Sept.
- 10 Breid Croal: Community Payback Unpaid Work - important in helping offenders reintegrate into society; Consultation at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CPOconsultation. ^
- 11 M Edwards re Proposal of Application Notice - Miller Homes: land to east of Winton Gardens; Public Exhibition in Fairmilehead Church: 25 August, 3.15-7.30 pm.
- 12 Findlay Robertson, Amey, re essential road maintenance on **Dreghorn Spur overbridge** from 17 Aug for approx. 6 wks: bridge will be closed; diversion to Lothianburn Junction,
- 13 Breid Croal - no longer **CCs Liaison Officer** from 14 Aug; Tel: 469 5393, or emails to community.councils@edinburgh.gov.uk.
- 14 Aiden Wilson: plans for **vegetation removal** are being prepared for 12 sites across the city, mainly bridges including George IV Bridge & South Bridge; pedestrian access maintained.
- 15 Cllr Andrew Burns: **Council Leader's report** for August.
- 16 J Napier, Firrhill CC: his response to David Bewsey, Colinton CC's thoughts on **EACC's Communications Group** role.
- 18 Scottish Gov's **Fairer Scotland Engagement Fund**: to help groups of volunteers run events where discussion will take place on how to make Scotland a fairer place to live in all respects; up to around £300 per event; www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk Tel: 01383 620780.
- 19 **PC Graeme Howie**: he and PC Sonja Kaiser are now the two Council-funded officers for our area and one will try to attend each of Firrhill CC's meetings from now on. The Police Report will be completed up to the end of each month and forwarded to us.
- 20 J Napier. Firrhill CC: requests to Graeme McGartland and FOI for update on sale of land at former **Hunters Tryst Primary site**, as closing date for tenders is now well past.