

# Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 28 September 2015

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

## Attendance and Apologies:

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

**Ex-officio Members:** Cllr R Lewis; PC G Howie (Oxgangs Police Station).

**Visitors:** J Kirkland (NHS Community Development Worker); L McGurk; S Campbell (Residents)

**Apologies:** F Gosney; P Valentine; Cllr E Aitken; Cllr J Rust; N Peachey; R Kelk.

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 24 August 2015 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by PW, seconded by LL and agreed.

## Matters Arising:

### Doorstep Crime / Bogus Callers

Confirmation that safety information contained in the police hand-out received at the last meeting was held on the relevant web pages of the community council's website. (JN)

### Issues raised by members

1. Communal Bins: raised by SD as a complaint about the failure of the bin men to replace the communal bin to its storage cupboard at her stair and the hassle it caused. Cllr Aitken was to make the Cleansing Department aware of it and ask for more care in the future. Matter closed
2. Pavilion Landscaping: raised by PW as an ongoing complaint about the lack of maintenance to the planted area in front of the Pavilion, the excessive amount of weeds now spreading into the adjacent and well maintained church gardens. Cllr Rust has contacted Environmental Services, and received the following response:

*"Due to the current workload and pressure on the resource arising from the growing season and need to keep the grass cutting operation at an acceptable standard, we cannot commit to works to this area prior to the end September/ October (depending on the overall weather experienced).*

*Once the grass cutting programme eases, we will ensure that this area is attended, weeded and generally smartened up."*

Members expressed their dissatisfaction that this new development had been approved by the Authority without sufficient means to maintain it and considered such landscaping unacceptable in such circumstances.

*Action: Cllr Lewis to discuss with the appropriate Services for an alternative landscaping design to remove/reduce the need for maintenance*

## **Planning Consultations**

1. SESplan – Main Issues Report: to be covered under the Planning report
2. The Edinburgh Planning Concordat: to be covered under the Planning report

## **Oxgangs Gala**

Matter to be taken as part of the Treasurer's report.

## **NHS Community Development Worker**

Jacqueline Kirkland is the new NHS Community Development Worker (CDW) service for this area, providing support for local people. CDWs work in a number of different ways to challenge discrimination and stigma, and to promote mental wellbeing across the area.

CDWs can answer any questions you might have about mental health or any other well-being concerns and can tell you about local services that are available in your area:

- Help you to access mental health services appropriate to your needs
- Ensure your cultural needs are met when accessing statutory services
- Provide you with a range of self-help materials that can help with milder forms of anxiety, depression and stress
- Provide links to agencies who can help you with employment, benefits, childcare and education  
Provide training/workshops regarding mental health to Black & Minority Ethnic and voluntary organisations
- Start groups/clubs to address any issues

Jacqueline currently runs a health and well-being drop in service in Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesdays 11-1pm. She also runs Oxgangs gets Healthy a healthy living support group to help people eat and feel better: Tuesday evenings, 6.30-8pm, at Pentland Community Centre.

Part of Jacqueline's duties is also to support the Hope Triangle Heath Group (HTHG). If you live in the Oxgangs/Firrhill/Colinton Mains area and want to be involved with the continuing progress of the Hope Triangle, or want to raise local health and well-being issues, please contact her at

[Jacqueline.kirkland@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.kirkland@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk), or call/text 07866940043,

or drop in and see her at the drop-in service.

For those who are worried about heating the home this winter, she has also arranged to give a talk on heating your home and give some practical advice on how to keep the cost of your bills down? This is to be held in Pentland Community Centre at 10-12pm on Thursday the 5th November.

There is only a limited amount of places so please contact Jacqueline Kirkland on 07866940043 or [Jacqueline.kirkland@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.kirkland@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk), or message the Hope Triangle facebook page to confirm your place.

## **Police Report**

The Chair welcomed PC Howie to the meeting and invited him to give their report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area for the August period.

## **Crimes Trends/Miscellaneous Information**

Housebreaking: Whilst there was no incidents reported in this area, housebreaking is still a problem in adjoining districts. 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 Children's 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 numbers of housebreaking through prevention, gathering of intelligence and enforcement.

Please report any suspicious activity to the police.

### **Assault**

There were four minor assaults reported in August, one in Oxgangs venue on the 7<sup>th</sup>, two linked assaults in Colinton Mains Grove on 14<sup>th</sup> and one reported on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

A serious assault occurred on the 30<sup>th</sup> in Oxgangs Street – no complaint was made.

### **Road Traffic Matters**

A taxi driver reportedly drove in an aggressive manner whilst using his mobile phone on Oxgangs Bank on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Theft**

There were three reported thefts, one from a Colinton Mains Grove address on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one from an Oxgangs Terrace address on the 10<sup>th</sup> and one from an Oxgangs Street address on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

A shop on Oxgangs Road North suffered a shoplifting theft on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a 125cc motorcycle was stolen from Colinton Mains Drive on 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Item raised at the meeting: Dangerous Dog**

Concern was raised about a local resident who is reportedly using his dog as a weapon to threaten people and their pets. The situation has been ongoing for a long time and reported to the Police and Environmental Wardens. They have apparently spoken with the person but their warnings have been ignored. There is considerable concern someone, or their pet, is going to get hurt if action is not taken. We have been advised a joint meeting has been arranged between the various agencies and neighbours to discuss options. The Chair will be attending the meeting to take notes and will report back. Reference to this matter is also included in two of the Councillors' reports.<sup>1</sup>

*Action: Chair to report back*

### **Community Policing Team**

Ward 8 comprises 3 Beats, PF56 (Fairmilehead, Buckstone, Swanston), PF57 (Oxgangs, Firrhill), and PF58 (Colinton, Bonaly) with two Council Funded Officers, PC 4179E Graeme Howie and PC11550 Sonja Kaiser.

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<sup>1</sup> Information on legislation covering dangerous dogs is included in Appendix 1

The Community Policing Team leader for the wider area is Inspector Liz Duthie. The CPT consists of 5 teams of community-facing police Constables led by a Sergeant, and the emphasis will be on community working in a bid to solve local issues.

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

**Police Surgery: Wednesdays between 1700 and 1800 hours at Oxfangs 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](#).*

## Councillors' Reports

### Councillor Lewis

#### **Skatepark**

The results of the online survey carried out by David Maguire from Children and Families during the month of June should be available shortly. The aim of the survey was to find out more about how local young people use Colinton Mains Park and how they would like to use it in future. The survey is aimed at local young people from Primary 6/7 upwards.

The aim is to gather the views of around 200 local young people over the next month or so and this was achieved by:

- asking local schools – St. Mark's, Oxfangs and Pentland primaries and Firrhill High School – to encourage local young people to complete the survey
- encouraging young people to complete the survey through local youth work provision at Pentlands Community Centre, Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre and elsewhere, with the support of Community Learning and Development

The proposal for a skate park is supported by the Community Council, but the Chair reminded Cllr Lewis that a consultation would have to be carried out with the local residents who may be affected by the development if it is to go ahead.

*The remainder of this report refers to matters relating to Cllr Lewis's remit rather than local issues.*

#### **Edinburgh's Christmas 2015**

I was delighted to speak at the launch of this year's Christmas programme at the Hub. This year's programme – titled Lighting up Edinburgh – features the Virgin Money Street of Light, a new free event that will see an architectural installation of 60,000+ lights stretching along the Royal Mile, from the City Chambers to the Tron Kirk set to music from Edinburgh choirs.

Susan Boyle will be switching on Edinburgh's Christmas Lights at Light Night on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The event will also see 1,300 local performers showing off their talents to an audience of 20,000+ people.

Further details available at [www.edinburghschristmas.com](http://www.edinburghschristmas.com)

## **Tour of Britain**

On the same day as the Queen officially opened the Borders Railway and became Britain's longest serving monarch – the Tour of Britain came to Edinburgh for the first time since 1999. Sir Bradley Wiggins, Mark Cavendish and over a hundred cyclists congregated in Holyrood Park for the start of stage 4. I had the honour of lowering the flag to start the race before the competitors made their way through the city centre heading out towards East Lothian and the Borders. This event was the first in a three year deal with race organiser SweetSpot that will see further professional cycle races coming to the city centre in 2016 and 2017.

## **Church Hill Theatre – 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Earlier this month we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the acquisition and conversion of the former Morningside High Church – now known as the Church Hill Theatre. Purchased for £6,000 in 1962 by the then Edinburgh Corporation, the former church was converted into a theatre by architect George L Walls at a cost of £67,000.

The venue was opened on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1965 by the Scottish actor and theatre director Tom Fleming, the inaugural performance being 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Since its inception, the Church Hill Theatre has been a mainstay of the Edinburgh Festival as well as being home to local and community users in the field of performing arts.

## **Councillors Aitken**

### **Community Safety**

I have been contacted about an uncontrolled dog. Investigations are ongoing.

### **Oxgangs Primary School**

The Parent Council held its AGM and elected office bearers for the coming academic year.

### **Hope Triangle Health Group**

Members of the group visited Redhall Walled Garden and reported on a number of interesting ideas for the Hope Triangle.

### **Pentland Community Centre**

The Management Committee held its AGM on 10TH September when the committee members and office bearers were re-elected.

### **Aldi Development**

I've received complaints about the security and poor state of the site. The Stopping Up order for the road outside Oxgangs Library has still to be concluded. Once this happens, the site will be transferred to Aldi. It will then be secured and work started.

### **Firrhill Health Centre**

The Scottish Futures Trust has been tasked by the Scottish Government to find a solution to the outstanding accountancy issue due to EU regulations which affects all hub community projects in Scotland.

### **Former Hunter's Tryst Site**

Legal discussions with Hopefield, the preferred bidder, are ongoing.

## Councillors Rust

### **Aldi Site**

The lawyers have still not settled re the Aldi site and so ownership still rests with the Council and Church, but following request by me, Mike Avery has confirmed that the ground will now be tidied by the Council.

[In discussion about this matter covered by both Cllr Aitken and Rust, the Community Council reflected that one of the positive points to Aldi's acquisition of the site was its desire to commence the new development sooner rather than later. It was disheartening to find out that the delay was being caused by the Authority and not the developer. The developer is prepared to do the work in upgrading the access point to the new development, and to finance the pedestrian crossing upgrade. It initially challenged what it perceived to be the excessive cost for this demanded by the Authority, but it eventually agreed to pay.

*Action: Secretary to draft a letter to go to the Authority and the Church indicating our extreme concern about their neglect of the site since their properties have been vacated, the ridiculous time it is taking to conclude the sale and an explanation of this so that the community can be informed as to the reasons why a much-desired discount store for the community is not being built.]*

### **Dangerous Dog**

I have a meeting arranged with police, dog warden and Firrhill residents regarding a local matter tomorrow evening

### **PNP Public Meeting**

Meeting will be held in the Gibson Craig Hall, Currie, tomorrow evening at 7.00pm.

### **Colinton Mains Grove**

I am waiting to hear if this street will be included in the 2016/17 capital programme for resurfacing.

## **Members' Reports**

### Planning Report: (JN)

Due to lack of time the Planning Report was tabled and is attached as Appendix 2. The following was accepted:

1. MIR Consultation: there were no other comments submitted. JN to submit his comments.
2. Planning Concordat: no comments submitted.
3. Draft Planning Customer Engagement and Strategy: no comments submitted.

*Action: as per above.*

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer proposed in view of the time and the possibility her report might lead to a debate, this matter be left to the next meeting.

*Action: defer to next meeting.*

## Correspondence

A list of the 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](mailto:peggy.wright@live.co.uk).

## AOCB:

### Post Office, Oxgangs Broadway

We have received notice the Post Office are proposing to move their branch at Oxgangs Broadway into shared premises with the Day-Today Express outlet at the other end of the Broadway. The proposal is in line with their modernisation programme. This is the start of a 6 week local public consultation on the suitability of the proposed new location.

The consultation, which started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, closes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November with a view to the proposed change taking place in January/February 2016.

The Community Council fought against the proposed closure of the local PO branch at Oxgangs Broadway during the latter part of 2008 and note this is not a proposal to do away with the service.

Concern was raised about the suitability of the proposed premises if, as we are led to understand, the post office business is to be conducted next to the current shop counter with little change to the layout of the premises. The existing shop is very congested, the aisles being of minimal width. Two people could not easily pass each other.

*Action: Put details of consultation on website and Facebook.*

## Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Monday, **26<sup>th</sup> October 2015** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at approx 9.45pm

## Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010

The Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 came into force on 26 February 2011.

The focus of the Act concentrates on the "deed not the breed" approach in tackling irresponsible dog ownership. Owning a dog brings many responsibilities for the dog owner and the 2010 Act is designed to highlight the responsibilities of dog owners by identifying out of control dogs at an early juncture and provide measures to change the behaviour of these dogs and their owners before the dogs become dangerous.

The provisions in the 2010 Act will widen the scope for local authorities and the courts to take action against persons in charge of a dog where the dog's behaviour is deemed to be "out of control". This will be achieved through the creation of a Dog Control Notice (DCN) regime that will permit (local authority appointed) authorised officers to issue DCNs to irresponsible owners of any dog that have been found to be out of control.

### Dog Control Notice

A new power is given to an authorised officer of a local authority to issue a Dog Control Notice ('DCN') requiring a person to 'bring and keep a dog under proper control'. The grounds for serving the DCN are that the dog has been out of control on at least one occasion ie:-

- It is not being kept under control effectively and consistently (by whatever means)
- Its behaviour gives rise to (i) alarm, or (ii) apprehensiveness, on the part of any individual, and
- The individual's alarm or apprehensiveness is, in all the circumstances, reasonable

The 'apprehensiveness' can be regarding an individual's own safety, the safety of someone else or the safety of another animal.

The DCN will also require that recipient advises the local authority of any change of address, has the dog microchipped and ensures that the dog is walked by a responsible adult who is aware of the DCN.

The DCN may specify conditions which may include:-

1. Muzzling and/or on a lead when in public
2. Neutering (if male)
3. Exclusion from specified places
4. Attending a training course with the dog
5. Any other steps that would keep the dog under proper control

The recipient of a DCN can appeal it by summary application to the sheriff.

Breach of a DCN is an offence which may lead to:-

1. A fine of up to £1,000
2. A disqualification from having custody of a dog
3. An order for the dog to be destroyed if the Court considers the dog is dangerous



## **Planning Report: Sept 2015**

### **Planning Bulletins**

24/08/2015 no applications, 1 decision reported.

Application 15/02888/FUL for a proposed attic conversion with dormer window at 148 Colinton Mains Drive has been granted

31/08/2015 to 22/09/2015 inclusive no applications or decisions reported.

### **SESplan - MIR Consultation.**

The MIR consultation exercise closes on **30<sup>th</sup> September** so this is our last opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the options expressed in the Report. In the planning report submitted at the last meeting, I asked members to consider the options expressed in the paper provided and give their thoughts at this meeting (or before) in order that a collective response can be made on behalf of the community council.

During the month I have attended a SESplan presentation on the MIR and received a number of communications from the South West Communities Forum (SWCF), although I did not manage to attend their meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was made clear at the presentation that this is the main opportunity for people to respond to and influence the policies that will determine the next Strategic Development Plan and its subsidiary Local Development Plans.

### **Planning Concordat**

The Edinburgh Planning Concordat (November 2013) is an agreement between community councils, developers and the Council to promote collaborative working when major development is planned for Edinburgh. It is now nearly 2 years since the Edinburgh Planning Concordat was put in place and we are being asked our views on whether it is working or not. The Authority is also querying why the Concordat Engagement Fund is not being widely used and whether a Partnership Protocol can be developed with other Council service areas, based on the Concordat.

A paper based on the survey questions on the Consultation Hub along with a hard copy of the Concordat where necessary has been circulated prior to this meeting. Having been given time to consider the matter, do members wish to respond to the survey.

### **Draft Planning Customer Engagement Strategy and Charter**

I received notice of this survey request on the 19<sup>th</sup> August and reported it at our last meeting. Received a further notice on the 16<sup>th</sup> September from Planning and Building Standards along with a presentation paper. The survey closed today and with the other issues going on, I have not taken the time to study the two documents in any detail. The SWCF have put in a request for the closing date to be put back to allow for proper consideration and I have put a copy of the presentation paper and the two draft documents on the website (Minutes and Reports page) for members to view, in anticipation of this being agreed. If members wish to make comment on either of these documents, can they let me know so that I can confirm if the CEC are still receiving comments.

## 2015 Planning Committee Tour: Building Better Places

Took place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The aim of the tour is to reflect on recently completed developments around Edinburgh and how they contribute to place-making. They visited a variety of developments and were asked to score how well they thought each development achieved the six qualities for creating a successful sense of place.<sup>2</sup>

***“planning should support development that is designed to a high-quality, which demonstrates the six qualities of successful place”.***

1. Cowgate
2. Potterrow
3. Deaconess
4. McDonald Road
5. Crewe Road South
6. Barnton Grove

*A copy of the Tour document has been temporarily put on the CC website for members to view (Minutes and Reports page).*

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<sup>2</sup> Scottish Planning Policy - “planning should support development that is designed to a high-quality, which demonstrates the six qualities of successful place”.

## Correspondence List - Sept 15

- 1 TRO14/10/E: disabled parking being introduced at 1 Oxfords Park and 8 Oxfords Ave.
- 2 M Edwards: Pentland Health & Wellbeing AG meets 8 Oct, 2.30 pm, Oxfords Library.
- 3 CCs next Development & Support meetings at City Chambers [copied for members].
- 4 Public Parks Events Review - of all events held in 2014-15 (until 1 October):  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParkEventsReview2014-2015>
- 5 Sarah Boyack MSP's e-newsletter: now Scottish Labour's Environmental Justice Spokes- person, with responsibility for Climate Change, Transport, Rural Affairs and Energy, and contributing to the debate on closure of Longmorn and Freight. She is campaigning against the 'rip-off' private sector rent rises (affect approx. 54,000 private renters in Edinburgh) and her article is on the Edinburgh EN website. Sarah's newsletter also includes the problems with shared repairs in flatted buildings; helping Scotland's dairy farmers; Action Earth Grants; Green Flag Awards, and Autism Parents/Carers Consultation.
- 6 Jim Napier re Edinburgh Planning Concordat Review [copied for FCC members].
- 7 Cllr Andrew Burns: Council Leader's September Report.
- 8 J Dickson: Planning Weekly Lists [will be presented by J Napier at FCC meeting].
- 9 Jo-Anne Jamieson: Draft Planning Customer Engagement Strategy & Charter – presentation given at Civic Forum meeting on 15 Sept.
- 10 Andy Lippack, Joanna Carrie, David Bewsey re invitation to 'A Conversation on Creating a Fairer Scotland: what matters to you?': 8 October, 7-9 pm, at Colinton Bowling Club.
- 11 Cllr Jason Rust (+ letter from Post Office): consultation re move of local PO from No. 8 to No. 1-2 ('Day-Today Express') Oxfords Broadway [on FCC Agenda + leaflets for members].
- 12 'What Makes Great Community Engagement: free event, 5 Oct, 12.30-3.30 pm at Grass- market Community Project, 86 Candlemaker Row to discuss each attendee's experience of community engagement. Starts with light lunch.
- 13 PC Graeme Howie: Police Report (August) for Oxfords, Firrhill & Colinton Mains: 4 minor and 1 serious assault; aggressive driving by taxi driver while using mobile 'phone; 3 thefts reported from homes; 1 shoplifting theft; 1 stolen motorcycle.
- 14 Cllr Elaine Aitken: apologies for FCC meeting on 28 Sept.

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