

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 25 April 2016
Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

Members: H Levy (Chairperson); P Wright (Secretary); F Gosney; L Linn; S Duffy; J Burt, P Valentine; G Duncan; J Napier (Minutes Sec)

Ex-Officio Members: CEC Councillors - E Aitken, R Lewis & J Rust; G Howie, PC, Police Scotland.

Visitors: none

Apologies: P Wright, G Duncan, Cllr R Lewis; P Valentine, S Campbell; L Supron, L McGurk

The meeting started at 7pm, H Levy in the Chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 28 March 2016 were reviewed. Cllr Aitken referred to her report on the Hope Triangle Health Group on page 2 and asked for the sentence stating "*the Community Development Worker post may be retained on a part-time basis*", be amended to read "*the Community Development Worker post may be retained on a part-shared basis*". With this correction the draft minutes were moved for approval by SD and seconded by LL. Approved.

Action: Min Sec to publish on website and send copy to CCLO(CEC)

Matters Arising

School Closures:

This item is covered in the reports received from the three city councillors. None of the schools reopened on 11th April after the Easter break. The latest position is:

School/Building

Arrangements

Oxgangs Primary School	Previous contingency arrangements were reconstituted with pupils going to St Marks, Colinton, Pentland, Clovenstone, Niddrie Mill & Bonaly primary schools, Pentland Community Centre and the Hailesland and Moffat Early Years Centres. The P6 and P7 pupils who are currently relocated on a short term basis to temporary classrooms at Wester Hailes Education Centre will move to alternative classrooms in Niddrie Mill Primary School from Wednesday 27 April onwards.
Braidburn School	Pupils relocated to several locations from 15 th April. Transport arrangements put in place that will allow children to be taken directly from their homes to their host schools.
Firrhill High School	S4, S5 and S6 pupils were able to return to their school on 13 th April. S3 pupils returned on 14 th April. S1 and S2 pupils relocated to Edinburgh Napier University Craiglockhart campus

Information is on the City Council's website at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/1423/school_closures

Colinton Mains Park Lighting:

This matter was last reported in April 2015 when the secretary asked for a progress report on the NEP project put forward for the current and previous years, which was new lighting in Colinton Mains Park. Response from Andy Edwards at that time confirmed his intention to carry out the project that year (2015).

Following our last meeting an email was sent to AE asking for a progress report. His response indicated the column contract still hasn't been advertised but the Procurement section are working on it and he apologise for the delay in erecting the street (park) lighting.

Sought clarification if it was the procurement of the columns (the purchase of the lighting to be installed in the park), or a failure to advertise for the installation to be carried out.

In his response, AE indicated that both aspects were interlinked. A new contract requires to be compiled so that street lighting columns can be procured for the Council. There are several steps involved in this process to make sure that the Council are meeting all the procurement and legal requirements. Once the contract is finalised then the Street Lighting section can start to install lighting columns with the internal resources available or engaging external contractors to carry out the work. So, once the street lighting column contract is in place the Street Lighting section can start to programme their work which Colinton Mains Park is included and the missing column.

Action: Matter ongoing but contact to be maintained with AE to ensure progress.

Dangerous Dog:

Intervention from the Councillors has resulted in an understanding with the Dog/ Environmental Wardens that there is an ongoing problem here. Still to hear back from complainants if satisfactory.

Action: The CC will continue to monitor the situation.

Dog Fouling:

The secretary wrote to Gail Dickson, Community Safety Action Group secretary, indicating the CC's concern about the state of our pavements from this blight and querying the current process of tackling those who are responsible for causing it.

Also raised concerns about the effectiveness of just to spray-painting around each lot of poo - and leaving a notice adjacent to it and if there is any evidence to show that the paint and notices are having any effect.

Also asked what action can local residents take to help identify the culprits and their dogs.

In response the current procedure in South West is to use the Dog Fouling Tracking System, which will assess the impact on the environment. This is a new approach in the fight against dog fouling in our area.

Areas which are most affected by dog fouling in the South West Neighbourhood will be identified and highlighted. The Environmental Wardens will then take detailed action to reduce the number of incidents by way of patrols, public awareness and Fixed Penalty Notices.

The tracking system will be used to record any street reported as being fouled regularly by way of individual complaints from clients including councillors and our Environmental Wardens' observations.

Once contact has been made with the clients, Environmental Wardens will visit the location. Stencils will be used (weather permitting) and signs reminding people to pick up after their dog will be attached to street furniture. A further visit will be carried out within two weeks by the Environmental Warden to check the level of fouling and carry out a high visibility patrol.

They will speak with local dog walkers and Fixed Penalty Notices will be issued where an offence is witnessed.

Throughout the month of February, a total of 88 complaints were received in relation to dog fouling. One Fixed Penalty Notice was issued to a person witnessed allowing their dog to foul. A total of 173 patrols were carried out over the month of February. Patrol times will continue to be staggered over the day unless clients can provide specific times.

The procedure is not just to spray the poo and leave a sign, this is all part of the process, in particular the spraying and notices is to indicate to irresponsible dog owners and residents that we are in the area in a hope to make individuals think twice about not picking up after their dog immediately.

If the pavements have deposits on them this can be reported to Task Force for a clean-up of the area.

Residents should complain about dog fouling as the more information we have in regard to dogs, culprits, times etc., will help us target our resources at the right time to the right place to best place us to catch the offender and issue a fixed penalty. Members of the public are not asked to take photos of culprits.

Action: continue to monitor

Status of Oxfangs Broadway upper walkway:

This relates to concerns raised by members of the public about the condition of this walkway and the steps leading up to it. Prior to previous meeting the Secretary had e-mailed Cllr Rust because of the complaints. The response he received from Andy Smith at the SWNO indicates the walkway has not been adopted by the City Council and is therefore the responsibility of the shops.

At the previous meeting, it was agreed the Secretary should seek further clarification. She contacted Andy Smith direct and he confirmed the City Council is responsible for maintaining the road that comes down from Oxfangs Brae and round these shops, and for the pavement next to the road (that's the one which has been adopted), but not for the walkway between that pavement and the shops. That is purely the responsibility of the shop owners (details can be got from Land Registry). Consequently, it would not qualify for N'hood P'ship NEPs funding for any improvement work.

Decision: The Secretary to bring to the attention of the Community Safety Action Group, the complaints received and our concerns about the risk to public safety.

NEP Projects:

Report back on our submission regarding the proposed projects within this area.

The project packs issued at the last South West Area Board meeting were out for consultation until the 14th April. Following our last meeting, comments were submitted in regard to the projects listed within our Community Council area. As we did not know the amount of funds allocated, the submission gives an indication of the projects we consider should be prioritised during this financial year. Information on the projects is contained in the previous minutes therefore the following gives only our general our position, without clarification:

1061 – 32-34 Oxfangs Avenue – Support the project as there is a safety issue involved but if adopted, there is a need to confirm the occupiers of the relevant properties are consulted and are supportive of the proposal?

1124 – Pentland Neighbourhood – Reluctant to support the project at this time as other projects are a higher priority.

1125 – Oxfangs Grove – Project not supported.

1189 – 1-7 Oxfangs Place – Do not support the project at this time.

1293 – 40 & 52 Oxfangs Brae – Do not support the project.

1342 – Oxfangs Avenue/Crescent – Support this project and as it is a safety issue, propose it should be put top of the list.

Community Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC 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.

There have been several arrests relating to housebreakings. A road safety initiative is taking place. A motorcyclist was arrested for being drunk whilst riding on their bike. Drugs were found in a stair in Oxgangs Drive. Campaign being launched to make vulnerable people more aware of bogus callers

Please note, written reports are no longer provided by Police Scotland, therefore inaccuracies may occur.

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.

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 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 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' Reports

Councillor Aitken

School Closures:

This is covered elsewhere on the agenda but I have a specific issue to raise.

The local elected representative received a request for support from a parent of P7 pupils at Oxgangs Primary School.

" Due to the turmoil the children have experienced since the wall at the school fell down on 29 January, the parents of the P7s are trying to make their final term at primary school extra special by throwing them a leavers party. Although the children have all adjusted well to the changes, it has obviously been an upsetting and unsettling time for them. As we are unsure if they will even be back in their own school by the end of term, the parents are determined that their lasting memories of primary school will be good ones. We intend to make these good memories by having this party.

I wonder if you know of any businesses/companies that can help us achieve this? It's my understanding that many local businesses have offered help and if you can assist us in giving our children a great party, any support would be much appreciated."

Jason and I have made some suggestions but I would like to submit this to Firrhill Community Council for consideration.

Decision: To acknowledge the excellent job carried out by the local authority in ensuring our children's education is maintained during this difficult time and to agree financial support for the Oxgangs PS P7 Leavers Party to a level that will cover the cost of a professional DJ for the party and the provision of celebration cakes.

Aldi Development:

The judicial review period ends next month. Aldi will be undertaking archaeological surveys this week in preparation for demolition as soon as the legal process is completed. The windows of the Social Work building have been boarded up.

Refuse Problems

- Refuse lorries were collecting from Pentland Drive and Caiystane Gardens around 8.30am when pupils were walking and cycling to Pentland Primary School. I brought this to the attention of the Waste Manager and asked for these routes to be rescheduled. He responded, "I will speak to the supervisor concerned and ensure that the crews servicing this area are reminded not to service near the school at times of pupils entering and leaving. I will also ask that this location is monitored to ensure that this instruction is being adhered to."
- Crew members are damaging the grass in Oxgangs Gardens by dragging bins across the grass instead of using the path. The Area Supervisor has been informed and is implementing the necessary actions.
- I have reported a number of unemptied street bins to the Taskforce Manager. Lack of resource is causing a delay in the service so bins aren't emptied as often as required.

Hunter's Tryst Site:

Hopefield Partnership has still not lodged a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) for residential use. The officials are continuing discussions with the developers.

Pentland View Closed Support Unit:

The site has been sold, subject to gaining planning permission. The preferred bidder is Tranos (UK) Ltd who also trade as Chamberlain Bell Limited.

CEC granted a Licence to Occupy in order that the contractor can undertake two weeks' worth of site investigations, prior to submitting the planning application for circa 35 residential 1, 2 and 3 bed flatted units.

A contractor has been on site carrying out site investigation works (geotechnical and environmental testing) and a tree survey and an ecology survey have already been completed.

Representatives from the architect attended the Fairmilehead Community Council meeting on 5th April. They presented the proposed plans and questions focussed on the extra vehicles on the safe route to Pentland Primary School and a rat run, vehicle access to the site, parking and the demolition of Comiston Farm House (it's not a listed building). A planning application will be submitted by 10th May.
(See also App1, Correspondence list, Item 13)

Hope Triangle Health Group:

The group met earlier this month and looked at topics for future gatherings. A reflexologist will address the next meeting on 31st May.

I have a meeting at ONC tomorrow to discuss maintenance of the Hope Triangle.

Dog Fouling:

Further complaints from residents and businesses in Firrhill Neuk and Oxgangs have been made so I have requested patrols by our Environmental Wardens.

Street Lighting:

I reported faulty lights in Oxgangs Avenue.

Reablement Centre:

The new centre in Firrhill Neuk has now opened, offering services and support to older people in our area.

Scottish Parliament Hustings:

Fairmilehead Church is planning to host a Hustings event on Wednesday 27 April.

Councillor Rust**Hunter's Tryst Site:**

A Planning Application has still to be submitted by the developer. The Council and developer have agreement on all points including how to deal with the listed springheads so the developer should now be progressing the planning.

Oxgangs Green:

Residents have been in contact regarding railings which have only been partially painted. I am following up.

Oxgangs House:

Residents have been in contact regarding safety issues which I have followed up.

Oxgangs Primary School P6 and P& update: The Council has confirmed new arrangements for some pupils affected by the recent school closures that will be put in place this week.

The P6 and P7 pupils from Oxgangs Primary School who are currently relocated on a short term basis to temporary classrooms at Wester Hailes Education Centre will move to alternative classrooms in Niddrie Mill Primary School from Wednesday 27 April onwards.

The Council is responding to concerns raised by some parents regarding the temporary classrooms at Wester Hailes. As a return date to Oxgangs Primary is still to be confirmed, officers have identified a more sustainable solution at Niddrie Mill Primary School which provides a more appropriate teaching environment for primary age children.

More generally, I have submitted numerous questions to the next Full Council on Thursday regarding the wider issues around the PPP1 schools.

Pentland Close Support Unit:

No formal planning application has thus far been received.

Pentland Primary School:

The Rights Respecting Group at Pentland Primary is hosting an event in early May. The school has supported the children to explore the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child using many creative approaches and through different curricular areas. Each class has explored a particular artist's style and used this as inspiration of their own art piece. For example, children in P1 have explored Article 31 'Every child has the right to play'. The children have used this article as a stimulus to create a collage of fantasy toys in the style of artist, Joan Miro. Pupils in P1-P7 have also collaborated to create a magnificent large wall mural promoting and celebrating children's rights.

Scottish Parliament Elections: Polling takes place on Thursday 5th May between 7am and 10pm for those who have not cast their ballot in advance. The polling places are the same as last year.

Councillor Lewis

Waste:

Complaints at end of Feb half level of Jan. Aim is to half again during March to reach satisfactory levels. Change to shift patterns being rolled out which is reducing missed collections.

Roads:

A small team of staff, resourced from within the existing Neighbourhoods Roads Teams, have been formed to manage road and pavement pothole repairs.

Permanent repairs will be undertaken by way of “right first time” principles using hot bituminous materials. Work will concentrate on, but not limited to the main arterial routes, especially in the City Centre, South and South West Neighbourhoods.

School Update:

All 7,600 primary and secondary pupils affected by school closures now have alternative education plans put in place for next week by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Arrangements made today (Friday 15 April) include 390 pupils from Firrhill High School using Edinburgh Napier University’s Craiglockhart campus and 16 temporary classrooms from across the UK being installed at The Royal High School.

Arrangements have also been made for 740 nursery pupils affected bringing the overall total to 8,340 children.

From Tuesday (19 April) Firrhill High School - S1 and S2 pupils will be relocated to Edinburgh Napier University Craiglockhart campus. Eric Munro, Edinburgh Napier's Director of Property and Facilities, said: "We are pleased to step in to assist pupils who have been unable to return to school after the Easter break to try to help our neighbours and minimise disruption to children's education. Firrhill High School pupils will be accommodated within the classroom block at our Craiglockhart campus."

Staff will be contacting parents directly to update them on the arrangements for their own individual child. The information is also available on the Council website.

It has been a huge logistical exercise for the Council to identify alternative arrangements involving: the use of over 70 buses for pupils, 61 alternative schools (including nurseries and Early Years Centres), relocation of 655 teachers and 30 organisations throughout the city have offered assistance.

The integration of pupils into alternative schools is going well.

The programme of structural surveys arranged by the Edinburgh Schools Partnership is continuing over the weekend and in to next week.

The Council will update parents directly, via text message, the Council website (www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolclosures) and via the Council Twitter @Edinburgh_CC as soon as information becomes available.

Members Reports

Planning Report:

Planning Bulletins: Firrhill planning applications from 29th March to 18th April 2016:

Application 16/01703/FUL to alter roof over existing dwelling flat to form dormer window to rear elevation. Fit 2 velux rooflights to front pitch of roof and 1 rooflight to side (behind chimney). at 213 Colinton Mains Road.

Application 16/00906/FUL for the erection of a porch to front of dwelling house (retrospective application) at 229 Redford Road was **granted**.

Application 16/00783/FUL for the erection of a front porch. at 24 Caiystane Gardens was **granted**

Application 16/00845/FUL to erect a single storey side extension to ground floor flat and creation of new driveway in the front garden, new access to flat. at 52A Oxfangs Avenue was **refused**.

Treasurer's Report:

There have been no transactions carried out since our last meeting and the balance remains at £4,539.80.

Correspondence Report

A list of correspondence is attached as **App. 1**

A.O.C.B.

Colinton Mains Post office

Post office have given notice that this post office will change into one of their new style local branches and be due to open on 13 May 2016 at 13:00. To make this change happen the branch will have to close for approx. 2 weeks prior to that date. Customers will be directed to the post offices at Colinton Village (46 Bridge Street) and Chessier (1 New Market Road). Note customers are not being directed to the post office at Oxfangs Broadway.

Action: changes noted

Cleansing Department

Complaints raised about the quality of service. Waste receptacles, provided by the City Council for the collection of domestic waste, are being damaged when being emptied by the bin men.

Action: ???????

Election Debate

The debate was held on Thursday 21st April in the Pentland Community Centre and was attended by approximately 50 persons, including community council members. A discussion took place on the value of the event and it was generally agreed that the Community Council had provided the opportunity for local residents to meet and question prospective candidates who were contesting the local seat in the Scottish Parliamentary Elections on the 5th May.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **23rd May at 7.00 pm** in the Board Room in the Oxfangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk. The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Correspondence List

By e-mail, forwarded to members where possible:

- 1 Re Sec's e-mail to Gail Dickson with FCC members' concerns about amount of dog fouling locally: her response more or less repeats what we already knew about the Dog Fouling Tracking System which will assess the impact on the environment, will identify and highlight areas most affected, and Environmental Wardens will try to reduce the number of incidents by patrols, public awareness, and Fixed Penalty Notices. No evidence was given as to whether the use of stencils/ paint and notices is actually effective in reducing dog fouling [on FCC Agenda for 25th April meeting].
(See also under Matters Arising)
- 2 Re possibility of requesting NEPs funding for repairs to upper level footway at Oxgangs Broadway: Sec contacted Andy Smith at SW N'hood office asking for clarification on the status of this walkway. He admitted that small maps sent with a previous e-mail were confusing but confirmed that, although the pavement along the front of these shops has been adopted by CEC, the raised walkway above the pavement has not. Any repairs, therefore, would be the responsibility of these shop owners and would not qualify for NEPs (roads and footways) funding [on FCC Agenda for 25th April meeting].
(See also under Matters Arising)
- 3 Cllr Aitken, in response to P Valentine's request for new cherry trees to replace damaged/ removed ones in Oxgangs Place: she has contacted S McLeod with request for replacements as part of NEP project 1124. (It is likely, though, that there will not currently be funding for this.)
- 4 P Valentine: third time that her stair cleaning has been missed by contractors under the scheme introduced by CEC whereby Council tenants cannot opt out (payment is included in their rent) and owners can opt in at approx. £6 per fortnight. She says that what takes her around 40 mins to clean properly is done by cleaning company (when they do turn up) in about 5 mins; so, not value for money.
(deferred to next meeting)
- 5 Websitebuilder message requesting a volunteer to drive a disabled lady (from Oxgangs Cres) in her own wheelchair-adapted car on Fridays to/from Penicuik where she is a volunteer YMCA office worker. Please 'phone 0131 441 3426 if you can help. *(ad on Facebook – no responses)*
- 6 Scott Neill re Dementia-Friendly Pentland Promotion Campaign: check out the poster 'Support for Older People in the Community' from Alzheimer Scotland and Pentland Partnership Health & Wellbeing Action Group in Oxgangs Library. There will be a Health Fair on Sat 7th May, 10 am to 1.30 pm, in Colinton Bowling Club, with many relevant stalls. *(ad on Facebook and website)*
- 7 Dr Andy Edwards, SW Roads Manager, to JN: explanation for Colinton Mains Park Lighting Phase 2 not having been installed last year as proposed [on FCC Agenda for meeting on 25th April].
(See also under Matters Arising)
- 8 All Ward 8 Councillors: regular e-mailed updates/Council Briefings on school closures and pupil placements in other schools/colleges [latest updates on FCC Agenda for 25th April].
(See also under Matters Arising and Councillors' Reports)
- 9 Cllr Lewis re Scottish Welfare Fund being made available to families in need because of school closures (no school meals), possibly £3 per day. Info on Scottish Welfare Fund website, or Tel: 0131 529 5299.
- 10 J Napier re siting of FCC's Holyrood Election Debate Posters for 21st April.
- 11 Various e-mails between JN, PV, M Jarvis and Sandra McLeod (Estates & Property Team at SW N'hood Office) re NEPs Projects (SW Area Board) for 2016/17. There is a 'historical' list of projects for our area, some of which are, in the residents' view, not appropriate now, eg, project

1189 for fencing at 1-7 Oxgangs Place. However, Project 1342 to repair footpath causing trip hazard at Oxgangs Ave/Cres was put top of the list as a priority by JN [on FCC Agenda for 25th April].
(See also under Matters Arising)

- 12 Julie Dickson re A720 City By-pass Overnight Maintenance Programme (9 pm to 6.30 pm), 15th April to 5th May. Diversions will be in place.
- 13 Cllr Rust re group trying to stop planned demolition of Comiston Farmhouse (situated in Fairmilehead CC area), info at <http://www.comistonfarmhouse.com/>

Item noted – no action

- 14 June Dickson, Community Planning, re Cashback for Communities Facilities Fund: up to £150k available for not-for-profit organisations which would target young people 10-24 yrs, create high quality outdoor sport and physical activity experiences for the disadvantaged, and tackle inequality in areas with a gap in existing provision + encourage young people to develop and manage the proposed project. Applications up to 31st May. Details on website of YouthLink Scotland: Cashback for communities.
- 15 Apologies for 25th April meeting from L McGurk, and Cllr Lewis along with his Report.
- 16 Andrew Young, CEC Planning & Transport, re disabled parking bay to be placed outside 65 Oxgangs Park.
- 17 PC Graeme Howie, Oxgangs Police: query re FCC meeting dates for months to end of 2016 [Secretary replied].

For more information on any of the above, please contact Firrhill Community Council Secretary: peggy.wright@live.co.uk Tel: 0131 531 9796