

# Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'  
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 23 May 2016  
Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

**Members attending:** H Levy (Chairperson); P Wright (Secretary); L Linn; S Duffy; P Valentine; J Napier (Min Sec)

**Ex-Officio Members attending:** CEC Councillor R Lewis; Community Police Officer.

**Visitors attending:** L McGurk

**Apologies:** F Gosney, G Duncan, Cllr E Aitken; Cllr J Rust, S Campbell; L Supron.

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

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 25 April 2016 were reviewed. There were no corrections and the draft minutes were moved for approval by LL and seconded by SD. Approved.

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

## Matters Arising

### **School Closures:**

Update report on the background to the wall collapse at Oxgangs Primary in January 2016 and the structural issues identified at schools built under the Public Private Partnership programme ("PPP1") in Edinburgh between 2002 and 2005, which led to the temporary closure of affected schools.

The City Council seeking for an independent inquiry into this matter. Timeline to date:

January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Partial collapse of the external gable wall of Oxgangs occurred as a result of the effects of Storm Gertrude. School closed and wall inspected.  Remedial work undertaken to make the wall safe.
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Non-intrusive visual surveys to be carried out across all PPP1 schools and a causation report into the wall collapse to be provided
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oxgangs Primary School re-opens
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Reports on findings of non-intrusive visual surveys showed no further defects identified and schools safe to occupy
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Causation report concluded that poor construction workmanship was principal cause of wall collapse at Oxgangs. "High wind" protocol to be implemented and an intrusive survey to be carried out within 3 months at Oxgangs PS
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Intrusive surveys commenced at Oxgangs PS and across entire PPP1 estate.
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	All four Phase 2 PPP1 schools were closed as a precautionary measure due to wall tie issues being identified.
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Easter break

April 8<sup>th</sup> Significant new construction issue discovered during ongoing remedial works at Oxgangs. The absence of wall header ties to the steel structure in certain areas had been identified. Oxgangs and St Peter's PS considered no longer safe to occupy and all PPP1 schools closed.

May 24<sup>th</sup> Oxgangs PS scheduled to re-open

Information is on the City Council's website at:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/1423/school\\_closures](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/1423/school_closures)

### **Oxgangs P7 Leavers' Party:**

At the last meeting Cllr Aitken had asked the Community Council to assist the Oxgangs PTA by making a donation towards the cost of the P7 Leavers' Dance. It was not clear at that time if the PTA would be able to hold their annual 'May Fair', which is their usual method of funding these events. In view of all the recent upset to the teachers and pupils due to the school closure the Community Council agreed to a one-off donation to fund the cost of a professional DJ for the dance and also the provision of celebration cakes. (The Oxgangs PS 'May Fair' is taking place this Saturday.)

It was noted other schools in the area may also have been affected by loss of ability to raise funds due to the school closures. The Chair proposed a one-off donation of £50 each be made to Braidburn Special Needs School, St Marks PS and Pentland PS.

The donations are for this year only and should not be seen as a precedent.

**Action: Chair to arrange with the Treasurer how the donations should be paid.**

### **Dangerous Dog:**

It was reported there had been further aggravations by the dog owner. Neighbours do not consider their complaint is being taken seriously by the Authority.

**Action: Detailed information to be forwarded to Elected Members.**

### **Local Developments:**

Aldi Development: Still waiting for developers to provide information. Defer to next meeting.

Health Centre: Contractors on site and ground clearance underway.

Hunters Tryst Site: No further information available.

**Action: continue to monitor**

### **Status of Oxgangs Broadway upper walkway:**

Chair visited the shop on three occasions to speak to the occupier to advise them of the information received from the Authority. On the last occasion she gave the information to the girl in the shop.

### **Community Police Report**

The Chair welcomed PC Sonja Kaiser to the meeting and invited her to give a report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area for the last reporting period.

A business premise and a shed were broken into. A number of domestic assaults were reported including one with an offensive weapon. There have been six reported thefts and two vehicle incidents. Also reported were incidents of a woman in her mid-thirties befriending vulnerable old people with the intent to steal their purses.

Other issues raised at meeting:

Chair made a request for Community Police Team/Community Safety to have a stall at the Oxgangs Gala.

Member asked about finding out if a motor vehicle is untaxed. Advised this can be done using the new website <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>. Registration number and make of car required.

Incident at Milestone House.

*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](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 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 Rust**

CLlr Rust was unable to attend the community council meeting but provided this report:

"In relation to the **dangerous dog**, I asked Community Safety / Dog Wardens for an update, but have not heard back. However, I am not aware of any recent reports of incidents.

I attended Pentland Primary School on Wednesday afternoon to see the **Children's' Rights Art Gallery**, ably escorted by three pupils, Katy, Holly and Kirsty. It was a fantastic piece of work by all year groups in the school, linking children's rights with Art and congratulations to pupils and staff.

A planning application has been submitted for **Pentland View**, but it has not yet been validated. I believe the drawings and fee are awaited. Once validated it will appear on the portal for comment on the application.

**Oxgangs Primary School, Braidburn** and St Peter's are all due to re-open tomorrow following the construction issues. I successfully moved an amendment at Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee asking for an update report in one month with the terms of reference and timescale for the Inquiry into the school's situation.

There are again issues with **waste collections**. I am following up!

I attended the **Ceremony of the Keys** at Holyrood Palace on Friday evening for the start of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Lord Provost handed over the 'keys to the city' to The Lord High Commissioner.

I attended the civic reception yesterday in honour of **Hibernian Football Club** winning The Scottish Cup.

I spent part of May 5th on polling places at Pentland Community Centre and Colinton Mains St John's Parish Church. Following the **Scottish Parliament election**, the List MSPs for Lothians are Miles Briggs, Gordon Lindhurst and Jeremy Balfour (all Conservative), Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman (both Green), Kezia Dugdale and Neil Findlay (both Labour).

The **European Union referendum** takes place on Thursday 23rd June."

## Councillor Lewis

### **PPP1 School Closures**

The Council website will continue to be updated regarding the ongoing school closures.

### **PPP1 School Facilities**

Where community school facilities have been open to the public for use it has been economically successful. Seeking to extend this to other schools in the city, with Edinburgh Leisure managing the facilities outwith normal school hours.

## **Members Reports**

### Planning Report:

#### **Weekly Bulletins**

26/04/16

- Application 16/00840/FUL for alterations and to erect a single storey rear and side extension to the existing dwelling house at 20 Caiystane Gardens has been granted.
- Application 16/00903/FUL to install a front and rear dormer window at 23 Colinton Mains Grove has been granted.
- Application 16/01169/FUL to erect a single storey side and rear extension at 1 Oxbgangs Farm Grove has been granted.

02/05/16

- Application 16/02056/CLE to replace original conservatory roof of UPC and glass with lightweight insulated roof system with felt shingle at 37 Firrhill Drive.

09/05/16

- Application 16/02232/FUL to erect a single storey extension to the existing dwelling house at 16 Caiystane Gardens.

17/05/16

- Application 16/01703/FUL to alter roof over existing dwelling flat to form dormer window to rear elevation, to fit 2 velux roof-lights to front pitch of roof and 1 roof-light to side (behind chimney) at 213 Colinton Mains Road has been granted.

### **South West Communities Forum**

Received an email from Cliff Beevers, chairman of the SWCF, seeking thoughts on the validity of the forum and its continuance. He is standing down as chair of the JGCC and the Forum. Looking to meet before the end of May to decide if SWCF has a future and if so what are the issues liable to be and what form should the structure of the group take in order to ensure its continuance.

In view of recent criticism about our continued involvement with this group I have intimated to Cliff Beevers (and Archie Clark) that the time is right for Firrhill CC to withdraw from the South West Communities Forum. I trust this action is acceptable to the members.

Received a response from Archie Clark asking if we would like to be kept 'in the loop'.

### **CEC meeting on 16th May 2016 – Land East of Millburn Tower**

Archie gave a SWCF presentation to a pre-determination hearing of the Development Management Sub-Committee respecting Murray Estates planning application (15/04318/PPP) for a proposed residential development, local centre, community facilities, green network, transport links, infrastructure, ancillary development and demolition of buildings on land 1000 metres NW, SW and West of Hermiston Junction M8, Gogar Station Road, Edinburgh.

There were five other parties making representations. He was not asked to elaborate on any of the points; nobody questioned that the nearby International Business Gateway housing allocation had risen from 300-400 to 2,000-2,400 since the time when the public was invited to comment last year (currently under scrutiny by the DPEA). The committee voted 11-1 to grant Murray Estates Planning Permission in Principle. (DPEA - Planning and Environmental Appeals Division)

### **Treasurer's Report:**

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

### **PNP Action Group Meetings**

#### **CSAG End of Year Report**

Secretary indicated she had been asked to submit an update of the actions carried out by the Community Council supporting the priorities set by the Community Safety Action Group. As the return date for the information was today, she needed some feedback from the members.

The request had come from Michelle Hood, Community Safety Team via PV and circulated to members prior to the meeting. A CSAG meeting is scheduled to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> May and their report will be presented to the Neighbourhood Partnership Board on 1 June 2016.

After discussion, the members agreed on their response and a copy of the returned form is attached as **Appendix 2**.

#### **EIT Action Group – 23 May 2016**

Action Updates on:

1. Review of Community and Accessible Transport Briefing Paper presented to Pentland NP on 22/3/16 (see **Appendix 1**)
2. Community Transport – Public Social Partnership Arrangement report that went to Committee on 17 March 2016 (<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol>)
3. Community Transport survey feedback from PNP community members.
4. CT report that went to Committee on 15 March 2016 (<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol>)
5. Canal Delivery Board Progress Update (23 Feb 2016)

Discussion on the Action Group's role in supporting the Health & Wellbeing Action Group work relating to Dementia and Carers. Considering dementia friendly parks and targeting appropriate groups in relation to the review of community and accessible transport due to be carried out. Seeking to hold a workshop on this subject at a central location sometime in October 2016.

## Correspondence Report

A list of correspondence is attached as **Appendix 3**

### **A.O.C.B.**

## Oxgangs Gala

The offer of a marquee from the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre has been rescinded.

Agreed that the Community Council should have a stall at the Gala in order to promote involvement in the work the CC does and seek to add new names to the contact list.

*Action: JN to contact CCLO re banner and promotional material.*

### **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **27<sup>th</sup> June** at **7.00 pm** in the Board Room in the Oxgangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm approx.

## **Review of Community and Accessible Transport. Date: 22nd March 2016**

*Briefing Note: Pentland Partnership Meeting*

### 1. Why have we been doing a Review of Community and Accessible Transport?

Recognition that transport services for service users across the city needed to be better coordinated with a quality framework to meet the needs of adults and children with mobility impairments.

Decision making needed to be strategic and to take account of demographic pressures.

A Corporate Transport Service was identified as a preferred option in a report to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee in November 2014. Subsequently the recommendation was approved and the workplan agreed by the same committee in June 2015.

### 2. What are the objectives:

- Develop a Corporate Transport Service with Third Sector Partners which will operate citywide across all service user groups.
- Develop a service which is safe, coordinated, efficient, well managed and flexible enough to meet changing demands in line with current Council Strategies.
- The implementation of a fair access policy within Health and Social Care and Children and Communities.
- The implementation of an electronic booking and scheduling systems making it easier for managers and decision makers to maximise capacity planning.
- The implementation of a Public Social Partnership and contracting model with the Community Transport providers.
- The implementation of a Citywide Service Manager, coordinating delivery with Community Transport Partners.
- Develop a fair access policy and procedure with Children and Communities Procedure to mirror the Health and Social Care Policy.
- Provide efficient infrastructure to support new Localities.

### 3. Who is involved with the review?

#### **Project Team and Board**

The Project Team meets on a monthly basis to keep track of workstreams, address risks and log issues. **Chaired by Frank Henderson (Senior Project Manager)**. The Project Team comprises senior staff from Children and Communities, Health and Social Care, EVOC, Community Transport representatives with support from Equality Officers and Services for Communities Strategic Managers. The Board represents H&SC, C&F, SfC and EVOC. **Chaired by David Lyon (Head of Environment)**.

#### 4. What have we been doing?

##### **Development of Corporate Transport Service & Organisational Review**

The workplan includes the implementation of an Organisational Review of Passenger Operations and an element of Fleet Management.

#### 5. Progress:

- The proposed implementation of suitable booking and scheduling systems to maximise efficiency and help with management information.
- The implementation of a Public Social Partnership and contracting model with the Community Transport providers. (April 2016)
- The proposed implementation of a Citywide Service Manager to coordinate the Public Social Partnership. Support Travel Advisors to organise, signpost and approve appropriate transport and travel arrangements.

#### 6. Community Transport provision & Public Social Partnership – F&R 17/032016

Third Sector Community Transport organisations have made a commitment to the Public Social Partnership model with a strategic change in governance arrangements. This will ensure a collaborative and coordinated approach to managing and maximising capacity.

The Public Social Partnership objectives:

- Third Sector organisations work with the council to redesign delivery of accessible transport, pilot and evaluate new approaches.
- Third sector and council working together to set service delivery parameters.
- Develop the service into a coordinated solution to meet increased demographic pressures.

#### 7. Consultation & Engagement - Workstream

We have begun this process by speaking to approximately 300 people who use Community Transport or Council Fleet. Our Engagement with the following has helped inform the review – As agreed by Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 9th June 2015. Children and Communities are supporting the Project Team to develop appropriate questionnaires for children, young people and their carers.

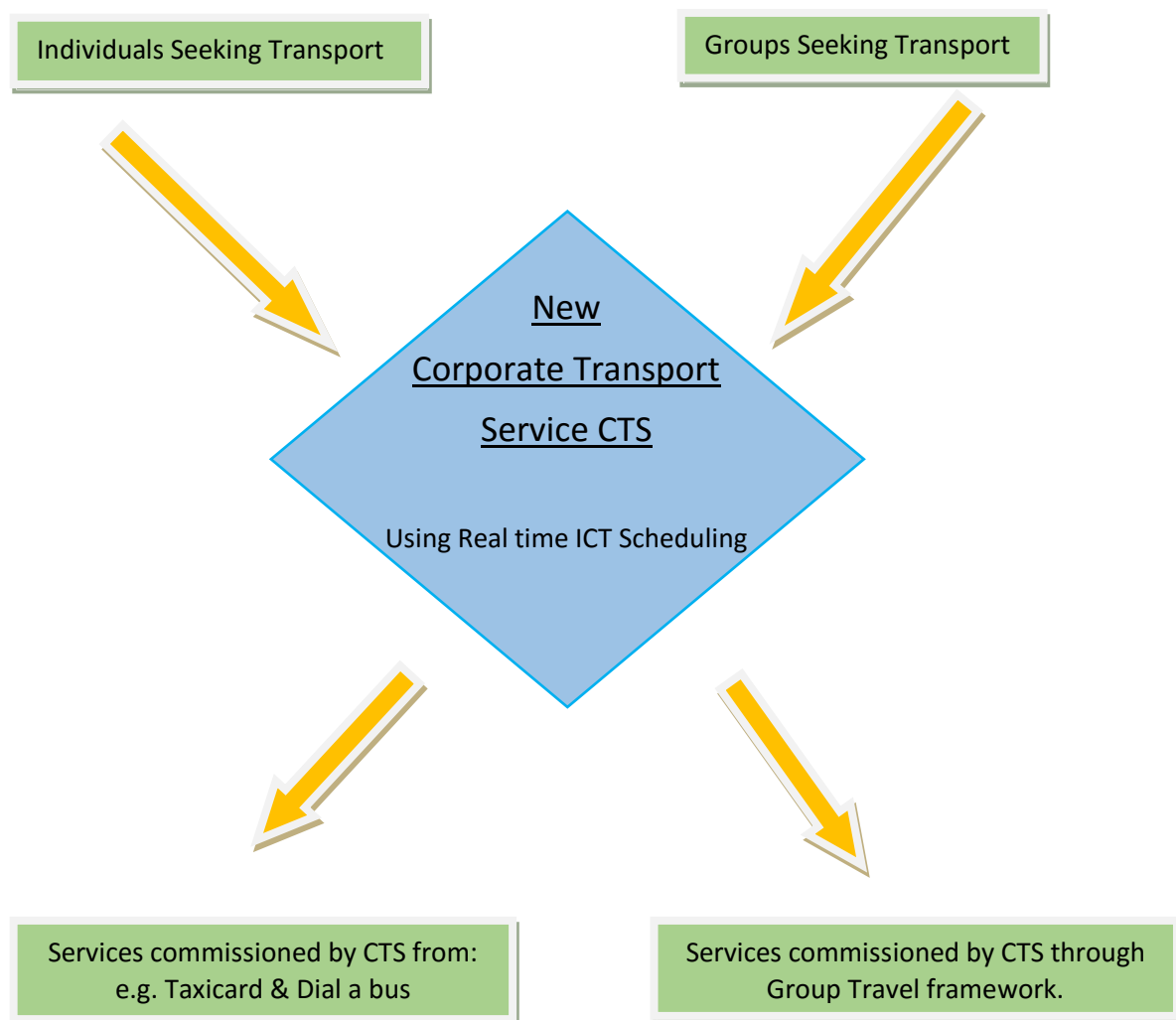
#### 8. Booking and scheduling - Workstream

The Senior Project Manager is working with Council ICT officers and benchmarked with other local authorities to establish the best fit and value to ensure efficiencies and improvements can be achieved.

The Corporate Transport Service /



## The Corporate Transport Service – Real-time scheduling



### Next Steps - Summary

- Organisational Review of Passenger Operations
- Implement Public Social Partnership
- Implement Booking and Scheduling.
- Engagement with service users, groups and organisations to continue throughout the lifecycle of the PSP.

## Community Reps - End of Year Neighbourhood Partnership Update

### Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership – Community Safety Action Group

Please complete and provide specific examples for the following Neighbourhood Partnership Actions as per the LCP 2014-2017. This is required to be completed by Community Councils who attend the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Community Safety Action Group.

Action	Milestone	Completed Yes/No	Overall progress with examples	Due Date
Publicise the service priorities set by the Action Group and increase input from the community.	Community reps to build on or establish social media channels (or other) to increase awareness and involvement in the Action Group		We do this when possible but we might be able to elicit a better response if we were sent more information on specific issues that you want publicised in the right formats for facebook, and to include on our CC website, e.g. jpg	23 May 2016
	Community reps to publicise the process for reporting dangerous dogs.	Yes	Community Council well knows the process, and we have had/are having serious issues with this locally, but neighbours of dog owners get frustrated at having to deal with this themselves as, having reported it, <b>there is not enough follow-up action by Council officers</b>	23 May 2016
By tackling dog fouling and litter, encouraging use of parks for play and leisure, promoting friends of parks groups and making recycling easier.	Increase community input to the dog fouling tracking system (circulated at each CSAG).	Yes	Dog-fouling, especially, has been brought up at several CC meetings – included in our Minutes, and on our website to make residents aware of the tracking system.	23 May 2016

Specific Actions					
Description	Associated Actions	Ward	Community Involvement	Examples of action	Due Date
Publicise NPA's and service priorities set by the Action Group  Increase input from the Community	Community reps to build on or establish social media channels (or other) to increase awareness and involvement in the Action Group	2 and 8	As appropriate use all mediums to promote the work of the CSAG. This would include CC's websites, newsletters, tweets and facebook.	As written above, our CC has a website, on which is reported most community issues of note, and we also use facebook, but more info needs to come from the Council in user-friendly format.	23 May 2016
Dog Fouling – add to DFTS and follow through on interventions as appropriate.	More bins along canal. Request for posters as designed by school children on litter bins.	2	Green dog walkers scheme, Judy Wightman to circulate. In all CC communications and as appropriate inform on Dog Control Act and Dangerous Dog Act re dog fighting. Ratho CC will add to Facebook page, what to do and how to report.		23 May 2016
Tackle antisocial behaviour, key partners to investigate and establish a plan of activity.		All	How has antisocial behaviour reporting been promoted through CC's.	Through CC meeting Minutes, police reps who attend our meetings, our website, and social media + 'word of mouth' – always an important tool locally.	23 May 2016
Fire raising – work to maintain and increase the uptake of Home Fire Safety visits in the Pentlands area.	Community and SFRS	2 and 8	Recommend. Publicity via CC meetings and any written communications via social media or other channels	Fire-raising? Again, we can only publicise information that has been sent to us!	23 May 2016

## Correspondence List

By e-mail, forwarded to members where possible:

- 1 Cllr Rust: PP1 Schools CPS Report –update from Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, to go to Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee, including detailed reasons for closure of school buildings and recommendation that there be an independent inquiry. *(See also under Matters Arising)*
- 2 Cllr Lewis obo Insp. Liz Duthie, Oxfangs Police Station: further warnings about doorstep crime and ‘cold callers’. Police officers have been visiting sheltered housing and carrying out street to street checks for potential bogus caller activity in our Ward 8. Remember: if you feel threatened, unsafe, or suspicious of a caller Tel 999 immediately; if you see someone/thing suspicious call police on 101 to report it, with any descriptions of vehicle details – or, if you want to contact police anonymously, Tel Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. *(See also under Police Report)*
- 3 Liz Sim re update on action against Council’s plans to demolish Comiston Farmhouse.
- 4 Julie Dickson re ‘Care & Repair Edinburgh: Better at Home’: small repairs and adaptations carried out free by accredited tradesmen to allow people to get home from hospital – email [geraldineoconnor@careandrepaiiredinburgh.org.uk](mailto:geraldineoconnor@careandrepaiiredinburgh.org.uk) or Tel Geraldine on 0131 337 1111 [four pages of details photocopied for FCC members]
- 5 Scott Neill: Agenda & Papers for PNP EIT Action Group meeting, 23 May.
- 6 Julie Dickson: re Consultation of Late Hours Catering Policy Development Review – online survey to be completed before 30 May <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/late-hours-catering-licence-policy>
- 7 Cllr Aitken confirming that she is happy to act as Returning Officer for Firrhill CC in forthcoming Community Council elections
- 8 Pauline Valentine asking Craig Dunlop whether vandalised (bark stripped off) cherry tree at 3 Oxfangs Gardens can be saved.
- 9 Jim Napier to Cliff Beavers & Archie Clark giving notice of Firrhill CC’s withdrawal from participation in South West Communities Forum [+ emailed thanks from Cliff for our 3 years of support in their opposition to building on SW green belt]
- 10 Jim Napier (to Sandra McLeod) re cancellation without notice of Oxfangs Walkabout on 12 May – the 2nd consecutive one that he has turned up for but nobody else has.
- 11 FCC’s websitebuilder: query re our donation to Oxfangs P7 Leavers’ Party from a parent helping to organise this function [f. to H Levy to reply] *(See also under Matters Arising)*

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) Tel: 0131 531 9796