

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 27 June 2016
Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

Members attending: H Levy (Chairperson); P Wright (Secretary); L Linn; S Duffy; P Valentine; F Gosney, J Napier (Min Sec); J Burt.

Ex-Officio Members attending: CEC Cllrs E Aitken & R Lewis; Community Police Officer.

Visitors attending: S Campbell; J Hoffman; S McLennan

Apologies: L McGurk; G Lyndhurst, MSP; Cllr J Rust, CEC.

The meeting started at 7pm, H Levy in the Chair. Cllr Lewis indicated he had another meeting to attend and asked for his report to be brought forward on the agenda. Whilst not reflected in the minutes, this was done.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 23 May 2016 were reviewed. There were no corrections and the draft minutes were moved for approval by PV and seconded by LL. Approved.

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

Matters Arising

School Closures:

After receiving letters of assurance from Edinburgh Schools Partnership and their agencies, Oxgangs Primary and Braidburn Primary were fully reopened on 24 May and Firrhill High School on 6 June. Those other Edinburgh schools still affected by the closures will be back to normal by the start of the new term (August)

The terms of the enquiry into the school closures have been agreed.

The Chair had previously asked about compensation to those organisations which had lost out in fund-raising activities due to the closures. The Edinburgh Schools Partnership has responded and is not prepared to consider such issues at this time. The City Council deny any liability and are not in a position to consider such matters.

Information on school closures is on the City Council's website at:

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

Oxgangs P7 Leavers' Party:

See previous minutes. Treasurer reported that all monies had been paid to the schools as agreed. Received a thank you letter from the Headmistress at St Marks.

Action: no further action, matter is now closed.

Dangerous Dog:

Chair has received a number of complaints about the dog-owner and the lack of action by the authorities. Police have received a complaint about damage to a car but they lack evidence. Authorities have it in hand to take action as soon as they get sufficient evidence.

Action: To continue to monitor situation and support Authorities. In order to make people aware that action is being taken it is proposed that some information be put on the website.

Local Developments:

Aldi Development: The final sale papers will be signed tomorrow and Aldi will take over ownership in the next few days. They have indicated immediate action to secure the site but not confirmed when store is expected to open; however, we are assured their plans are going ahead. Members indicated there is a lot of interest in this matter with rumours that Aldi was pulling out. Agreed to put latest information on website to let the community know the current position.

Health Centre: Neighbours around the site can certainly verify there is plenty of noise. Progress is being made. New name is the *Allermuir Health Centre*. Members dismayed to hear the physiotherapy provision has been withdrawn due to lack of funds. The Authorities consider there are sufficient facilities elsewhere.

Also in discussion, members were advised Authorities are looking to introduce Community Pharmacists. Persons seeking medical aid may be required to make an appointment with the pharmacist in the first instance before referral to a doctor. Aim is to reduce doctors' workload.

Hunters Tryst Site: Response from enquiries indicate there has been no progress to report on any application being lodged on the site. The City Council Officer involved in the sale is pushing the developer to make a firm commitment to the lodging of the application as soon as possible. He seems to be equally frustrated and keen to see the site developed for housing.

Action: JN to put a note on the website re Aldi. Continue to monitor developments

Status of Oxfangs Broadway upper walkway:

See CSAG meeting Report, and Cllr Aitken's Report this evening re her actions on this since, as previously reported, our Chair had visited the shop three times but on each occasion had only been able to speak with a shop assistant.

PPI Community Schools Facilities

See Cllr Lewis's report

Gala Day: Feedback

After a lot of trials and tribulations the Oxfangs Gala took place on a dry cloudy Saturday, 11th June. It was well attended and supported by many organisations and volunteers. The principle of the Gala was upheld to provide the community with a day of free entertainment.

The Chair discussed on some of the feedback she had received from various sources and the organising team's review of the day. There seems to be a reluctance on the part of some of the primary schools to take responsibility for picking out individuals to form the Gala party.

AC Oxfangs decided not to support the Gala this year and organised their own open fun day for the day after.

The pony rides turned out to be a higher than expected cost, so will be looking for another attraction for next year. A dog show is currently proposed.

Next year the Library is considering running an exhibit, based on the history of the local community, during the week running up to the Gala.

One of the dresses and a tiara have been lost. Consideration should be given to providing warmer clothing for the Gala party. For personal safety reasons there is a need for the volunteers donning the fancy dress costumes to ensure they are a suitable fit.

Date for the 2017 Gala is 10th June

Community Police Report

The Chair welcomed back 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 (May).

Several assaults were recorded, which were mostly domestic. No housebreakings and getting good results from investigations of previous incidents. A car was stolen using the vehicle's keys. No hate crimes or anti-social behaviour incidents recorded.

The police are aware that there is a male sleeping rough in the area. He chooses to do so and is not considered a risk to the community.

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

Other matters raised at the meeting:

Communal bins blocking pavements; responsibility for the maintenance of the hedge between Easter Haugh houses and Colinton Mains Park; Information security.

CLlr Aitken reported that following the *Police Restructuring Service Level Agreement*, the community police officers are still being funded by the local authority and will be in the community more often in future.

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 Lewis

PPP1 School Closures

See under 'Matters Arising'.

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. A positive progress update was given on this.

Waste and Recycling Complaints

Recent report indicated the number of complaints were down city-wide.

Contrary to this report, and in discussion, members recited negative experiences when raising matters with the bin men. Opinion expressed about lack of standards employed by the council staff on waste collection. Advised that recent unilateral changes to their conditions of service may be the root-cause.

Councillor Aitken

Community Council Elections

As your Returning Officer, I have received this timetable for the elections:

Elected Representatives

- Monday 5 Sept Notice of Election (start of nomination period)
- Monday 26 Sept Close of Registration (forms to Returning Officer)
- Thursday 6 October Notice of Poll (if a poll is required) Thursday 27 Oct Polling Day (if a poll is required)

Nominated Representatives

- Monday 5 Sept Notice of Election
- Monday 26 Sept Close of Registration (forms to Community Council Liaison Officer)

TBA Meeting of registered Local Interest Groups to elect Nominated Members (if necessary)

Prior to the start of the nomination period, I will receive an Election Pack which will include a summary of duties, register of electors, nomination forms for elected representatives, map of the CC area, election publicity and a timetable for election.

School Closures

Oxgangs PS: the pupils returned to school and have settled back to their normal timetables. I attended the school fair on Saturday 28TH May which was very well organised; especially given the short time the school had been reopened.

Braidburn Special School: the pupils and staff coped extremely well with a difficult and challenging decant and I have thanked them personally.

Firrhill HS: the school has now opened fully and the new SI intake has started.

Aldi Development

The Church building has been secured again, following an attempted break in. The sale will be completed in the next two days and the site will be transferred at the end of month. Aldi hope to start on site shortly and will erect a fence to secure the site. Demolition will start as soon as possible.

Action: update website info to advise community the development is definitely going ahead.

Parking at Schools

Illegal parking near Oxgangs and Pentland Primary schools is causing problems and creating an unsafe environment for the pupils. I have reported this to the police and requested increased monitoring by the parking attendants.

Planning Application for 83, Pentland View

The application for Comiston Farm House, Pentland View has now been validated and is available to view on the Planning Portal (16/02397/FUL). The developer, Chamberlain Bell, is proposing to demolish the House, erect 37 1, 2, and 3 bedroom flats and extend the existing entrance. Residents applied to Historic Environment Scotland to have the Farm House listed but this was unsuccessful.

Neighbour notifications have been issued to those who meet the legislative requirements and the final date for representations to be received is 1st July.

Police Issues

The number of housebreakings has fallen again. A number of arrests have been made with the suspects remanded or released on bail curfew.

The new Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Kenny McDonald, is proposing a new operational model for local policing which is currently out for consultation. This will be reported at the meeting of the Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee in September.

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 and are frustrated by lack of progress.

Hope Triangle Health Group

The group met in April and looked at topics for future gatherings. A reflexologist addressed the Group at its meeting on 31st May. Although no longer responsible for the maintenance of the Hope Triangle, the Group will organise events there. The next meeting is 15th August at 10am in the board room at Firrhill Neuk.

Reablement Centre

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

Oxgangs Broadway

Once again, water was flooding through the hydrant cover and flowing down the stairs. The roads inspectors have raised a request for Scottish Water to ensure that their apparatus is not seeping water.

I visited Nanna Flo's Bakery at Oxgangs Broadway to discuss the steps. I then contacted the agent handling his lease who advised that the shop had been sold. Conditions of lease were discussed and I have emailed him with a request to investigate a repair.

Oxgangs Gala

The Gala took place on Saturday 11th June in Colinton Mains Park. There was another excellent turnout — and slightly warmer weather. Congratulations and thank you to the organisers for all their hard work to make the day a success.

(See also under *Matters Arising*)

Members Reports

Planning Report:

Weekly Bulletins

24/05/16: Application 16/02321/FUL for an attic conversion with dormer windows to front and velux to rear, internal alterations forming french doors to the rear and a deck at the rear at 233 Redford Road.

- 31/05/16: No applications or decisions.
- 06/06/16: Application 16/02651/FUL to erect a side extension to a ground floor flat at 52A Oxgangs Avenue.
- 13/06/16: No applications or decisions.
- 21/06/16: Decision on application 16/02056/CLE (Certificate of Lawlessness existing) to replace original conservatory roof of UPC and glass with lightweight insulated roof system with felt-shingle. at 37 Firrhill Drive. Application has been **granted**.

Independent Review of the Scottish Planning System

Titled '*Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places*' this independent review of the Scottish planning system has been made available online. The report and further background information about the review is available at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00500946.pdf>.

Six themes were set out for consultees to address. The report builds on these themes and proposes a package of measures for change. Some of the recommendations represent large scale and game changing proposals. Others are smaller scale improvements to ensure existing processes are as effective as possible. Some would require legislative change, others could be done quickly and easily with collective buy in and co-operation and embed a culture of inclusion.

Revised Edinburgh Planning Concordat 2016 (DRAFT)

The draft revised Edinburgh Planning Concordat has been circulated for discussion and consultation. The document is attached along with a copy of the power point presentation which explains the background and some of the changes in the new version.

If you have any comments on the draft, please send them to nancy.jamieson@edinburgh.gov.uk by Friday 24 June. Alternatively, you can pass your comments to either the Cockburn Association or the EACC if you prefer. It is then intended to report the final revised concordat to the Planning Committee in August. Similar discussions are taking place with the development community.

(documents temporarily on website for members perusal – *Minutes and Reports* page.)

Treasurer's Report:

Balance from date of last meeting was £4,539.80.

Transactions over this period are:

Peter Stone Entertainments (Oxgangs Gala)	£80
Peter stone Entertainments (Oxgangs PS Leavers Dance)	£150
Tommy Wilson	£150
Blair Muir	£140
Lasswade Ponies*	£180
St Marks PS, Donation (see minute of previous meeting)	£50
Braidburn PS, Donation (see minute of previous meeting)	£50
Pentland PS, Donation (see minute of previous meeting)	£50
Total	£850

*Reported by Chair at the meeting that there has been a previous payment of £50 charged as a booking fee and a further £50 was paid on the day to cover additional safety staff. These receipts have still to be presented to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

Current balance is £3689.80.

Action: arrange for annual audit of accounts 2015/16 for CEC

PNP Action Group Meetings

Community Safety Meeting 30th May 2016 (PV):

Dog fouling tracking system

It is estimated that over 90% of dog owners are responsible. However, the irresponsible minority cause more concern than any other issue. The Police at the meeting say this appears to aggravate the public more than housebreaking!

There are 4 full time and one part-time Environmental Wardens for South West. The earliest they start is 06.30 and the latest 19.00. It is known that the biggest offenders are late night dog walkers. An £80 fine was issued at Colinton Mains Park last Wednesday. The wardens patrol the park constantly. Hot spots in our area according to the system are Oxgangs Park, Row, Drive and Firrhill Drive (i.e. they have had the most complaints and are therefore prioritised by the Wardens).

A Dog's Trust dog poop bag (empty!) was produced by another CC attendee, Alastair Murray of Colinton (sponsorship was discussed).

Dog fouling media info: at our request, Michelle Hood has agreed to forward Council info in a format enabling the issue to be highlighted on CC web sites, Facebook and Twitter.

Oxgangs Broadway

Cllr Aitken brought up the subject of the condition of the steps at the bakers. The baker's premises are rented and although the property owners are most likely legally liable there is a possibility their lease makes the tenants liable for these repairs. As a new business this may not be affordable. The neighbouring bookmakers have paid for repairs to the other side of the same walkway.

Correspondence Report

A list of correspondence is attached as **Appendix 1**

A.O.C.B.

AGM

Whilst there will be a need to hold a meeting following the community council elections for the purpose of electing office bearers, it is proposed we hold an AGM prior to this for the purpose of the sitting office-bearers giving their final reports.

Action: defer to next meeting.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **25th July at 7.00 pm** in the Board Room in the Oxgangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk. This will be a business meeting for FCC members to discuss the accounts, community council election, annual general meeting, the health centre, and any other urgent issues.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm approx.

Correspondence List

By e-mail, forwarded to members where possible:

1. 20 mph traffic restrictions for Area 6 – first signs and lines going down: Firrhill Neuk; Firrhill Park; Oxgangs Crescent; Oxgangs Drive; Oxgangs Grove.
2. Edinburgh Airport Flightpath Changes Consultation – 1st stage 6 June to 12 Sept (on FCC website), but “EH13 9 is not under any of the design envelopes within this consultation.”
3. Independent Review of Paediatric Inpatient Services in Lothian: conclusion that these should be retained on two Lothian sites – St John’s and RHSC.
4. TRO/16/51: proposed new disabled parking spaces at 5 Oxgangs Park; 13/1 Oxgangs Place; 35 Firrhill Park; 40 Oxgangs Brae; 65 & 83 Firrhill Drive.
5. Marie Curie Hospice Summer Fete: Sat 23 July, 2-4 pm – donations of new goods for sale or for tombola to be handed in by 18 July.
6. CCs Triennial Elections: Office Bearers’ Letter + Timetable [photocopied for members]
7. Cllr Hart, Convener of ‘Music is Audible’ Working Group re proposed Amendment to CEC’s Licensing Policy re amplified music [photocopied for members]
8. PC Graeme Howie re increase in sheds and garages being broken into in Ward 8: requests extra vigilance and to report anything you think is suspicious.
9. Cllr Burns: Council Leader’s Report for May.
10. Craig Dunlop re damaged cherry tree reported by Pauline Valentine: inspected, and seems to be fine at present.
11. Cllr Rust re problem with walkway at upper Oxgangs Broadway shops: Cllr Aitken will raise at Community Safety meeting and they will contact Andy Powers (Estates) for names of owners.
12. Cllr Aitken: she has found out who owns baker’s shop and will contact them about the unsafe steps and lack of handrail.
13. Cllr Lewis: opportunity for women, 16-26, to appear on Lyceum stage in “The Suppliant Women”; must commit to rehearsal and show schedule Aug-Oct; to register your interest e-mail getonstage@lyceum.org.uk
14. P Valentine’s report on CSAG meeting, 30 May: dog fouling tracking system; dog fouling media info from Council (via Michelle Hood); Oxgangs shops walkway [on FCC Agenda]
15. P Valentine: request for FCC Sec to contact Debbie Herbertson re possible SW Housing funding for two replacement cherry trees at Oxgangs Place/Avenue and Place/Drive
16. Andy Edwards: spreadsheet with overview of NEPs 2016/17 Ward 8 projects and individual score sheets: includes re-surfacing of footway from Fairmilehead junction to No 6 Oxgangs Rd (put forward by Cllr Aitken), which scores 14/15); all other projects are in Colinton.
17. James Harbison, Aldi agent, in reply to FCC Sec’s e-mail re local concerns/ rumours that Oxgangs site has been put on hold at present. He will speak with Aldi’s Property Director and respond with latest timings [on FCC Agenda]

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