

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Annual General Meeting of the Council on 28
November 2016 held in Lochan View Community Business
Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

Attendance: Cllr J Rust, CEC; Cllr R Lewis, CEC;
H Levy; J Turnbull; P Valentine; S Duffy; F Gosney; L Linn; L McGurk; J Napier;
Visitors: S Campbell, Resident; J Burt, Resident.
Apologies: Cllr E Aitken; PC Sonja Kaiser, Oxfangs Police & H Woodward, DunedinCanmore
Housing Association

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

HL reported that Peggy Wright was home from hospital and appears to be in good health. Everyone wishes her well in her recovery in order that we can properly show our appreciation for the work she has done over the many years she has been a Community Council member.

The following papers were circulated for information

- Minute of Previous AGM held on 29 June 2015
- Minute of Previous Meeting held on 24 October 2016
- Report on SW Area Board – Proposed NEP Projects for 2016/17
- Copy of submitted comments to Planning Application 05138
- Police Report for previous month

Minute of Previous Annual General Meeting held on 29 June 2015:

HL reminded members that these minutes were approved at the following July meeting and have been on the website since then. They are provided for information purposes only, to assist members who wish to ask questions on actions from the last AGM.

No matters arising.

Chair's Annual Report:

Heather Levy spoke on the report indicating we have had our usual busy year this year at the end of which our Secretary, Peggy, has decided to call it quits and stand down after two decades of serving our community. On the up side, we have four new members join us, BUT we still have room for more and the more members we have the more we share the load & the more we achieve.

The following is a summary of the major events we have been involved in this year:

Local Developments:

Health Centre

Since the last AGM, we've moved from referring to this new development as the *Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre* to its official name, which is the *Allermuir Health Centre*. Even better, in this year we have seen the foundations laid and the building rising up with its concrete framed structure near completion. On the down side, we have been advised there will be no physiotherapy provision. This

is a service we were keen to see provided and has been included at every presentation given by the NHS on this project since 2008. Now at the building stage, it suddenly comes to light, there is an over provision of this service in the city. Needless to say, we have conveyed our feeling on the matter to David White, general manager NHS Lothian. A copy of the letter dated 9th August is attached to the previous minutes and we are still waiting on a response.

Aldi Retail Foodstore

There is little to report on this development. We were notified on 29th February that the company's application to demolish the existing buildings and erect a retail foodstore was granted by the local authority. However, the actual sale did not go through until the 7th July. Since then the site has been fenced off, but there has been no other activity as far as we are aware.

Hunters Tryst PS Site

At long last there is to be some movement on this vacant site after a well-attended public presentation, held in the library, on a proposal to build 80 – 90 residential units on the site. At its October meeting, the Community Council also received a presentation from the architects and we understand a planning application will be submitted by the end of the year.

Oxgangs Gala:

We held our first Gala in at least 10 years in 2015 and a second successful one in the summer of this year. Huge thanks need to go to those people who stuck with the project and to those who stepped up to the plate to cover and help out with last minute changes. It was a different format we used this year and as I stated right at the start it will continue to change as the event evolves over the forthcoming years BUT the GALA cannot happen without local people getting involved with the project. I constantly hear about the 'good old days', well this is our opportunity to create 'good old days' for our children. A community does not 'just happen' we have to make it, we shape it, we design and it takes effort.

Dog Ownership:

There seems to be a growing issue with irresponsible pet owners which the Community Council have been acting as liaison between neighbours, Police and the Environmental Wardens. Can I take this opportunity to praise Pet Owners the majority of whom are the most caring and giving of people, they often can be seen going around clearing up other people's rubbish, who make a point of talking to everyone or notice when something is not right with a neighbour when they are out with the dog' and raise the alarm. As usual it is that small group of individuals that spoil it for us all. We will continue to monitor and support anyone who is having difficulties either with anti-social behaviour or as a conduit to public officers/services

Community Engagement:

This is why we need active members on the community council. The aim of a community council is to engage with the community, to inform them of local and sometimes regional and national plans that may affect them, to seek their views and relay those to the relevant Authority.

For the purpose of informing the community and seeking its views, the community council holds a public meeting once a month to report on such plans, discuss possible effects and determine what action if any should be taken. Information is disseminated through the public meetings, our website, our Facebook page and through direct contact with those on our contacts list.

For the purpose of seeking information about such plans and relaying the community's views about them, the community council engages predominately with those agencies set up by the Authority to

facilitate community engagement, at present that is the Neighbourhood Partnership and its four Action Groups. We also operate within the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

We are fortunate, with the odd exception, the community council has benefitted from having a good attendance from its members but our membership has been only about two-thirds of what it could be and there is no representation from other local organisations or groups.

If re-elected as chair, it is my intention to seek to revamp the business agenda for the community council and design an approach to our meetings that will cater more for debating local issues raised by members along with a pre-planned annual calendar of events the community council either action or support. Such events will include the Oxfangs Gala and an Annual Debate.

Treasurer's Report:

Item is deferred to the next meeting as the account have still to audited. LL is standing down as Treasurer and this action is required before the new Treasurer takes over the role.

Election of Office Bearers:

At the last meeting, Cllr Aitken proposed the appointment of office bearers be postponed to this meeting with those acting as office bearers continuing in the interim. This had been accepted. In the absence of Cllr Aitken, Cllr Rust agreed to take over the chair for this part of the proceedings and spoke about the work done by the office-bearers and hoped that this would continue to develop. Nominations were then sought and seconded, resulting in the following appointments:

Position	Nominee	Mover	Second
1. Chairperson/PNP Rep	H Levy	L McGurk	L Linn
2. Secretary	J Napier	H Levy	S Duffy
3. Treasurer	L McGurk	H Levy	J Napier

No appointments were made for the following positions:

Vice Chair: it was accepted that in the absence of HL, another member would be elected to take on the Chair's role for that meeting.

Minute Secretary: this role will revert to the Secretary until such time as a non-member can be found to take on the role.

Planning Officer: unlike many other community council areas there was little development in Firrhill requiring an individual appointment. Planning bulletins will continue to be received by the Secretary and relevant information will now be distributed to members who have email facility.

All the above was accepted by the respective nominee and accepted by the members.

HL resumed the Chair and thanked Cllr Rust for his services.

Police Report

Police Constable 11550E Sonja Kaiser gave an update on the police establishment covering the area. There are now 20 police officers based at Oxfangs Police Station, which includes 3 community policing teams, each consisting of 5 officers.

Police officers have been giving talks in the local primary schools and there is still a police presence at the high school.

Local crime consisted of:

- Youths throwing stones at passing vehicles on the Bypass

- Five minor assaults – all resolved
- One serious assault – still under investigation
- Reports of bogus workmen in the area
- Reminder to watch out for bonfires and be safe from fireworks

AOCB

Spread of Graffiti

PV brought to the Council's attention the increasing spread of graffiti in the Oxfangs area. Has taken action to report it to the Police and to the local authority to have the graffiti removed as soon as possible. Has been advised by the South West Locality Transport & Environment Manager that the section that manages graffiti removal is no longer under the management of the South West Locality and for future reference such matters should be sent to southwest.taskforce@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Councillors Reports

Councillors Rust and Lewis attended the meeting but due to the agenda did not have the opportunity to present their reports. Cllr Rust's report is appended below. Cllr Lewis's report is attached as appendix 1. Both reports to be circulated to members after the meeting.

Cllr Rust

- Oxfangs Primary School – parking issues have been raised on behalf of residents.
- Community walkabouts – being reviewed as the service changes and have been suspended.
- Bibs n Tucker – I launched this local social enterprise's website at Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre
- Grit bins – demands received for more grit bins in Oxfangs Road North
- Street lighting – there is a 400-case backlog in repairs etc.
- Pentland Secure Unit – planning application still to be determined.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 23rd January 2017 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm approx.

Cllr Richard Lewis Report

Constituency

Library transformation

The proposed new structure for the Schools and Lifelong Learning Service has been out to consultation with staff and unions. Once this process has been completed there will be further announcements on any changes to the library services in communities across the city. I spoke to Oxfangs library staff last Monday after the article in the Evening News, to assure them that there are no plans to shut any libraries. However, different shift patterns are being looked at as part of the Council's cost savings plans.

Waste

There are currently delays with the food waste collections in the Colinton and Fairmilehead area. This should be rectified today.

Nothing reported to me in the Firrhill area

Road issues affecting the wider constituency

- Colinton/Fairmilehead - BRAID ROAD at Buckstone Drive - SGN gas main repairs - Lane closures and temporary traffic lights 14/11/16 30/11/16
- Colinton/Fairmilehead - BRIDGE ROAD at Spylaw Street - City of Edinburgh Council - footway resurfacing - off-peak lane closures and temporary traffic lights 21/11/16 - 25/11/16
- Colinton/Fairmilehead - WOODHALL ROAD between Bonaly Road and Torphin Road - BT installation works 28/11/16 for 3 days - 3-way temporary traffic lights
- 01/12/16 for 2 days - a-way temporary traffic lights, no left turn from Fernielaw Avenue;
- 03/12/16 for 2 days - 2-way temporary traffic lights

Remit

Moromasa Scroll

The 'Theatres of the East' handscroll by Furoyama Moromasa has been restored to its original beauty thanks to a generous grant by the Sumitomo Foundation.

The Scroll was gifted to Edinburgh Libraries in 1945 by Marie Dyer, daughter of Henry Dyer who was the first Principal of Japan's Imperial College of Engineering. It is one of many Japanese artworks that she donated.

By agreement of the City of Edinburgh Council it will go on show to the public in 2018 in the new East Asia Gallery of the National Museum of Scotland where Dr Buckland will curate its exhibition. Before then images of the Scroll will be available to view at the Libraries Capital Collections web site (www.capitalcollections.org.uk).

Calton Hill — City Observatory — Collective Gallery

I was delighted to take part in the ground-breaking photo call for the new Collective Gallery at Calton Hill. The City Observatory buildings will be refurbished to create a new contemporary visual art space for the capital.

By the end of 2017, one of Edinburgh's most iconic locations, will become a landmark destination for visitors and a space where national and international artists can exhibit their work and be inspired.

The £4m restoration project will include conservation of the Observatory's original 19th century William Henry Playfair designs, its original telescopes and astronomical instruments and its grounds; the creation of a subterranean gallery, and the building of a new restaurant with enviable views across the city.

The Collective, which was founded in 1984 is internationally praised for its work with emergent artists and many world-class artists including Martin Boyce, Jeremy Deller, Claire Barclay, Moyna Flannigan and Callum Innes began their careers there.

Oriam — National Performance Centre for Sport

The official opening of Oriam took place at the beginning of November with the First Minister cutting the ribbon for the world class training venue at Heriot-Watt University's Riccarton Campus. I was delighted to represent the Council and say a few words about the Council's contribution and support of the project and the benefits this will create for our athletes and local community.

As part of the mix, the centre will be open for extensive community use and represents a great addition to the sporting infrastructure of South West Edinburgh.

Meadowbank Sports Centre

Consultation with national governing bodies and clubs is now underway and public consultation will be taking place at Meadowbank Sports Centre on the 17th and 22nd November. The public can find out further information and feedback their thoughts and views at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newmeadowbank. Responses received so far have been broadly positive.

Culture & Sport Committee

At October's Culture & Sport Committee we had a presentation from Festivals Edinburgh, Traverse Theatre and Queen's Hall on behalf of the Edinburgh Cultural Venue Group. The presentation focused on the support given by member venues and festivals to support

Edinburgh's cultural ecosystem. The support ranges from commissions to space, networking opportunities and advice and mentoring. The value of the direct and in-kind support was over £600k and shows the strength of partnership working in place to develop Edinburgh's cultural community.

At the Committee, we had reports on a new archaeology partnership, museums & galleries performance, third party cultural grants and collaborative conversations, and an update on the Music is Audible work stream.

Bedtime Stories — Museum of Childhood

I opened this latest exhibition at the Museum of Childhood which celebrates Bedtime Stories and how they have sparked the imaginations of children over generations. The centre piece of the exhibition is a patchwork quilt made up of over pieces of work by children and adults and each one inspired by the individual's memories of their favourite bed time story.

Great British Live Music Census Group

You may recall that the University of Edinburgh recently carried out a census of live music in Edinburgh. This project has now evolved into a study of live music across the UK and the census will take place between March and May 2017.

Lauriston Castle — Takeover Day

Pupils from P6 at St David's Primary School became tour guides for the day at Lauriston Castle with support from Living History volunteers and staff from the Council's Culture Service. I was lucky enough to be invited along and experience first-hand the hard work and dedication the school pupils have put into learning about the history of the castle and what life would have been like living in such fabulous surroundings.

The Takeover Challenge is a celebration of children and young people's contributions to museums, galleries, arts organisations and heritage sites. The initiative is run by the Children's Commissioner for England and takes place in November every year with 44,000 people. Lauriston Castle is understood to be the first and only Scottish venue to participate and the new young 'staff members' will be invited to take part in future public events.

Green Pencil Award

I was delighted to present the award to **Amy Brand from Oxgangs Primary** for her poem Amy's Garden as well as to **Cara Campbell from Pentland Primary** for The Magical Garden poem.

The eco-themed literary competition for P4-P7 pupils in Edinburgh is a fantastic opportunity for the children to showcase their writing talents and there was no short supply of budding JK Rowling's for this year's intake.

The creative writing task set by our organisers this year had the title 'Scotland's Glorious Gardens', with the aim of encouraging pupils to think and write about the many gardens, parks and green spaces that we are lucky enough to have, and to enjoy using, here in Edinburgh.

Skatepark — feasibility study

I have been working with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust on an application to the One City Trust for funding to complete a feasibility study. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful but I will continue to look for other opportunities to support the development of this project.

Community Access to Schools

Edinburgh Leisure have now taken over the management of community access to school sport facilities at James Gillespies High School and Portobello High School. The ambition remains for Edinburgh Leisure to be responsible for community access to all school sport facilities by the start of the 2017/18 school year, including Firrhill High School.