

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 23 January 2017 held in
Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

Attendance: H Levy; P Valentine; S Duffy; L Linn; J Napier.

Cllr E Aitken, CEC; Cllr R Lewis, CEC; PC 4179E Graeme Howie, Oxfgangs Police

Visitors: N Cornwall & J Burt (Residents); J McGowan (Oxfgangs Library); Scott Arthur (Prospective Labour Candidate); David Bewsey (EACC Secretary); David Harper, Ross, Graham Kelly, Alan & Ian (Aldi reps).

Apologies: L McGurk; J Turnbull; F Gosney; Cllr J Rust,

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

The following papers were on the website for information

- Agenda
- Minute of Previous Meeting held on 16 November 2016
- Police Report for previous month

Minute of Previous Meeting held on 16 November 2016:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 16 November 2016 were reviewed. There were no corrections and the draft minutes were moved for approval by LL and seconded by SD. Approved.

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

No matters arising.

Aldi Presentation:

Activity had been noted at the development site as if work was due to commence and we had asked the retail foodstore company for a timeline for the construction and completion of the new store. Aldi's representatives agreed to come along to this meeting and give us a rundown of how they see the work proceeding. At the time of the meeting the demolition of the social work and church buildings was almost completed.

David Harper speaking on behalf of the Aldi representatives started off by reporting it had been agreed with the Church of Scotland that the church organ would be preserved and this had been carried out during the demolition process. The organ was now in the safe keeping of a restorer, Charlie Davidson.

The construction stage of the development was due to begin on the 20th February, following the site clearance and expected to take 34 weeks and 4 days. Calculating it out, they are looking to open the store on October 19th, which is a Thursday and the day traditionally they open all their stores. To avoid accidental damage to vehicles, parking restrictions have been put in place around the site. Site access will be via the Library car park entrance on Oxfgangs Road North and the library's car park will be suspended during the construction.

This prompted a number of questions regarding access to the library, particularly for those disabled who attend regularly by bus. No firm commitment given but general acceptance the bus should be

able to stop at the site entrance to allow passengers to disembark, Library should liaise with the site manager to avoid conflict.

Cllr Aitken asked for confirmation that lighting would be provided along the pathway from the front of the library down towards Oxgangs Broadway. The raising of the ground level at the side of this path for the Aldi car park would make the bottom of the path dark and sheltered from view. This was a condition she asked to be put in place by CEC Planning authority through the infrastructure and developer contributions scheme and form part of the local authority's street lighting network. Response was unclear but if this is a condition, it would be honoured.

Questions were asked in regard to the employment of local people and apprenticeships. Aldi generally employ the same contractor for their building projects and could give no assurance in regard to that contractor's employment policies. Their own policy is to employ local people where possible and they do have an apprenticeship scheme in operation.

A question was asked about community engagement during the construction stages, such as enabling school visits. This was not something they or their contractors would normally do. Aldi's corporate principles are to promote healthy lifestyles and work with local, regional and national partners in support of good causes.

After the discussion, the Chair thanked David Harper and his associates for their time in coming along to our meeting. Whilst the community council had to take a neutral line in regard to the planning application, we were well aware of the local anticipation for this store to open and wished Aldi every success in this venture.

Police Report: Dec 2016

The copy of the police report received 2nd January and an edited version circulated to members. It is attached as appendix 1. Whilst the information provided in the report was extracted from information received from the Police, it should be noted it has not been ratified and therefore may not be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use as official statistics.

Noted that PC Graeme Howie issued a previous warning for local residents to be vigilant to security light activations, unusual noises, etc., as there has been a spike in activity in Oxgangs Firrhill, Caiystane and neighbouring areas, with several houses, garages and sheds targeted in the last week or so (January 2017).

Speaking to his report, PC Howie spoke on the report and highlighted a few issues which will be of concern to the local community and reiterated his earlier warning.

More recently a group of youths were intimidating shoppers at the Broadway. The police identified the culprits and have spoken to them and their parents.

Also motor car and motorcycle thefts are on the rise again in the area. Suspect there is a core group of people involved who break in to the victims' homes to steal the keys. Mostly the vehicles are recovered undamaged but the culprits are very police aware. People are reminded not to leave their property insecure or leave their car keys, etc., where they are in plain sight.

A number of windows were vandalised at Oxgangs Primary School, which has resulted in the pathway through the school being closed off to the public when the school is closed.

Community Policing

The Community Policing Team Inspector covering Wards is Police Inspector 3324E Liz Duthie

The CPT Sergeant covering ward 8 is Police Sergeant 5890 E Billy Telford

The CPT consists of 3 teams of community-facing Constables, and the emphasis will be on community working, in a bid to solve local issues.

In non-emergencies, should you wish to contact us, please do not hesitate to do so.

You can contact us by email at <mailto:EdinburghColintonFairmileheadCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk> or by telephoning the national non-emergency number 101. You can also follow us on Twitter @EdinPolSW

Police Surgery

Oxgangs Library, Oxgangs Road North, Wednesdays 1700 - 1800 hours.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Aitken

Aldi Development

Demolition is due to start this month with construction following for an Autumn opening.

Parking at Schools

- Received more complaints about parking near Pentland school and will arrange to meet on site with our Area Roads Officer.
- Asked for the footpaths from Pentland Drive to Pentland Primary School and Cockmylane to be cleared of leaves and debris.

Planning Issues:

Hunter's Tryst Site

The Hopefield Partnership planning application is now available on the planning portal – Development of vacant site of former Hunter's Tryst Primary School to 89 affordable housing with associated roads, parking, infrastructure and landscaping at Site 72 metres south of 4A Oxgangs Green 16/06134/FUL.

Comments can be made until 3rd February 2017. This date might change as some reports and information have not been included.

Comiston Farm House

Spoke with the Planning Officer last month. Concerns were expressed about the roads access so the developers are now considering a revised layout. The application is unlikely to be considered by the Development Management Sub Committee until next year.

A request has been made re the land in the HRA account in Swan Spring Avenue. A consultation is proposed to ascertain the current usage of the land to determine whether it can be declared surplus to requirements and released for sale.

A letter has been delivered with details of the consultation. Streets include Pentland Drive, View, Swan Spring Avenue and the Fox Springs.

Jason and Elaine are meeting with Estates officers later this week to discuss issues brought to our attention.

Takeaway at Colinton Mains

The owner of Sugar & Spice Takeaway applied to later opening hours. It currently has permission to open until 9pm and the application was for an 11pm closing time. This was unsuccessful.

Oxgangs Broadway

A number of youths are congregating at the shops and intimidating pedestrians and shop staff. I have notified the police and asked for extra patrols in the area.

Waste Issues

Received many complaints about the recycling bins near Oxgangs Broadway and Oxgangs Avenue/Gardens. The paper bank in particular was not being emptied regularly. The recycling service for street bins is supplied by external companies. Lodged a question at the November Full Council meeting about recycling bins, including paper banks serviced by Palm Recycling and as a result the service will be monitored more strictly. This should ensure that the banks are emptied on a regular basis.

Fly tipping has also been a problem in Oxgangs Street and Firrhill Drive. Reported this to the Environmental Wardens for investigation and clearing.

Asked the Wardens to patrol in Colinton Mains Drive which has experienced increased dog fouling and littering.

Pentland Community Centre

The centre is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with an event this Friday.

'Don't be a bystander, be a friend'

Attended an event organised by the team at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre and the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit last week about domestic abuse. It was stimulating and challenging, making us aware that we all have a role to play in our communities.

Housing

Been in contact with Edinburgh Building Services about faulty boilers in a number of properties to ensure that repairs are done as soon as possible.

Graffiti

A number of instances of graffiti have been reported and cleaned. The police have been made aware of any identifiable tags.

Cllr Rust

Cllr Rust presented his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and provided the following written report along with his best wishes to all Community Councillors for a peaceful and prosperous year ahead.

- A number of sightings of graffiti around Oxgangs, reported by constituents, have been reported to the council team and he is continuing to press for action.
- Attended the January meetings of Colinton Mains Community Centre Management Committee and Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre Management Committee.
- Problems with waste collection have been ongoing. Particular problem areas lately have been Oxgangs Farm and Oxgangs Loan.
- Has submitted questions to Full Council regarding the winter maintenance portal, since queries re gritting and grit bins etc. have gone unanswered for weeks.
- There has been lengthy correspondence and meetings regarding a problem hedge in Oxgangs View. Agreement has been reached and it is now to be removed.

- At Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, tomorrow (Tuesday), the report will be presented on the formation of a working group in relation to Redford Barracks. He is keen that there is community involvement in this group.
- Letters have been issued regarding the small patch of HRA land adjacent to the Comiston Farm house site. Has asked that Oxfams Green residents also receive this, in addition to those at the Fairmilehead side of the site. Along with Elaine, he has a meeting with the Head of Estates this week regarding concerns about the overall sale process which have been raised by local residents.
- Updated the FCC secretary and others re the ongoing situation re the Hunter's Tryst site.

Cllr Lewis

Skateboard – still looking to identify funding to enable a feasibility study to take place

Firrhill High School – PPE Janitorial Services

Constituency

Waste

There are currently delays in the following areas

- Colinton and Fairmilehead area - Grey domestic waste bins.
- Colinton and Fairmilehead - Garden waste bins.
- Colinton and Fairmilehead - Food waste bins.

These outstanding streets are due to be collected today (20 January 2017).

Road issues affecting the wider constituency

I have not been made aware of any TTRO's affecting the ward.

Remit

Culture & Sport Committee

At December's Committee, we had presentations from the Curator of the City's Travelling Gallery and the Directors of Edinburgh International Science Festival and Imagine. The Committee also discussed reports on 2016 Summer Festivals, Festival & Events Core Programme, Inverleith House and Meadowbank Sports Centre.

Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay

Edinburgh once again celebrated Christmas and the New Year in style with a plethora of events across the capital over the festive period. The Street of Light was moved to George Street with thousands of revellers attending shows each night and Princes Street Gardens played host to the European Market, Observation Wheel and many more attractions and rides. St Andrew Square hosted the Ice Rink with skaters circling the Melville Monument whilst the Spiegel Tent moved to Festival Square for the first time with the West End hit show Five Guys Named Moe.

The Hogmanay festivities began with the annual Torch Light Procession which saw 40,000 torch bearers descend on the streets of Edinburgh to follow the well-trodden path from George IV Bridge to Calton Hill. The world-famous street party was complimented by the return of the Old Town Ceilidh with Paulo Nutini and spectacular fireworks round off 2016 and bringing in the New Year. For those brave enough, the Loony Dook provided the opportunity to start 2017 in style!

Culture Project Fund

The City of Edinburgh Council's new £45,000 Cultural Project Fund was launched on Monday this week. The fund has been developed as a result of feedback through the Desire Lines consultation and will focus, in its first year, on performance arts. This is first time since XXXX that the Council has had a fund for cultural development projects.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded to organisations based in Edinburgh to help with the costs of producing new performing artwork.

Applications are only open to organisations that are not currently funded by the City of Edinburgh Council and will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The strength of concept and ideas
- The quality of project management,
- The extent to which the plans demonstrate partnership working and resource sharing
- Local and/or city-wide importance of the project, including who will participate in or otherwise benefit from it
- The difference that this funding will make to the project.

The closing date for applications is Friday 10th March.

Community Engagement

This item has been deferred due to lack of time to discuss fully.

A paper was circulated with the agenda, the Chair and Secretary are seeking to revamp the business agenda for the community council (CC) 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.

Members were asked to give some thought to internal communications used by the community council, that is communications for the purpose of sharing information within the CC itself.

AOCB

Redford Barracks

Colinton CC received information of the City Council's intention to form a Working Group to consider the options in the event the MOD go ahead with its intention to sell off this site. As the proposal stands, it does not directly include community representatives in the WG's membership but undertakes to keep them informed.

Colinton CC seeking to have community involvement with a rep from both Colinton and Firrhill CCs on this working group as it is a crucial local issue and two-way communication would be important. Any community councillor appointed to this Working Group would be liable to be bound by the Code of Conduct.

Action: agreed to consider the matter and advise D Bewsey of decision

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 27th February 2017 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm approx.

Community Engagement

Covering E-Mail issued with Agenda

Hi,

Please find attached a copy of the Agenda and the draft minutes for our last meeting which was the November AGM.

You will note within the Chairs Annual Report in the previous minutes, her intention to seek to revamp the business agenda for the community council (CC) 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.

As a starting point members are asked to give some thought to internal communications used by the community council, that is communications for the purpose of sharing information within the CC itself.

The CC holds monthly meetings to enable information to be circulated around the membership for noting or action. The information predominately comes via the CC office-bearers or associated guests who attend our meetings.

Question – how can we constructively engage all members in activities outwith those meetings where they have a responsibility for monitoring and reporting back on matters that are of value to the CC?

Question – what skills do we have within the membership?

The CC runs a website and a Facebook page to enable information to be made openly available in the wider community. They also enable the community to communicate with the CC.

Question – should we extend into other areas of social media, twitter, etc.?

Question – how can we develop our contact list?

Pre-planned Calendar of events – members are asked to give some thought to annual events that take place in the community, which they consider it would be useful for the CC to be more aware of and schedule into our meetings.

Many thanks

Jim Napier,

Secretary, Firrhill Community Council

Please note the draft minutes are on the website/documents page