

## Firrhill Community Council

‘Nec Aspera Terrent’  
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 27 February 2017 held  
in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

**Attendance:** H Levy; S Duffy; L Linn; L McGurk; J Turnbull; F Gosney; J Napier.

Cllr J Rust, CEC; PC 11550E Sonja Kaiser, Oxfangs Police

**Visitors:** S Campbell & J Burt (Residents).

**Apologies:** P Valentine; Cllr E Aitken; Cllr R Lewis

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 23 January 2017:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 23 January 2017 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)**

### Matters arising

#### School Closures – Enquiry

The findings of the Edinburgh Schools Inquiry (“the Cole Report”) was included on the Council agenda for the full Council meeting on 9 February and made publicly available on the day of the meeting.

The Report was commissioned after the collapse of a wall at Oxfangs Primary School which led to the subsequent closure of 17 schools. It was led by respected construction and procurement industry expert, Professor John Cole CBE.

Some of the key findings from the report, which runs to over 250 pages, include

- the collapse of the wall was due to poor construction and inadequate supervision;
- insufficient independent quality assurance and poor record keeping by the Council and ESP;
- ineffective quality assurance measures within the construction industry;
- the Council made the correct decision to close the 17 schools;
- the alternative education arrangements put in place for over 8,300 pupils was a ‘remarkable feat’;
- the issues identified in Edinburgh are likely to be more widespread.

The report contains many recommendations for the Council and other bodies, both public and private, as well as the construction industry. The Council has already started a full survey of all

buildings across the estate which will be complete by the end of the year. This will be followed by a five-year rolling programme of regular follow up surveys.

During the course of the Inquiry, some issues relating to fire safety in PPP1 schools were highlighted. This is an issue that has been identified right across the UK and the Council has been working with Edinburgh Schools Partnership to investigate all such concerns. ESP has confirmed that all remedial works identified last autumn are complete and the schools are safe to occupy.

*Action: Report noted*

### Clamped Vehicles

This is in regard to complaints about the lack of action by the Authorities to resolve a problem concerning an untaxed vehicle. The vehicle has been clamped by the DVLA, but presumably the owner has ignored this action and the vehicle has been left clamped. The DVLA do not wish to proceed and the local authority and police apparently do not have the authority to take action to have the vehicle removed from the public highway.

Noted that the number of vehicles being clamped has increased and concern has been raised about what amounts to the illegal abandonment of vehicles with no Authority willing to take action to resolve the problem. (see also – Police Report)

*Action: Police to contact DVLA*

### **Police Report: January 2017**

Whilst the information provided in the following 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.

Speaking to her report, PC Kaiser highlighted a few issues which will be of concern to the local community.

Community Police Station: this past month (January) your local Policing Team have been at several Child Protection Case conferences, serving Court citations, executing Court warrants, keeping members of the public safe by targeting stone throwers and assisting in striving to keep Firrhill / Colinton Mains / Oxfangs a safe place to live and work.

High visibility speed checks have been conducted on busy thoroughfares in Ward 8 and surrounding wards. Patrols have been conducted in the local area in relation to anti-social behaviour, housebreaking and policing dangerously parked cars and speeding motorists.

### **Reports of Crime**

Report of an attempted housebreaking at Caiystane Terrace on 11/01/2017. Several minor assaults reported in January (mostly domestic related and solved). No serious assaults, although there was a reported robbery and assault at Oxfangs Crescent on 22/01/2017. Several road traffic offences (no insurance, drink driving, etc.) were detected during the month of January and reports have been sent to PF. Theft of number plates from Oxfangs Row and Colinton Mains Crescent and theft of jewellery from Oxfangs Crescent. On the plus side, there were no reports of hate crimes in January.

### **Incidents of Note**

There have been further incidents of windows being smashed at Oxfangs PS, which are still being investigated. Two youths identified for hanging around the Broadway asking customers to purchase alcohol, have been spoken to in front of their parents. DVLA and Council have again been made aware of the trucks/cars parked in Oxfangs street and the car park.

## Issues raised at the Meeting

Report of neighbours' concerns about a group of youths who have started gathering in the common stair at 18 Oxfords Street.

Report of a primary school child threatening other children with a knife and the lack of response from the school when reported.

*Action: Community Police Officer to look into these reports*

## Neighbourhood Watch

The Police are conducting a new promotion of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which aims to get people to take responsibility to watch over their own neighbourhoods and report matters that are of concern to them, thus contributing to the wellbeing of their own communities.

*Action: Scheme to be promoted on the CC's website and Facebook page.*

## 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

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

## Councillors Reports

### Cllr Rust

Cllr Rust reported the following issues.

1. The **Council Budget** has now been set for the coming year. The Council Tax freeze, which has been in place for residents since April 2007, has come to an end. The Council Administration in Edinburgh approved a 3% increase across all Council Tax Bands from A to H. In addition, the Scottish Government introduced legislation where there will be an increase in the level of Council Tax across Scotland for all properties in bands E to H. there is no local discretion regarding these changes. The percentage change which applies to these bands will be applied before the 3% increase. This starts at 7.5% for Band E up to 22.5% for Band H.
2. **Dog fouling** continues to be a nuisance in the area and I have dealt with numerous complaints in the Oxfords Farm area. The area is already on the Council's dog fouling tracer system as a result of foot patrols carried out by environmental wardens. Persons who fail to pick up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100, reduced to £80 if paid within 28 days. I have been assured that the Council intends to continue with its patrols in the area to effectively deal with any offenders.

3. I have been following up with the Council regarding the **abandoned vehicles** in Oxgangs Street. It appears DVLA has no plans to take further action at this stage and I have been in touch with the police on this matter.
4. Dumping on the **Braidburn path** near to Oxgangs PS and along from the footbridge into Colinton Mains Park has been reported. A number of Tesco trolleys and other debris were also in the burn.
5. The revised **Pentland View / Comiston Farmhouse** application is open for comments until 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. The number for the amended application is 16/02397/FUL. Anyone who made comments on the previous application requires to re-submit their comments for them to be considered.

The question was asked if there is to be any social housing included in this development.

6. **Carriageway maintenance resurfacing** should take place this week at Dreghorn Drive and Oxgangs Farm Avenue.
7. Phase 2 of the roll-out of a **20mph speed limit** goes live tomorrow in the north, east and south central city areas. Firrhill CC area is not due to go live until 31 January 2018

#### **Streetlighting Issue raised at the meeting**

LMcG raised concerns about the street lighting Colinton Mains Drive. It is a main thoroughfare running through the centre of a residential area with shopping centres spread out along its length. At night, it is poorly lit by the streetlights during the early part of the evening.

*Action: Cllr Rust to raise with Street Lighting Manager, CEC.*

#### Cllr Lewis

##### **Roadworks:**

- Oxgangs Road North at Oxgangs Farm Avenue – recent installation of temporary traffic lights from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February to facilitate Scottish Power installation of power supply for new Aldi store.
- Dreghorn Drive between the Gardens and the Place – road closed to through traffic from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb to 3<sup>rd</sup> March for footway resurfacing.
- Oxgangs Farm Avenue in its entirety – road closed from 27<sup>th</sup> Feb to 9<sup>th</sup> June for carriageway and footway resurfacing.

**Waste:** Unaware of any waste delays in the ward.

**Budget:** The City of Edinburgh Council set its annual budget on 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Redford Barracks Working Group:** the CEC have convened a working group which I will chair and have decided to organise an informal meeting at the end of March to discuss the remit and gather the communities view on the key issues. I will ensure that all interested local politicians, community groups and relevant officers from housing, planning, health and social care, schools and culture and sport are present. The first formal meeting of the working group will take place after the May elections.

#### **Office Bearers' Reports**

##### EACC General Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Meeting attended by JN and was held in the City Chambers.

Initial part of the meeting started with financial issues left over from the AGM with the approval of the 2015/16 accounts and agreement to maintain the membership fee at zero. Delegates have asked for some background information on the appointed auditor, Christine Cameron.

Papers for EACC meetings are on their website at <http://www.edinburghcommunitycouncils.org.uk/>

### **Locality Working:**

Received an update from Nick Croft on the introduction of 'Locality' working and a discussion on the feedback from the Localities sessions held at the EACC-AGM. A copy of the feedback paper is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The City is going through a transformation programme, to meet the needs of people who use its services and to address a budget shortfall. Part of this is the development of more online services which can be access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are allegedly faster, more convenient and cost the Council less to deliver, whilst enabling them to focus resources on frontline services.

As part of the transformation programme and in order to provide more joined up services locally the City has been divided into four areas known as "Localities". This locality-based approach is intended to bring decision making closer to citizens and the new locality areas will be the same geographical areas for all public-sector partners such as the NHS, police and fire services. Neighbourhood Partnerships will still exist and work within the new localities.

### **South West Locality Improvement Plan:**

Locality Improvement Plans are a development from one of the Capital Coalition pledges (36) to ensuring Edinburgh and its residents are well cared by developing improved partnership working across the Capital and with the voluntary sector.

The consultation process is still ongoing. Service users and members of the public were asked to complete a questionnaire about what people would like South West Edinburgh to be in future and the results of these are in the process of being collated. This process ends in October 2017 with the approval of a South West Locality Improvement Plan. This plan will guide how the Council, the Police, the NHS, Fire and Rescue Service, and the third sector work together with the community to deliver local priorities in South West Edinburgh.

### **Edinburgh Development Forum:**

The Chair of the Forum has asked EACC to present community views on the outcome of developments to their March meeting. This was passed on to CCs, to consider if developments in their area turned out to be better/worse or as anticipated on completion. Various opinions.

Community Planning for People and Planet" Jan / Feb 2017: I attended this event at the WHEC on 15<sup>th</sup> February

### **Community Plan for People and Planet**

Meeting attended by JN, and held in the Wester Hailes Education Centre at 7pm

### **Community Engagement**

A discussion paper was circulated with the agenda, supporting the desire of the Chair and Secretary to revamp the business agenda for the community council (CC), designing an approach to our meetings that will cater more for debating local issues raised by members and also anticipate those events which should be pre-planned by the community council for action or support.

Due to confusion about the focus of the discussion and lack of time, it was agreed to defer this subject to a later date. However, the following list was drawn up to identify those events where it is considered there is a need to promote community engagement:

1. New Development – Aldi Store at Oxfangs Road North
2. New Development – Residential Housing at Oxfangs Green
3. New Development – Allermuir Health Centre at Colinton Mains Drive
4. Closure of the Oxfangs Childrens Home – temporary or permanent
5. The South West Locality Walkabout Programme – purpose and value
6. Oxfangs Street – environmental issues
7. Oxfangs Gala – annual event organised through the CC
8. Waste collections – missed collections, new recycling collection sites and changes to collection of waste
9. Campaigns – dangerous dogs, dog fouling, vandalism, flytipping, graffiti
10. Local/Regional/National Elections – public meetings (hustings)

The Chair asked for a private business meeting to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss community engagement in regard to the above and any other issues raised by members. This was agreed.

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

Members were asked to consider bringing forward the time of the meetings by one hour, which would be of benefit to those working during the day, giving them more useful leisure time at night. This was agreed.

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm approx.

## Locality Break-out sessions from 2016 EACC AGM

Comments In no particular order

### South West

- Neighbourhood Partnership go to Monthly meetings
- Funding Panel given higher ceiling of funding is £5000 really enough to make a difference?
- Better communications between NP and cc's
- Easier Access to NP officials
- Better line of sight between Action Groups within NP and CC's
- Better sharing of good Practices
- Better use of Social Media but not to the detriment of other lines of communication
- Do NP's really represent the communities they serve? And are they all consistent in this approach

### South East

- They are helpful when you contact and engage but could do more to promote themselves
- They need clarity in communication and also to be better at doing it!
- Do they actually have influence and do they do any good.
- Why go through NP when we get better results going direct to person or dept. direct
- Lack of engagement on new Localities
- Better database of "good practices"

### North West

- Poor communication
- Lack of knowing what NP's actually do
- What are sub groups?
- Need to be more relevant
- Could do better in sharing Best Practices
- More regular meetings, not necessarily formal!! Just general get together to share best practices and info
- A flow chart would help communities understand what NP's actually do

### North East

- Are NP's actually dysfunctional?
- Poor sharing of information and best practices
- Lack of community engagement
- Why are they all not to the same standard. Some far better at engagement than others • Sharing of Best Practices poor or non existent

Consensus seems to focus on 1. Lack of communication; 2. Lack of clarity; 3. No sharing of Good Practices; 4. Lack of Community engagement; and 5. Why is there such inconsistency in working practices between all the Neighbourhood Partnerships?