

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 27 March 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 E Aitken; Cllr J Rust, CEC; PC 4179E Graeme Howie, Oxfangs Police

Visitors: S Campbell & J Burt (Residents).

Apologies: P Valentine; Cllr R Lewis

The meeting started at 6 pm, with H Levy in the Chair.

The following business 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 27 February 2017:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 27 February 2017 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by LMcG, seconded by JT. Approved.

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

Matters arising

Clamped Vehicles

Historical complaint about a vehicle used for the collection of scrap metal, being constantly parked in a residential area and being an eyesore. Issue resurrected as the vehicle was clamped by DVLA, presumably for being untaxed but with no further action seemingly being taken. On making enquiries, there appears to be a reluctance on the part of the different Authorities to take action. The DVLA because of the scrap metal load on the back of the vehicle. The local authority and police because they do not have the authority to remove the vehicle although it appears a scrap metal business is being run from a residential location.

The updated position is that the vehicle in question has had its clamp removed and been moved to a residential parking area near its original location. It is parked next to a second vehicle being used for the same purpose.

In discussion, it became clear Authorities are seemingly reluctant to act on complaints unless other factors made it high profile. The Community Council concerned at the lack of ability of Authorities to maintain residential environments. The situation if not dealt with appropriately may lead to further incidents causing an increasing deterioration of an area that is overwhelmingly residential. Whilst we support individual endeavours to create a living it should not be to the detriment of those living alongside them.

See also Police and Cllr Rust's reports.

Action: Ongoing due to continued concerns and confusions about this matter, that we confirm the actual situation and ascertain the legal position.

Issues raised under the Police Report

Relates to a report of a primary school child threatening other children with a knife and the lack of response from the school when reported. Police have investigated the incident and are satisfied the matter has been dealt with appropriately.

Colinton Mains Drive: Street Lighting

Concern raised about poor lighting on this main road. At our request, Cllr Rust asked Street Lighting Authority to assess the lighting and arrangements are being taken to confirm whether the LED lights achieve the level of lighting required to P2, on this street.

Lighting level P2, covers busy roads (i.e. areas where the traffic usage is high and can be associated with local amenities such as clubs, shopping facilities, public houses etc.)

Authority will provide feedback of results once it is completed and the resulting calculations made.

Action: Report noted, await feedback

Correspondence

Most of the correspondence is covered within other subjects on the agenda. There is one item which is relevant to the new members of the community Council

1. Community Council Engagement with the Planning Service

Issued by Planning Service Delivery, it is an invitation to gain an understanding of what the planning system is for, how the service is delivered and what the community council's role is. The event is being held in the Midlothian Chambers, George IV Bridge on Tuesday, 25th April at 4.00 pm.

Police Report: February 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 his report, PC Graeme Howie 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 / Oxbgangs a safe place to live and work.

E Division Priorities: this past month Edinburgh Division has been focussed on solving crimes of violence, housebreaking hate crimes and protecting visitors and residents.

Housebreakings

HBWI – 5 garden sheds were broken into in the Colinton Mains area where nothing was stolen

HB – A further 3 garden sheds were broken into in the Colinton Mains whereby property was stolen.

All incidents took place overnight 13th into 14th February.

Assault

There was a robbery and assault in Oxbgangs Broadway on 12th February. This is now solved, with a 31-year-old male being arrested.

Road Safety / Initiatives

Several Road traffic offences (no insurance, drink driving etc.) were detected during the month of February and reports have been sent to the PF.

Theft

There was a theft of a car from Oxgangs Drive on 24th February. All known keys accounted for.

Hate Crime

There were no hate crimes in February, although there was a disability incident in Firrhill Crescent whereby a number of wheelie bins were deliberately positioned in a marked parking bay.

Actions update from previous meeting

DVLA and council have again been made aware of the trucks/cars parked on Oxgangs Street and in the car park. PC Kaiser-Ferris is progressing the issues regarding these clamped vans in Oxgangs Street.

Items raised at the meeting

Reports of quad/dirt bikes racing up and down in the woods behind Firrhill Crescent/Drive and possible connection to a spate of sheds being broken into in that area.

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 Rust

Cllr Rust reported the following issues.

1. Issues in relation to vehicles at **Oxgangs Street** have been followed up with CEC, Police and DVLA – matter arising per agenda.
2. Issues in relation to street lighting in Colinton Mains and specifically **Colinton Mains Drive** have been followed up with the department – matter arising per agenda.
3. During the closure of the **library carpark**, staff have advised me that they are happy to carry books to cars if required or assist in whatever ways they are permitted. Colinton and Newington Libraries are also suggested as temporary alternative locations for library use with parking. The path will be kept open, but the carpark requires to remain closed for health and safety reasons during development works.

As the site entrance is via the car park entrance, it is unlikely to be publicly available until after the development work is completed

4. Residents have been in contact regarding the feeding of birds in **Oxgangs View**. Environmental wardens are aware of the situation.
5. There have been a number of complaints regarding waste management yet again from across the ward. Locally, **Oxgangs Farm** and **Oxgangs Crescent** have been amongst the worst affected.
6. Along with residents, I attended the site visit at **Comiston Farmhouse** on 24th March. I will be speaking at the hearing on 19th April.
7. The **18 Lothian Bus** is having its service extended to every 30 minutes on a Saturday and Sunday.

Also, there are indications that it's route is to be extended to Fort Kinnaird

8. There have been items dumped against **Oxgangs Library** wall and I have been in touch with the council Task Force.

Concern raised at the state of the yard behind the Good Companions Public House

Action: Report noted.

Cllr Lewis

Roadworks:

- Oxgangs Farm Avenue in its entirety – road closed from 27th Feb to 9th June for carriageway and footway resurfacing.
- Frogston Road West between Fairmilehead crossroads and Frogston Avenue, there will be lane and footway restrictions on north side for 3 days from 27 to 29 March and to allow for BT cable installation

Skate Park – Colinton Mains

Attended the Pentland Funding Panel meeting to speak in favour of the application by Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust for financial support towards the costs of a feasibility study for a new skate park at Colinton Mains Park. I'm delighted that the panel agreed to contribute £1500 towards the overall cost. This project originated from a petition I received to improve the facilities for young people in the Colinton and Oxgangs area and I am hopeful that we can deliver a skate park in Colinton Mains.

Action: To request an update from Cllr Lewis on the progress Edinburgh Leisure are making towards taking over control of leisure facilities in all of Edinburgh's senior schools (excluding private schools).

Cllr Aitken

Aldi Development

I received complaints on 15th March which was the first day the library car park was closed for the construction of the new Aldi store. Unfortunately, the path from the library to Oxgangs Broadway was also closed. The library was holding a reminiscence event that day for older people so full access was required. I contacted the Land Director at Aldi who arranged for the Site Manager to liaise with the library staff and make sure that the path was opened and community transport buses were allowed into the site.

Planning Issues:

Hunter's Tryst Site

Further information has been requested from The Hopefield Partnership and it is anticipated that this application will be considered by the new Planning Committee in June.

Comiston Farm House

A site visit took place on Friday 24th March and a hearing will take place at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 19th April.

Takeaway at Colinton Mains

The application is due for decision on 29TH March.

Oxgangs Young Peoples Centre

I have requested an up to date timescale for the demolition and new build for the centre and will circulate it to local residents.

Oxgangs Broadway

The paving stones there are due to be repaired.

St Marks Primary School

Neighbours have complained that the lights are on permanently at the school. I received this response:

"The school lights are manually operated from inside the school, which requires the Janitor to turn the lights on in the evening and then turn them off again in the morning; or at a time that he feels it is necessary to ensure that at all times there is adequate lighting in and around the building to ensure safe access/egress.

The lights remain on throughout the night for security purposes, without the lights on the security cameras would only display pictures of darkness.

However, now that this has been brought to my attention, I have requested today for the lighting to be reviewed and to see if it will be possible to change them over to a night sensor system, which would result in the lights being activated by the natural change in light, or for another solution to be looked into."

Waste Issues

I have requested more or larger litter bins in the vicinity of Firrhill HS. The current bins are frequently overflowing and spilling litter on the ground.

I again received complaints about the recycling bins near Oxgangs Broadway and Oxgangs Avenue/Gardens. They were serviced following my contact with Palm Recycling.

Glass collections in Oxgangs Loan were missed again and a complaint lodged. I attended a briefing on the new in cab route system which shows the routes and location of bins in greater detail. Instructions for individual households can be entered.

I've also asked the Wardens to patrol in Colinton Mains Drive which has experienced increased dog fouling and littering.

Office Bearers' Reports

CSAG Meeting: 13th March 2017

Meeting attended by JN (substitute for PV) and was held in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre. Papers relating to the meeting are attached as Appendix 1

Future of the Scottish Planning System: 14th March 2017 (JN)

PAS (www.pas.org.uk) held discussion forums for Community Councils and other community groups to hear and express views on proposed reforms to the planning system contained in the current Scottish Government consultation paper. Attended the Edinburgh event on 14 March in the Central Library, George IV Bridge. The consultation on the future of planning in Scotland was published on 10th Jan and the consultation paper "Places, People and Planning" sets out 20 proposals for change which aim to strengthen the planning system and support sustainable economic growth across the country. The proposals build on the recommendations of the independent review of the planning system.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC): 23rd March

Due to other engagements, there was no attendance from Firrhill CC at this meeting. The papers for the meeting are available on the EACC website: <http://www.edinburghcommunitycouncils.org.uk/>.

Planning Bulletins

Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

Application 17/00701/FUL for an alteration to shopfront at 88 Colinton Mains Drive (Scotmid are opening a new funeral branch here)

Application 17/00702/ADV for an advertisement of the following types: Fascia Sign, Projecting Sign. at 88 Colinton Mains Drive.

Application 17/00943/FUL to remove existing conservatory and extend house at rear at 320 Oxfangs Road North.

Application 17/00948/CLP for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed replacement of the existing front garden area with a driveway at 35 Oxfangs Farm Avenue.

Application 17/00120/FUL for a proposed attic conversion with formation of front and rear dormers at 292 Colinton Mains Road has been granted.

Application 17/00204/FUL for the construction of a two-storey extension at side of property at 348 Oxfangs Road North has been granted.

Application 17/00143/FUL for the construction of a single storey, lean-to extension on rear of property and timber deck at 3 Oxfangs Farm Drive has been granted.

Community Engagement

The business meeting arranged for the 13th March had to be cancelled as it clashed with other activities taking place that night, involving a number of members. In order to progress the matter, the Chair proposed that members meet on the **10th April at 6.00 pm**. This was agreed.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

The Chair referred to the decision to bring the time of meeting forward by one hour and asked if everyone was happy with this arrangement. There was no dissent.

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **24th April 2017** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.

CSAG Meeting: 13th March 2017

Update on the Local Community Plan Actions

1. Parking Issue at Pentlands Drive is still an ongoing problem.
2. The LCP layout is not the best reporting format – looking for suggestions to improve format.
3. CSAG minutes not being published on NP website – has been referred to SW Partnership Development Officers and awaiting a response.
4. Paper on the control of dogs and dangerous dogs process circulated at this meeting.
5. Illegal parking in Currie – raised by the Currie CC – police are aware of problems.
6. Request for canals to be included in LCP actions
7. Request for dates of Home Security Events to be circulated once confirmed and to be added to next year's agenda – police to circulate when available.
8. Request for an update on 'End of Year' report – awaiting details from NP Development Officers

ASB Complaints:

Covers ASB complaints reported and investigated by the CEC from 1st Sept 2016 to 6th March 2017.

Category	No. of complaints Ward 2	No. of Complaints Ward 8
Noise	21	21
Threatening Behaviour	0	5
Nuisance Behaviour	12	10
Minority Harassment	2	0
Dog Barking	2	3

Local Community Plan 2014 - 2017:

(09) Pentlands

The Pentlands is home to people of all ages from a range of backgrounds. The Neighbourhood includes historic villages and areas of modern housing, with a range of local parks and green space. Communities enjoy and value the quality of life in the Neighbourhood, and work hard to maintain and improve the area, recognising the different needs of all those who live here.

Priority: Make the community a safer place to live and work

The Community with Partners will work to achieve this by tackling anti-social behaviour and helping to improve home and personal safety.

Priority: Ensure public space and parks are well maintained

The Community Plan with partners will tackle dog fouling and litter, encouraging use of parks for play and leisure, promoting friends of parks groups, and making recycling easier.

Community Safety Action Group

The Action Group has an established process for identifying community safety priorities from each multi-member ward, this action plan sets out activity relating to cross service working, where priorities raised by the group do not involve cross service working these are incorporated into internal service plans.

Terminology

Neighbourhood Partnership Actions (NPA): are actions

- which must link to the Local Community Plan
- which partners have proposed and had approved by the CSAG
- which the community is working with partners to deliver
- which are monitored via milestones and reported back to the CSAG **and** to the Neighbourhood Partnership (NP)

Single Service Actions (SSA) (e.g. Police Scotland, SFRS and CEC): are actions

- which a single service agency has proposed, will lead on and had approved by the partners of the CSAG
- which are only monitored and reported back to the CSAG – they are NOT part of the formal monitoring and report to the NP (see above under NPA) however they may influence future Local Community Plans
- which link to any strategic or operational priorities of that partner's service area

CSAG Local Actions (CSAGLA): are actions

- which a partner has proposed and had approved by the partners of the CSAG and may not fall into the Local Community Plan.
- which are reported back to the CSAG - they are NOT part of the formal monitoring and report to the NP (see above under NPA)
- which have been discussed via the CSAG who have decided there is a community safety issue and agreed that resources can be deployed (all partners may be involved)

Discussions (D): are discussions

- which the CSAG has discussed and may include future strategic/political decisions on CS issues
- which the GSAG may want to explore how best to influence any future decisions e.g. political lobbying etc.
- which are monitored via the CSAG - they are NOT part of the formal monitoring and report to the NP (see above under NPA)

Neighbourhood Partnership Actions (NPA) Partnership Monitoring Tool

(Previously known as priorities and now link with Local Community Plan)

Action	Lead	Milestone	Comp/	Milestone note	Overall Progress	Due Date
Publicise the service priorities set by the Action Group and increase input from the community	Comm. Reps	Comm. reps to build on or establish social media channels (or other) to increase awareness and involvement in the Action Group	No		0 out of 2 milestones achieved	31-Oct-2017

		Community reps to publicise the process for reporting dangerous dogs	No	This will detail the role of the Police and of Council Services		
Reduce fire-raising in Ward 8	SFRS	Key partners to investigate and establish a plan of activity	No	Further milestones will be developed as a result of this plan	0 out of 1 milestones achieved	31-Oct-2017
Tackle illegal parking in Currie (Vietches Site)	Police Scotland	Police Scotland to establish a plan of activity for traffic officers and parking attendants	No	Further milestones will be developed as a result of the plan	0 out of 1 milestones achieved	31-Dec-2015
By tackling dog fouling and litter, encouraging use of parks for play and leisure, promoting friends of parks groups, and making recycling easier.	CEC	Increase community input to the Dog Fouling Tracking System	No		0 out of 1 milestones achieved	31-Oct-2017

Neighbourhood Partnership Actions (NPA) -Specific Actions

Actions	Descriptions	Associated Actions	Ward	Priority proposed by	Lead Agency	Community Involvement
General	Publicise NPAs 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 & 8	CSAG	Comm. Reps	As appropriate, use all mediums to promote the work of the CSAG This would include CC's websites newsletters tweets and Face book
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	Ratho CC	SFC CS/EW	Green dog walkers scheme <i>Judy Wightman to circulate</i> In all CC communications and as appropriate inform on Dog Control Act and Dangerous Dogs Act

Tackle ant-social behaviour	Police Scotland / CS /Community Councils	Key partners to investigate and establish a plan of activity	2	Further milestones will be developed as a result of this plan	0 out of 1 milestones achieved	10-Dec-2015
Fire raising	SFRS will work to maintain and increase the uptake of Home Fire Safety visits in the Pentlands area'	Community and SFRS	2 & 8	Councillor Aitken	Police Scotland / SFRS / SFC / CS / EW	Recommend publicity via CC meetings and any written communications Twitter Facebook or as appropriate

Single Service Actions (SSA)

Acquisitive Crime	Housebreak ins including sheds (day time crime)		2	All Ward 2 Community Councils	Police Scotland	
Acquisitive Crime	Housebreak ins including sheds (day time crime)		8	All Ward 8 Community Councils	Police Scotland	

CSAG Local Actions (CSAGLA)

Actions	Ward	Action proposed by	Actions Owner	Actions	Outcome / Feedback
Water of Leith – aggressive cyclists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happens at weekend Cyclists coming back from Pentland Hills 	2	Currie CC	Police Scotland	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate resources (to include Bikes) 	We did

Discussions

Discussion	Ward	Action Proposed	Action Owner	Future Work	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot re parking at schools rolled All CSAG community members keen to see in their area 	2 & 8	All Pentland CCs	CEC	Does the CSAG need to decide upon other actions including political lobbying re this being delivered in Pentlands CSAG area	