

Firrhill Community Council

‘Nec Aspera Terrent’
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 24 April 2017 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

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

Cllr J Rust, CEC; 2 Community Police Officers

Visitors: S Campbell & J Burt (Residents).

Apologies: F Gosney; P Valentine; Cllr E Aitken; Cllr R Lewis

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

Minute of Previous Meeting held on 27 March 2017:

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

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

Ongoing Issues from Previous Meeting

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.

In discussion, it was accepted whilst the Community Council remains concerned at the lack of ability of the various Authorities to maintain residential environments from this type of abuse, it appears no further action can be taken at this time.

Action: Continue to monitor but matter closed as an ongoing issue.

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.

Action: Item held in abeyance until assessment report received from Authority.

Community Access to Schools

Request sent by email (11/04) to Cllr Lewis, asking for information on the current position regarding community access to schools through Edinburgh Leisure. The last report found was a progress report “Review of Community Access to Schools” presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016. Seeking any update since then and/or information specific to the Firrhill School Complex?

Action: Chair reported that in discussion with Cllr Lewis it transpires there have been no meetings on this subject and therefore nothing to report.

Correspondence

Where appropriate, correspondence providing information on items identified on the agenda are contained within the relevant report.

2.0 Oxgangs PS Crossing - Oxgangs Road North

Message received via the Website a Traffic Order concerning the above. Contact name was Tracy Brown, Safety Group, Oxgangs Parent Council. Apparently, the Parent Council submitted a request to the council for yellow lines to be extended on the above streets to encompass their only lollipop crossing. This was meant to have been painted during the October break last year but through repeated requests to the City Council for an update, have discovered the delay is due to an objection from the Firrhill Community Council. As a result, the Oxgangs PS Parent Council would like to know on what grounds the objections were made?

Firrhill CC do receive copies of proposed Traffic Regulation Orders from the Authority for comment. On this occasion comment was made in regard to the fact that despite this subject has been a universal problem for many, many years, Authorities continue to make no provision in the design of new schools to engineer out the problem. Oxgangs PS is a new school. The Secretary sent a copy of the comment submitted in response to this TRO but it is disheartening that the Authority interprets comments in this way.

Should also note in reviewing this matter and the relevant guidance concerning school crossings, it should be of concern that the school promote this location for a school crossing, where a more suitable location would be somewhere midway between the junctions of Firrhill Crescent and Firrhill Loan, away from the corners where the problems seemingly are created.

2.1 31 March: Edinburgh Trust Community Programme

Looking for individuals and community groups who want to apply for funding to set up new projects that can help improve lives, reduce poverty and bring communities together in Edinburgh.

2.2 4 April: Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme

As you are aware we are currently running our second consultation on our Airspace Change Programme. Due to the interest from some communities including a call for meetings towards the end the consultation period the airport has decided to continue taking consultation responses for an additional week in May.

2.3 5 April: Community Walkabout Programme

Information from Scott Neil, Partnership Development Officer, South West Neighbourhood Office regarding the South West Locality community walkabout programme for 2017. Provides a copy of the programme with officers now assigned (Carol Duncan) and a draft version of the inspection form which will be changed slightly to include the traffic light standard (RAG System), clearly setting out the standard of each walkabout to assist all participants, also clear guidance regarding community improvement issue from a service matter.

Firrhill:	6th April (n/a)	12th October	time 10.30
Oxgangs:	25th May	30th November	time 10.00

2.4 7 April: Old and New Towns of Edinburgh WHS Management Plan

Draft plan approved for public consultation. Please take a look at the proposals under the six themes and take about 15-20 minutes to respond to the consultation. You can respond using the online survey (the detailed proposals appear alongside the relevant survey questions) or download a

copy of the questions and submit your feedback via email. The consultation will close on 5 June 2017 and we will publish an initial summary of our findings within 8 weeks of the consultation close date.

2.5 10 April: Planning Guidance for Householders Consultation

CEC consultation on a revised version of Guidance for Householders. Changes include:

Additional guidance on bungalow extensions, self-contained extensions, roof terracing; and other minor amendments to the text.

Changes made as a result of internal consultation with planning teams and reviewing the use of the Guidance in decision making. Want feedback on the proposed changes and welcome any suggestions on how to improve the Guidance. To view the proposed changes and respond to the consultation please visit <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/guidance-for-householders/>. The consultation is open until 02 June 2017.

2.6 10 April: Review of Edinburgh Design Guidance for Consultation

The Edinburgh Design Guidance originally approved in May 2013. Now updating to reflect changes in local and national policy. Proposing a range of changes across the Guidance, with key changes centred on the Council's Parking Standards (for new developments), advice on Build to Rent Housing, and protected views to the Forth Bridge. If you would like to register your interest to explore the key changes of Parking Standards, and Build to Rent Housing in more detail through a consultation workshop (15 May, Edinburgh City Chambers), then please email:

spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk.

2.7 11 April: Local Government Election Hustings Events - CC Guidance

Advice on organising Community Council (CC) led Local Government Election hustings events. CCs should be non-party political in all its activities, this is extended to individuals in their capacity as community councillors. Community Councils have an obvious interest in local services and decision-making but be aware, organising and executing a CC-led hustings event can present difficulties and lead to the perception the CC is not acting fairly or in a neutral manner.

2.8 12 April: Email Security Link

From HL, circulate attached link to information about email security:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/protecting-yourself/spam-and-scam-email/>

2.9 13 April: NEPs 2017/18

Seeking projects for 2017/18. Each organisation and elected member invited to submit up to a maximum of 2 potential projects for consideration in their area for this year. Also asked to submit another 3 projects for future consideration. Each community organisations and elected official will have until the 30th of April to select up to 2 projects they wish to be considered.

2.10 13 April: South West Area Board meeting

Meeting has been rescheduled from 20 April 2017 to the 18 May 2017 at 6pm.

2.11 19 April: Planning Application for Comiston Farmhouse site

From Cllr Rust, the above planning application was unanimously rejected at the hearing this afternoon, contrary to the recommendation of approval.

2.12 21 April: TTRO Street Notice - 4823/SW/2017 - Oxgangs Broadway

TTRO is to facilitate replacement of telecoms mast by O2 on 27/04/17. Restrictions shall apply to the west section of Oxgangs Broadway between Oxgangs Bank and Oxgangs Brae

2.13 21 April: Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust April Newsletter

For more details on any of our events, please visit www.elgt.org.uk or contact the office (info@elgt.org.uk; 0131 445 4025)

2.14 21 April: Guidance for Householders Review

Email from Planning Edinburgh advising they would like comments on their proposed changes to the 'Guidance for Householders', which is being reviewed. The Guidance is for people considering altering or extending their house. This includes dormers, conservatories, extensions, decking, garages and outbuildings. It aims to assist in creating high quality and well-designed alterations and extensions that complement the existing house, leaving it as the dominant element; maintain the quality and character of the surrounding area and respect the amenity of the adjacent neighbours. Consultation on the Guidance will close on **2 June 2017**.

Police Report: March 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.

The Officer spoke on the report, submitted by PC Graeme Howie earlier in the month, which contained a few issues of concern to the local community.

Community Police Station:

This past month 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.

E Division Priorities:

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

PSOS Priorities and values:

This past month Police Scotland has been striving to work with fairness, integrity and respect.

Housebreakings

- 18/03/17 - Colinton Mains Road – theft from garden shed.
- 19/03/17 - Firrhill Crescent – theft from garden shed.
- 29/03/17 – Firrhill Drive – theft from domestic premises.
- 18/03/17 – Oxfangs Rise – attempted theft from garden shed.
- 18/03/17 – Oxfangs Road North (image captured on CCTV).
- 23/03/17 - Firrhill Crescent – attempted theft from garden shed.

Assault

No reported serious assaults in March but several minor domestic-related assaults.

Road Safety / Initiatives

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

Theft

There was a theft of a motorcycle from Colinton Mains Road on 18/03/17. The bike was recovered very close by. There was also an attempted theft of a motorcycle from a different address in Colinton Mains Road on 18/03/17.

Actions from Previous Meeting

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

13 April: Spike in Shed Housebreakings and Car Crimes

Email from PC Graeme Howie of a spike of break-ins to both vehicles and sheds / garages overnight on Tuesday 11th into 12th Wednesday April. Seven vehicles were broken into in Oxfangs Drive and there were numerous sheds and garages targeted in Caiystane and Camus. Police will be conducting another structured Housebreaking initiative (plain clothes and high visibility patrols) in May.

21 April: Two charged with drug offences after large recovery in Edinburgh

Police in Edinburgh have charged a 25-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman under the Misuse of Drugs Act following the recovery of Class A and Class B drugs consisting of heroin, cocaine and cannabis with a street value of almost £500,000 from within properties in **Redford Road** and **Oxfangs Street**.

In discussion, all agreed the area was blighted by these criminals and it was good to see the police making headway in their fight against those who peddle these harmful substances. The Community Council re-iterate the message issued by the police who have a zero-tolerance policy towards drug related offences.

"Tackling the supply of drugs, and the devastating consequences it can have on our community, must be seen as a top priority with the need to identify those involved in drug related crime."

"The public can assist greatly in helping police tackle drug related offences and we would urge anyone with information to come forward by contacting Police Scotland on 101 or contact the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111." This information is recorded in all our minutes.

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

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

Councillors Reports

Cllr Rust

Cllr Rust reported the following issues.

1. The extension of hours for **Sugar and Spice Grillhouse** was refused.
2. Attending the 50th anniversary of **St Mark's RC Primary School**.
3. Following up with the Council and Police regarding the abandoned vehicles in **Oxgangs Street**.
4. Spoke at the hearing for the **Pentland View / Comiston Farmhouse** application 16/02397/FUL in relation to the potential overshadowing at Oxgangs Green and the traffic/access issues. The application was unanimously refused by Committee, but the decision can be appealed to the Scottish Government Reporters' Unit
5. The **Hunters Tryst school site** planning application is due to be determined in June. Further information is awaited from the applicant.
6. **Local Elections** take place on Thursday, 4th May with voting between 7am and 10pm. Completed postal ballots can also be handed in at the polling stations. The polling stations remain as before, though more residents will vote at Pentland Primary School.

Cllr Aitken

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

The application to demolish Comiston Farm House and build 37 flats was refused by the Development Sub Committee on 19th April. Representatives from the Fairmilehead Association, Fairmilehead Community Council and local representatives made submissions at the hearing, as did Cllr Rust and I. The developer has the right of appeal.

Takeaway at Colinton Mains

The application for an extension of opening hours to 10pm was refused.

Oxgangs Young People's Centre

The approval process for demolition has started with a likely late summer start of the demolition. Construction should take about a year with a possible opening of the new YPC in Autumn 2018.

Oxgangs Broadway

The paving stones there are due to be repaired.

St Marks Primary School

The lights now are only on from dusk until dawn.

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.

Garden waste collections in Oxfangs Loan were missed yet again. The crew now has to call the Supervisor once the collectio0ns have been completed.

Police Action

As part of Operation Eagle, the police raided properties in the area last week and recovered a significant amount of drugs. This is a welcome move to tackle this issue.

Comiston Wellhouse

Scottish Water has still to report on any actions they propose to address the deteriorating condition of this listed building. I have asked our Parks Officer if the area surrounding the building can be cut back and the litter cleared.

Redford Barracks

Cllrs Rust, Lewis and I attended a meeting with community representatives to discuss the possible closure of the barracks in 2022. Given the timescale, it was decided to hold a further meeting in 6 months when the position might be clearer.

This is my last Councillor's report and I wish you continuing success for the excellent work you do for Firrhill. Thank you for all your support over the years.

Office Bearers' Reports

Redford Barracks Working Group – 28th March (HL)

Bullet points from meeting:

- 31 Hectares of land & a lot of it is in a conservation area, with listed buildings. Site is almost as large as the 'Market Garden' project
- It was agreed it would have a direct impact on Colinton but Fairmilehead & Craiglockhart???? It was also agreed it would have a large impact on Firrhill re Flood defences & services
- It is proposed that the land will be free to sell by 2022. It is unclear how the MOD will dispose of it whether in one piece or 'bit at a time'.
- Colinton CC have a letter from sitting Colonel that the barracks has a full timetable until 2022. Council have a letter from MOD saying they are running Redford down & it will be empty well before 2022!! Both letters are to be circulated to group members
- Will the working group draw up the council's planning brief? Yes, and next meeting will be to create a Terms of Reference. Would it be useful to create a 'Master Plan' but until more details are released this could be a waste of time. Previous work will be circulated
- MOD will not gift the land to council except for one piece not sure which 'piece' this is. Surrounding Army housing is not owned by MOD, it is leased to them.
- What are the assets & if there is an asset list can it be circulated
- School of Piping & T.A are included in the package. It is unclear where these 2 groups will be relocated
- The group will next meet probably around Oct 2017

Formal note of meeting (28 March 2017) available on website – documents page.

In discussion, the Chair noted there had been no police representation invited to this WG meeting and suggested to the police officers attending, this omission should be rectified for the next meeting.

Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

Application 17/00203/FUL to make a change to the closing time restriction from 21.00 hrs to 22.00 hrs. at **76 Colinton Mains Drive** has been **refused**.

Application 17/00241/FUL for a change of use from tanning salon to hot food takeaway at **76 Colinton Mains Drive** has been **granted**.

I have queried the above applications. They appear to relate to the same address but in looking at the documentation for 00241 it refers to a business property address at 333 Calder Road (The Tan Stand). As 76 Colinton Mains Place (Sugar and Spice) is already a hot food takeaway, the application for a change of use is not applicable. However, there is a tanning salon at 88 Colinton Mains Drive and according to application 17/00701/FUL, this property is also owned by Mr Mohammed Amjid. Follow-up email sent 19 April 2017.

Application 17/00274/FUL for the installation of French doors, platform and steps. at **Flat 2 61 Firrhill Drive** has been granted.

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** has been granted.

Application 17/01122/PND providing prior notification for demolition of the Children's Home at **54 Oxfangs Avenue**. Agent: Ryan Moffat Buildings Programme Team, G5, Waverley Court 4 East Market Street Edinburgh Scotland EH8 8BG. **Comments due by 01.05.2017**

Received the following response to my query regarding the activity at this property:

"From Scott Dunbar, Senior Manager- Looked After Children, Children's Services, Waverley Court, Business Centre 1/9: Thank you for contacting the City of Edinburgh Council to enquire about the plans for Oxfangs Young People's Centre. Over the next 12 months, the existing building will be demolished and replaced with a new purpose built facility. The building is currently unoccupied; however, some contractors may be on site in the coming weeks. I would be happy to attend the Community Council to discuss progress on this development if you believe that would be helpful, and please let me know if I can be of further assistance."

Scott Dunbar was due to attend this meeting but cancelled at the last minute.

Community Engagement

The Chair promoted a discussion on the following items under the heading of Community Engagement.

- Proposed and agreed to the publication in August/September of an Annual Report/ Newsletter. Its purpose to provide a report of the community council's activities during the past calendar year, to promote community engagement with the council and to advertise our A.G.M.

Action: Circulate the newsletter template & distribution list.

- Proposed and agreed to the A.G.M. to be held in November, which will be our last meeting in the calendar year.

Action: amend standing orders to reflect change from June to November

- Letters to be written to:
 1. Aldi- re project timetable
 2. Oxfangs Children's Centre- re project plans/timetable
 3. Clarity around planning application for 'Tanning Shop'

Action: 1. Chair to action; 2. Sec to action; 3. Sec awaiting response to request for information.

- JT will follow up Broadway steps with visit to shop & letter raising local people's concerns.
- Firm up arrangements for retirement presentation.

Action: Chair to progress

- Social Media training & create a Twitter account.
- Circulate 'walk about' dates (2017).

Firrhill: 6th April (n/a) & 12th October time 10.30

Oxgangs: 25th May & 30th November time 10.00

There is no particular reason for the difference in the times, historically agree with the representatives when the walkabouts were first agreed. Whilst we have been attending the walkabouts regularly the purpose and value of this exercise has changed due to the demise of council estates.

- Submit 2 project proposals for NEP's fund.

Within Neighbourhood Partnership areas locally managed budgets have been set up over a number of years to provide greater local accountability over environmental spend and promote community engagement in the decision-making. One such budget is the Roads Capital Improvement programme which is overseen by the South West Roads Team. The programme sets out the procedure for nominating local improvement projects

Each year community representatives are invited to submit 2 potential roads and footways neighbourhood environment (NEP's) projects for consideration in their area. The community council needs to give consideration to this scheme when discussing local improvement issues.

- Create a 'Good Pet Campaign' possible use the High Hedge format.

Action: all members to think up ideas for consideration at next meeting

- Ensure all members have link/info for Police Scotland 2016 consultation.

Action: Secretary to circulate to all members and place information on website.

- Create an up-to-date mailing/contact list.

Within the constraints of data protection legislation there is a need to formalise our contact list in order to provide evidence of good practice in our community consultation exercises.

Action: Chair to circulate template for use.

- Investigate an open information meeting re New Factors.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **26th June 2017** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.