

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 26 June 2017 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

Attendance: H Levy; S Duffy; L McGurk; F Gosney; J Turnbull; L Linn; J Napier.
Cllr S Arthur, CEC; PC 11550E Sonja Kaiser, Community Police Officer

Visitors: S Campbell; S Weir; V Wilson (All Residents).

Apologies: Cllr J Rust; Cllr Daggart.

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

Minute of Previous Meeting held on 22 May 2017:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 22 May 2017 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by L M^cG, seconded by HL. Approved.

Ongoing Issues from Previous Meeting

Community Engagement

Update of the list of issues submitted by the Chair at the previous meeting, for consideration.

1. **Annual Report/Newsletter.** Agreement to print and distribute in Aug/Sept a report in the form of a newsletter of the community council's activities during the past calendar year. Aim is to promote community engagement with the council and to advertise our A.G.M. In order to progress this item, the Chair intends to make it the main item at the next meeting.
2. **Amendment to Constitution** to change the date of the A.G.M. from June to November was confirmed at our May meeting. A consequential amendment to Standing Orders along with the change in time of the meetings, has also been done and the revised documents are on website.
3. **New Planning Developments:**
 - a) **Aldi:** We have been advised excavation work for the foundations has caused a delay due to hitting hard rock. It may be January before the store opens for business. This may also delay vehicle access to the library.
 - b) **Oxgangs Children's Centre:** re project plans/timetable we have received notification that the plans for the new build are on the CEC Planning Portal for viewing. Planning reference is 17/02682/FUL.
 - c) **Planning Application 17/00241/FUL:** CEC Planning Officer finally admitted to an error but explanation not forthcoming. Maintained it would be sorted and the relevant community council consultation took place. It is unlikely this is the case but the issue has been well highlighted and as far as we are concerned - resolved.
4. **Hazardous Step at Oxgangs Broadway:** The concern is the condition of the raised pavement outside Nanna Flo's Bakery, 13 Oxgangs Broadway. City Council maintain it forms part of the property but there is a problem identifying property owner. *Matter ongoing.*
5. **Retirement presentation:** Suitable dates proposed and agreed.

6. **Social Media training & create a Twitter account:** arrangements still to be confirmed.
7. Create a 'Good Pet Campaign' possible use the High Hedge format. Still under consideration.
8. Create an up-to-date **mailing/contact list**. Chair circulated a template for use and asked members to think about people they know, individuals or people involved in local organisations and record their names as a possible contact.

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.

Correspondence

Where appropriate, information obtained through correspondence on items identified on the agenda are contained within the relevant report and not included in this list.

2.1 23 May: Pentlands Environment and Transport Meeting 29 May

From Michael Edwards, Lifelong Learning Development Officer, SWNO. Agenda for the Environment and Transport meeting on Monday 29 May at 2pm in the South West Neighbourhood Office. See Members Report.

2.2 23 May: South West Locality Improvement Plan

From Michael Edwards, Lifelong Learning Development Officer, SWNO. Work to develop a Locality Improvement Plan (LIP) for South West Edinburgh, covering both Pentlands and South West Neighbourhood Partnerships, has been underway since November 2016. The plan will guide how the Council, the Police, the NHS, Fire and Rescue Service, and the third sector work with the community to deliver on local priorities in the South West. Development will run until October 2017 when it is due to receive final approval.

Presently working on the second phase of developing the Plan to develop a better understanding of communities that experience higher levels of deprivation. Oxfords is included as an area of multiple deprivation along with other measures of inequality. There was a community session to discuss the future of the Oxfords neighbourhood which took place Pentlands Community Centre on Thursday, 25th May but unfortunately due to shortage of notice there was no attendance.

An online questionnaire is still open as far as I am aware. Further information is available from Michael Edwards, Lifelong Learning Development Officer.

Email: michael.edwards@edinburgh.gov.uk. Tel: 0131 527 3884

2.3 25 May: Planning Application 17/00241/FUL

Finally received a response from Elaine Campbell, Team Leader admitting to an odd admin error after decision notice was issued on 333 Calder Road. Maintains the appropriate levels of community consultation was carried out and the application was advertised correctly on the weekly list.

Unsatisfactory, in regard to the time taken to receive response and the assurance everything else was satisfactory. No explanation of how can an admin error, where a planning application for 333 Calder Road (Ward 07) gets recorded on the planning portal and consequently in the planning bulletin as 76 Colinton Mains Drive (Ward 08), could have occurred.

Sceptical that the appropriate level of consultation was given to the relevant CC, or the IT Support Staff's confirmation about this error between two addresses in two different wards. It is clear if the mistake occurred on the planning portal it would have happened when the application was validated. However, without having a copy of the planning bulletins issued during the period the applications were validated (30 January 2017) I can neither prove or disprove it.

Despite further assurances, I remain unconvinced by their assertions and dis-satisfied in the service provided. As the matter has been highlighted, no further action proposed.

2.4 26 May: Planning and Building Standards Customer Forum

Invitation to attend the Planning and Building Standards Customer Forum to be held at 4pm on 20 June 2017. Venue: Main Council Chamber, City Chambers.

Due to the foregoing item, the Secretary did attend and not surprised to find poor service was a major complaint, not only from Community Councils but also Developers' Agents. The event was well attended with a good cross-section from both sides of the planning divide.

2.5 29 May: Political Management Arrangements

From Michael Edwards and details a decision made at the Council Meeting held on 25 May to review the council committee structure and political management arrangements. As a consequence of that decision and with a few exceptions, all remaining meetings in the council's 2016/17 diary (which runs to August) have been cancelled and includes Neighbourhood Partnership meetings.

2.6 31 May: Pentland Buses

From Michael Edwards and relates to a discussion within the PNP-TIE meeting regarding Pentland buses. Circulates an attached summary paper titled "Transport in SW villages" by Louise Muir at the Eric Liddell Centre for information.

2.7 1 June: Marie Curie Flyer

Received from Lynsey.Dick@mariecurie.org.uk, originally sent 11 May but sent to Peggy, resulting in a bit of a delay. Asking for their flyer to be displayed in our Community Notice Board or online it's for our upcoming campaign 'Blooming Great Tea Party' which launches next month between 23rd – 25th June. Have asked for it to be sent in a format I can use on the website.

2.8 2 June: Neighbourhood Environmental Programme Projects - Update

Response to a request for an update on NEP projects relevant to our area. Received following from Carol Duncan, Housing Management Team Leader, SW Locality Office.

The projects passed from the Locality office to Housing Property, since September 16 for the Firrhill and Oxgangs area are:

- 40 to 54 Oxgangs Brae bin stores - not instructed by Housing Property yet (1293)
- Oxgangs Crescent footpath / fence - instructed, expected start date should be in the next 6 wks
- 1 to 7 Oxgangs Place fence - not instructed yet (1189)
- 32 - 38 Oxgangs Brae drying area - not instructed yet
- 32 - 34 Oxgangs Avenue drying area and bin store - not instructed yet (1061)
- 10 to 12 Oxgangs St footpath - on site (1375)
- 18 Oxgangs cope and fence - complete

Listed the projects and their current status. If the area board pass a project, the locality office pass the project to the Housing Property surveyors for them to check and then they instruct the contractor. *Sent a further query for clarification as the list does not match previous information.*

2.9 2 June: Open Space 2021: Greenspace and Health talk

Newsletter from Planning Edinburgh (PE) to raise awareness of some of the key themes of this new Open Space Strategy, PE are holding a series of lunchtime training sessions for staff. For more information, go to:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20178/park_management_and_rules/427/open_space_strategy.

<https://planningedinburgh.com/2017/06/02/open-space-2021-greenspace-and-health-talk/>.

2.10 4 June: Graffiti in Oxgangs

Notification from PV to local Cllrs concerning graffiti appearing in the area between Oxgangs Avenue/Place and Gardens and asking for it to be passed on to Community Safety to arrange for the graffiti to be removed.

"KM # 1 2017" has been sprayed in large blue letters on the gable wall of 3 Oxgangs Gardens. The path way between 1 Oxgangs Avenue and 13 Oxgangs Place was cleared up by a resident and the previous graffiti painted over but the same blue paint has appeared with the letter "O". Also, the rear and side of a removal van was sprayed with a crown motif and "MCF" below (rear) and a large set of undecipherable scrawls (right) in the same colour. It was reported to the Police - incident number 2032 of 4/6/17.

2.11 7 June: Hunter's Tryst Proposed Development

Notification from Cllr Rust advising the scheme has been modified and additional information submitted. The City Council are obliged to re-notify on and re-consult. There remains outstanding objections from SEPA and CEC Flooding team that the applicant is working to resolve. The closing date for further comments from neighbours is this Friday, 9 June 2017.

On 2 May 2017, the applicant submitted additional information. This included a revised layout proposing a total of 85 dwellings, excluding properties formerly proposed to the south east of the site along Oxgangs Green. The revised submission includes a Wellhead Proposals Report, Daylighting Assessment, site sections, house types, site density and floodplain details.

The (amended) application proposes the delivery of 85 housing units (72 flats and 13 houses), including a mix of housing types and styles, developed over three distinct zones.

As we did not receive notification of the re-advertisement, I have requested and received an extension of the closing date for comments to the 28th. An invite has been sent to the Architects to attend our meeting.

Discussed at the meeting with concerns raised at the increase in the number of additional houses

2.12 8 June: Tenants' Voice – June 2017

Received from Edinburgh Tenants Federation electronic link to download publication at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Tenants-Voice-June-2017-1.pdf>.

Was going to ask for a printed version but publication is available in Oxgangs Library.

2.13 12 June: Colinton Mains Park

A series of emails from 3rd June, on various issues concerning the Park.

1. Dead fox – uplifted
2. Green bin and dead bird – sorted albeit the bin has still to be claimed.
3. Railing previously removed to facilitate footballers – to be uplifted (CD)
4. Damaged bicycle shelter roof – CD considering removing structure, instead of repairing, as it is not used. Would like to know our thoughts?

In response I have agreed I have never seen it used, but its provision supports the City Council's policies promoting this healthy albeit dangerous mode of transport in opposition to motor vehicles and would think the cost of removing it would be greater than the cost of a repair. The damage was caused by Mother Nature, not vandalism and there was no previous history in this regard to support its removal.

5. Derelict toilet block – timber panel securing doorway has been vandalised – to be repaired (CD)

2.14 13 June: Counter Terrorism Awareness Week Information Document

Received from Community Police Officer. Please find attached document with some good advice in relation to counter terrorism. This is purely to raise awareness in local communities. Feel free to share it on your CC website. *Document temporarily placed on website – Minutes and Reports page.*

2.15 13 June: Transition Edinburgh Midsummer Social + Demain Film,

Event to be held 6-9pm Tuesday 20 June at Paterson's Land Rm 1.18.

Transition Edinburgh - the informal network of grassroots initiatives promoting a low carbon capital city - invites you to a Summer Social with Bring and Share supper with an opportunity to watch main parts of "Demain" the acclaimed French documentary ("Tomorrow" in English!). This showcases many of the global changes which give hope to the idea of us achieving a fairer, less ecologically damaging way of living.

2.16 16 June: TIE - Neighbourhood Environmental Programme Projects 2017-18

Received from Andy Edwards advising they have now scored the projects previously submitted and supported by the Community Groups. The NEPs budget allocated to Ward 8 is £25,000.00 which has limited the number of projects that can be delivered. Unable to deliver the 1st project due to the costs involved which are double the allocated budget. As a result, will now start to compile works packages for the next two projects and try to deliver the fourth ranked project if budget allows.

2.17 21 June: Oxgangs YPC

From Jason Rust re application for the YPC published, open for comments by 7th July. Application number is 17/02682/FUL for the erection of a two-storey building for Oxgangs Young Persons Centre, at 54 Oxgangs Avenue.

2.18 23 June: Gordon McDonald MSP – Newsletter

Link to his newsletter for this month. Forwarded to members/contacts.

2.19 26 June: Peter Gray, Pentland Community Centre

Received via the website, Pentland CC Management Committee are in the early stages of drawing up plans to revamp the much-used play area at the centre. Purpose is to provide new safer equipment and enhance the art for the enjoyment of the users. This is in conjunction with the refurbishment of the Centre itself and entrance area. For the purpose of obtaining funding for this project we would be grateful for your support. When the plans are finalised, they will be on view within the Centre. If you can see your way to support this project an e-mail to this effect would be appreciated.

Support in principle but want to see plans.

Police Report: April 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.

PC Sonja Kaiser spoke on the police report for the previous month.

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 / Oxgangs 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

HBWI – 18th May – Oxgangs Road North, a male was disturbed inside Oxgangs Primary School kitchens.

Assault

Other than the hate crime assault listed below, there were no serious assaults recorded in May.

Road Safety / Initiatives

A young woman was arrested and charged for driving whilst drunk, on Oxgangs Avenue on 14th May. Another female was charged for driving carelessly on Oxgangs Road North on 21st May.

Theft

There was a Bogus Workman type theft in Oxgangs Brae on 5th May. £20 was stolen from an 80-year old's purse within her home address. A male suspect in his early 30s with a goatee beard claimed he was from the Council and asked for a glass of water. He then emptied the purse of its contents.

A female previously suspected of targeting elderly women in two separate incidents in April, is thought to be responsible for another slip-in type theft in Oxgangs Drive on 14th May and also a theft at an address in Oxgangs Road North on 29th May. Update – a woman has been charged.

Hate Crime

Two linked hate crimes reported in May. Two women were responsible for verbally abusing and assaulting a Polish woman in Firrhill Drive on 3rd May. A racially motivated hate crime was recorded following a text message received at Oxgangs Park on 27th May.

ASB / NPS / incidents of note

A male was stopped in Oxgangs Road North on 7th May and he was found in possession of an offensive weapon and drugs.

Item raised at the meeting

Report of a number of car wing mirrors being damaged by vandals in Firrhill Drive. In discussion, it was alleged there are two gangs of youths in the area.

Seek action through the PNP Community Safety Sub Group to designate this area within the Youth Tracking System as a hot-spot area.

YTS was created to encourage a joined up working approach in tackling youth issues at an early stage. To work with parents/carers and to track behaviours to ensure there is an improvement. Thus, promoting reassurance to members of the public that action will be taken if they report their concerns. Regular reports made available to the community to keep them informed and encourage engagement.

Community Policing

Ward 8 comprises of 3 Policing Beats with 2 City of Edinburgh Council Funded Officers. Police Constables Graeme Howie and Sonja Kaiser. Beat PF57 covers the Firrhill CC area.

The Community Policing Team Inspector covering Wards is Police Inspector 11495E Scott Richardson. The CPT Sergeant covering ward 8 is Police Sergeant 5890E 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 Arthur

Cllr Arthur introduced himself to the members and gave a brief resume of his recent council activities.

Cllr Rust

Written report submitted and circulated to members.

1. I have submitted written questions on Redford Barracks to the 29th June Full Council.
2. Surgeries have continued as normal on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm at Colinton Library, but will be off in July.
3. I helped to arrange for removal of a dead fox at the boundary of St Mark's RC Primary School and for the emptying of the bin behind the pavilion at Colinton Mains Park.
4. I am keeping in touch with residents regarding Comiston Farmhouse status and will discuss with Phil and Scott.
5. I have lodged a Motion to Full Council on 29th June recognising the 50th anniversary of St Mark's R.C. Primary School.
6. I was appointed a Bailie at May's Full Council. Duties undertaken so far include:
 - Citizenship Ceremony, Lothian Chambers – 6th June
 - 50th Year of Helgoland to Edinburgh Yacht Race, Royal Forth Yacht Club – 10th June
 - Tynecastle High School Awards Ceremony – 12th June
7. I have been liaising with residents and police regarding traffic issues on Oxgangs Road North near to Oxgangs Primary School and Braidburn School. A male was cautioned and charged with careless driving and the police are keeping an eye on the area particularly around school drop off and pick up times.
8. I have also been in touch with the police in relation to the van which was set alight at the south end of Oxgangs Street at the weekend. The "owner" arranged for it to be loaded onto a flatbed recovery lorry ready to be taken away – hopefully this has now been done.
9. A breach of condition notice was served on the proprietor of Sugar and Spice on Colinton Mains Drive earlier this month. The premises are only meant to be open to the public until 9pm per the council decision.

10. The planning application in respect of Oxgangs Young Persons Centre is now on the planning portal. It is to erect a two-storey building, form a new access road and parking, new perimeter fencing and soft and hard landscaping. Comments can be made on the application until 7th July. I would welcome the CC's thoughts.

11. I have been following up resident concerns in Oxgangs Farm Gardens regarding pavement parking and roads officers have been undertaking inspections/surveys.

12. The utility boxes on Redford Road near to the junction with Oxgangs Farm Drive have been subject to graffiti and much time has been expended trying to track down the appropriate authority. A BT inspector advised they are not their boxes.

13. continue to Chair Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival. This year it takes place from 14th July. The Rose Theatre will be used as a venue for the first time and the speigeltent will be in West Princes Street Gardens.

14. I was elected Chair of the Conservative Council Group at our AGM in May.

Office Bearers' Reports

Pentlands Environment and Transport Meeting: 29 May

The intent was to use the meeting as a stocktake ahead of the PNP annual review, covering:

- where we are,
- what's worked in the past,
- what we want to do more of,
- how the locality is changing and
- where the opportunities might be over the next 12months.

It was hoped it would prove useful in light of changes in the South West Locality and the development of the South West Locality Improvement Plan.

However, the outcome of the recent local council elections has led to the new City Council agreeing at its meeting on the 25th May, to review the political management arrangements and as a consequence of this - to cancel all remaining meetings agreed in the 2016/17 diary, with a few exceptions. As a result, no formal business was conducted at this meeting, although the opportunity was taken to have an informal discussion on business issues.

Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

Application **17/00241/FUL**: Ongoing from previous minutes. See report under 'Correspondence'.

Application **17/02135/FUL** for new dormers to front and rear, rooflight to side at 108 **Colinton Mains Road**

Application **17/01513/FUL** to extend house to rear at 31 **Oxgangs Farm Terrace** has been granted.

Application **17/02682/FUL** to erect two storey building for Oxgangs Young Persons Centre, form new access road + parking, soft + hard landscaping, erect new perimeter fencing at 54 **Oxgangs Avenue**. Planning Officer: murray.couston@edinburgh.gov.uk. Comments Due by: 07.07.2017.

Application **17/01895/FUL** for alterations to form attic bedrooms and remove existing disused chimney at 38 **Colinton Mains Green** has been granted.

AOCB

Oxgangs Street

One of the vehicles used for the collection and storage of scrap metal and other waste materials was set on fire.

Councillor Arthur to investigate.

Note: Historical complaint about vehicles, used for the collection and storage of scrap metal, being constantly parked in a residential area and being an eyesore. Issue has been previously recorded but Authorities reluctant to take action. CC will continue to monitor but matter closed as an ongoing issue.

Note: This street is also plagued by fly-tipping and it was reported that the City Council's charges for the uplift of bulk items has been reduced to £5.00 per item.

Caution – not clear if an item consists of two or more parts or is dismantled for ease of lifting, if the charge will apply to each part, e.g., a bed consisting of a base and mattress may cost £10.

Oxgangs Avenue:

Complaint about human excrement being found in a common stair. Cllr Rust investigating but no action from City Council Housing Dept. Possibility it may be an internal issue within the stair and it may be possible to look at a tenant's mediation service although such services usually relate to resolving issues between tenant and landlord.

Dangerous Dogs

We are still receiving complaints about scary dogs and irresponsible owners. It is a reminder that the issues previously raised concerning this issue has not been resolved.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

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

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.