

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 25 July 2017 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

This meeting was due to take place on 24th July but was postponed to the 25th to facilitate the Chair.

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

PC E Jones, Community Police Officer

Visitors: S Weir; J Burt (All Residents).

Apologies: L McGurk; J Turnbull; Cllr J Rust; Cllr Doggart; Cllr S Arthur; S Campbell;

The meeting started at 6 pm, with H Levy in the Chair. Members were reminded that the main business of this meeting was to discuss the production of an annual report cum newsletter for issue before our AGM scheduled to be held in November. After dealing with the previous minutes, she will take the police report to enable PC Jones to leave and then on to the main business. All other reports included in the agenda papers are tabled unless there is sufficient time prior to the end of the meeting to raise items.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting held on 26 June 2017:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 26 June 2017 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by FG, seconded by LL. Approved.

Ongoing Issues from Previous Meeting

Community Engagement

Update of the list of issues submitted for consideration at previous meetings.

1. **Hazardous Step at Oxfangs Broadway:** The concern is the condition of the raised pavement outside Nanna Flo's Bakery, 13 Oxfangs Broadway. City Council maintain it forms part of the property but there is a problem identifying property owner. *Chair to meet with Michelle Smith prior to CC determining further action.*
2. **Social Media training & create a Twitter account:** *L McGurk has set up a Twitter a/c.*
3. **Walkabout Dates:** Query about the next walkabout. The Secretary reminded the meeting that the Neighbourhood Partnership system has changed. The issued dates for walkabouts are on the website calendar but the event would only take place if requested by a member of the community.

Agreed that the CC should organise a series of walkabouts in different parts of its locality and where necessary forward them to Carol Duncan, the NP Team Leader for this area.

A complaint regarding refuse being dumped in Firrhill Loan/Crescent was raised. *Secretary to action.*

Update given on the scrap metal vehicles parked in Oxfangs Street.

2. Police Report: June 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 Eric Jones 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 / 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.

Good News

A 39-year-old female has been arrested and charged for 8 theft offences spanning back over 12 months. All victims were “befriended” by this female, who took advantage of the victims’ age or disabilities. One of the MO’s used was offering to carry shopping for victims and another was asking to use toilet or to have a drink of water before she stole from them.

Housebreakings

Attempted HBWI – 26th June – Oxfangs Crescent.

Assault

There were no serious assaults recorded in June.

Road Safety / Initiatives

There were no road safety issues/initiatives in June.

Theft

A motorcycle was stolen from Firrhill Drive on 11th June.

A pedal cycle was stolen on 24th June from Oxfangs Avenue.

Hate Crime

A male with a physical disability was verbally abused regarding his appearance by two youths in Oxfangs Street on 27th June 2017.

A male was arrested following a phone call made to the police on 19th June threatening to carry out Islamophobic violence.

ASB / NPS / incidents of note

There were no ASB/NPS/incidents of note in June.

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.

3. Annual Report/Newsletter.

Chair recapped on what had been previously agreed, which was to produce an annual report cum newsletter for the purpose of informing the community of the work carried out by the community council and promote the annual general meeting scheduled to be held as the last meeting in the calendar year (November).

Timetable for the project was for the first draft to be on the table for our next meeting (August) with the final draft ready for approval at the September meeting. Printed copies to be available for circulation during October/November.

In discussion, the following list of articles was produced for inclusion in the report:

Local Planning Developments

- Allermuir Health Centre, Colinton Mains Drive
- Aldi Store, Oxgangs Road North
- New Housing, Oxgangs Green
- Young Persons' Home, Oxgangs Avenue

Local Authority Partnerships

- City Councillors – Aitken, Lewis, Rust, Arthur, Doggart.
- Neighbourhood Partnership and action groups,
- Community Grant Funding
- Walkabouts and Neighbourhood Improvement Projects

Local Policing

- Doorstep Crime & Bogus Callers
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Dogs and their owners -

Local Issues

- Oxgangs Gala
- Community Centres
- Volunteering

4. 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.

Oxgangs Green Development: 26 June:

Apology received from Ian Hunt re invite to attend our last meeting along with copies of his modified plan. Email forwarded to members able to receive them and placed on website. The key change are as follows

- The removal of the cottages accessed directly off Oxgangs Green.
- Opening-up the amenity space to provide public access to the Peawit wellhead 1 + 2.
- Pulled the houses (plot 85) away from the boundary.
- Changing the ground levels to west boundary to ensure the pre-existing overland flood path is not affected.
- Providing amenity space behind plots 82-83 to secure a potential future footpath link to existing common ground adjacent to site.

Climate Challenge Fund: 28 June:

Original email from David Bewsey, Secretary EACC, dated 21 June and was forwarded to members able to receive electronic mail. Chair suggests we may be able to use this for the pet campaign and tree/bulb planning in Colinton Mains Park. As it was not included in the list for the last meeting I am rectifying the error to enable members to give it consideration.

“Community-led organisations from across Scotland are invited to apply to the Scottish Government’s Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) for funding to support local projects that tackle climate change.

CCF grants of up to £150,000 per organisation, per year, are available for projects taking place between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2020. The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest, the first stage of the application process for a CCF Grant, is 17:00 on 28 August 2017.

CCF Development Grants of up to £1,500 are available until further notice to help community-led organisations identify and scope out potential climate action projects - with the aim of enabling the organisation to apply for a CCF grant or to another funder. Applications for Development Grants are invited monthly.”

Submission of SESplan Proposed Strategic Development Plan: 28 June:

Following approval at SESplan’s Joint Committee the Proposed Strategic Development Plan was submitted unmodified to Scottish Ministers for examination on Monday 26 June 2017. A Reporter will be appointed to examine the Proposed Plan and consider outstanding issues raised during consultation in October and November 2016.

The Proposed Plan and details of the outstanding issues are available on our Proposed SDP page. The Proposed Plan (September 2016) is also available to view in Public Libraries and Local Authority Planning Offices in the region.

Further details on the examination will be made available by email, on the SESplan website www.sesplan.gov.uk and the Scottish Government’s Planning and Environmental Appeals Division website www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk over the course of the examination.

ETF Annual Report 2016/17: 10 July:

Email from Mary Callaghan mary@edinburghtenants.org.uk, advising that their annual report is now ready to download at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2017/06/ETF-Annual-Report-2016-2017.pdf> and offering a printed copy if required.

South West Locality Induction Pack: 12 July:

Received via Heather Levy from Jay Sturgeon, Executive Assistant, South West Locality. A copy of the document South West Locality Directory has been placed on the website/documents page.

Oxgangs Green Proposed Development: 12 July:

Acknowledgement from Jennifer Paton, Case Office, re our representation on the modified proposals. Once the application has been determined, we will be notified of the Council's decision and reasons for it.

Council Administration: 15 July:

Email from Jason Rust regarding the formation of the new Council Administration. Confirming that on June 16th the leaders of the Labour and SNP Groups signed an 'agreement' to form a new minority SNP/Labour Council Administration but not providing any information on the agreement. Latest information from the new SNP council leader is that:

"The coalition agreement sets out the points of our respective manifestos that are being integrated into the Council's plans for the coming five years which will be published in just a few weeks."

Planning: Guidance Consultations: 17 July:

Email from Declan Semple, Planning Service Delivery, re consultation on revised versions of their Supplementary Guidance for Tollcross, Corstorphine and Gorgie/Dalry Town Centres and our Guidance for Development in the Countryside and Green Belt.

Changes have been made as a result of internal consultation with planning teams and reviewing the use of the Guidance in decision making. They would appreciate 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>. Consultation open until 27 August 2017.

5. Councillors Reports

Cllr Arthur

1. Abandoned vehicles – notice has been served on the two pickup trucks in the Oxgangs Row car park. The Council now has details of ownership from DVLA and is contacting the owner. The last time the council attempted to remove a vehicle without the owner's consent it took 3 months to do so. It has also been noted that the contractor the council uses to uplift vehicles may not cover loaded pickup trucks. I plan to ask for this contract to be reviewed.
2. Oxgangs Broadway footpath / steps – This has been referred to the Locality team (slow progress due to staff holidays).
3. Oxgangs Rd North (North) – Some complaints have been made regarding road safety around the schools. Extra parking restrictions are in place and school staff have been given guidance about where to park.
4. Oxgangs Rd North (South) / Oxgangs St – I am working with the Environmental "Dog" Warden to resolve a dog fouling problem on the grass between these streets.
5. Oxgangs Ave / Loan – I am working with residents to re-open the path between these streets.
6. Tesco – I have now written to Tesco about the collapsed fence immediately to the south of their petrol station.

Cllr Rust

Written report submitted and circulated to members.

1. As a direct result of the Aldi store development, the pelican crossing which is currently situated at Oxbgangs Library is to be upgraded to a toucan crossing. The location of the crossing will not change; however, all the associated street furniture and sub-surface cables will be upgraded. The crossing will continue to operate in a similar manner to the existing crossing, in that a pedestrian demand will be required before the crossing stops the traffic. This upgrade is being funded by the developer.
2. Related to point 1 above, I have received queries regarding crossings in the area always being on the green light for vehicles, unless the crossing button is pressed. For several reasons, with the main reason being safety, CEC do not utilise crossings to create artificial gaps in the traffic flow. Research apparently suggests that stopping traffic when no pedestrians are crossing leads to driver frustration and an eventual lack of compliance with the stop signal. Therefore, the opening of the Aldi store will not bring about a change to the current operation of other crossings in the vicinity.
3. I have again been in contact with the Council re the condition of Oxbgangs Broadway. Once it has more information from our Legal and Environmental Services teams the council will seek to engage with the relevant owners. Unfortunately, activity in the past regarding this specific matter proved to be a protracted exercise and there is a risk that this will still be the case with no guarantee of acceptance of responsibility.
4. I have been dealing with a number of food waste queries/complaints particularly from Oxbgangs Road North and Oxbgangs Avenue areas. The usual assurances have been provided by the department.
5. I met with the Head of Estates and Head of Legal at CEC regarding Comiston Farmhouse. The appeal by the applicant is with the DPEA in Falkirk and a reporter is set to be appointed, with a determination date anticipated for September.
6. I launched the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival on 13th July at the Hilton Carlton Highland with the Deputy Council Leader, Cammy Day.
7. I launched the 2017 Mardi Gras on 15th July in the Grassmarket with the Deputy Lord Provost, Joan Griffiths.
8. I am investigating the possibility of a totem pole on Oxbgangs Road North highlighting businesses in Oxbgangs Broadway. Signage and planning regulations etc. relevant.
9. I had a week in Tenerife. I thought I'd just throw that in to check if you read this.

6. Office Bearers' Reports

Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

26/06/2017: application 17/02621/LBC to remove metal fencing, re-point wellheads and replace stones where missing, bricked-up doorways to be rendered, step access to be covered with metal grille at site 72 metres south of 4A Oxbgangs Green. Agents: Fouin + Bell, Architects, 1 John's Place, Edinburgh. Consultation closed.

03/07/2017- no applications or decisions

10/07/2017 – no applications or decisions

17/07/2017 – application 17/03122/FUL to erect a new compound consisting of offices, garages and storage complex including new compound fencing at 3 Dreghorn Barracks, 82 Redford Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9QW.

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

7. AOCB

Colinton Mains Park

Complaints raised about the amount of litter in the park. People using park benches leaving their empty glass/plastic bottles and cans instead of depositing them in the bin as they leave the park.

What action can be taken to promote a general improvement?

In discussion, it was also noted that the derelict toilet block has become a target for children. They are climbing on the roof and one of the boarded-up doors has been damaged twice allowing access. The door was reported to Craig Dunlop and resealed on both occasions.

8. Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **28th August 2017** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.