

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Note of Meeting of the Council on 28 August 2017 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.

Attendance: H Levy; L Linn; S Duffey; L McGurk; J Turnbull & J Napier.
PC G Howie, Oxfangs Police Station.

Visitors: S Weir (Resident).

Apologies: F Gosney; Cllrs Rust, Doggart & Arthur.

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

1. Minute of Previous Meeting held on 24 July 2017:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 24 July 2017 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by SD, seconded by LL. Approved.

Ongoing Issues from Previous Meeting

Oxfangs Broadway - Elevated Footpath Steps

Concern previously raised regarding the unsafe condition of the steps on the west side of the raised footpath outside the upper level shops on the south side of the Broadway.

Reported that Cllrs Rust/Arthur had passed on information from Michaela Smith - Housing Operations Manager, South West Locality. She is supportive in that the matter will be properly investigated but cautions that based on previous history, not to expect it to be speedily resolved.

Comment: We are concerned owners/occupiers of the various establishments give the impression they are not willing to take reasonable action to improve the safety of their customers.

Decision: item to be kept on agenda and to seek regular updates

Community Council Walkabout.

The purpose of the walkabout is to identify proposals for the SWNO NEP's funded project list. LL and SW are to make arrangements to carry this out, proposing the 6th or 7th Sept.

Actions: contact Tesco management re condition of triangular landscaped area on service station side of entry road.

Action: contact Roads Dept. regarding the visibility of the railings leading on to the Tesco roundabout.

Action: contact Tesco management about the flooding on their access road where it passes the service station.

Actions: contact Aldi – Martin Taylor, Site Manager, to check if an opening date has been set.

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).

We had hoped to get the first draft on the table for this meeting with the final draft ready for approval at the September meeting, moving towards printed copies being available for circulation during October/November.

Proposing the following layout:

Front page: Firrhill community council and community engagement

2nd page: local planning developments - Allermuir Health Centre, Colinton Mains Drive; Aldi Store, Oxfangs Road North; Oxfangs Green Development; Young Persons Home, Oxfangs Avenue.

3rd page: local authority partnerships – city councillors, neighbourhood partnerships and their action groups; community grant funding; walkabouts and neighbourhood improvement projects.

4th page; local policing – doorstep crime and bogus callers; neighbourhood watch; dogs and their owners

5th page: overspill from previous pages

6th page: overspill from previous pages

7th page: local issues – Oxfangs Gala; Community Centres; volunteering

Back page: contact details for police, city councillors, and community centres.

2. 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.

24 July: Open Space 2021: Edinburgh's Living Landscape

New post from Planning Edinburgh. Ian Mackenzie from Scottish Wildlife Trust gave the second in a series of talks to raise awareness of Open Space 2021, Edinburgh's new Open Space Strategy. Ian manages the Trust's Living Landscape programme across Scotland.

The Edinburgh Living Landscape is a unique urban project, involving the Council, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh and GreenSurge.

It aims to create, restore and connect green areas in the city to make attractive and biodiverse landscapes, enjoyed by residents and visitors. Landscapes will be healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change. Working with local communities, over 70 meadows have been created in Council parks and greenspaces, using a mix of species suited to the city.

3 August: Oxfangs Green Development

From Cllr Rust. Notification the applicant submitted a series of revised drawings which will be uploaded to the planning portal in the next couple of days and re-advertised, application reference 16/06134/FUL. A further planning processing agreement will be drafted. The applicant wants to work with the planning department to a satisfactory solution within the current application.

8 August: Firrhill Neuk

Via the website, original email from Oxfangs Care, followed up by another from Lowther Homes regarding our use of the Lochan View Community Business Centre.

This appears to be a reorganisation of Dunedin-Canmore's business premises and an audit of activities within.

8 August: Community Council Training Event - Tuesday 29 August 2017

From Nancy Jamieson, Planning Team Manager, advertising an additional session on the Planning System for those new community councillors who were unable to attend the earlier event. Event will be on Tuesday 29 August at 6.00 pm in the European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

A reminder was issued on the 18th August indicating places were still available. Both emails were forwarded to members.

11 August: Gordon Macdonald MSP: Newsletter

Highlighting 21,000 Jobs for Edinburgh.

14 August: EACC Summer Update

From David Bewsey, Secretary. We are aware of several key changes brought about by the new City Council; the introduction Locality Committees, reduced Council Committees, a new Convenor for Culture and Communities, Donald Wilson, as well as an uncertain future for Neighbourhood Partnerships. It is intended to pay close attention to changes that could have an effect on Community Councils especially if these are likely to undermine local democracy.

The next EACC meeting will be on Thursday 14th September 2017 at 7 pm in the European Room, City Chambers. We have not yet decided on the meeting's business agenda but we do wish to seek members' concerns and their input. If you think you have a matter which we should discuss, we will seek to have a Council Officer or City Councillor available to help understand the issues.

CC representatives should now be in a position to drive forthcoming session with topics they feel important. Asking for all CCs to consider this at their next meeting and inform the EACC Secretary in order to schedule time within the Agenda. We will still be holding Q&As with Council Officers when key information needs to be shared but we need your input for business meeting discussions.

16 August: WIN

Email from KOMPAN Playgrounds. Calling all Parish Councils, Town Councils and Community Groups, WIN up to £40,000 matched funding for new play or fitness equipment!

There is still time to enter, with just over 6 weeks left until the competition closes! This year KOMPAN are offering the opportunity for local Councils and community groups to win 50%, 35% or 25% matched funding to a maximum value of £40,000 towards new play or fitness equipment!

Chair interested in entering next year if this is still available.

17 August: Community Garden in Oxbgangs Green

Email received from Jean-Matthieu Gaunand, Project Coordinator, Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council, 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH

"We are in the process of setting up a community garden on a council land in the area of Oxbgangs green. The council has given us the approval as long as the local communities are aware and involved. I was wondering if you would support the project?"

I have responded asking for more information.

18 August: Colinton Mains Park

Notification from Gavin Dunlop that Graham Construction subcontractors are currently working in Colinton Mains Park to install attenuation tanks on behalf of Scottish Water. The duration of works should be no longer than 3 weeks and access is still being maintained throughout most of the park.

Emailed Scottish Water (SW), who responded that the new Firrhill Medical Centre are required to provide mitigation in SW network to facilitate their flows. Part of the mitigation options was to provide additional storage in Colinton Mains Park i.e. 20m of 1500dia. storage pipe. Work to be carried out by the developer.

I have asked for more information regarding the need to expand the existing flood prevention arrangements and why the NHS are having to fund it.

18 August: SWAB: NEP Projects 2016/17 Fencing at 1-7 Oxfangs Place

Copied into an email from Pauline Valentine to Sandra McLeod regarding the above project. PV has always expressed opposition to the project on the basis that the vast majority of the flats at this location are owned privately by owner occupiers/landlords.

This email reiterates that objection as the funding comes from the Council tenants' rent receipts and not owner occupiers/landlords.

As the previous emails in the thread covering this issue are dated 2016, it is not clear why PV has raised this now but empathise with her point of view. Have communicated further but up to the CC if we want to continue to support the principle?

18 August: New post on Planning Edinburgh

From cecplanning – new Supplementary Guidance Reviews have been issued for consultation. The reviews cover the Tollcross, Gorgie/Dalry and Corstorphine Town Centres. Supplementary Guidance is produced for town centres and aim to guide the change of use of buildings. The Guidance contains policies to manage change of use within the town centre boundary and set out when a change to another use is appropriate. Consultation open until 27 August 2017

See also previous minute under Correspondence - 3.7 17 July: Planning: Guidance Consultations

20 August: 20mph Scheme

Email from Scott Arthur with an update on the rollout of the 20mph speed limit. Ward 8 should be affected early next year. Also asking if we would like him to arrange for a Council Officer to attend one of our meetings to answer any questions local residents may have.

22 August: 20mph speed limits - phase 3 goes live

Email from Eileen Hewitt, Professional Officer, 20mph Programme giving notice that phase 3 of the rollout of 20mph speed limits came into effect in West and North West Edinburgh on 16 August 2017. You can find out which streets are 20mph by checking our interactive map.

24 August: Oxfangs Broadway Shops Footway

Emails received from Councillors Arthur and Rust passing on the following information from Michaela Smith - Housing Operations Manager, South West Locality (24 July)

"A couple of you have recently raised the issue of the condition of the footway in front of some of the shops at Oxfangs Broadway, particularly outside Nanna Flo's Bakery. I am writing to update you and to confirm that we are looking into the best way forward with this.

Regrettably, for such a small area, it is a complex situation as the footway is above the roofs of the shops underneath which face the other side. This has caused some dubiety regarding ownership and liability. We are currently working with our legal team to clarify this. In addition, myself and Housing Team Leader, Carol Duncan, met on site with an officer from the Council's Environmental Services last week to get their input.

Once we have more information from our Legal and Environmental Services teams we 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. However, please be assured that we are pursuing clarity and a subsequent resolution to this matter. I will be back in touch once we have more information but in the meantime please do let me know if there are any further queries.”

2. Police Report: July 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 Graeme Howie 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.

Incidents:

Housebreakings

HBWI – Colinton Mains Road – 12th July 2017

HBWI – Greenlaw Rig – 13th July 2017

Theft Housebreaking (garden shed) – Colinton Mains Road – 24th July 2017.

Assault

There were 2 reported serious assaults recorded in July, both involving knives.

Both were solved within a very short enquiry time.

Road Safety / Initiatives

There were no road safety issues/initiatives in July.

Theft

A motorcycle was stolen from Firrhill Drive on 5th July.

A motorcycle was stolen from Colinton Mains Road – 20th July 2017.

Hate Crime

A 3-generation family subjected an English family to racial abuse (and two minor assaults) in Oxfangs House. All persons involved now charged with relevant offences.

ASB / NPS / incidents of note

There were a couple of minor fires (extinguished by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) at the toilet blocks in Colinton Mains Park. No damage was caused.

Issues raised at Meeting

Theft: It was reported at our May meeting that a person targeted two elderly women, in two separate incidents. In one case, the woman's handbag was stolen and in the other, the woman had money stolen, after a similarly described female befriended her.

The Police message at that time was for people to look out for their elderly neighbours so that they do not feel isolated within the community and can call for assistance when needed. Information on /Bogus Callers / Doorstep Crime / Trading Standards is held on Police Scotland, City of Edinburgh and Firrhill CC's websites.

A 39-year-old female was subsequently 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.

It appears this person was only remanded for 7 days and has since been released and is apparently still active as one of her previous victims has been targeted again. The Police message issued previously is being repeated. If you have an elderly relative or neighbour, please make them aware and be cautious if a stranger tries to assist them.

Anti-social Behaviour: advice sought on actions that can be taken where someone is defecating and urinating in a common stair. Antisocial Behaviour is defined as where persons act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress; or pursue a course of conduct that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress, to at least one person who is not of the same household.

The City of Edinburgh Council have in place a Strategy and Policy covering the issue of anti-social behaviour. Part of their strategy is the use of Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPs), to provide a coordinated response to local issues within each locality. The local CIPs are supported by the Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit in relation to emerging and complex issues, such as violent crime or antisocial behaviour.

You can report an instance of anti-social behaviour by one of the following methods:

- phone the SWNO 527 3800, ask to speak to a Community Safety Officer (CSO);
- email the antisocial behaviour email address antisocialbehaviour@edinburgh.gov.uk;
- visit the Council's website <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/asb>; or
- visit the South West Neighbourhood Office (SWNO), 10 Westside Plaza, EH14 2ST

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 new Community Policing Team Inspector covering Wards is Police Inspector Scott Richardson. The CPT Sergeant covering Ward 8 is Police Sergeant 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.

Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, i.e., anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101 or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online [Giving Information Form](#).

3. Ward Councillors and MSP Reports

Councillor Scott Arthur

1. **Oxgangs Library** – IT problems have been causing non-trivial issues for library users and staff. I reported this (as did Cllr Rust) and a new “self-service” kiosk has been installed.
2. There have been problems with foliage overgrowing the footpath linking the library with Oxgangs Broadway – I have alerted Council Officers and they are dealing with it.
3. **Oxgangs Broadway** - The Council’s “Shared Repair Service” have contacted the owner and made a request for the footpath to be repaired. Separately, Cllr Rust is leading an effort to promote Oxgangs Broadway locally to help combat the impact of the new Aldi Store.
4. **Firrhill Park** – A swing has been removed for repair due to vandalism – the police have been notified and a repair is underway.
5. **Oxgangs Young Peoples Centre** - Planning permission has been granted to clear the site and build a new facility.
6. **Hunter’s Tryst Site** – The developer has submitted revised proposals.
7. **Comiston Farmhouse** – The Council will soon decide what to do with this property. It may decide to sell it to a developer again or for it to be used for social housing.
8. **Dog Fouling** – I have reported problems on Oxgangs Road North & Colinton Mains Drive.
9. **In Council** – I have been trying to gain support for proposals to (a) extend free school meal provision to outside the school term and (b) increase the school uniform grant (currently only £50 for a secondary school pupil).

Councillor Jason Rust

1. In relation to the **Hunter’s Tryst School site** the applicant has made changes to the proposal which are available to view on the planning portal. These still fail to meet the Council’s concerns with regards to overdevelopment of the site. The applicant has appointed GVA as an agent and the planning case officer is awaiting instruction as to whether they wish to move to determination by Development Management Sub Committee or withdraw the application to start afresh.
2. Also, in relation to the site I was in touch with **Scottish Water** regarding the water running from the site down towards Oxgangs Avenue.
3. I am dealing with a few housing matters in **Oxgangs Park**.

4. I submitted written questions at Full Council in relation to the self-service kiosks at **Oxgangs Library**. (answers separately attached).
5. A long saga to have a properly enforceable disabled parking bay in **Oxgangs Farm Avenue** has completed successfully.
6. I am volunteering at **Pentland Primary School Fair** on 9th September.

4. Office Bearers' Reports

4.1 Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

31/07/2017 - application 17/03116/FUL to erect a single storey rear extension and alterations to existing property including decking and steps to rear at 175 Colinton Mains Drive

7/08/2017 - no applications or decisions

14/08/2017 - 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 has been granted.

21/08/2017 - application 17/03431/FUL for the erection of a sun lounge to rear of property for disabled occupant at 30 Oxgangs Road North.

5. AOCB

Public Footpath at Oxgangs Library

Concern raised at the present condition of the footpath running from the library bus stop, down to Oxgangs Broadway. Due to the construction works being carried out, one side of the path is a ditch and the other is well overgrown with foliage. Chair taking action.

Street Lighting Faults – Reporting

LL expressed concern at the lack of action to repair faulty street lamps. She made the following reports on three faulty lamps and is still waiting for them to be repaired.

Date: 23 rd Jan	Lamp ID: ODH27	Ref No. 476931
13 th June	ODU03	513901
30 th July	FDD28	533720

Secretary to action.

Health Centre : Artwork

Chair gave a report on the proposed artwork for the new Allermuir Health Centre.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **25th September 2017** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.