

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

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

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

Cllr S Arthur, CEC; PC Graeme Howie, Oxfangs Pol Stn.

Visitors: S Weir, Resident.

Apologies: Cllr J Rust, CEC

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

1. Minute of Previous Meeting held on 28 August 2017:

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 28 August 2017 were reviewed. There being no corrections, the minutes were moved for approval by JT, seconded by LMcG. Approved.

Ongoing Issues from Previous Meeting

A discussion took place on those items listed previously under Community Engagement. All matters were still under development with no conclusions at this point.

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.

5 Sept: Oxfangs Broadway

Email from Cllr Rust passing on a fairly positive response he received from Michael Thain, Head of Place Development, in relation to Oxfangs Broadway and the suggestion of Council funded improvements. There is agreement the area could be doing with a bit of investment but the project may rely on securing the cooperation and potential contribution of businesses and other owners, which may be a sticking point.

Email from Cllr Archer on the same issue, confirming there are "complex ownership" issues. As it stands, the owners have been asked to address the problem.

7 Sept: Oxfangs Green – Water Leak

Emails from Cllr Rust concerning the steady stream of water running from the site of the former Hunter's Tryst Primary School at Oxfangs Green, down the road towards Oxfangs Avenue. At his request, Scottish Water carried out a check and are advising it is not coming from their network. Passed on to the City's flood prevention dept., who advise that it seems to be water from an underground culvert rather than from the sewers. Land belongs to the City and he is passing on to Estates/Education for action.

7 Sept: G MacDonald's Newsletter

Forwarded on to members' email addresses. May also be accessed on Gordon's website.

7 Sept: EACC Meeting Thursday 14th September 2017

Notice from David Bewsey re the next business meeting which will take place at 7pm in the European Room, Edinburgh City Chambers. Several matters for discussion in light of the new Council Administration. It will also be a forum for concerns about the future of Neighbourhood Partnerships and formation of Locality Committees.

9 Sept: Colinton Mains Community Centre - AGM

Email from P Wright inviting us to attend their wee Centre's AGM on 22nd September at 2 pm: attached is the programme that should have happened last year, but the 2016 AGM had to be cancelled.

15 Sept: Consultation Request - Strategy for Setted Streets

Emails received from Rachel Mushet, Trainee Town Planner, and Edinburgh Planning re the City of Edinburgh Council working in partnership with Edinburgh World Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland are seeking to develop a strategy for the protection and maintenance of setted streets.

Stone setts add significant historic and cultural value to the streets of Edinburgh and are an important feature of our cityscape. However, when not properly maintained, they can have implications for walking, cycling and driving. Damaged setts often replaced with alternative materials which can result in an unsightly and uncared-for appearance.

To help inform the strategy we'd like to know what you think about setted streets and their value to the city. We are also interested to know what impediments, if any, you think setted streets can have on our movement. You can give us your views until Wednesday 11 October 2017 on our Consultation Hub.

15 Sept: Oxfangs Green – Water Leak

Update from Cllr Rust regarding the ground water issue at the Former Hunter Tryst site. Council officers attended the site the previous day to take water samples but there was no water visible running on to the pavement of the entrance.

Camera survey of the site drainage has been undertaken and the initial report is that the sites drainage is running clear with no blockages. The contractors highlight 3 missing manhole covers which could be a possible Health and Safety risk. An order to replace the manhole covers has been raised.

Currently, the above works have proven inconclusive to why ground water is running as reported. Will investigate if installing a field drain would stop the water running off the site onto the pavement and advise.

This report was from Pat Rennie, Sustainability Officer, Property and Facilities Management, Resources, CEC Waverly Court.

15 Sept: Physical Activity and Sport Fund

Email from Sean Webster, CEC Lifelong Learning Development Officer, via PW, re the above. The Fund is an annual grant funding programme for organisations and clubs that promote sport and physical activity in Edinburgh. You can apply for up to £2,500 and can be used for your running costs. The grant cannot be used to fund individuals; travel expenses; accommodation; training or residential camps or major citywide events.

CEC are interested in supporting the development of sports hubs and projects which promote multiple sports. Only a very high-quality application that targets people on low income or living in an area of multiple deprivation would receive funding at the top level of £2,500.

Application forms:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9730/grant_application_2017.doc

Guidance: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9731/guidance.doc>

16 Sept: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Email from Scott Arthur re suggestions for placing EV charging point – there appear to be none in Ward 8. Originates from a query by Eric Barry about lack of Fast or Rapid recharging facilities in city centre

Info received from CEC indicates they are currently in the process of developing their first Electric Vehicle Strategy. The new Strategy will have actions designed to address a range of technical issues. These include the criteria and guidance to apply when selecting chargers, the appropriate strategic locations across the city for charging hubs, maintenance and operation of chargers and the linkages with other key partners such as the city car club.

There are currently 141 electric vehicle charge points sited across 60 locations for a mix of public and non-public use. All of these charge points have been installed in off-street locations.

17 Sept Firrhill CC walkabout (parts 1 & 2)

Email from Susan Weir reporting on the walkabout carried out on the 6th September. See under – Office Bearers' Reports.

3. Police Report: August 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 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

- Attempted HBWI – Oxfangs Broadway –24th August.
- A garden shed was broken into in Colinton Mains Road on 14th August.
- A garden shed was broken into in Oxfangs Bank sometime between the 26th and 29th August

Assault

There were 3 reported minor assaults recorded in August. Enquiries are ongoing with positive lines of enquiry.

Road Safety / Initiatives

There were no road safety issues/initiatives in August.

Theft

- A pedal cycle was stolen from Oxgangs Park on 16th August.
- Property was stolen in a slip-in theft from Caiystane Terrace on 17th August.
- Property was stolen in a slip-in theft from Oxgangs Farm Drive on 17th August.
- Theft of garden ornaments on Oxgangs Avenue on 20th August.

Hate Crime

There were no recorded instances of hate crime during this month.

ASB / NPS / incidents of note

There were a couple of minor acts of vandalism recorded in the area during August. Several bus stop windows were damaged but it is thought the perpetrators were from outside the area.

Two youths were charged for possession of cannabis in Colinton Mains Road on 10th August.

Issue raised at meeting

Members were surprised to learn Lothian Buses charge the police for access to videos installed on buses for the protection of their drivers. The videos are only kept for one week and if the police want to look at a video, whilst investigating a crime, they have to pay for it.

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 @EdinPoISW**.

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](#).

4. Ward Councillors and MSP Reports

4.1 Councillor Scott Arthur

As Cllr Arthur had to attend another meeting he gave his report at the start of business and provided a written report.

Hunters Tryst Site – The developers have withdrawn their proposals. The Council are investigating water intermittently emanating from the site.

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. An informal consultation is underway on the latter proposal.

Dog Fouling – I have reported problems on Oxgangs Road North and Colinton Mains Drive.

Colinton Mains Drive – Scottish Water valve box now fixed.

Empty Property on Oxgangs Road – the garden wall is being made safe.

Abandoned Vehicles in Oxgangs – It may take a few more weeks to get the elements to come together but it now appears we can prove abandonment to a sufficient degree to have the vehicles removed.

Parking Restrictions needed – Oxgangs Street/Banks and Oxgangs Green/Avenue.

Oxgangs Primary – I have reported parking problems to the Community Police.

Pentland Primary – I am progressing two issues:

1. There have been several complaints from parents regarding bin lorries being around the school drop-off areas in the morning.
2. Help may be needed for school children crossing at Oxgangs Avenue and at the new Aldi site as traffic/parking is a risk.

Firrhill High School – I am dealing with access problems – both authorised and unauthorised.

In Council – I have been trying to gain support for proposals to:

- a) Extend free school meals provision to outside the school term; and
- b) Increase the school uniform grant (currently only £50 for a secondary school pupil).

4.2 Councillor Jason Rust

As Cllr Rust was unable to attend the meeting, he forwarded the following report by email:

Local issues:

1. Investigating **anti-social issues** on Firrhill Loan.
2. Attended **Oxgangs PS Parent Council** - have raised traffic issues and also hedge issue.
3. Have been working with **Firrhill High School Hockey Club** to address issues affecting the club and raised at Full Council.
4. Dealing with **waste collection issues** on Oxgangs Avenue - non-collections!
5. Following up re **fly tipping** on Oxgangs Farm Drive - fridge etc.
6. **Dog fouling issues** at Oxgangs Park and Oxgangs Road North - in touch with residents and environmental wardens on both.

7. Complaints re **parking at Cairndean House**, Redford Road have been taken up. Response received from department as follows:

"Thank you for your email regarding Redford Road and Cairdean House.

The reason for the centre hatching on Redford Road is to allow vehicles turning left and right an area to sit before making the manoeuvre safely while not stopping traffic on a busy route. There is also the hatching that requires to be in place leading up to refuge and splitter islands so that drivers are aware they are approaching these islands.

The hatchings are a requirement as part of The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1994 Act.

We can check that the hatchings near the Cairdean House are to the standard and can't be reduced to alleviate the issue.

If vehicles are parking on the footway and obstructing pedestrian movement then Police Scotland have the powers to take enforcement action."

8. Issues around the pitches at Oxgangs Primary School and Firrhill School have been raised by the football teams and in my absence Cllr Arthur is taking forward.

Recent Bailie duties: Riding of Marches - 17th Sept. and Citizenship Ceremony - 20th Sept.

4.3 Gordon MacDonald, MSP

Gordon's September newsletter was forwarded to members prior to the meeting. One of the articles covered the following new policy:

Baby Box Bairns: All babies in Scotland will now receive a box of essential items to help them through their first six months. The boxes show that the Scottish Government is determined that every child, regardless of circumstances should get the best start.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1 Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

11/09/2017 - Application 17/03845/FUL for the removal of window and blockwork below and fit new window and door to lounge at Flat 1 6 Oxgangs Farm Gardens.

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 has been granted.

5.2 Report of Walkabout on 6th Sept by L Linn/S weir

The following report was provided by Susan Weir:

Lesley and I had an informal walkabout on 6th September covering mostly Oxgangs Road North from the Firrhill end down towards Colinton Mains shops. Along the way, we saw quite a few maintenance issues and a couple of cases of flytipping. In terms of the Walkabout Programme for 2017/18, the document states that maintenance and flytipping are standard service issues and should not be raised on walkabouts, however we took some photos for interest which I've attached in a separate email.

In terms of identifying potential matters which might improve the local community, we noted that the area at the mini roundabout at the new Health Centre/ Tesco/ Oxgangs Primary School could do with some improvement in terms of safety, particularly as the new health centre will likely increase the footfall to the area including many elderly and infirm, and the number of cars visiting the area.

We noted that exiting from Tesco at the mini roundabout in vehicles can be a bit risky with vision obscured by overgrown shrubbery. Likewise, pedestrians crossing at the same area have their vision of approaching vehicles coming round the corner obscured. I recall that pupils from Colinton Primary School used to be escorted to the After-School Club at Oxfords Primary across this crossing - I'm not sure if they still do, but it's certainly also worth thinking about. While looking at the layout at the mini roundabout, we also noticed that there appears to be three redundant road signs which is confusing. Also, in view of the number of times the railings and safety islands appear to have been hit at this roundabout, it seems odd that there are no reflector strips anywhere on the railings, or any other traffic calming measures.

5.3 EACC Committee Meeting: 14th September

Licensing Forum Changes:

AM introduced the item explaining that there had been a meeting between Office Bearers and the Licensing Officer to explain the new structure of the Licensing Forum and that there was to be an EACC representative. There was a discussion including a comment from Craigmillar CC raising the issue of high levels of alcohol abuse in their area. It was agreed that until the Locality and City Centre representatives had been selected it would be difficult for EACC to make their selection. Concerns were also expressed about the method chosen to select Locality Reps. It was agreed to seek clarity on that from the Licensing Officer.

Localities – current situation

AM described the situation with regard to the suspension of Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs). Considerable concerns were raised by members that NPs would not return and that local democracy would be eroded. There was also conflicting information being given in different Locality briefings. The meeting decided that the Secretary should write to the Chief Executive, Andrew Kerr seeking a meeting to clarify the situation as soon as possible.

Edinburgh Partnership (EP):

The Secretary reported on his initial attendance at the Edinburgh Partnership and explained its remit. He suggested EACC members needed to be informed of the meeting content and be in a position to respond to any issue that came from these quarterly meetings. Timing of the EP meetings for the coming year had been requested and this would determine the programme of EACC meeting for 2018 and perhaps 2019.

Environment Update

The Secretary gave a brief update on the key issue in regard the City's Refuse Collection Service. This appeared to be the result of short term contracts of employment. All members expressed dissatisfaction on this matter and the Secretary was asked to write to the head of service requesting greater clarity on the situation.

Moving EACC Forward

Minute Secretary: It was agreed that EACC should engage a Minute Secretary. JW would make enquiries.

Health & Social Care Sub-Group: The meeting agreed a Health & Wellbeing sub-group should be formed under IC, with input from other member representatives with appropriate experience. EC was invited to give a brief overview of his clinical project with Edinburgh University.

Discussion on subjects for future meetings: Suggested speakers for future meetings included, Ben Wilson (Planning) on housing and land supply calculations, Paul Lawrence (Exec. Dir. Place) to provide an update on where Edinburgh is since announcement of the City Region Deal. Some

concern was raised about empty houses in the City. It was also suggested that a speaker on the effect the 20mph speed has had on the City would be appropriate once all areas came into force.

AOCB:

TH appraised the meeting of his involvement with the Planning Review meetings and discussed Scottish Government changes to planning legislation. He raised concerns regarding housing numbers. JH also expressed his concerns.

The Secretary displayed a suggested EACC Equalities Statement. While most were in favour, JH commented that it was not positive enough and offered to make suggestions.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th October 2017.

6. AOCB

6.1 Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **23 October 2017** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.