

# Firrhill Community Council

*'Nec Aspera Terrent'*  
(Undaunted by Adversity)

**Note of Annual General Meeting of the Council on 27 Nov  
2017 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre,  
Firrhill Neuk.**

**Attendance:** Members: H Levy; S Duffy; J Turnbull, L McGurk; F Gosney; L Linn; J Napier

Ex officio Members: Cllr J Rust, CEC; Cllr S Arthur, CEC; Cllr P Daggart;

PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris, Oxfangs Police Station.

**Visitors:** S Weir, G Pallis; Elaine Aitken, Peggy Wright, + +. Carol Duncan, Housing Team Leader & Carol Robertson, Tenants Federation rep,

**Apologies:** Rob Ford (Greenspace Trust), Harry Woodward (Dunedinanmore Housing)

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

The following papers were circulated for information.

- Minute of Previous Meeting held on 23 October 2017
- Minute of Previous AGM held on 28 November 2016
- Unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 and 2016/17

## 1. Minute of Previous AGM held on 28 November 2017:

HL reminded members these minutes were approved at the following meeting and have been on the website since then. They are provided for information purposes only, to assist members who wish to ask questions on actions from the last AGM.

There were no matters arising.

## 2. The Chair's Annual Report

HL referred to our recent Newsletter publication. 3,000 had been printed and distributed with approx. 50% being directly posted through letter boxes. The Newsletter had been printed with a dual purpose in mind - to advertise this meeting of the community council and to act as an annual report providing information on some of the main issues we have been involved in over the past year.

In going through the Newsletter, the Chair referred to the loss and gains in our **membership** that took place during the community council elections last year with the loss of our long serving secretary balanced by the gain of two new members, still with us and prepared to take on active roles on the council and the anticipation of a co-opted member joining us after the new year.

With the recent completion and opening of the new **Allermuir health centre** the community will hopefully gain a long sought-after improvement in health care facilities in this area. Similarly, the completion and opening of the new **Aldi Store** will benefit the local community providing jobs as well as bargain prices.

Unfortunately, the proposed plans for a new residential development in **Oxgangs Green** hit a stumbling block and were withdrawn, but the developer is still seeking to pursue this project and is in the process of putting forward revised plans for consideration. We have concerns the number of units they are proposing to build in this restricted area will lead to future overcrowding of units not designed for family use.

If you read last year's AGM minute, you will note our report on irresponsible **Dog Ownership**. Whilst the particular complaint raised at that time resolved itself, the subject is still very much an ongoing issue, whether it is in regard to dangerous dogs or dog fouling. The Authorities cannot or will not take action unless sufficient people complain and provide evidence to support their complaint. The Newsletter articles provide information on where the law stands. We will continue to argue for better co-operation between the various Authorities to ensure they do take action in response to complaints.

Another issue that gives rise to numerous complaints is **flytipping**. Changes in the City Council's policies resulted in an increase in the number of bulk items dumped in open spaces. In response to this we have promoted the use of strategically placed skips for people to use and whilst it had some success it was short-term and not a permanent solution.

Changes in the PNP **walkabout** programme has resulted in FCC embarking on its own with members walking the streets and reporting their findings as appropriate. This exercise will also be used to identify improvement projects that can be put forward for **NEP funding**.

### 3. Treasurers Report

Due to a number of factors, we have been without an active Treasurer over the past year. This has resulted in the accounts not being audited as required and action will be taken asap to rectify this. The following is a breakdown of our income and expenditure over the past 2 financial years.

Accounts for 2015/16

DATE	ITEM	IN	OUT	TOTAL
Opening Total				3811.69
6th May	Pentland NP	1,700		5511.69
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Gala Dresses		175.00	5336.69
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Gala Kilts		210.00	5126.69
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Gala Change		20.00	5106.69
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Bouncy Castle		180.00	4926.69
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Peter Stone, DJ		150.00	4776.69
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Dunedincanmore	100.00		4876.69
6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	CEC Grant	623.60		5500.29
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Donation	10.00		5510.29
17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Hall Hire		31.60	5478.69
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Transport		20.00	5458.69
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Gala Various		365.25	5093.44
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Secretary Expenses		140.00	4953.44

16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Hall Hire		24.00	4929.44
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CEC		389.64	<b>4539.80</b>

#### Accounts for 2016/17

DATE	ITEM	IN	OUT	TOTAL
Opening Total				<b>4539.80</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Lasswade Ponies deposit		150.00	4389.80
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Prize Vouchers		80.00	4309.80
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Gala Piper (BM)		150.00	4159.80
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Bouncy Castle		140.00	4019.80
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Lasswade Ponies		180.00	3939.80
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Peter Stone, DJ		150.00	3789.80
5 <sup>th</sup> July	CEC Grant	621.62		4411.42
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Live Systems		104.41	<b>4207.01</b>

#### 4. Election of Office-Bearers

Cllr Rust agreed to take over the chair for this part of the proceedings and spoke about the work done by the office-bearers and hoped that this would continue to develop. Nominations were then sought and seconded, resulting in the following appointments:

Position	Nominee	Mover	Seconder
1. Chairperson/PNP Rep	H Levy	L McGurk	F Gosney
2. Vice Chair	No nominations requested - see below.		
3. Secretary	L McGurk	H Levy	F Gosney
4. Treasurer	J Turnbull	H Levy	F Gosney
5. Minute secretary	J Napier	J Turnbull	L McGurk

No appointments were made for the following positions:

Vice Chair: previously agreed and still accepted, in the absence of HL, another member would be elected to take on the Chair's role for that meeting.

Planning Officer: appointment unnecessary as there is little development in Firrhill. Planning bulletins will continue to be received by the Minutes Secretary.

All the above was accepted by the respective nominee and accepted by the members.

HL resumed the Chair and thanked Cllr Rust for his services.

#### 5. Retiral Presentations

Firrhill Community Council wished to acknowledge the service carried out by its former secretary, Peggy Wright and to Elaine Aitken, former city councillor for the ward, who attended our meetings as an ex-officio member. Both have served on the community council for many years, providing valuable service to this council and the community it serves.

As an acknowledgement of the long continuous service both have given, cut short for health and family reasons, the Chair presented them with a gift as a remembrance of that time and a token of our sincere thanks.

## 6. Topic for Discussion: Recycle Plan

Many of the items raised at our previous meetings relate to environmental issues, such as dog fouling and fly tipping, as recorded in our minutes, noted on our walkabouts and covered in our newsletter. Over the year we have acknowledged a need to focus more heavily on those issues with a view to coming up with positive plans to reduce their negative effect on the environment.

The Chair held preliminary discussions with the two Environmental Officers and invited them to attend our AGM to speak on their proposal to extend the current recycling facilities within the area in order to reduce the level of fly tipping.

There is currently a recycling point at the rear of Oxfords Avenue next to Oxfords House, and at the two stores - Morrisons & Tesco. As most of the complaints originate in the Oxfords area, the plan is to provide additional street recycling points at a number of locations along Oxfords Avenue. Funding for this could come from City Council's capital investment grants for improvement projects in housing areas (NEP grants).

Noted current recycling points do not cater for items generally classed as fly tipping. This facility needs to be added into recycling points within the area otherwise the project has limited value.

Recycling points become an eyesore if not maintained and this is often the case at the existing locations. With the Authority increasing its austerity measures, how can we ensure we do not make the situation worse by providing more locations.

Acknowledged there was a need to put any actual proposals to a public meeting and looking at a timescale sometime over the end of March / beginning of April period

The Chair thanked the guests for their input to the discussion

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The following items were circulated as part of the business papers and deferred for future discussion at our next meeting, as appropriate.

## 7. Minutes of Previous Business Meeting held on 23 October 2017

### 8. 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.

#### 8.1: Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones (LEZs)

lezconsultation@transport.gov.scot                      27/10/2017

Writing to all community councils throughout Scotland in order to make them aware of a Scottish Government consultation called Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones (LEZs). Air pollution in Scotland has progressively reduced over recent years, but poor air quality - predominantly caused by road transport - remains an issue at a number of hotspots in our towns and cities.

Following the May 2017 local elections, several local authorities in major Scottish cities have made positive statements around LEZs, and there is strong political will across local government to support improvements to air quality. Government committed to introducing LEZs into Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow between 2018 and 2020, and the first LEZ will be put in place in Glasgow by the end of 2018.

The Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones consultation paper sets out the proposed arrangements and options to deliver a consistent approach to designing, building and managing LEZs in Scotland. Community councils are invited to respond to the consultation at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/building-scotlands-low-emission-zones/> or by emailing your comments to [lezconsultation@transport.gov.scot](mailto:lezconsultation@transport.gov.scot). The consultation will close at 23:59 on 28 November 2017.

## 8.2: Healthy Ageing Research Study

websitebuilder@btck.co.uk 27/10/2017

Heriot-Watt University are currently running a study exploring how taking up a new activity might benefit people's thinking skills and wellbeing as they get older. Looking for people aged 65 and over in Edinburgh and the Lothians to take part. People who take part first complete some assessments at Heriot-Watt before being helped to take up a new activity in the community. The new activities might help them increase their social, physical or mental engagement. After following the new activity for about 10 weeks they will assess how that might be associated with changes in thinking skills, health and wellbeing. Asking for help in raising awareness of the study in your local community. For example, we were hoping you could share details about the study at your next council meeting, or via your website/social media. A Facebook post about the study can also be found at <https://www.facebook.com/HWPpsych/posts/2034691406751041>.

## 8.3: Open Space 2021: Co-design of a new community park for Greendykes

Planning Edinburgh, Fri 27/10/2017

Presentation in a series of talks to raise awareness of Open Space 2021, Edinburgh's new Open Space Strategy. Focused was on the process of co-design with the local community in Craigmillar which led to the final plans for a new park in Greendykes. This involved learning from local knowledge and organisations to give them a strong voice in the design process and shape a new park based on people's needs.

## 8.4: Planning and Building Standards Customer Forum Action Plan

Planning Service Delivery [Planning.ServiceDelivery@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Planning.ServiceDelivery@edinburgh.gov.uk) Fri 27/10/2017 11:57

Follow-on from a Planning and Building Standards Customer Forum held in June 2017. This has resulted in the attached action plan to take forward some of the suggestions made and work has already started on a number of the actions.

The intention is to hold another Customer Forum next spring but if there are any comments about the Action Plan, we can email [planning.servicedelivery@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:planning.servicedelivery@edinburgh.gov.uk) and they will consider any amendments to be made to it.

## 8.5: Council Budget Consultation

Jason Rust [Jason.Rust@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Jason.Rust@edinburgh.gov.uk) Sat 28/10/2017 09:24

Notice from Jason that the budget consultation has been put back following a vote at yesterday's Finance and Resources Committee:

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/politics/consultation-on-edinburgh-s-21m-budget-cuts-halted-1-4598698>

This was a follow-up from a previous email indicating when the consultation exercise would start.

#### 8.6: Application Reference Number 14/00395/Stage B

Robert Godsman Robert.Godsman@edinburgh.gov.uk 30/10/2017

Further inspection into the works highlighted information received from the site agent from Graham Construction who are the builders at the Doctors Surgery at 167 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh. The works within the confines of the boundary lines of the property that covers the new surgery under building warrant 14/00305/Stage A were checked via the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2004. The foul water attenuation system that was provided on the plans were at the request of Scottish Water.

The attenuation drainage carried out within the park which was out with the granted proposals of the building warrant were again at the request of Scottish Water who asked Graham Construction to carry out the works at their own expense. As the drainage is under the remit of Scottish Water we have no control over the works that had been carried out.

#### 8.7: Oxgangs Green Development

Site 72m South of 4A Oxgangs Green - Development of Affordable Housing - letter to consultees

David Inverarity David.Inverarity@edinburgh.gov.uk Thu 02/11/2017 17:59

#### 8.8: Neighbourhood Partnerships

From: Jason Rust <Jason.Rust@edinburgh.gov.uk> Fri 03/11, 20:38

Re conflicting information regarding Neighbourhood Partnerships from different parties.

Mike Avery previously asked for an elected member to act as a convenor for this meeting proposed to be held on 15th August 2017. This action is in response to the decision taken at the recent full Council meeting on the 22nd June 2017, where it was agreed to reappoint Neighbourhood Partnerships for one meeting.

More recently, Donald Wilson wrote there continues to be confusion in some quarters regarding the status of Neighbourhood Partnerships. As Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee which has the over sight of this area, he maintains that Neighbourhood Partnerships remain in operation until new governance structures are in place. Asking Locality Managers to inform him of the dates of the next meetings which should be taking place in each area over the next couple of months so that this can be logged centrally.

#### 8.9: Public Consultation for Oxgangs Green - Planning Ref 17/04444/PAN

Scott Arthur Scott.Arthur@edinburgh.gov.uk Sat 11/11, 22:15

Re email from Ian Hunt (fouin-bell)

New proposal on the development of affordable housing (between 70 to 90 units) with associated roads, parking infrastructure and landscaping at Site 72 Metres South Of 4A Oxgangs Green Edinburgh. Following the withdrawal of the previous planning submission, they have developed a new proposal to address the concerns raised by the Planning Department / Council. Aiming to hold a Public Consultation drop in event in Oxgangs at the end of this month

and would like to invite you to meet with us prior to the event to discuss the proposals with the developer.

## 8.10: EACC Annual General Meeting Saturday 25th November 2017

EACC Secretary, David K R Bewsey, Tue 14/11, 09:34

Paul Lawrence, Executive Director for Place has been invited to give a talk about the City Region Deal and the evolution of the Place Directorate since he took office in 2015.

At the EACC meeting on 12th October 2017 it was agreed that a letter be written to the Council Leader expressing concern over the apparent lack of community council input and involvement in the Locality Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) and the Locality Report. The letter and response only received yesterday is attached. Letter to Council Leader.

## 9. Police, Ward Councillors and MSP Reports

### 9.1 Police Report: October 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.*

#### **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.

#### **Incidents:**

##### **Housebreakings**

Theft HB - 02/10/17- Oxgangs Crescent - offender charged.

##### **Assault**

There was a report of a serious assault at Oxgangs Road North on 9th October 2017.

##### **Road Safety / Initiatives**

We dealt with several parking related offences in the area in October.

##### **Theft**

Theft of number plates from a motor vehicle Caiystane Drive 27/10/17.

##### **Hate Crime**

There were no reported Hate Crimes in October.

### **ASB / NPS / incidents of note**

A car door handle was damaged at Oxfangs Road North on 11th October.

A car windscreen was smashed at Firrhill Drive on 12th October and another car was damaged at Firrhill Drive on 15th October.

There were several further minor acts of vandalism recorded in the area during October, 2 car windows smashed in Firrhill Drive and another in Greenlaw Rig, on 21/10/17.

An address in Oxfangs street was searched under a drug warrant and Class A and B drugs, drugs paraphernalia and money were recovered and seized, 2 persons were charged with supply of drugs.

### **Some commonly used police acronyms explained : -**

HBWI - Housebreakings With Intent (to steal) - The fabric of the building has been compromised by culprit with the intention to steal from building but nothing actually stolen.

Att HBWI - Attempt Housebreaking With Intent (to steal) - An attempt made by culprit to overcome fabric of building with intention to steal from within but security has held and no entry gained.

Theft HB - Theft Housebreaking - The fabric of the building has been overcome, entry gained by culprit and property has been stolen.

Theft OLP MV - Theft Opening Lockfast Place Motor Vehicle - The security of a locked vehicle has been overcome and culprit has stolen property from within.

Att Theft OLP - Attempt Theft Opening Lockfast Place - An attempt by culprit to steal items by overcoming locked property, other than buildings but security has held and no entry gained.

### **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 11480 Kieran Dougal.

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.

*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](#).*

## 9.2 Ward Councillors Reports

### Councillor Scott Arthur

A copy of Councillor Arthur's first newsletter covering his first six months as our Councillor was received and circulated to members. It gives a brief report on his activities along with some clips of local news.

"My Report: Broadly speaking there are two parts to the job of being your Councillor. The first is helping individual constituents with the problems they face. I've now helped almost 200 people on issues ranging from making sure bins are collected on time, to ensuring adult social care is provided adequately. This is a hugely rewarding part of the job, as it is a chance to have a positive impact on lives.

The second part of the job, of course, relates to setting the policy agenda in the City Chambers. This largely focuses on reviewing reports, considering motions from other Councillors and asking awkward questions! This part of the job is also a chance to progress issues which can impact on my whole Ward, or even the entire Capital.

After studying the process and watching experienced Councillors in action, in October I brought forward my first motion. Its aim is to ensure support is available to low income families to help them equip their children for school. With child poverty rising across the UK, I was ashamed to learn that Edinburgh offers one of the lowest School Uniform Grants - just £43, when the actual cost is estimated at £129.50 even when shopping at supermarkets.

My motion asked for a city-wide review of the support available to low income families to help them equip their children for school. In a Council that is divided on everything from weed control to speed limits, I'm proud to say every party supported my motion and we should see real change soon.

#### Expenses

I've claimed no expenses and have refused the offer of a Council funded bus pass or parking space. So far, I've also given all my Council pay (£16,900 per year before tax) to various charities - local, national & international. I've no problem with other Councillors choosing a different path, but this one is right for me."

### Councillor Phil Doggart

The Chair welcomed Councillor Doggart to the meeting and as this was the first time he has attended our meetings, invited him to introduce himself.

### Councillor Jason Rust

Councillor Rust produced the following report, which was circulated to members

1. I submitted written questions to this month's Full Council on **street lighting** due to delays with repairs.
2. The **Redford Barracks Working Group** is being re-established and should meet in the New Year. All three ward councillors will sit on this group.
3. I attended **Colinton Primary School Parent Council** where there was much discussion of future fundraising events and **Braidburn School Parent Council** where I heard about issues effecting parents and pupils in respect of cuts to the play activity scheme.
4. **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership** continue to exist after all! The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd January at a venue to be determined. A reminder that it is a public meeting to which all are welcome.

5. I seconded a motion at October's Full Council congratulating **Heriot Watt University** on being named the inaugural International University of the Year 2018.
6. I seconded a further motion welcoming the City of **Edinburgh Council webcast** will be provided with subtitles to improve accessibility for Deaf and hard of hearing people.
7. The Council's **budget consultation** is now open and can be found here: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/2018-19-council-budget-engagement/> The Council Budget will take place on 22nd February 2018. I welcome comments in advance from local residents directly on their budgetary priorities for the city.
8. I attended the **Gurkha Welfare Trust** charity lunch at Dreghorn Barracks on 29th October.
9. Residents have been in contact regarding **overflowing recycling** at both Tesco, Colinton Mains and Morrisons, Hunter's Tryst and these have been repeatedly raised by me with council officers.
10. I have been liaising with a few residents regarding **high hedge notices** and the council's role, in conjunction with the Scottish Parliament's review.
11. I am dealing with a few cases of **anti-social behaviour** including Firrhill Loan and Oxgangs Avenue and housing issues in Oxgangs Drive, Place and Street.
12. Complaints have again been received from residents in Oxgangs Bank regarding parking at the time of **Pentland Primary School** drop off / pick up and I am in touch with the school and council colleagues on this.
13. As you will be aware, there is to be a presentation tomorrow between 3.30pm and 7.30pm at Oxgangs Library regarding the latest proposals for the **former Hunter's Tryst Primary School site**. I have concerns regarding density of the site in terms of the new proposals.
14. There have been ongoing issues with waste collection at **Colinton Mains Community Centre**. The Council is now dealing with this and I have referred some of the issues to the contact centre.
15. Cllr Arthur and myself met with Andy Edwards and Michaela Smith at Council who are taking forward the project to invest in **Oxgangs Broadway**. They have some initial suggestions, but no firm idea yet as to the exact budget available. However, they are going to be in touch with all local businesses to meet within the next month to discuss your ideas and suggestions and this will then be taken forward as soon as possible 2018. I am keen that Firrhill CC is also involved in this project.
16. **Graffiti** on Oxgangs Avenue was reported by me following complaints by residents. The task force is dealing with this now.
17. A leak was reported at the **Oxgangs Children's Home** which was as the result of a leaking overflow from one of the tanks on the roof which had not been drained. The Technical Facilities Management Team arranged for a plumber to attend site, drain down the water system and for a heating engineer to switch off the heating system and drain down the system. I understand this is now completed.
18. Along with a representative of **Firrhill High School Hockey Club** I met with the Education Convener, Cllr Perry and Andy Gray, Head of Schools to discuss issues around pitch provision for the club and feedback is currently awaited.
19. Complaints were received regarding the **footpath adjacent to Aldi**, next to the Library. I have had planning enforcement check this and have been given reassurance regarding the lighting.

MSP: Gordon MacDonald

A copy of the MSP's November newsletter was received and forwarded on to those members able to receive electronic mail. Subject headings included

**Small Business Start-Ups Booming:** Analysis by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has revealed that the Edinburgh's Pentlands constituency has experienced the greatest business growth since 2010 – the number of companies has increased by 48% over the 2010-2016 period.

The data shows that in Scotland, three of the five constituencies with the fastest growing business communities are in Edinburgh.

The Small Business Bonus Scheme provides business rates relief if the combined rateable value of the business premises in Scotland is £35,000 or less. In fact, you may not have to pay any business rates at all if the rateable value of your property is £15,000 or less.

There were 7,043 recipients of the scheme in Edinburgh, saving over £15 million in rates. The amount of SBBS relief provided has also increased in each year of the scheme and now provides a total of £180 million in relief for small businesses throughout Scotland.

Public Consultations: The Scottish Government have launched two new public consultations: -

1. Local Bus Services in Scotland - Improving the Framework for Delivery <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/improving-busservices>
2. Future of Smart Ticketing <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/smart-ticketing-in-scotland>

Both of the above consultations closed on 5 December.

The results of these consultations will be used to determine the future of local bus services and the introduction of more efficient ticketing systems.

## 10. Office Bearers' Reports

### 8.1 Planning Report

#### **Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward**

23/10/2017: Application 17/04358/CLP for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an attic conversion with front and rear roof windows at 116 Colinton Mains Drive has been granted

13/11/2017: Application 17/04925/FUL to erect a single storey extension to the rear of an existing two storey dwelling house opening on to a new raised timber deck providing access to the rear garden. Doors and windows shall be timber framed at 3 Oxfangs Farm Drive.

#### **Great Green Roof! City centre rooftop safari filmed at Council HQ**

From Planning Edinburgh: In common with several city centre buildings, the Council HQ at Waverley Court has rooftop gardens. Green roofs on buildings have many benefits including improving energy efficiency, reducing the urban heat island effect and reducing water run off in the built environment. They can also be a really good habitat for wildlife.

In recent years the grass areas on the Waverley Court roof have been changed into wildflower meadows to make them more attractive to people and pollinating insects. Back on a sunny August day, Anthony McCluskey from Butterfly Conservation Scotland ran a butterfly and bumblebee safari to give staff a lunch break with a difference! It was a lovely sunny day and you can watch some footage of the meadow and safari below.

## **Development in the Countryside and Green Belt Supplementary Guidance**

From Planning Edinburgh: Living in Edinburgh, we're surrounded by a band of countryside and green belt. We want to make sure that this natural heritage of ours is protected and enhanced, so, we control what kind of development is allowed in these areas.

The Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP) replaced the Edinburgh City Local Plan and the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan in 2016. From the LDP we now have one single Policy across our boundary, Env 10, that deals with 'Development in the Countryside and Green Belt'.

We first published supplementary guidance for this Policy in 2007. Recently, we've updated this guidance to make sure it reflects our current practice. You can have a read of our refresh here. The revised guidance should help all users of the LDP understand Policy Env 10.

Some key changes following our redraft include:

- a new layout;
- clarification as to when new buildings will be allowed in the countryside and green belt;
- additional criteria to be met when replacing low quality buildings;
- further information about ancillary uses and energy development; and
- guidance about materials and high-quality design, taken from the updated Edinburgh Design Guidance.

## **11. AOCB**

### **Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting**

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.