

# Firrhill Community Council

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

## **Note of Meeting of the Council on 26 Feb 2018 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.**

**Attendance:** H Levy, L McGurk, S Duffy, L Linn, J Turnbull, S Weir, J Napier.

**Visitors:** Cllr Arthur, CEC Council; PC David Crow, Oxfangs Police.

**Apologies:** F Gosney

The meeting started at 6 pm, with H Levy in the Chair. In her opening remarks the Chair welcomed PC David Crow to our meeting. David has taken over from Sonja Kaiser as our Community Police Officer working alongside Graeme Howie.

### **1. Minute of Previous Meeting held on 22 Jan 2018:**

The draft minutes for our closed meeting held on 22 Jan 2018 were reviewed. With one correction, the minutes were moved for approval by LL, seconded by L McG. Approved.

#### Matters Arising

##### **Motion to Co-opt a New Member**

Section 7 of the Scheme & Constitution covers "Casual Vacancies on the Community Council" and allows where a vacancy arises at least 6 months from the last election, the Community Council may agree to the filling of a vacancy by co-option with voting rights. The Community Council currently has 8 members, which is 4 short of the allowed membership of 12.

S Weir is a resident within the community and has been attending our meetings regularly over the past year. She has voluntarily become involved in organising and participating in walkabouts of the area on behalf of the community council. Asked at the last meeting and has agreed to becoming a member, this Motion is to formally appoint her as such:

"To appoint S Weir as a co-opted member of Firrhill Community Council" moved by H Levy, seconded by L McGurk. Unanimously agreed.

**Action: Secretary to inform the CEC Community Council Liaison Officer of the appointment.**

### **2. Ongoing Issues from Previous Meetings**

#### 2.1 Allermuir Health Centre: Tapestry Art Project

As a follow-on from our last minute, the Chair was keen for this project to be better supported and asked members to be more pro-active, encourage their friends and neighbours to do likewise. The Tapestry Art Project Group meet on Monday mornings in Oxfangs Library between 10 and 12 am.

#### 2.2 Walkabout Report and Recycling Plan

S Weir and F Gosney did a walkabout on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup>. They covered the area of Colinton Mains Public Park, Firrhill Drive, Oxfangs Drive/House and recorded a few instances of litter, flytipping and pollution in the burn. The worst flytipping seen on the day was in Oxfangs Drive. The worst litter and

dog fouling was in the lane that runs between Colinton Mains Drive and Colinton Mains Place where there were eleven small bags tied up and dropped at various points along the lane.

#### Issues recorded:

- Burn at Colinton Mains Public Park: Supermarket trolleys and other items constantly being dumped in the burn and it is difficult to see a solution. The trolleys are reported to Tesco and invariably removed after a time, similarly with other items reported to the Environmental Wardens. We have concerns that neglect to maintain the burn may lead to debris becoming wedged under the bridges creating a risk of localised flooding during periods of excessive rainfall.

Suggestion to organise a clean-up of the burn by local volunteers was vetoed as the community council have been advised they require insurance cover if they wish to partake in this exercise.

- Eyesore at Colinton Mains Public Park (derelict toilet block): There is a history of issues regarding safety/security of the building. CEC Parks have indicated they have no budget to either renovate or demolish the building. We have touched on the subject of taking over responsibility and renovating it as a storeroom for events held in the Park such as the Oxfangs Gala.

**Action: We really need to determine whether or not we want to maintain or demolition the building and act accordingly.**

- Litter in the hedge at Colinton Mains Bowling Club: Club members periodically do a litter pick along the hedge and the community council lobbied for and obtained the litter bin located at the Park's car park entrance. Many school pupils travel from Firrhill High School to the shops during their lunch break and a fair amount of litter is dropped along the street. The hedge is also used as a convenient spot for flytipping.

- Litter and dog poo in the lane between Colinton Mains Place and Drive: This sheltered lane is used by irresponsible dog walkers for dumping their poo bags. Litter came from carrier bags of clothing abandoned in the lane.

**Action: To seek the provision of receptacles at one or both ends of the lane for people to use.**

- Litter and Flytipping at Firrhill Drive: Regular problem especially around the recycling point.

**Action: Keep reporting it to the Environmental Warden, [Donna.Mills@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Donna.Mills@edinburgh.gov.uk).**

- Bins at Oxfangs Drive and House: Communal bin stores are in a state of disrepair. CEC no longer take responsibility for maintenance and seek to move bins out into the street where it is easier for the refuse-motors to empty them. Whilst accepting residents could do more to maintain these areas, it is a recognised problem getting people to agree to take remedial action. There is no factoring service.

**Action: As we are supporting the CEC stance, no action is proposed.**

- Flytipping in the Oxfangs Avenue vennel (adjacent to Oxfangs House): Regular problem and worthwhile noting that this location is near the recycling point in Oxfangs Green. Flytipping occurs at the vennel because it is secluded and the activity is illegal.

**Action: To request the CEC to provide a skip at the recycling point in Oxfangs Green for residents to use as an alternative to flytipping and for this service to be maintained.**

Next walk will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30 hours, weather permitting.

The condition of the Cockit Hat Wood was also raised at the meeting. Agreed this should be the subject for a future walkabout.

## 2.3 Meeting Venue

Further to the report given at the previous meeting, Oxfangs Care have agreed to our continued use of a room in which to hold our meetings and to our use of their Wi-Fi system. Still to be formalised.

### 3. Reports from Police, Councillors, etc.

#### 3.1: Councillor's Report: Prof. Scott Arthur, Cllr.

Report for Firrhill Community Council – 26th of February 2018

**20mph Scheme** – Installation of signs is underway. Work was scheduled to take around 6 weeks, with "minimal disruption expected". The new speed limit will become effective on the 5th of March 2018.

**Roads & Footpaths** – I recently cycled around every road in Colinton Mains and reported around 20 potholes that required immediate attention.

**Oxgangs Aldi** – A meeting took place to ensure the Broadway benefits from the added "footfall". The focus of this is improved signage and local environmental improvements. The local businesses are contributing to the cost of improvements.

**Oxgangs Primary School** – I have been working with parents to ensure their questions are answered following the problem with the ceiling tile in the school.

"In discussion on this subject it was reported that the claim only one ceiling tile fell down is contradicted by a number of parents/grandparents who were at the school at the time and have said a substantial part of the suspended ceiling within the room collapsed. In view of previous history on communications relating to the school's structural defects, it is understandable there is a certain amount of distrust in regard to information put out by the school authority.

It is clear from the *Report of the Independent Inquiry into the Construction of Edinburgh Schools (2017)* the reason for the collapse of the wall at this school was poor quality construction. Following that incident, the structure of the school was inspected and given a clean bill of health. For another part of the structure to subsequently fail does cause doubt on the soundness of that inspection.

There is a need for the school to provide pictorial evidence of the incident and openly display this within the school so that there can be no doubt as to what happened. The why's can come later."

**Firhill Drive Closure** – I have been working to keep residents up-to-date with this and ensure the Police and Council are made aware of any safety issue.

**Environmental Warden** – I have been working with the Environmental Warden to address Dog Fouling (Firrhill Neuk) and Fly-Tipping (Oxgangs House) problems. (see also under Walkabout Report)

**Winter Gritting** – There have been significant issues across the Ward with regard to snow clearance and the management of grit bins. As a result of problems in the Ward and elsewhere, Council Officers have been asked to review the service. My Blog on the issue: <https://goo.gl/5zew9X>

**Redford Barracks Working Group** – I have been appointed to this group along with Cllr Rust & Cllr Doggart. The first meeting since May 2017 took place on the 9th February – the SNP (Cllr Barrie) and Conservatives (Cllr Doggart) agreed to co-convene the Working Group. The next meeting will be in 3-4 months' time and will include a tour of the Barracks. I have asked that the Ward 8 Community Councils are invited.

**In Council** – The budget dominated business until it was considered by Council on the 22nd of February. My priorities were protecting libraries (a cut to opening hours was proposed), tackling homelessness, more funding for gritting, investing in social care and also maintaining the "playscheme" for children with additional support needs.

More local news on my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DrScott4Ward8/>

Prof Scott Arthur – [Scott.Arthur@Edinburgh.Gov.UK](mailto:Scott.Arthur@Edinburgh.Gov.UK).

Cllr Arthur left the meeting after giving his report in order to attend another meeting.

### 3.2 Police Report: PC D Crow, Oxfangs Police Stn.

This report covers the previous month (January) but it should be noted that Operation Heddle, referred to below, took place over 3 months.

**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.

#### **Final Operation Heddle Results:**

- 2 stalls held providing road safety advice at Westside Plaza and Fountain Park
- Patrols conducted at all schools in South West Edinburgh at least once with regular issue schools visited 2-3 times these were conducted at children drop off time with numerous joint patrols alongside parking attendants.
- Head teacher spoken to and letters sent out to parents about the initiative and parking advice
- 4 static road checks conducted two alongside roads policing
- 19 speed checks
- 1 push bike patrol to give advice to cyclists and one warned re a light offence -Regular parking and prohibited turn patrols
- 2 retail car park patrols to check if there were any valuables on show within vehicles. 25 people provided a security walkthrough or advice. 15 letters will be sent out to registered keepers giving advice
- Meeting held with Tynecastle regarding works vehicles and an arrangement made that prohibits work during drop off, lunch and pick up times of the school opposite. This is in the interest of public safety
- 4 SIDs submitted
- 7 inconsiderate parking notices issued
- 6 vehicles removed due to parking or tax offences (joint patrol with DVLA/parking attendants)
- 36 tickets issued (4 no seatbelt, 18 parking offences, 3 mobile phone, 4 HORT1, 1 no insurance, 6 speeding and 3 other) -Three reports to PF
- 2 drink drivers
- 2 S.165 seizure

#### **Warnings:**

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • Speeding - 80 | • Parking - 31             |
| • Lighting - 15 | • Security of vehicle - 40 |
| • Other - 24    |                            |

**Total of 190 warnings / advice provided**

**Housebreakings:** Theft HB – 15th January 2018 in Oxgangs Crescent. (Electrical equipment stolen from within).

**Assault:** None reported.

**Road Safety / Initiatives:** A motorist was charged with failing to stop at the scene of a road traffic accident in Firrhill Drive on 5th January 2018. Another motorist was arrested for various driving offences and his car was seized.

**Theft:** A motorised scooter was stolen from Oxgangs Green on 3rd January 2018. The scooter was recovered later in Oxgangs Avenue.

**Hate Crime:** A hate crime (a breach of the peace) occurred on 29th January 2018. A female was charged with this offence.

**ASB / NPS / incidents of note:** None recorded.

### **Community Police Team**

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 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**

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. 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.

### **4.1 29 Jan: Apply for the 2018/19 Street Design Programme**

Email from: Emily Davie, Street Design Coordinator, Sustrans Scotland. Sustrans Scotland recently launched a new application process for our 2018/19 Street Design Programme. Street Design is an award-winning community led initiative, helping communities to redesign the spaces they spend time in or travel through.

Our application portal has now opened and we are inviting applications from community groups in partnership with Local Authorities until Friday 2 March. I would be grateful if the attached email could be circulated to Community Council's within your region.

Website: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/street-design>.

## 4.2 1 Feb: Your Edinburgh – Information Update

Notification to verify the details of our information on “Your Edinburgh” website and amend as necessary. Details were out of date or incorrect and has been updated. Note, in order to make those corrections JN had to register as administrator for the “Your Edinburgh” FCC webpage.

## 4.3 21 Feb: Charge for Garden Waste

Email from Jason Rust advising that he has asked how the garden waste collection charge will be implemented if the SNP/Labour Budget is voted through tomorrow. Their published budget states:

*“The proposal to charge for garden waste was another common cause of comments. Whilst there was some opposition, the overriding message was that people are uncertain about the detail of how the charge will be administered. Based on the experience of other local authorities, the proposal is workable and a full communications campaign will be put in place. However, to take account of some concerns, the budget proposals have been modified to include an allowance for households that would struggle to pay.”*

On following up with the relevant Head of Department I have been further advised:

*“The service will be opt-in. Residents will be required to make contact with the Council to make the payment in order to qualify for the scheme year and receive a sticker to place on their bin*

*It is proposed that those properties in receipt of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be exempt from the charge. They will still need to notify us that they wish to receive the service, but will not be charged.”*

I will be opposing this collection charge outright, but if it is voted through, that is the extent of the detail at present.

Whilst it is too late to make comment, Firrhill Community Council wish to record their opposition to the proposal to charge for the collection of garden waste. The collection of waste is a basic service provided by all local authorities. The introduction of charging for its uplift opens the door to further levies or increases being imposed, leading to increases in flytipping and as we are all aware, the local authority is not renowned for its actions in enforcing its own rules and regulations.

Deprived areas within our community already suffer from neglect and flytipping. Even with charging concessions, it is likely that this proposal will only exacerbate the situation.

## 4.4 15 Feb: Notice of EACC Meeting 22 Feb.

Email from David Bewsey, 15Feb2018

The next meeting of Edinburgh Association of Community Councils will take place on Thursday 22nd February 2018 from 7pm until 9 pm. Venue: The Business Centre, City Chambers, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Items on the Agenda:

- G.D.P.R. - DON'T PANIC Help is at hand
- EACC's role in community planning

Community Councils are one of a number of public bodies involved in community planning. Their voice through the Edinburgh Partnership is one way to engage and influence future community planning. We will be discussing whether EACC could be more effective.

Neighbourhood Partnerships will continue in the interim but could they work better and should they be retained? What are your views?

With the forthcoming Edinburgh Partnership governance review, our opinions could shape how Community Councils make a contribution to Locality Committees. We'd like to hear your views.

The Full Meeting papers can be downloaded at this link.

Alternatively, they are available on the website in EACC Documents

Notice of AOCB items to the Secretary at least 24 hrs prior to the meeting. It will be at the Chair's discretion to discuss these items.

Please note: It was suggested at a previous meeting that this email should go to all Chairs and Secretaries as well as other representatives. We are tidying up our email list and are aware people and positions may have changed. We welcome notice of these changes and any additions or unsubscribes from this list will be strictly adhered to.

Comment: Forwarded to Secretary and Chair for information and submitted my apologies. The EACC's role in community planning is a topic we should become involved in.

#### **4.5 21 Feb: Scottish Government Consultation on Electoral Reform**

Email from Ross Murray, Governance Officer, Strategy and Insight: You may wish to pass the following on to your community councillors, I've lifted the following text from the Leith Harbour and Newhaven CC website:

The Scottish Government is consulting on electoral reform. They say:

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring access to democratic participation for all citizens. The way we vote in elections has remained unchanged for over 100 years. Modernisation takes place across all aspects of society and now is a good time to think about the kinds of innovation people in Scotland would like to see in elections.

Online responses at <https://consult.gov.scot/elections/electoral-reform>.

If you are unable to respond online, please complete a Respondent Information Form and send it to:

Electoral Reform Consultation Elections Team, Area 2 West, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG. This consultation closes on 12 March 2018.

The Chair expressed her surprise at the lack of engagement concerning a consultation of such importance and recommended that all members should go online, look at the proposals and respond.

#### **4.6 22 Feb: Oxfords Primary School: Ceiling Tile Collapse**

Re: Evening News article "Pupil struck by ceiling tile at Oxfords Primary School".

*"A PUPIL struck by a ceiling tile which fell off during an after-school club. The child was not injured, but contractors Amey are checking other ceilings at the school. The tile fell from a suspended ceiling in a "general purpose" room."*

Secretary contacted Cllr Rust indicating concern at how misleading the press release was. It was not a single ceiling tile as stated, but the whole roof and frame. Cllr Rust is following it up. (See also under Cllr Arthur's report.)

### **5. Office Bearers Reports**

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

05/02/2018: Decision: Application 17/05795/FUL for an extension to existing ground floor family room at 98 Oxfords Road has been granted

19/02/2018: Decision: Application 17/06027/CLP for alterations to form French doors at 46 Colinton Mains Crescent has been granted.

29/01/2018: Application 18/00289/FUL for the installation of new front and rear dormer windows at 188 Colinton Mains Road

## 5.2 Other Planning Issues

17/04444/PAN | Development of affordable housing (between 70 to 90 units) with associated roads, parking infrastructure and landscaping. | Site 72 Metres South Of 4A Oxfangs Green Edinburgh | **no further information.**

17/02682/FUL | Erect two storey building for Oxfangs Young Persons Centre, form new access road + parking, soft + hard landscaping, erect new perimeter fencing. | 54 Oxfangs Avenue Edinburgh EH13 9JP | **no further information.**

## **4. AOCB**

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

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **26 March 2018** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.