

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

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

Attendance: H Levy, L McGurk, F Gosney, L Linn, J Turnbull, S Weir, J Napier (part).

Visitors: Cllr Rust & Cllr Arthur, CEC Council; PC David Crow, Oxfangs Police; Richard Imlach, Oxfangs Parent Council; T Brown and L McKay (Oxfangs PS PTA)

Apologies: S Duffy

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

1. Minute of Previous Meeting held on 26 Feb 2018:

The draft minutes for our closed meeting held on 26 Feb 2018 were reviewed. The minutes were moved for approval by LL, seconded by JT and approved.

2. Ongoing Issues from Previous Meetings

Recycling Plan

Deferred to next meeting

Oxfangs Primary School

Referring to historical and recent problems concerning the school building, the Chair thanked the reps from the School's Parent Council and PTA for attending this meeting and enabling all parties to voice their opinions about the condition of the building as a safe environment for the children and staff who occupy it.

The initial incident took place on the 6th March when part of the suspended ceiling in a classroom collapsed. Whilst this is a lightweight structure and not likely to have caused serious injury, the room was occupied by children at the time and the event was alarming.

Amey inspected and reported there were no suspension wires located within the immediate affected area and this was the cause of the collapse. All suspended ceiling grids within the school were also checked and found to be okay.

That may have been the end of the matter but unexpectedly on the same day as a meeting of the City Council on the 15th March and as a consequence, supplementary to a question tabled by Cllr Rust for the meeting, a further incident took place where a section of the roofing material had come loose and was flapping in the wind. This prompted action for further independent inspections to be carried out.

In discussion at the community council meeting it was the general opinion that whilst the initial incident may have been alarming to the children in the room at the time, this second incident caused alarm to the parents. After the external wall incident in 2016 the building was supposed to have been checked and double checked to ensure a safe environment existed within the perimeter of the school. Less than two years later we now have two incidents of structural failure leading to many parents expressing concern about the soundness of those inspections in 2016.

More recently, information about the findings of the independent inspections authorised by the City Council this month, has increased those concerns. The independent examinations of the roof and the internal ceilings of the school have apparently discovered a number of faults.

The inspection of the roof was carried out by Pendrich Height Services Limited on 18th March. Whilst the written report was not available for this meeting it is understood there were a number of defects requiring immediate action before the school opened after the Easter break (19th).

The inspection of the false ceilings was carried out by Summers-Inman at the same time and the written report, released just prior to this meeting, was published on the Parent Council website. The report listed a total of 18 defects, all relating to the suspended ceiling and the roof void above it.

It was the opinion of the meeting that when this report is put alongside Amey's report on the condition of the suspended ceiling it does raise serious questions about the openness of those Council officers and contractors who are tasked with carrying out inspections that will be for public reporting.

3. Reports from Police, Councillors, etc.

Councillor Arthur

Circulated his newsletter, which contained the following local issues:

1. Congratulations to the Firrhill S3 netball team on winning the Scottish Silver Plate.
2. Complaint from Pentland Primary parents about the problems the muddy playground was causing them. Working with the Council to improve this for the kids.
3. The old Oxfangs Young Person's Centre should be demolished by mid-April and we will have a new facility by March 2019.
4. Working with Oxfangs Primary School parents, staff and pupils to rebuild confidence that the building is 100% safe. The survey work asked for is now complete and we should see the results next week.

Police Report

Good News

PC Crow is currently working on arranging new police surgeries at local cafes / shops and will make the council aware of these when arranged. This is to allow members of the public to speak to their local police officers without having to make an appointment or attend at a police station.

Two males were arrested and charged with being concerned in supply of drugs at Oxfangs Hill on 2nd February 2018.

Housebreakings

None reported

Assault

Domestic assault Redford Road on 17th February, accused person has been arrested and reported to courts.

A taxi driver was assaulted in Oxfangs Farm Gardens on 8th February 2018, enquiry is ongoing.

An assault was reported on 15th February at Oxfangs Avenue, a male has been arrested and reported.

Road Safety / Initiatives

Op Heddle being run by PC Kaiser-Ferris related to the implementation of the new 20mph zones. Specific tasks are being carried out each day including speed checks, school visits and road checks.

A motorist was charged with failing to stop at the scene of a road traffic accident in Oxfangs Avenue on 6th February 2018.

Theft

Seven related reports of Theft OLP from motor vehicles reported having occurred during the night of 19th into 20th of February. The locations were between Swanston and Winton. PC Crow has taken these crime reports for investigation and enquiries are ongoing.

A pedal cycle was stolen from Braidburn School on 1st February 2018.

Theft OLP MV – Oxfangs Farm Avenue – 4th February (car window smashed and a pair of boots stolen), enquiry ongoing.

Hate Crime

There were no Hate Crimes reported in the area in February 2018.

ASB / NPS / incidents of note

PC Crow has carried out specific evening / night operations in response to ASB within ward 8 and has collated names of youths involved. Currently in the process of sharing this information with Schools and School Link Officers with the ultimate goal of preventing ASB when better weather arrives.

An adult was arrested and charged for making an indecent comment to a female child near to Oxfangs Broadway on 6th February 2018.

A house window was vandalised in Oxfangs Farm Terrace on 7th February 2018.

Another person was charged for committing a minor assault and a breach of the peace at Firrhill Park on 9th February 2018.

Community Police Team

Ward 8 comprises of 3 Policing Beats with 2 City of Edinburgh Council Funded Officers. Police Constables Graeme Howie and David Crow. Beat PF57 covers Firrhill CC area.

The Community Policing Team Inspector covering Wards is Police Inspector 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

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.

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 06 March: Community Council briefing - SW - Local Development Plan 2

Email from Judith Fordham, Development Plan Support Officer asking for a response to their invitation to join a briefing with the Development Plan team. Initial invitation sent out on the 8th February and reported at the last meeting.

This is one of four sessions for Community Councillors and Ward Elected Members, with a particular emphasis on the south west area of the city and is to be held in Oxfangs Library on the same date and overlaps our meeting

The purpose of the briefing is to gather our views on potential issues for the LDP 2, and also to ask for our suggestions on how we might shape engagement with the wider public. This is one of four briefings, with a particular emphasis on the south west area of the city.

4.2 06 March: Community Council Accounts - Firhill

Email from Ross.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk, advising he has still to receive accounts for the year 16/17, as required under the scheme for community councils and he will be unable to issue next year's annual administrative grant to Firhill CC until received.

Action: This matter has been dealt with.

4.3 07 March: Final phase of 20mph network goes live

Email from Eileen Hewitt, 20mph Team advising that the fourth and final phase of Edinburgh's 20mph rollout came into effect in South Edinburgh on Monday 5 March 2018.

The 20mph rollout extends the 20mph speed limit to the city centre, main shopping streets and residential areas while retaining a network of roads at 30mph and 40mph on key arterial routes.

Further information about the 20mph rollout and a map of the 20mph network is available on the Council's website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/edin20mph.

4.4 07 March: Collaboration with Edinburgh University

Email from Eppy.Harries-Pugh@ed.ac.uk, promoting some of the public services and activities the University of Edinburgh is offering out to local communities and organisations in the Edinburgh region. They have recently launched an initiative called Edinburgh Local which involves:

- A community grants fund which local organisations and projects can apply for up to £5,000.
- Free events and activities on a huge range of topics that are usually free and open to the public
- Volunteering and support for communities, including helping in local schools/workshops for kids and other things.

They highlight all of this each month in their newsletter and invite us to sign up at www.ed.ac.uk/local/contact, to find out about events, services and how they can work together and support our community. Would like our members to sign up if we think they'd be interested or let EU know of any other ways they could reach out, via a meeting or an event they could come to or help at, or any other possibilities you can envisage.

Action: Do we wish to put our name down as a contact?

4.5 09 March: Transition Edinburgh Newsletter March 2018

Emailed newsletter from Joy Stockley (transitionedinburgheditors@gmail.com) and forwarded to members. Information on their workshops, events, meetings, screenings

If we would like to volunteer on the Newsletter and/or have any information for the next issue, to contact them by email on transitionedinburgheditors@gmail.com (the deadline is normally 7 days before the 1st of each month).

4.6 09 March: Potholes

Email from Cllr Rust on roadway and footway defects in our Ward. The attached spreadsheet covers the whole of Ward 8 and provides the defect figures from 1st June 2017 until 22nd Feb this year.

Defects Ward 8

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • Total No of Defects | 255 |
| • Repaired | 181 |
| • Defects outstanding | 74 |

Action: the spreadsheet does not allow you to filter and extract those reported within FCC's area. It highlights that many potholes are not reported as there are probably more than 255 potholes in FCC's area alone.

4.7 12 March: MSP Newsletter – March Edition

Newsletter from Gordon MacDonald MSP and circulated to members.

4.8 12 March: Impact of Bank Closures

Email circulated by Ross Murray (CEC Liaison Officer) to all CC Chairs and Secretaries on behalf of Lynn Sharp (Lynn.Sharp@improvementservice.org.uk)

Subject: Bank closures: impact on local businesses, consumers and the Scottish economy inquiry

I have been asked by Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee to share information about their inquiry into the impact of bank closures. We would appreciate if you could pass this information on to community councils in your areas.

The main inspiration behind the Committee's inquiry is that the number of bank branches across Scotland reduced by a third between 2010 and 2017.

The Committee wants to hear from as many people as possible (both as members of a community council, as a business owner or as an individual). The Committee are keen to find out how branch closures have impacted communities at as local a level as possible.

More information is available in the hyperlinks below.

Bank closures: impact on local businesses, consumers and the Scottish economy inquiry:

<http://parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107957.aspx>

The Call for views. For the call for views, there isn't a requirement to answer every question, only the ones that are relevant to the community.

<http://parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107960.aspx>

The Committee are also running a survey that is targeted more to individuals and businesses. The intention of the survey is to capture as many views as possible and the call for views is there to allow a fuller response. <http://bit.ly/bankclosures>.

If there are any questions about the inquiry please email economyjobsandfairwork@parliament.scot

For even more information: visit www.communitycouncils.scot. A website for anyone interested in community councils as well as both new and experienced community councillors. The site has up to date information on news, events, guidance, and grants that are related to community councils as well as advice on how to be a community councillor.

Join the Scottish Community Councillors Development Network Knowledge Hub Group.

A friendly group open to anyone with an interest in community councils to share questions, ideas and good practice about running a community council.

Follow us on Twitter: @ScottishCCs for networking and news about community councils.

This email was sent by the Scottish Community Councils Website Project managed by the Improvement Service Lynn Sharp is a Project Officer in Knowledge Management for the Improvement Service

4.9 15 March: Consultation seeking views on the update of The Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007

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The Scottish Government are seeking views on the update of the Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.

The Scottish Government is responsible for regulating the powers of Scottish local authorities and Licensing Boards in relation to licensing the sale of alcohol.

The Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 came into force on 1st February 2008. They provide for various procedural matters under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, relating to, amongst other things, the notification of licence applications, objections, representations, determinations and hearings.

A Consultation on: Update of The Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 has been published on the Scottish Government's consultation platform, Citizen Space. Share views and respond to this consultation online at: <https://consult.gov.scot/criminal-law/licensing-procedure/>

If you are unable to respond online you can submit your response along with a completed Respondent Information Form to: Licensing.Consultation@gov.scot.

The consultation can also be viewed at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/4348>. The consultation closes on **6th June 2018**.

4.10 16 March: Oxfords Primary School

Update from Cllr Rust regarding his request for an independent survey. The Head of Estates has confirmed an independent survey will take place and the following actions have been instructed by the Council.

1. Full tactile survey of the roof – this will be carried out by building surveyors via steeple jack who will video the inspection and also provide a written report.
2. Full condition survey (including tactile and intrusive where possible) of the entire school.
3. Full Health & Safety Audit.

No. 1 will commence once we have suitable weather conditions. No. 3 will commence this morning. No 2 will commence asap (I will advise later this morning)

4.11 19 March: Scottish Parliament Committees - community participation

Email from Debra.Gourlay@parliament.scot via Community.councils@edinburgh.gov.uk regarding a leaflet promoting an 'invite' only event organised for community groups by the Scottish Government. Interested parties to contact Debra Gourlay in the first instance. The event is:

Your Scottish Parliament is coming to Leith to hear what you think about human rights and the Scottish Parliament.

The Equalities and Human Rights Committee ('the Committee') is made up of seven MSPs from different parties. They are holding an inquiry to explore what more the Scottish Parliament can do to promote and protect human rights.

The Committee is keen to talk to people who work against discrimination, and voluntary groups or public authorities who provide advocacy services to help people access their rights. It also wants to hear from those who've experience of struggling for their rights!

You don't need to be a human rights' expert. If you're an individual with experience of fighting for your rights, then the Committee would really welcome hearing your views and stories.

How can you get involved?

You are invited to take part in a focus group the Committee is hosting in South Leith Parish Church Halls on Monday, 26 March, between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm. In small groups, you'll get the chance to learn more about human rights and the work of the Scottish Parliament and share your thoughts with MSPs and Scottish Parliament staff.

Your views will then assist the Committee with its recommendations to the Parliament on how it can help people participate in human rights matters and raise awareness of rights to build a strong human rights culture in Scotland. Your views will also help MSPs and other parliamentary committees ensure human rights issues are taken into consideration when the Parliament looks at policies created by Scottish Government and public authorities.

Comment: very short notice for an event of this nature

4.12 19 March: Planning Applications – changes to format

Email from Cllr Rust regarding comments on planning applications on the CEC's planning portal now show the name/address of person commenting online as soon as processed. In the past they were simply numbered. The response he received is here:

"Due to operational reasons, a decision was taken to publish the name, address and stance of the comment as soon as it is was either made online or processed in back office systems. These operational reasons were related to the fact that comments were appearing twice on the portal due to a change made by the software provider – this caused confusion to the public and extra work for planning officers trying to manage the representations. Our IT planning systems officers advised that the only way to stop this was to put the 3 pieces of information onto the portal as detailed above.

Prior to this change, only the name of the person making the comment was published immediately and then their full comment, including address and stance, was made public when the application went to Committee. In other words, this information has always been published, it is simply now published upfront.

As part of this change, a warning was put on the portal in the comments box that the name, address and stance would be published immediately. Our Guide to Commenting on Planning Applications sets out that the comment including names and addresses would be published. The public are directed to this guidance before they make a comment. The Council's Information Compliance team has confirmed the warning gives sufficient notice of what will happen when comments are made."

I understand that some community councils are concerned about this but they are representing the wider community and the changes are not only positive for operational reasons they do add to the transparency of the planning process. People can now see quickly who supports or objects to a scheme and where they live. We will, of course, review this change if we think it is causing significant problems.

4.13 20 March: Community Council training – February 2018

Email from Planning Edinburgh. Copies of presentations given on 27 Feb at a Community Council training day. Topics were chosen by CCs and included planning enforcement, social media and tree protection.

The next Community Council training is planned to take place on 14 June 2018 and will focus on the next Local Development Plan and how it will shape the future development of the City.

If you have any queries, or would like to suggest future topics for Community Council training, please get in touch with us at Planning.ServiceDelivery@edinburgh.gov.uk

4.14 21 March: OneCity Trust Grant Funding Programme

The OneCity Trust's main grant programme is now open for applications. Registered charities and constituted groups based in Edinburgh and focussing their work in the city. Ideally with an annual income of less than £200,000, are invited to apply for funding for equality and social inclusion projects meeting one or more of the following priorities;

- Community Connectedness
- Cultural Bridging
- Civic Inclusion

Applications for this funding will be considered from organisations that involve City of Edinburgh Council tenants or from other organisations aiming to benefit geographical areas with a high proportion of Council homes.

Overall, the Trust intends to make up to 15 grants, of between £5,000 and £10,000.

The deadline for applications is 20 April 2018, and projects should commence on 2 July 2018 and run for up to one year. Please note one off projects will also be considered. A condition of this funding agreement will be the promotion, media and photographic opportunities organised with the OneCity Trust, at any time throughout the period of the fund. You must also acknowledge the source of your funding at every opportunity, e.g. logos on websites, promotional materials, etc.

5. Office Bearers Reports

5.1 Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward

26/02/2018: Application 18/00471/FUL for formation of dormer and installation of 3 Velux windows to front elevations. Enlarge existing opening to gable end and install new thermally efficient window. Install 2 Velux roof windows to rear extension and replace existing roof window with new thermally efficient window. Erect new single storey rear extension at 17 **Oxgangs Farm Avenue**.

05/03/2018: Application 18/00783/ADV to erect illuminated + non-illuminated signs x6 at Tesco, 10 **Colinton Mains Drive**

Application 18/00784/FUL for the erection of Xpress Centres Unit at existing store at Tesco, 10 **Colinton Mains Drive**.

26/03/2018: Application 17/06058/FUL for single storey extension to rear and new driveway to front at 5 **Oxgangs Hill** has been granted

5.2 Firrhill CC Walkabout 7 March (SW)

A quick summary of the walkabout conducted by SW, LL & JN was circulated on the 11th with photos attached. Walked the planned route along the burn footpath from Firrhill Drive to Oxgangs Avenue; then round Oxgangs Crescent to St Mark's Chapel, cutting along Chatterig to access the large car park area at the back of the Crescent and Avenue. Met with Carol Robertson, a Council housing officer for the area. In discussion about reporting issues to the Council, Carol agreed to provide a list of Council officers involved in the Firrhill CC area and their contact details. Although not part of the planned route, we headed back along Oxgangs Drive and past Oxgangs House. Flytipping and litter there looked pretty bad that day.

A couple of things noted that could perhaps be looked at, were:

1. Dog fouling which was pretty bad along the footpath between the Lochan and the burn. No notices at either end of the footpath to remind people about dog fouling (although there were notices on the street on the opposite side of the Lochan). Sadly the worst area was right next to a bin.
2. The bin at the Oxgangs Crescent end of Chatterig was hugely overflowing. People were properly disposing of litter and dog bags but the capacity of the slimline bin was insufficient. A bigger bin needed or perhaps a second bin similar to existing. Overflowing bins are no uncommon in the area and perhaps we need to find out how often they are checked/emptied.

4. AOCB

Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **23 April 2018** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.