

# Firrhill Community Council

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

## **Note of Meeting of the Council on 23 April 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 (part).  
**Visitors:** Cllr Rust & Cllr Arthur, CEC Council; PC David Crow, Oxfangs Police.  
**Apologies:** F Gosney

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

### **1. Minute of Previous Meeting held on 26 March 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. Reports from Police, Councillors, etc.**

#### 2.1 Police Report (March)

##### **Housebreakings**

Theft HB to a business premise on Colinton Mains Drive on 3rd March 2018. A male was arrested and reported to PF.

##### **Assault**

Oxfangs Drive – a male was arrested for a serious assault on 1st March 2018.

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

Operation Heddle (Road Traffic) officers enforcing 20 mph limits and school safety issues.

##### **Theft**

An attempt was made to steal a motor scooter on Colinton Mains Road on 3rd March 2018.

A theft was reported from the back of a flat-bed van on 8th March 2018.

##### **Hate Crime**

A 13-year-old girl was charged for racially abusing a Polish family in Oxfangs Grove on 3rd March 2018.

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

Two cars were vandalised on Oxfangs Bank on 3rd March 2018. Enquiries are ongoing to trace 3 males who are believed to have been responsible for a further vandalism up in Swan Spring Avenue on same evening.

Two cars in Firrhill Drive were vandalised by spray-paint on 11th March 2018.

Police keeping tabs on a gang of youths in the area.

Dog fouling – a person has been fined.

## 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

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.*

## 2.2 Councillor Arthur

**Oxgangs Primary School** – I've been working hard to ensure the school community can be doubly sure the building is 100% safe. The survey work asked for is now complete and we should see the last of the reports soon. I'm in the process of helping to organize a Q&A session between EPS, CEC & the school community. In addition to this, myself, Cllr Corbet & Cllr Rust have tabled formal questions on the issue at the next Full Council on behalf of parents.

**St Marks Primary School** – I shall be speaking to the children this week about my role as a Councillor.

**Pentland Primary School** – Many thanks to the Pentland Primary parents who contacted me about the problems the muddy playground was causing them. I am working with the Council to improve this for the kids – a meeting has been organised for early May.

**20mph Scheme** – Signs have now been erected and the scheme is now live. All outstanding issues have been resolved.

**Winter** – I am still pressing for new grit bins in one or two places.

**Redford Barracks Working Group** – I have been appointed to this group along with Cllr Rust & Cllr Doggart. Although the SNP (Cllr Barrie) and Conservatives (Cllr Doggart) agreed to co-convene the Working Group, Cllr Barrie has resigned and an additional SNP member is to be appointed. The next meeting will be on the 24th of May and will include a tour of the Barracks. I've stressed that Colinton & Firrhill Community Councils have to be involved.

**Oxgangs YPC** - A few people have noticed that the old Oxgangs Young Person's Centre is being demolished. The site will be clear soon and we will have a new facility by March 2019.

**Community Clear Up** – This has now been organised and includes a skips for larger items people want to dispose of (Oxgangs Row, 9am – 2pm on the 23rd & 24th of April) and a Community Clear-Up (Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, 10:30am to noon on the 24th of April).

**Walkable Streets** - The Council has just published 21 'Factsheets' stating good practice on street design details like footways, crossings, signage and cycling. Although long overdue, these will be a valuable resource for advocates of walkable streets: <http://bit.ly/2q0NO58>

**Fairmilehaed Park** – This is now seeking a Green Flag Award and it is hoped funding will be found to improve it by installing a wildflower meadow, a bee colony and a small football pitch.

**Comiston Farmhouse** – It now looks likely this property will soon be sold via the ESPC as a family home.

**Hunters Tryst Development** – Plans are online for comment.

**Firrhill High School** – Well done 16 year old Keanna MacInnes, she didn't make it to the final of the 100m Butterfly at the Commonwealth Games, but did however smash her personal best and the Scottish Junior Record in the heats.

**In Council** – The Locality committee is now preparing for its first full meeting (24th of April) and will focus on the Locality Improvement Plan.

Promoted on **my Facebook** – Fairmilehead Park improvements, Community Clear-Up & Hunters Tryst development.

### 2.3 Councillor Rust

There have been further communications over the past month in relation to the **Oxgangs Primary School** building and I have been following up on individual queries. A public meeting is being planned to allow parents to ask questions and receive full information; this is being arranged as I prepare this.

Along with Cllr Arthur I met with residents from Pentland View/Drive regarding **Comiston Farmhouse**. The Council is now progressing with the option of marketing the property through ESPC as a residential sale.

I have been in contact with officers regarding **Oxgangs YPC**. Scott Dunbar is happy to come to a future Community Council meeting. The new facility is due to be open by March 2019.

Residents have been in contact regarding the planning application for the former **Hunter's Tryst School site**. I have arranged for those without electronic access to the planning portal to view the plans at Waverley Court.

Two separate Council projects are being advanced at **Oxgangs Broadway**. One relates to re-slabbing works in front of the shops, maintenance to the ramps within the Broadway and the path leading down to the precinct, the shrub beds and power washing concrete surfacing. The second relates to External Walkway Repairs-Waterproofing. This is for the walkway along the front of the row where the bakers shop is. That programme is still to be detailed.

There have been a range of anti-social behaviour issues in the **Firrhill Park/Firrhill Drive area** and I have been liaising with residents and the police.

I reported the damaged bus stop pole on **Oxgangs Avenue** (high, odd numbers) which was scheduled to be repaired.

There is a litter pick along part of the **Braid Burn** tomorrow, meeting on Firrhill Drive at ONC at 10.30am.

I reported the cracked / breaking up roadway on **Oxgangs Road North** at Braidburn School.

I also reported the graffiti near **Milestone** en route to Firrhill High School.

I have tabled a motion for Full Council congratulating **Best Bib N Tucker** on its National Lottery award and on its continued good local work.

**At Council** following the resignation of a second SNP Councillor, the Conservative Group is now the largest group on the Council. Conservative 18 seats; SNP 17; Labour 12; Green 8; Lib Dem 6; Independent 2.

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

#### **3.1 Oxfangs Primary School – Reports**

Discussion centred on the following reports provided by the City Council:

**Pendrich Height Services** on their inspection carried out on 18 March, work carried out during the week commencing 9th April and follow-up inspection.

**Summers Inman** regarding their inspection of all the ceilings and ceiling voids. This inspection took place on the 18 and 19 March. It found significant number of defects which it recommended were attended to as soon as possible. Amey have confirmed that a programme of work to rectify all the defects is underway, with the majority now rectified and the remaining defects to be addressed before the school's return from the Easter break.

The Council's **Health and Safety team's** audit of the school, completed on the 20 March; actions are now being followed up with the school and with Amey.

**Hardies Building Condition Survey Report**, with support from RSP, is due to take place in the second week of the Easter holidays.

Hardies conclusion was that the property is generally in a state of good repair commensurate with age and use. There remained a small number of defects, most of which are relatively minor. Provided a list of recommendations in terms of activities and works considered required to put the property back in a satisfactory state of repair and maintenance.

Copies of the reports have been printed out and are available in the Library.

It is proposed to hold a meeting at the school but details have still to be confirmed.

In general it was felt that the collapse of an external wall at the school in January 2016 and the subsequent enquiry into the incident obviously raised people's concerns about the safety of the school building. These new reports do little to alleviate those concerns. It is seriously concerning that a building which was reported to have undergone a major inspection after the 2016 incident should now be found to have such defects. It appears that the problems of poor quality construction and poor-quality supervision of construction, referred to in the February 2017 Enquiry, should now be extended to include poor quality inspections and if you cannot trust the inspectors, who do you trust?

#### **3.2 Allermuir MC Art Project**

Art work is progressing and is expected to finish at the end of May. Doing further works to depict Firrhill High School and Oxfangs Primary School.

#### **3.3 Facebook/Twitter, new member**

Proposed dates for Training session is the 12/13 May (actual date tbc). Venue to be Firrhill Neuk but may use the Costa outlet at Dreghorn Link. Need Wi-Fi connection.

Chair announced she had a possible new member.

#### **3.4 LPD update**

As a follow-on from the LDP Action Programme briefings in late 2017, we received an invite to attend a briefing from the Development Plan team on the forthcoming Edinburgh LDP 2 project. Its

purpose was to gather views on potential issues for the LDP 2, and to ask for suggestions on how they might shape engagement with the wider public. The briefing was for Community Councillors and Ward Elected Members, with a particular emphasis on the south west area of the city. Unfortunately, it was held on the same date as our own meeting - Monday 26 March 2018 from 5pm to 6.30pm. As the venue was Oxgangs Library, JN attended.

*Action: A copy of the paper used for the Briefing is on the website (Minutes and Reports page).*

### 3.5` Environmental Plan update

*Action: Deferred to next meeting*

## **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 27 March: Road Safety Customer Care – Crossing Guides

Email from Katie Green, Transport Technician, Road Safety and Active Travel, Road Networks, Place Development on school crossing guides. They are reviewing the current service to make sure the guides are providing the best possible service and the Authority have them where and when the public most need them. The Authority have already studied existing patrol sites; how many people use them, traffic levels and where they are located. They are now seeking feedback from different groups.

Invitation to contribute to the Review via the Council's Consultation Hub, via a specific questionnaire for Community Councils and Neighbourhood Partnerships. As the email has been distributed to specific audiences they do not want the link shared. Each group referred to above has a specific questionnaire and is being surveyed individually.

They will present a report of the feedback from the consultation in late 2018 to councillors. Councillors will then use this feedback when deciding if any changes should be made to the service.

*Action: JN to respond*

### 4.2 28 March: Public Consultation – Draft Supplementary Guidance on Heat Opportunities Mapping

Email from Lynne McMenemy, Planning Officer, Development Plan Team. The CEC has prepared draft Supplementary Guidance on Heat Opportunities Mapping. The draft Guidance sets out potential opportunities for establishing district heat networks within the context of the Local Development Plan.

You can view the draft Supplementary Guidance online at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/supplementaryguidance](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/supplementaryguidance) or through the Council's Consultation Hub: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/heat-supplementary-guidance/>.

The consultation begins on Thursday 29 March 2018 and closes on Thursday 10 May 2018. All response should be submitted via the Consultation Hub.

### 4.3 28 March: Planning Application 18/01055/FUL

Oxgangs Green Development has resurfaced with a new planning application consisting of approx. 50 documents on the CEC planning portal. The layout of the proposed development has changed to a central "village green" landscape promoting a circular route for vehicles. No decrease in the number of units.

*Action: see under 5.2*

#### 4.4 29 March: ScotRail Transport Integration

Email from Andy.Edwards@edinburgh.gov.uk re details of an annual £100k cycling accessibility fund ScotRail is about to launch for the next four years. This is designed to support local initiatives which will improve access to stations for cyclists, cycling facilities at or close to stations, information and signage for cyclists etc.

Local authorities and similar community-based organisations will be able to access up to 50% grant funding from ScotRail.

#### 4.5 03 April: Celebrate Community Councils - #CelebrateCCs Twitter Campaign

Email to CC Chairs and Secretaries from Lynn.Sharp@improvementservice.org.uk advising that throughout April they are running a campaign on Twitter to encourage people to celebrate and share the achievements of Scottish community councils. Using the hashtag #CelebrateCCs they are tweeting (at [www.twitter.com/ScottishCCs](http://www.twitter.com/ScottishCCs)) and inviting others to tweet examples of how community councils have had a positive impact. Want to hear from community councils, other organisations, and individuals. You can see some of the tweets so far here:

<https://twitter.com/search?q=celebrateccs&src=typd>.

We would really appreciate if you could share information about #CelebrateCCs with community councils in your areas. More information about is available on our website:

<http://www.communitycouncils.scot/celebrate-community-councils.html>.

You do not need to be a community councillor or tweet from an official community council Twitter account. If you have suggestions of what they should tweet, and you do not have a Twitter account, send them to [lynn.sharp@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:lynn.sharp@improvementservice.org.uk).

We want to hear about lots of different community council work, for example:

- Projects that are ongoing
- Work with organisations and other local groups
- Health and social care projects
- Young people-focussed projects
- Stalled spaces
- Participatory budgeting (also known as Community Choices)
- Community magazines and other publications

They will be retweeting and tweeting examples from [www.twitter.com/ScottishCCs](http://www.twitter.com/ScottishCCs). If you do not have a Twitter account you can still see tweets for the event by searching #CelebrateCCs or at:

<https://twitter.com/search?src=typd&q=%23celebrateccs> .

*Action: Noted*

#### 4.6 10 April: Transport, Mobility and Placemaking Workshops

Three inter-related projects are being developed collectively by the City of Edinburgh Council to improve the quality of life of those who live, work, and visit Scotland's capital city, by helping to create safer and more attractive streets and spaces, cleaner air, and improved access for all. The three projects are:

- Edinburgh's Transport Strategy which is being reviewed to determine fit-for-purpose transport and mobility policies and actions for our city,
- Central Edinburgh Transformation which concerns the future development of central Edinburgh and its public realm, and

- the development of a Low Emission Zone aimed at improving air quality by keeping the most polluting vehicles out of the most polluted places.

To help shape the development of the three projects we request your attendance at a stakeholder workshop, being held to better understand issues associated with these subjects across our city, as well as identifying opportunities for improvement. Such stakeholder feedback will inform the development of proposals to be consulted on across the city later in the year.

By the end of Monday 30 April, please register your interest to attend one of the following workshops at the City Chambers (European Room – High Street, Edinburgh), by emailing [spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Action: Noted**

#### 4.7 11 April: Oxgangs Spring Clean

Email from Carol Duncan, Housing Team Leader, re arrangements for advertising the collection of bulk items over the period 23/24 April and the Braid Burn clean-up on the 24th, as per previous discussion.

#### 4.8 15 April: Anti-social Behaviour

Concern raised with Police about problems with a group of local children causing trouble in the area and asking for guidance.

#### 4.9 16 April: Update on Oxgangs Primary School

Email via Cllr Rust advising that the Head Teacher of Oxgangs Primary School will shortly be sending the following message to her parents:

“Pupils will return to Oxgangs Primary School as normal tomorrow (17 April) following their Easter break.

The building was given the all clear following a full independent condition survey of the school, commissioned by the Council following the discovery of faults on the roof and in suspended ceilings. We have received verbal feedback on the condition survey and have received a letter of comfort from the surveying company that no immediate concerns were identified. A full report is expected to follow this week. This will be shared with local councillors, the Oxgangs Head Teacher and Parent Council Chair as soon as possible.

Previous checks, prompted by incidents earlier this year involving loose roof flashing and internal ceiling tiles, revealed that the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP), the body responsible for building, maintaining, and operating the city’s 17 PPP1 schools on behalf of the Council, had failed to carry out adequate repairs. These works were carried out by ESP last week and, following thorough and robust inspections, the Council has confirmed that these have now been completed to a satisfactory standard.”

#### 4.10 19 April: Oxgangs Skip Amnesty

Email from Carol Robertson, to Susan Weir re information discussed during recent walkabout re notice of the amnesty skip and leaflet issued to over 800 tenants and residents in the surrounding area. Also provided a list of Housing Officers names, contact numbers and areas covered.

#### 4.11 20 April: Update on Oxgangs Primary School

This relates to information received from a parent regarding ceiling tiles lifting in the nursery when the outside door is closed and is provided by the Estates Dept. via Cllr Rust.

*Response advised that suspended ceilings are a lightweight, cosmetic structure designed to hide all the services that run at high level in the room. The ceiling tiles are not fixed and are designed to be easily lifted to allow easy access for maintaining those services. The ceiling tile is larger than the opening and rests on the lip of the grid. It should not be able to fall unless the grid itself is compromised, which was what happened with the original incident, where hangers for the grid were missing. The nursery has been checked as part of the recent inspections and the suspended ceiling grid has been confirmed as safe. Given that the wind is lifting the tiles, we will consider whether more vent tiles should be installed to allow the pressure to dissipate when high wind is an occurrence, to prevent this lifting occurring. We will look into this but for assurance, what has been observed, as described, would not pose a health and safety risk.*

Cllr Rust also received a response from the Education Dept. advising that the Head Teacher had reported the lifting and immediate settling of ceiling tiles to the Janitor on Tuesday and emailed Amey staff herself on the Wednesday. Amey responded to explain "A certain amount of ceiling tile 'lift' is expected when doors are opened and the air pressure changes within a room. This is normal and whilst there will be some noise it does not give cause for concern."

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

#### 5.1 Information on Planning Applications in the Firrhill CC Ward (JN)

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.

02/04/2018: Application 18/01055/FUL for a development consisting of 85 affordable dwellings (79 flats and 6 houses) with associated infrastructure, roads, parking, public realm and landscape areas at site 72 metres south of 4A Oxgangs Green.

Comments due by 27.04.2018.

Application 18/01072/LBC to replace and re-align a Below Ground Culvert at site 72 metres south of 4A Oxgangs Green. Comments due by 20.04.2018

Application 18/01147/FUL to take out existing window on garden elevation, reduce masonry below sill level and insert French Window below existing lintel at 164 Oxgangs Road North.

09/04/2018: Application 18/00471/FUL for the formation of dormer and installation of 3 Velux windows to front elevations and erect new single storey rear extension at 17 Oxgangs Farm Avenue has been granted.

16/04/2018: Application 18/00750/FUL for the formation of 2x dormers at 180 Colinton Mains Road has been granted.

#### 5.2 Oxgangs Green Development Site

A further revised planning application (18/01055/FUL) was registered on 21st March 2018 with the City Council Planning Office. The new proposal contains 85 affordable dwellings consisting of a mix of 6 house and 79 flats arranged around a central "village green" arrangement. The flats are a combination of 3 and 4 storey and the houses are 2 storey semi-detached. There are 65 car parking spaces on the site.

Further details on the new proposal is contained in the Information Sheet provided by the Hopefield Partnership who are developing the site and from the City of Edinburgh Council planning portal.



Action: Committee need to determine a response.

### 5.3 EACC Business Meeting : 19 April 2018

No attendance due to other commitments. Papers available on EACC website

Agenda items:

Short discussion items:

- a. The impact of Schools proposals on communities
- b. Locality committees – first impressions
- c. Internet Banking & BACs payments
- d. Spatial Policy – Workshops – EACC view
- e. Tram consultation – responses
- f. Participatory Budgeting – Where to from here?
- g. What do Community Councils want from this association?

Next meeting – proposed 24th May.

## **6. AOCB**

### 6.1 School Bulling

This appears to be an increasing problem in schools and it is proposed we organise a private meeting with invited groups to discuss issues surrounding children being bullied at school.

The City Council are updating their anti-bullying policy that is applicable to schools.

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

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **28 May 2018** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.