



# Firrhill Community Council

## Newsletter 2017

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### Annual General Meeting

Firrhill Community Council is holding its Annual General Meeting in **Colinton Mains Bowling Club** on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6pm.

Everyone is welcome and I urge you to come along and meet us. The community council represent the local communities of Colinton Mains, Firrhill and Oxgangs. We represent you when there are new plans and other proposals that may affect the locality in which we live.

To be confident in the task of truly reflecting the views of the community - we need you to interact with us. To give us your views, your comments, your ideas, your complaints. Individually we may not always support your point of view, but collectively we will be able to get a broader picture of the community's support or otherwise on those proposals that may affect our neighbourhood.

This report will give some idea of the range of issues we became involved in over the past year.

**Please contact us and let us know your views**

### Au Revoir to a Secretary

Firrhill Community Council had its triennial election in September of last year. We hoped to enlist a few more members onto the council to bring us up to the full complement of 12 but were not successful. Whilst we did get some promising new faces and most welcome they are, we also lost a few.

One of those we lost was Peggy Wright who has been our secretary for many, many years. For medical reasons, Peggy decided not to stand for re-election. Hers is a sad loss as being almost a founding member, she possessed a wealth of knowledge on the history of the community council.

**Au revoir in the hope we will meet again.**



### Walkabout Programme

As part of the City of Edinburgh Council's revised South West Locality Walkabout Programme, Firrhill Community Council will be involved in community walkabouts to help identify potential community improvements. Walkabouts aim to give people in the local community and other stakeholders the opportunity to meet and work together to make the community a better place to live. Recent changes proposed to the South West Locality Walkabout Programme, will mean that as well as identifying potential community improvements, better arrangements will hopefully be put in place to monitor progress of action being taken in relation to the walkabout issues.

In keeping with the promotion of community walkabouts, a member of the Firrhill Community

Council and a local resident recently enjoyed a walkabout in part of the Community Council area. They observed some problem issues such as fly tipping, but also had the chance to appreciate the beautiful views of the hills, the mature trees, the colourful and varied landscape, the wooded walks, footpaths, parks and open green space, and also admired some of the lovely gardens of local residents.

**We really do live in a cracking part of the city!**



If you value the great community we live in, the local camaraderie, great relationships between local people, businesses and organisations, and you would like to help make your community an even better place to live, you can find out more about the future walkabout programme and how **you can help by contacting us.**

**Contact Us** > through our web site:

[www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btck](http://www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btck)

or



or our secretary - Jim Napier 441 - 3851

## **Aldi Store:**

At the start of the year we saw some on-site activity and asked the retail food-store company for a timeline on the completion of the new store.



Attending our meeting, Aldi's reps gave a rundown of how they see the work proceeding and at the time of the meeting the demolition of the social work and church buildings was almost complete.

Following on from this and in keeping with our remit to keep the community informed, we posted information on the development of the new building on our website and Facebook page.

Aldi's have recently informed us that the opening date will be 30th November, which is a Thursday in keeping with Aldi's tradition of opening new stores on a Thursday).

The staff and patrons of Oxgangs Library should be thanked for their patience during this development as they have had to contend with the noise and disruption over the past year.

**Firrhill Community Council** meet on the fourth Monday of each month excluding December. The time of meeting is 6 pm but the venue may vary. All meetings are open to residents of Colinton Mains, Firrhill and Oxgangs.

## Allermuir Health Centre:



Allermuir Health Centre  
165 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh EH13 9AF

Construction works on this new £7.3 million health centre commenced in May 2016 and will bring increased health and social care services to the local community. The new build will include new GP accommodation, podiatry, community nursing and child health services. We were keen to see physiotherapy included, but as we reported last year, this service was removed from the original proposals due to a citywide over-provision.

Members of the community who have been on our website and read our reports and minutes will know it has taken a number of years to get this planned building development started with funding and partner issues continually impeding its progress.

**At long last we are seeing its completion.**

**Firrhill Medical Group** is moving to the new premises during the weekend of 4/5 November 2017 and will be open to patients at 08:00 on Monday 6 November 2017. The contact number for the new location is 0131 441 3119. You do not need to re-register and there is no change to their website address, [www.firrhillmedicalcentre.org.uk](http://www.firrhillmedicalcentre.org.uk).

**Craiglockhart Medical Group** is moving to the new premises during the weekend of 28/29 Oct 2017 and will be open to patients at 08:00 on Monday 30 October 2017. The contact number for the new location is 0131 312 2140. You do not need to re-register and there is no change to their website address, [www.craiglockhartmedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.craiglockhartmedicalgroup.co.uk).

## Oxgangs Green Development Site

When we received an invite to a public consultation in Oxgangs Library in October last year, we had high hopes of seeing this vacant Oxgangs Green site, formerly occupied by the Hunters Tryst Primary School, being re-developed.



Hopefield Partnership Ltd were proposing to build a residential development consisting of 70-80 units of affordable housing with associated roads, parking, infrastructure and landscaping.

After making several alterations to their original proposals, the developer withdraw their planning application.

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# Be Aware

## Doorstep Crime.

Bogus Workmen; Rogue Traders  
and not so good Samaritans

We are often informed by the Community Police Team about various forms of doorstep crime, whether it be bogus workmen, rogue traders or people pretending to act as good Samaritans as a means of gaining access to your home.

This type of crime is constantly being reported through the various news media but every year people get caught out by unscrupulous criminals, who invariably target the most vulnerable members of our communities.

The consequences to the occupier can be costly. Often it is not the financial value that is the greatest loss but the loss of confidence, of security and of trust. Such crimes can cause real and lasting damage to the victim's mental wellbeing

To keep people aware, Police Scotland regularly issue media releases as well as working with Trading Standards Officers to catch these criminals but it is a constant battle, which needs your help.

**If you are suspicious about a caller to your home or your neighbours, you should pass it on to the Police. It may turn out to be nothing but there is a chance it may help to prevent further incidents.**

## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a community led initiative promoted by the Police to bring local people together to address crime and other community safety issues.

Whilst it is better to have some form of local association, this is all about looking after your neighbour in the hope they will look after you. Keeping a watch over your neighbours and their property as well as any unusual activity in your street.

This simple act may help to prevent crime in your street or assist the Police in catching the criminals. Do not be afraid to pass on any concern - it is better to let the Police assess its value as they will have a more accurate perspective.

Keeping a watch may also assist those who are vulnerable, the elderly, the infirm and the young. Our communities should be safe to live and play in and our neighbours cared for.

Firrhill Community Council constantly repeat the Police message through the minutes of our meeting, with information on local crime as well as Police contact information and on our website and Facebook pages.

If you want to start up a neighbourhood watch in your street, contact the Community Police Team by email: [EdinburghColintonFairmileheadCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghColintonFairmileheadCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by telephoning the national non-emergency number 101. They are also on Twitter @EdinPolSW.

The Community Police Team also hold a surgery between 5 and 6 pm in Oxbgangs Library on a Wednesday, if you want to pass on information or ask advice.

## Dogs: are they Pets or Pests?

(or is it the owners who are the pests?)

### Dangerous Dogs

Firrhill Community Council received a complaint from members of the community about a dangerous dog and in trying to resolve it, discovered that whilst there are Regulations covering this matter, Authorities are not so keen to use them.

### The Law states

It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, such as:

- in a public place
- in a private place, eg a neighbour's house or garden
- in the owner's home

The law applies to all dogs. Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:

- injures someone
- **makes someone worried** that it might injure them

A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if either of the following apply:

- it attacks someone's animal
- the owner of an animal **thinks** they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal

You can get an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to 6 months (or both) if your dog is dangerously out of control. You may not be allowed to own a dog in the future and your dog may be destroyed.

If you let your dog injure someone you can be sent to prison for up to 5 years or fined (or both). If you deliberately use your dog to injure someone you could be charged with 'malicious wounding'.

## Be Aware

Keep your dog under control if it is a risk to people or other dogs.

Pick up after your dog so that all children can play safely

If you allow your dog to kill someone you can be sent to prison for up to 14 years or get an unlimited fine (or both).

If you allow your dog to injure an assistance dog (e.g. a guide dog) you can be sent to prison for up to 3 years or fined (or both).

(Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010)

### Dog Fouling

We probably receive more complaints about this than any other issue. It is a constant problem, which is more to do with the owner than the dog itself.

### The Law states

You can be given a fixed penalty notice if you don't clean up after your dog. The amount varies from council to council. It's often £50 and can be as much as £80.

If you refuse to pay the fine, you can be taken to court and fined up to £1,000.

Registered blind dog owners can't be fined.

Some [councils](#) have stricter rules on dog fouling. They may make owners carry a poop scoop and disposable bag when they take their dogs out to a public place.

You can [report dog fouling to your local council](#).

(Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003)

**That is the law but you need to make a forceful complaint backed up by evidence if you wish the Authorities to act against irresponsible dog owners.**

### **Oxgangs Green Development Site cont.**

Whilst the community council voiced concerns these proposals did not sit right for this location, we are keen for the site to be developed.

The developer has submitted a new proposal for a residential development consisting of 70 - 90 units and are looking to restage their original public consultation in Oxgangs Library in the near future.

### **Young Persons Home, Oxgangs Ave.**



In April, we became aware of activity involving the Children's Home building in Oxgangs Avenue. The building itself appeared to be unoccupied and boarded up.

Not sure what it was about, we queried the City Council and have been informed that the building would be demolished over the next 12 months and replaced with a new purpose-built facility.

We had immediate concerns that we would end up with another building lying derelict for years on end, but are pleased to note a planning application (17/02682/FUL) to erect a two-storey building for Oxgangs Young Persons Centre, on this site, was submitted and granted in August.

The replacement of Oxgangs Young People's Centre will provide more flexible accommodation for young people who require care in a residential setting.

### **Fly Tipping**

Fly tipping is an antisocial problem within our ward, which can have serious safety repercussions for children playing in the streets.

It is the illegal dumping of waste - from a bin bag of household rubbish to construction waste, left on public land such as a pavement, or on private ground such as gardens, stairwells or on other people's property. Generally, in our area it is simply items too large to go into a wheelie bin and require to be uplifted by the City Council's Waste and Cleaning Services.



This service is available to everyone but unfortunately there is a cost, which starts of at £5 for a single item. An uplift has to be booked, you have to specify clearly the items to be uplifted and have them on the kerbside for collection by 7am on your booked day.

To arrange an uplift of bulky waste items or if items are damaged or can't be reused phone 0131 608 1100.

For a free uplift of items in good condition such as beds, sofas, tables, chairs, bikes, you can call the Re-use Line on 0800 0665 820

Please help to maintain the environment we live in and keep it safe for our children to play in. Thank you

## Elected Representatives

In May, we had the local government elections, which saw the return of Cllr Jason Rust along with two new councillors, Scott Arthur and Phil Doggart. Their details are on the back page. Interestingly, Ward 8 Colinton / Fairmilehead, which includes Firrhill, had the highest turn-out in Edinburgh with a figure of 60.2%.

We lost a long-standing councillor for this ward. Elaine Aitken did not stand for re-election due to family commitments but she has been a good friend to the community council and supported many of our activities. We wish her all the best for the future.

We also lost Richard Lewis, who was unsuccessful in the election, and would like to thank him for his services over the past 5 years.

The outcome of the election resulted in a decision by the city council to restructure its committee system.

Under the new system, the number of committees has been reduced from eight to six, ensuring a more balanced share of reports between committees and reflecting the localities-based model of the Council following transformation.

## Localities and Partnerships

In an attempt to integrate health and social care services in Scotland, a new Government policy has introduced the term "Localities". A 'Locality' is defined as a smaller area within the borders of an Authority. The City of Edinburgh Council has divided the city into four "localities". This term refers to the group of people in these areas who will play an active role in service planning for the local population, in order to improve outcomes. Each 'Locality' will be administered by a "Locality Committee".

After the local elections in May the new Administration decided to revamp the City's political management arrangements. This action

suspended community engagement through Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Whilst a draft Locality Plan is out for consultation, the make-up of Locality Committees has still to be defined.

We accept there is a need for those employed in the strategic planning of our health and social care services to work to improve their integration by engaging with those who manage and provide the resources. It must also be recognised that the community and especially those members of the community who are the recipients of these services also need to have an input.

The management arrangements between Localities and Neighbourhood Partnerships is still unclear but a 'Locality', in area, is substantially larger than a Neighbourhood Partnership, through which individual community councils have an input.

**Can that level of representation be maintained?**

## Allermuir Medical Centre

### Art Project

As part of the new Medical Centre development we managed to secure funding to commission a piece of Art Work to hang in the new Allermuir Medical Centre. The aim is to use art to record the Area's 'story' in Textile. There was a very good response to the advertised post and a short list of 6 were interviewed with Andrew Crummy being the successfully applicant. If you would like to be part of this project please get in touch. So far all workshops have meet in Oxgangs Library, 5p.m-7p.m watch out on our website or Facebook page for details

This issue of the Firrhill Community Council Newsletter has been provided in place of an annual report on the Council's activities during 2017.

## Your City Councillors for Ward 8: Colinton / Fairmilehead

Surgery times:  
Oxgangs Library, first  
Monday of each month at  
6.30pm.

Councillor Jason Rust  
Party: Conservative Group  
Telephone: 0131 529 4953  
Email:  
[jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk)



Councillor Scott Arthur  
Party: Labour Group  
Telephone: 0131 529 4014  
Mobile: 07738 115 959  
Email:  
[scott.arthur@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:scott.arthur@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Surgeries:  
1st Saturday of the month:  
Oxgangs Library  
3rd Saturday of the month:  
Oxgangs Library by  
appointment only

Surgery times:  
Email or telephone for an  
appointment.

Councillor Phil Doggart  
Party: Conservative Group  
Telephone: 0131 529 4255  
Email:  
[phil.doggart@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:phil.doggart@edinburgh.gov.uk)



## Your Member of the Scottish Parliament



Gordon MacDonald  
Member for: Edinburgh  
Pentlands  
Party: Scottish National  
Party

Telephone: 0131 348 5741  
Email:  
[Gordon.MacDonald.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Gordon.MacDonald.msp@parliament.scot)

## Your Member of Parliament

Constituency:  
Edinburgh South West  
139 Dundee Street, Edinburgh,  
EH11 1BP  
Tel: 0131 600 0156

Joanna Cherry  
Party: Scottish National Party  
Tel: 020 7219 6646  
Email:  
[joanna.cherry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:joanna.cherry.mp@parliament.uk)

