



NEW SPORTS PAVILION

At last work is well under way to building our new and improved sports pavilion in Colinton Mains Park.

In September 2009, the City of Edinburgh Council approved plans to create the new £1m facility, replacing the old pavilion on the site, which was no longer fit for purpose.

The Colinton Mains pavilion project is due for completion in early 2012. It was jointly funded by the Council (£670,000) and sportscotland (£330,000).

Councillor Deidre Brock, Sports Leader, said: "This Administration is fully committed to helping residents of all ages get involved in sport and stay active and our investment in pitches and pavilions is testament to that. Today is a key milestone in our ongoing programme of investment and I know the local community and sports clubs share our excitement about the development. New fit-for-purpose pitches and sports facilities will be integral to helping us fulfil our ambition of making Edinburgh the most physically active city in Europe by 2020."

The Council recently announced plans to invest £940k in pitches and pavilions over the next three years with 3G pitches at Meadowbank Sports Centre and Jack Kane Sports Centre at the top of the list. Brand new 3G pitches at Lochend Park and Meggetland were completed in 2010 and are both well-used.

Heather Levy, Chair of Firrhill Community Council, said: "This has been a very long time coming but thank God it's here now! The local community - especially the football teams of AC Oxfords - are very excited about this new pavilion. It's almost the completion of all the upgrading work that's been going on at Colinton Mains Park, and it's part of the wider regeneration of the whole area." Sportscotland Chief Executive, Stewart Harris said: "The provision of a new pavilion at Colinton Mains Park will have an enormous impact on sport in the local community, complementing the work already carried out in providing new pitches. This exciting project will undoubtedly boost participation in the area, and I am delighted we have been able to provide design guidance and assistance, along with an award of £330,000 from our Sports Facilities Fund."

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Contact Us

By e-mail on our web site,
www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btik.com/p_Home.ikml or



or contact our secretary- Peggy Wright 477- 4400

Closure and Relocation of Barracks

What Impact will this have on our Community

Residents have you thought of the effect this will have on your area? The economic impact of the barracks closures on the local community would be immense. There are deep ties between the armed forces and surrounding communities. Apart from their comforting military presence the soldiers spend money in the local shops. During last year's heavy snow fall they cleared roads and paths and delivered supplies to the elderly and vulnerable local people. They also provided four wheel drive hospital transport.

Redford and Dreghorn barracks combined with Edinburgh castle put on the most spectacular 'International Military Tattoo' which brings tourists from all over the world swelling the coffers of the council and business in Edinburgh plus all around Scotland. Hopefully helping to keep council taxes in check! The three barracks, Dreghorn Infantry, Redford Infantry and Cavalry barracks, (IS THIS NOT ALREADY A SUPER BASE) all have the capability to accommodate, feed and provide laundry and drying out services for the hundreds of performers who practice and perfect their displays. There is also a good bus services 'when they are off duty' to visit the city for shopping etc generating more income for the city. Another advantage is the short journey to and from the castle.

On the down side if the barracks are sold and houses are built then our already stretched services would be rendered unfit for use such as medical, schools, sewage etc. How does selling off the barracks land at an estimated £50 million offset the costs of a super base in Kirknewton at a cost of £400 million as well as the waste of £24 million refurbishment of Dreghorn barracks

Think about it

Are you for or against it? What do you think the impact will be? Please let us know by contacting us or attending our meetings.

Firrhill Partnership Centre

Work has begun on a business case for a **new health centre** incorporating Firrhill, Oxfords and Craiglockhart medical practices. The NHS Lothian Capital Investment Group has backed plans to build the new £3.5 million Firrhill Medical Health & Social Care centre. As you are aware we and many others have lobbied hard to acquire a 21st century medical and social care services in this area. This is just the first of many processes that the project has to go through.

Firrhill Community Council would like to know your thoughts on this planned development.

Sports Pavilion.

"By adding the pavilion, the pitches can be used to their full potential, enabling local teams to grow and Active Schools to develop new programmes and initiatives right at the heart of the community."

Edinburgh Leisure Sports Manager Perrotine Orr said:"This is a fantastic commitment by sportscotland and the City of Edinburgh Council to support the delivery of sport in the city. This project will be another asset to the development of the 'Colinton Mains Community Sport Hub' as it gathers momentum over the coming months. Two of the key outcomes of the Hub, namely 'quality facilities' and 'improved access for local people' will be supported by this pavilion."

Oxgangs Library- Community Mapping

A week of **Exploring Sustainability** in Oxgangs Library with Transition Edinburgh Pentlands (TEP) and Transition Edinburgh South (TES) will be at Oxgangs library throughout the week beginning 7th November 2011, speaking to local residents about their vision for creating more sustainable communities. An outline of the week's activities:

Daily: There will be a stall in the foyer with information on local Transition initiatives. Come along between 2-4pm to speak to a volunteer and take part in a quick engagement activity on the theme of the day. People who take part in our Community Mapping activities will be entered into a prize draw for £50 worth of vouchers.

Daily themes: Monday: Community Resilience
Tuesday: Energy
Wednesday: Food
Thursday: Transport
Friday: Waste and Recycling, there will be an art and craft activity for families on the theme of waste.

Saturday 10.30am-12pm: Come along to our 'Brew and a Blether' workshop where you can share your vision for a sustainable community and promote some neighbourly discussion in the process. People who participate in this workshop will receive a £10 food voucher as a token of appreciation for their time.

For more information about the events or to sign up for the Brew and Blether Workshop, please contact:

Lauren Bruce (Transition Edinburgh South):
lauren@transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk, Tel:0131 650 4064

Johanna Carrie (Transition Edinburgh Pentlands)
johanna.carrie@btinternet.com

Oxgangs Lochan Residents/Tenants Association

Would like to know if anyone would be interested in joining them to create a 'Friends of the Lochan' to support environmental projects in and around the Lochan at Firrhill Neuk.

For further details please contact either Mary McMillan,
mary.mcmillan1@btopenworld.com or Christopher Walker,
Christopher.walker@dunedincanmore.org.uk,

Elaine Aitken on:

Community Safety Sub Group

We all want to make our neighbourhood a safer and stronger place to live and improve the quality of life for our residents. To increase community safety, all sections of the community need to work together in partnership to create a safer environment in which to work, live and play. There are two groups which work closely together with local residents to make our area safer and provide a partnership approach to responding to local neighbourhood concerns and problems:

The **Community Safety Panel** which is funded by Lothian & Borders Police to enhance all aspects of community safety throughout the Pentlands area. Local councillors, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and individuals who are interested in the local community meet four times a year to discuss and participate in initiatives for crime prevention, security for individuals and their homes and reduction of crime and fear of crime. The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th November at 7pm in Pentland Community Centre. If you are interested in becoming involved, please come and join us.

The **Pentland Community Safety Sub Group** of Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meets every three months at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre and is attended by local police officers, CEC community safety officials, environmental wardens and representatives of community councils, residents' associations and other local organisations.

The members set actions and three priorities for the area which become the focus of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Council Community Safety Teams for three months. These have included:

- Parking round schools
- Youth issues – underage drinking
- Vandalism
- Pentland Hills – inconsiderate camping, litter
- Increased level of crime by specific individuals and decisions made by bail hearings
- Dog fouling
- Anti social behaviour at St Johns Church and Oxgangs Drive
- Development of No Cold Calling Zones
- Fly tipping

The representative for Firrhill Community Council on the sub group is Alistair Hunter. The success of these groups depends on you! We need to hear about your concerns and issues so that we can discuss how they can be addressed. You can help us to make a difference here.

If you wish to raise any issues, please contact me, **Elaine Aitken**, Councillor and Chair of the Pentlands Community Safety Panel and Pentland Community Safety Sub Group.

Elaine Aitken is a city councillor for the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward. Her contact details are: by telephone: 0131 529 4282 or by email Elaine.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk

Monthly Surgeries:

Oxgangs Library on the 1st Tuesday at 6.15pm (this is a joint surgery with the Community Police Officer, or at

Buckstone Primary School on the 3rd Monday during school term at 7.30pm

Winter Weather News

The Council has unveiled a range of measures to ensure that Edinburgh is well prepared for a severe winter.

Some of the main highlights include:

- Trebling of salt stocks for use on roads and pavements
- Investment in specialist snow clearing equipment
- Adapting existing equipment with snow ploughs and grit spreaders
- Improved staff training
- More staff moved to snow clearing duties to enable a faster and bigger impact
- Improved communications and information between the Council and the public
- Special arrangements for waste collection
- Investigating measures to prevent abandoned cars blocking roads
- Improved identification and co-ordination of support to vulnerable people
- Increasing support for locally organised snow-clearing by volunteers

You can access the full report at Council Papers Online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol

Or contact the Winter Weather Working Together Team on 0131 529 3685 or by email at:

winter.maintenance@edinburgh.gov.uk or by post to

Winter Weather Project Team, Chesser House (5th floor), 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3YJ

New Care Home

People in Edinburgh will soon be able to take advantage of the latest innovations in residential and dementia care, as Care UK has announced plans for a new, luxury 90-bedroom nursing home in the city's Colinton district. As well as expert care, the home will bring around 80 new jobs to the area, and an investment of nearly £10 million into the Scottish economy.

Work begins on the Redford Road site in September and the home is scheduled to open in spring 2013. The structure which currently stands on the site - an old Navy, Army and Air Force Institute (NAAFI) store - will be demolished.

Oxgangs Care Thrift Shop will be held on **MONDAY 31st October**, 7th November and the 5th December 2011. Good quality children's & adult's cloths as well as household goods are for sale at very reasonable prices. All proceeds go towards activities for Oxgangs Care's older peoples groups. Come along and join us. Marks famous Latte's will be on sale in **Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, Firrhill Drive from 1p.m to 3p.m.**

Traffic Congestion- Oxgangs Rd North/Avenue

What are your thoughts on a left turn slip road at the junction of Oxgangs Ave and Oxgangs Road North. This could help relieve the tail back of traffic along Oxgangs Ave and down Oxgangs Road North. Let us know what **you** think.

Eric Barry on:

Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme

This scheme seems to have caused as many problems as it has cured. When there is heavy rain too many people are finding the water gets trapped behind the flood wall and builds up back into their houses. During the last downpour, residents who thought their houses were protected by lift pumps suffered flooding because the electricity had still not been connected up to them almost a year after installation. If you are experiencing any new problem of flooding and you have not already alerted me to this please do so soon.

Colinton Mains Park

I was delighted to attend the opening last year, of the New Children's' Play Park, when local school children braved the weather to plant bulbs to mark the occasion. Unfortunately some of the equipment has broken and had to be removed as it had become a danger. It is taking longer than expected to replace this because the supplying company has gone out of business.

Meanwhile the new Pavilion which brings sports teams, six modern changing rooms with showers is progressing after what was a delayed start.

Community Safety

The new Police Inspector, Stevie Dolan is making his mark since his arrival less than six months ago. I asked him to take action against drug dealing and the spate of violent crimes which had injured some and left many youngsters afraid to go out. I am delighted that his firm action has produced results and in both these areas of crime.

Safety of our children around schools is now being tackled across the Ward. School Parent Councils and individual parents have raised their concerns about the dangerous behaviour of some drivers. Police are now attending at the start and finish of the day because some parents are not respecting that the zig zags are a no stopping zone for the safety of those on foot.

Bonfire Night - November 5th

The evening starts with children's entertainment from 6 o'clock, (this year there will be a £1 admission) bonfire lighting at 7 and fireworks from 7.30. **Pentland Community Centre** will as usual, be holding a firework display to rival Meadowbank but unlike there, it is not paid for by the Council and charge serious ticket prices. It is put on by the volunteers of the management committee (led by Dennis at the **Broadway Premier** shop) who want you to enjoy a bonfire and fireworks safely.

This year I have selected fireworks from the biggest wholesalers and can promise your kids and you a spectacular display lasting about 45 minutes. You are asked to make a small donation, it is the only way we can continue to put on this display. Full details and weather updates on the web site www.pentlandcommunitycentre.com.

Eric Barry is a city councillor for the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward. His contact details are: by telephone: 0131 529 3265 or by email eric.barry@edinburgh.gov.uk

Monthly Surgeries during school terms are:

Colinton Mains Community Centre on the 3rd Thursday, 6 - 6.30pm,

Pentland Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Thursday, 6.45 - 7.15pm

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on the 2nd Tuesday, 6 - 6.30pm

Meetings

Firrhill Community Council- Monday 28th November, 7p.m.
Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership-Public meeting 13th December 7p.m

Oxgangs Health Action Group-Monday 31st Oct, 9.30a.m in 12 Firrhill Neuk. At this meeting there will be a question and answer session with the NHS Lothian Clinical Nurse Manager and a local Community Psychiatric Nurse on local Mental Health Services. All are welcome.

Oxgangs Lochan Residents/Tenants Asso-Wednesday 9th Nov 2011, 7p.m in Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

Christmas Fayre

Pentland Primary School- 3rd December,
Colinton Mains Church's "Christmas Cheer", Saturday 26th November, from 11 am - 1.30 pm.

Pentland Community Centre: Fireworks Display, Saturday 5th November 2011

This event will start at 6pm with entertainment in the Centre (entry £1). The firework display outside Centre will start at 7pm. The local Scouts will have hotdogs, etc., on sale. This event is NOT funded by the CEC and funds are raised by selling tablet in the Broadway. £500 has been raised so far and donation buckets will be circulated on the night.

Consultations

We would like to know what you think of the Play Area Action Plan, the draft report shows how play facilities will be developed across the city over the next five years. Go to http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/495/parks_gardens_and_open_spaces/764/play_areas or contact James Galloway, Courtyard Level C3, Parks and Greenspace, Services for Communities, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, or by telephone 0131 529 7972.

The current Management Rules for Public Parks are due to expire in 2013. The City of Edinburgh Council has been advised to renew the rules for another ten years and modify them to reflect the new access legislation.

In making new management rules the CEC is obliged to consult and invite objections from the public. The first consultation, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WC52TVF> is to allow amendments to be made to the rules and should be completed by 31st January 2012.

Once amendments have been made a final copy of the rules will be presented for formal inspection in April and May 2012 on the City of Edinburgh Councils Web pages and in Public Libraries.

If there are any queries please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Duncan Monteith, Senior Ranger, CE C, Services For Communities, Parks and Greenspace, Waverley Court.Tel : 0131 529 6771, Mob : 07746985741, Email: duncan.monteith@edinburgh.gov.uk

Firrhill Community Council would like to encourage local residents to participate in the above consultations and to advise us of their opinions regarding anything they have read in this newsletter. Our contact details are on the front page.

Jason Rust on:

Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership

Firrhill Community Council area including Colinton Mains and Oxgangs falls within the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) area. There are 12 NPs in Edinburgh, and they work to improve the quality of life in the area. Each NP is made up of a core **membership** including local Councillors and representatives from the Police, Fire, Health, the voluntary sector and the local community. The activities, membership and structures of NPs are guided by the issues that are important in the local area and I am the Convener of our NP in Pentlands and the Community Council is represented on the NP by Heather Levy.

NPs meet in public a few times a year, and any local resident can attend these meetings. Our NP includes all of the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward and Pentland Hills Ward and so stretches from Buckstone to Ratho. As well as meeting in public, each NP develops **sub groups** to address local priority themes. Our sub-groups include health and employment, environment infrastructure and transport, community safety, funding panel and a process/business meeting. Please do pop along to a meeting!

NPs can make recommendations to the Council and other partner organisations about the way **services** may be delivered in the local area. They can comment on strategic decisions that affect the local area and offer funding opportunities and will play an important role working alongside the Community Council on matters such as any disposal of the army barracks.

The NP **Community Grants Fund** is a small grants scheme (provided by the Council) which can award small grants of up to £5,000 to constituted groups for local community activity that supports the work of the NPs and their Local Community Plans. Grants can be applied for throughout the year. Please get in touch for further information.

Get On is a partnership approach to enabling people to get help with everyday issues, so they can move towards better job or life prospects. You may recall when the unit was sited outside the Pentland Centre? It offers free information on help with volunteering, education, training and employment opportunities, as well as pointing people in the direction of support with issues of debt, housing, drug usage, mental health or other life issues. The service is person centered, so it is easy to access, and all staff in the *Get On* network are trained and approachable. Again, please contact me if you would like more information.

More information can also be found on-line:-

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/pentlands/>

Jason Rust is a city councillor for the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward. His contact details are: by telephone: 0131 529 4953 or by email jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk

Monthly Surgery during school terms are:

Colinton Library on the 1st Monday, at 7.30pm,