

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Brown, P Gregson, S Holland, H Ross,
R Smart, M Stevens, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 11 members of the public, PC Julian Peukert, S Kerr, Corstorphine
Community Council,
Apologies: R Beavis, J Forbes, D Whitelaw, Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Miles
Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil
Findlay, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP,
Andy Wightman, MSP, Michelle Thomson, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance. He put forward two New Year resolutions: (1) to achieve continuity in City Council Officer involvement such as had been enjoyed with Mags Laing; and (2) to ensure less concentration on matters affecting Roseburn to the exclusion of other neighbourhoods.

2. Update on Outcome of Community Council elections (and progress of Corstorphine Community Council in re-establishment of traders' association)

2.1 The Chairman reported that Friends of Roseburn Park ("FORP") already had a nominated representative on MCC; Donaldson Area Amenity Association had re-registered as a local interest group with the City Council and had nominated Mike Stevens as their representative; Saughtonhall Community Association was in the process of renewing its registration; and Murrayfield Parish Church had yet to engage in this process.

H Whaley reported that Roseburn Cycle Group has applied to the City Council for registration.

O Simsek reported that Roseburn Traders are working on establishing themselves as a local interest group.

2.2 At the invitation of the Chairman S Kerr, Chairman of Corstorphine Community Council ("CCC"), reported that in November 2016 CCC had undertaken a "place making exercise" with the City Council and West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP"). The results of the exercise will be published at the WENP meeting on 2 February 2017. A strong theme which emerged from the exercise was the desire to help local business. CCC is pursuing (1) the re-establishment of a Traders' Association to be chaired by Hussain Simsek of Café Vigo, who already sits with CCC at their meetings, (2) the establishment of a business hub and (3) the regeneration of the Corstorphine area to encourage new businesses into the area.

S Kerr reported that CCC now has 16 Community Councillors providing representation across the whole of the CCC area. One of the new Community Councillors, Thea, is an adviser at Scottish Enterprise and

involved with the Bright Red Triangle at Napier University's Craiglockhart Business School. She has arranged for five students to work with the Corstorphine traders on branding and marketing and for two other students to put forward a vision for the local community and a message which could be used in funding applications.

In response to a question from the Chairman S Kerr stated that the Traders' Association will be open to all businesses in the CCC catchment area, but initially CCC's efforts will be concentrated on the St John's Road businesses and will be extended if there is an appetite to do so. The aim is to emulate Stockbridge and Bruntsfield, which are seen as vibrant local business areas.

H Barbour asked how many Corstorphine businesses were interested and whether a brand had been put together. She was told that the exercise had yet to be completed but was proceeding apace.

In answer to a question about a model constitution for the traders' association, S Kerr told the meeting that Cllr Ross had provided one.

3. Order of Business

This was approved. Cllr Ross intimated that he would have to leave the meeting before the end.

4. Community Policing Report

PC Julian Peukert, a Community Police Officer based at Corstorphine Police Station, reported that in the period from 29 November 2016 to date there had been 51 recorded crimes, of which 18 had been solved. Enquiries regarding the others are ongoing. The initiatives against house breaking continue with daily Operation RAC patrols across the city and operations by the local house breaking team at Corstorphine. The new arrangements for community policing, which are enabling the Community Police Officers to concentrate on getting out into the community, have generated good feedback from the community.

PC Peukert reported 7 house breakings. Two males have been charged with the theft of goods worth £80,000. He reiterated that in many cases the aim is to steal keys to high value cars. There had been no break ins to business premises but one to a garage, two to sheds and two attempted break ins.

There had been 8 minor and two serious assaults, two Police assaults and one incident of racially aggravated conduct at the Glitter Ball events at BT Murrayfield over the festive season. In response to questions from a member of the public and H Barbour he confirmed that these incidents were alcohol related and had not all occurred on the same date. He also confirmed that offenders' employers are not notified when the offences take place during a work night out.

There had been five breaches of the peace, a vehicle break in and thefts of a bike from Roseburn Place, car number plates, a motorbike from Cumloden Avenue and items from the staff area of a local nursing home. There had also been incidents of counterfeiting currency, vehicle vandalism, spray painting, misuse of drugs and fire raising.

PC Peukert reported that in conjunction with City Council officers the Police have been carrying out checks on licensed premises and in relation to neighbourhood disputes.

PC Peukert enumerated 20 Road Traffic offences and referred to the incident on 5 January 2017 in which damage had been caused to the bench on Roseburn Bridge, the railings at the pedestrian crossing on Roseburn Terrace and the

front of the Murrayfield Bar. The car in question is not currently registered. The Chairman reminded the meeting that PC Sam Davison had undertaken to investigate the three bicycles which had been parked at the bike racks near the eastbound bus stop at Roseburn for some long time. PC Peukert explained that PC Davison had had to take emergency leave and he did not yet have an answer for MCC.

H Whaley was told by PC Peukert that he had no information on the trouble caused by school age children/youths on the Craigleith to Drylaw section of the cycle path before the start of the new term. He confirmed that the Police have been cracking down on youth disorder by writing to parents and visiting schools.

In response to a question from P Gregson, **Cllr Ross undertook to find out whether the City Council would remove the graffiti on the toilet block in Roseburn Park.**

PC Peukert reported that the Police are holding a surgery at the Gyle Shopping Centre on Saturday, 21 January 2017 and will be holding a Crime Prevention seminar at Craigmount High School in February. The Police are willing to provide talks on home security for groups of up to 20 people.

PC Peukert asked **R Brown to email contact details to his team so that Police events can be advertised on MCC's noticeboards.** He also intimated that the monthly Police newsletter is to be reinstated and asked what format MCC would like future policing reports to take.

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

5.1 City Council officers are to monitor the increasing use of Saughtonhall Drive by heavy lorries, assess the area where vibrations have been reported and establish whether the criteria for the passing of Traffic Regulation Orders have been met.

5.2 The outstanding issues in Devon Place are being resolved – the pavements adjoining the new townhouse development should be completed and the debris removed in the next few weeks. The setts should be reinstated by the summer.

5.3 Following the grant by the Reporter of planning permission for a care home at South Beechwood, work has begun and has resulted in heavy construction traffic, which is causing some concern to local residents. City Council officers are to monitor the situation weekly.

5.4 The Flood Prevention Scheme, Phase 2 works are on schedule. The Ice Rink access road has been closed, the only access now being via Baird Drive. The work is causing a lot of muck on the surrounding roads which are to be cleaned regularly.

5.5 Murrayfield Dementia Group, which operates from Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, has secured funding for the next financial year.

5.6 The City Council will set its Budget for 2017/18 on 9 February 2017. The relevant papers will be available online on 3 February.

5.7 The independent report into the problems which caused the temporary closure of a number of City schools last year will be published on 9 February 2017. It is currently undergoing the "Maxwellisation" process whereby those criticised in the report have the opportunity to respond before publication.

In response to a number of questions about the City Council's failure to sweep up leaves in Roseburn and Murrayfield **Cllr Ross** replied that he had received no complaints on this issue, but **would speak to the relevant team.**

A Anderson complained that the last monthly garden refuse collection had taken place on 29 December and there were several discarded Christmas trees on the Old Roseburn Bridge awaiting removal. Councillor Ross took a note of this. When V Forbes asked again about the emptying and relocation of the glass recycling bin at the corner of Roseburn Gardens, Cllr Ross replied that he had raised the problem with the appropriate team.

In response to a question from a member of the public about encroachment into Roseburn Park, Cllr Ross replied that an investigation by City Council officers and an independent investigation have both confirmed that the new wall, which has been constructed as part of the flood prevention works, has been built correctly on the boundary of Roseburn Park and the land outside it belongs to the SRU.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 29 November 2016

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: P Gregson.

7. City Council decision on Roseburn to Haymarket cycle track

The Chairman referred to the decision by the transport spokespersons of the five political parties on the City Council to approve Option A for the Roseburn to Haymarket section of the proposed Roseburn to Leith cycle track and the intimation by Sustrans prior to the decision that funding might not be forthcoming if the decision were not in favour of Option A. He thanked R Smart, P Gregson and S Holland for the time and effort which they had devoted to this issue. A number of people expressed dissatisfaction with the decision and queried the City Council's ability to delegate authority to make the decision. Cllr Ross confirmed that the decision is binding on the City Council. He indicated that the next step will be to secure funding from Sustrans before any further design work or drafting of Traffic Regulation Orders is undertaken. In reply to a question from the Chairman as to what impact the forthcoming City Council elections might have on timing, Cllr Ross thought that the Sustrans' funding would be resolved in two months, a project plan would then be put together and Traffic Regulation Orders would take 12-18 months. He advised MCC that the TRO process would be an opportunity for MCC to present its views on the detailed design of the track.

S Kerr asked whether MCC could express its dissatisfaction with the way in which the decision in favour of Option A had been handled or whether the approval of funding from Sustrans was a foregone conclusion. Cllr Ross replied that approval was not a foregone conclusion, but Sustrans had been involved in the cycle track consultation from the beginning and were very likely to approve funding.

P Gregson expressed his concern that Sustrans, who were not part of the democratic process, had pre-empted the decision in favour of Option A with their statement about funding. It was agreed that **H Barbour would write to Sustrans to express MCC's disquiet.**

P Gregson reported that he is in discussion with Cllr Lesley Hinds about monitoring the success of Option A in relation to cycle use, pollution and congestion. He referred to the importance of agreeing the criteria against which these issues are to be measured.

R Smart complained that the City Council's initiatives on active travel do not include walking, but this was disputed by H Whaley as a member of the Active Travel Forum, who was of the view that Option A was the better

option for active travel.

After further discussion it was decided that **R Smart would (1) ask members of the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Royal Institute of British Architects for their views on the choice of Option A, (2) write to the Chief Executive of the City Council about omissions in the consultation and decision making process, including the failure to carry out an Equality Rights Act assessment and (3) write to the Head Teachers of Roseburn Primary School and St George's School about the implications of Option A for the safety of their pupils.**

The meeting also discussed the holding of a hustings event before the City Council elections in May 2017, which the Chairman felt would provide an opportunity to ask questions and develop a focussed discussion on the cycle track decision.

8. Murrayfield 2020 Ltd proposed development at Murrayfield Ice Rink
P Gregson reported that FORP is due to meet David Coutts of Murrayfield 2020 Ltd on 1 March 2017. If the planning application for the redevelopment of the Ice Rink goes ahead, it will constitute a major application and Murrayfield 2020 Ltd will be required to consult MCC.
9. Murrayfield Wanderers' proposal for Roseburn Park and other issues
H Ross reported on matters affecting Roseburn Park as follows:-
 - 9.1 FORP had met with Murrayfield Wanderers Rugby Football Club and asked to obtain their fixture list, which FORP hoped to combine with that of Murrayfield-DAFS Cricket Club to assess their combined use of the Park. Wanderers are to make a submission to the City Council to assess the likely level of support for their plans. FORP might also make a submission.
 - 9.2 The City Council's online survey provider has lost the data from the consultation on improving cycling and walking in the Park and the City Council will have to run the consultation again.
 - 9.3 FORP has applied for planning permission for change of use of the toilet block in the Park. FORP does not own the block or have funds to carry out the proposed redevelopment. He was pleased to report that WENP had supported the cost of the planning application and was grateful for MCC's help in persuading WENP not to postpone consideration of FORP's plans pending progress on the Wanderers' proposals.
 - 9.4 WENP is keen to progress the installation of the play park in its new location. P Gregson reported that at the WENP meeting in December 2016 the toilet block, the trees and the trim trail were discussed and FORP is to go back to WENP with ideas regarding the trees.

In reply to a question from a member of the public H Ross confirmed that Murrayfield Wanderers do not have the option of extending their lease from the SRU of the back pitches at BT Murrayfield and the question of whether the SRU's title precluded the SRU's proposed use of the back pitches had been raised. The Chairman suggested that MCC could buy a small piece of equipment for the Park. The available funds and likely cost of having a bench carved from one of the trees felled as part of the flood prevention works were discussed and **H Ross undertook that FORP would come back with a suggestion.**

S Holland advised the meeting that the next meeting between the SRU and local residents will take place at BT Murrayfield on 25 January 2017. The SRU contact is Graham Law.

10. Flood Prevention Scheme progress (including Good Neighbour questionnaire)

P Gregson confirmed that piling work has begun in Roseburn Park and the vehicle access bridge to the Ice Rink has been closed. The footbridge is still open. The contractor's working hours seem to have been extended to last from 6 am to 8pm. The Good Neighbour questionnaire put out by the contractor contained an error in the date for returning the questionnaire, which was given as January 2018 instead of 2017.

11. Roseburn Action Plan

The Chairman asked whether the Roseburn Action Plan could be progressed in light of the cycle track proposals. R Smart was of the view that, as Option A does not involve any changes to Murrayfield Place other than the closure of the slip road, MCC could pursue the desired changes to the location of the bins. He was not in favour of their being moved to the west side of the slip road wall, as is envisaged in Option A.

S Holland suggested enlisting the help of Mags Laing or, if she has moved to a new post with the City Council, Dave Sinclair.

P Gregson suggested that R Smart go with him to the meeting of the Environmental Sub- Committee of WENP on 26 January 2017 to raise this issue.

12. Planning and Licensing

12.1 R Smart reported that he had still to look at three recent planning applications, but thought that there were none which required an objection.

12.2 R Smart confirmed that the earthworks in front of Donaldson's College are temporary.

12.3 H Barbour reported that (1) the planning application for the extension of the café in Murrayfield Place to become a restaurant has been withdrawn. S Holland confirmed that 6 objections had been lodged. The applicant is investigating neighbours' concerns about increased noise and will submit a new application; (2) a private medical screening company is going into the former Bank of Scotland premises at Roseburn and (3) the Scottish Conservative Party has taken entry to their new office on Roseburn Terrace.

13. Traffic and Transport

There were no further issues to be discussed.

14. Any Other Competent Business

The Chairman reported that he had written to M Smith of JC Decaux to convey MCC's appreciation of the somewhat unexpected improvement which the new advertising hoardings and landscaping had effected at Roseburn Terrace.

It was noted that another hairdresser/beautician has opened in the former Clancy's premises on Roseburn Terrace and the former Chores at Work premises have been let. The former sauna is to be converted into a shop and two flats.

H Barbour and the Chairman intimated their inability to attend the next WENP meeting on [26 January][2 February] 2017.

15. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Subsequent meetings: 2 May and 27 June 2017.

Minutes approved at meeting of 7 March 2017.

for approval