

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 27 June 2017 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, H Barbour, R Beavis, R Brown, J Forbes,
S Holland, H Ross, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Scott Douglas, Cllr Gillian Gloyer,
In attendance: 6 members of the public, Sgt R Holmwood, PC Julian Peukert,
Peter Strong, North West Locality Manager,
Apologies: P Gregson, N Macdonald, M Stevens, H Whaley, D Whitelaw, Cllr
Karen Doran, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Cllr Alasdair
Rankin, Lord Provost Frank Ross, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Miles
Briggs, MSP, Ruth Davidson, MSP, Kezia Dugdale, MSP, Neil
Findlay, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Gordon Lindhurst, MSP,
Andy Wightman, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance. He referred to the recent Council Elections and the presence of two new Councillors and at the Chairman's invitation all those around the table introduced themselves.

The Chairman introduced Jock Miller, Chairman of West End Community Council, attending in his capacity as a local resident, and Ron Smith, representing Donaldson Area Amenity Association in place of Mike Stevens, both of whom were sitting with the members of the public.

The Chairman intimated that congratulations were due to Christine Jardine on her recent election as MP for Edinburgh West.

2. Order of Business

This was approved subject to postponing Item 3 until Sgt Holmwood, who was at another meeting, should arrive.

3. Councillors' Report

3.1 Cllr Gloyer confirmed that she had little to report, as the administration of the Council had been in limbo until the signing of a deal between the SNP and Labour Councillors on 22 June 2017. The first proper Council meeting would take place on 29 June. The Committees have been streamlined to bring them into line with the Officials' side of the administration.

3.2 The Chairman invited H Ross to update the meeting on the issue of graffiti. H Ross confirmed that the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") had asked the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership ("WENP") about undertaking the removal of graffiti in Roseburn Park themselves and had been told that a cleaning kit was available. They had contacted the relevant Council official and would arrange a walkabout of the affected areas.

3.3 As Lord Provost Ross was not present, it was agreed to carry forward to the next meeting the issue of increased heavy traffic on Saughtonhall Drive.

3.4 The Chairman introduced P Strong, North West Locality Manager, who explained that the Neighbourhood Partnerships, which are sub-committees of the Council, had been suspended pending the formation of an administration. There had been no Neighbourhood Partnership meetings since the Spring. They had, however, now been re-convened for one further meeting to enable the transition to the new locality structure. The lead Councillor for the North West Locality is Cllr George Gordon (SNP, Forth Ward). There will be a consultation over the summer about the responsibilities and budgetary and decision making powers of the new Locality Committees. It has yet to be decided whether they will replace, or run in conjunction with, the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

P Strong intimated that a cross-party working group will be convened to review progress on the Local Improvement Plan and ascertain whether there has been a lack of due governance. The finalised Local Improvement Plan has to be submitted to the Scottish Government by October 2017.

P Strong advised the meeting that WENP will meet on Thursday, 31 August 2017 (at 6.30 pm in the Clermiston Room of the Drumbrae Library Hub). The meeting will discuss the Locality Committee, look at the Locality Improvement Plan and deal with routine items of business such as grant approvals and environmental programmes.

P Strong explained that the new multi-disciplinary way of working based on four new Localities involves the Fire and Rescue Service, the Police, Edinburgh College, NHS Lothian, the Health and Social Care Partnership and the voluntary sector. It is intended to promote co-operative and cohesive input from all these agencies.

In answer to a question about the Locality Improvement Plan from R Smart, P Strong explained that the Plan is designed to provide practical solutions to the priorities established across five areas – community safety, health and wellbeing, children, young people and families, employability and the physical environment. The Roseburn Action Plan comes under the last of these.

The Chairman read out parts of an email from the Council detailing the streamlining of the Committee structure by reducing the number from eight to the following six:- Corporate Policy and Strategy; Finance and Resources; Education, Children and Families; Transport and Environment; Communities, Culture and Wellbeing; and Housing and Economy.

3.5 In answer to a question from A Anderson, P Strong advised that road maintenance and repair come within his remit, but the 20 mph speed limit does not. With regard to enforcement of the speed limit Sgt Holmwood advised that Scottish Government guidance states that it should be implemented where it will be self-enforcing. He confirmed that road safety is a priority for Police Scotland but they do not have the capability to enforce the 20 mph speed limit across the City. Public opinion on the desirability of the speed limit is split 50:50. He assumed that its impact will be monitored. Cllr Douglas said that he expected the speed limit proposal to be implemented in full.

In answer to a question from the Chairman, PC Peukert advised that the next phase will be implemented in the Roseburn/Murrayfield area at the end of July 2017.

4. Community Policing Report

4.1 PC Julian Peukert reported on the period from the beginning of May to date as follows:-

There had been 71 recorded crimes, of which 16 had been solved. Enquiries are ongoing regarding the rest. There had been an upsurge in vehicle thefts across the city. He listed 7 thefts of motorbikes, most of which were foreign registered, and all of which had been recovered; 4 attempted thefts of motorbikes; 6 thefts of pedal bikes in the Roseburn area; 2 thefts at BT Murrayfield; the theft of cash from a local nursing home; the theft of alcohol from the Tesco at Roseburn followed by the pursuit of the suspect and the commission of an assault by the suspect; 3 other assaults; several thefts from unlocked vehicles; 7 incidents of vandalism to vehicles; 5 domestic housebreakings; one incident of urinating in the street on the evening of the Robbie Williams concert at BT Murrayfield; and 5 minor Road Traffic offences.

4.2 During a brief discussion on the provision of toilet facilities for major events at BT Murrayfield, Cllr Douglas expressed the view that the positioning of a steward at Russell Gardens on the evening of the Robbie Williams concert had inhibited urinating in the street. The Police representatives confirmed that the Events Planning Team decide on the level of provision of toilet facilities.

4.3 The Chairman asked the Police representatives to respond to the recent report in the Evening News that detection rates in the Lothians have dropped. Sgt Holmwood conceded that this is the case, but explained that the recording of crime statistics has changed. On the formation of Police Scotland it was necessary to amalgamate disparate recording practices and the new practice has resulted in a slightly distorted picture of clear up rates. He referred to the need in deploying resources to balance action to prevent crime and improve the quality of life against active enquiries and detection.

4.4 R Beavis raised the issue of youth disorder and related an incident that evening in which a large group of youths in hoodies on bikes had disrupted traffic on Russell Road and caused some alarm. Sgt Holmwood undertook to investigate after leaving the meeting. He advised that Princes Mall had been a favourite meeting place for groups of youths, but CCTV and an increased Police presence there had caused the youths to move their activities further west. He was anxious to ensure that the annual Operation Summer City, which sees additional Police officers deployed in the city centre, should not leave the west of the city with inadequate Police cover.

V Forbes informed Sgt Holmwood that groups of youths who obtain alcohol in Roseburn often then go down to the Water of Leith via the entrance at the foot of Roseburn Cliff. Sgt Holmwood informed the meeting that the Police are working with the Community Alcohol Partnership to reduce alcohol related offences.

PC Peukert referred the meeting to the secure messaging service set up by the Police Preventions, Interventions and Partnerships team, for which members of the public can register and which provides information on public security.

5. Transition from West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership to North West Locality

This had been dealt with at Item 3 above.

6. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2 May 2017

These were approved. Prop: H Ross, Sec: R Smart.

Matters Arising

Felling of Corsican pine – Ellersly Road

J Forbes confirmed that he had not received a reply to his letter to the Planning Department expressing MCC's strong disapproval of what it viewed as "vandalism". He requested that the Councillors follow this up. **Cllr Gloyer** stated that she had queried planning policy in relation to this matter with the Planning Department but had not received a reply. She **undertook to pursue a response from the Planning Department.**

7. Items from AGM, including MCC website

H Ross confirmed that, as promised, he had spoken to the web developer in Coltbridge Terrace whom Henry Whaley had mentioned at the AGM and would provide a written report for discussion at the next MCC meeting. MCC has two options:-

(1) to maintain a similar website to the current one, which would not be easy to use, or (2) to take a significant step forward in creating a website which would be easy to use and could incorporate information gathering and engagement in social media. Option (1) would cost about £500 and option (2) £500 - £1,000 to set up, plus in each case an annual hosting fee of less than £100.

H Barbour expressed the view that a Facebook page would attract a younger group of people to MCC's activities and would be more useful than Twitter. A Anderson and R Beavis agreed. H Ross confirmed that MCC could have a Facebook page, which would cost nothing, and Facebook posts could be added automatically to MCC's website. J Miller strongly recommended using a business, rather than a personal, Facebook account.

8. Roseburn-Haymarket cycle track - progress towards Traffic Regulation Orders

The Chairman conceded that given the hiatus in Council administration it was unreasonable to expect much progress on this matter.

Cllr Gloyer reported that she had met with the relevant Council official and had been told that Council officers are working on the detailed design of the track and plans should be available in August 2017. MCC will be given sight of them. There will follow a public consultation for 3-4 weeks when there will be an opportunity to lodge objections. Traffic Regulation Orders will then be sought and there will be another opportunity to make representations.

Cllr Douglas advised that he had been told by the same official that the TRO process would take 18 months.

J Forbes asked whether the Roseburn Action Plan is effectively on hold and was told by P Strong that some elements of it are, as the Council does not wish to carry out work which may have to be ripped out later when the cycle track is installed.

9. Roseburn Park issues

H Ross reported as follows:-

9.1 There is a temporary difficulty with a mix of cyclists and pedestrians using the south route off the bund;

9.2 Parents are concerned that, although the new flood wall is considerably higher than the old wall, the top is still accessible for children to use as a tightrope;

9.3 Funding is awaited for the Council's proposed cycling improvements;

9.4 Lord Provost Ross had confirmed to him that he had met Edinburgh Wanderers and had understood that they intend to lodge a planning application for their proposed development and use of the central part of Roseburn Park.

9.5 His colleague, Barbara Knowles, had succeeded in having the tree planting scheme improved;

9.6 FoRP has engaged an architect to draw up plans for the redevelopment of the toilet block. FoRP will then seek three estimates from builders and progress funding applications;

9.7 FoRP has made an application to WENP for funding to have a felled tree carved into a bench for the Park, Scotmid and ScotRail having turned down similar applications. S Holland referred to MCC's previous offer of a £1,000 contribution to the cost of the bench. H Ross hoped the position on a matching contribution might be clarified at the next WENP meeting.

R Smith asked whether the tree planting scheme included mature trees and was told by B Knowles that it included whips, saplings and semi-mature trees. She advised that it is difficult to plant fully mature trees. She expressed concern that the delay in completing Phase 2 of the Flood Prevention Scheme might result in a cost overrun. **P Strong undertook to check whether the funds for the tree planting scheme are ring-fenced.**

A Anderson asked about progress on the new play park and **P Strong undertook to enquire.**

In response to a question from the Chairman about the plans of Edinburgh 2020 for the Ice Rink, H Ross advised that Lord Provost Ross had indicated to him that plans of that nature might never happen or might suddenly re-appear.

Lord Provost Ross had also said that, as the SRU has yet to submit a planning application for the back pitches at BT Murrayfield, the need for Edinburgh Wanderers to move to Roseburn Park may be less immediately pressing.

A member of the public complained that traffic on the road through the Park at around 9am daily had increased recently and **H Ross undertook to investigate.**

10. Roseburn Action Plan and West Coates

10.1 The Chairman commented on how good the planters on Roseburn Old Bridge were looking and commended H Barbour for her hard work on them. The Treasurer's offer to reimburse her for the cost of the plants which she had installed was politely declined.

10.2 R Smart confirmed that there had been no progress on his plans for the repair of the stonework in West Coates.

10.3 R Smart reported that he had discussed the Roseburn Action Plan with Dave Sinclair of the Council and had been told that extending the pavements on Roseburn Terrace was not possible and there was no budget for the reinstatement of the setts on Roseburn Old Bridge. They had discussed moving the bins near the Old Bridge to a less visible position. D Sinclair accepted that some parking would have to be reinstated in Murrayfield Place.

R Beavis intimated that one of his neighbours at Roseburn Maltings had suggested moving the bench on Roseburn Bridge to Roseburn Old Bridge.

10.4 R Smart expressed a desire to see the lower part of Murrayfield Avenue improved with a bench, a hedge and more trees.

A Anderson thought that, if the two slip roads at the foot of Murrayfield Avenue are removed, as is envisaged by the cycle track engineers, a mini roundabout will be required there.

11. Planning and Licensing

11.1 R Smith of Donaldson Area Amenity Association confirmed that, after modification of the design, planning permission had been granted for an illuminated sign on the bathroom shop at 8 Kew Terrace.

11.2 R Smart referred to a planning application for telephone apparatus at 134 Corstorphine Road and was advised by H Barbour that this address fell within the jurisdiction of Corstorphine Community Council.

11.3 S Holland intimated that planning permission has now been granted for the extension of Café Colpamia in Murrayfield Place into the adjoining flower shop premises. The flower shop will maintain a small presence in the premises. In answer to a question from H Barbour he confirmed that the main flower shop is moving to Comiston.

12. Traffic and Transport

12.1 The Chairman reported that he had received an email from Carol Kennedy, a resident of Balgreen Road, who felt that the problem with heavy traffic was as bad there as in Saughtonhall Drive. She had requested the extension of the 20 mph zone to include Balgreen Road. He had forwarded to her the reply from the 20mph team at the Council, which had explained that Balgreen Road was regarded as part of the strategic network of key roads which should be kept at their existing speed limits.

12.2 The Chairman intimated that complaints about parking near St George's School had been passed by D Sinclair to his colleague, Gavin Brown, for enforcement action.

12.3 H Barbour confirmed that she had received no further correspondence from the Council about supported bus services.

13. Any Other Competent Business

13.1 **J Forbes** intimated that he would like the issue of pedestrian safety in Ellersly Road to be discussed at a future meeting, with the possibility of an associated walkabout. At the suggestion of the Chairman and in response to a request from Cllrs Gloyer and Douglas he **undertook to write a briefing on the issue.**

13.2 R Smart complained about long grass covering the pavement of Kinellan Road. He was told by P Strong that this was not a matter for the Locality team.

13.3 A Anderson suggested that in the interests of economy it would be better to carry out better longer lasting road repairs rather than quick fixes. P Strong explained that in many cases a quick repair is required to deal with an immediate public safety concern.

13.4 P Strong informed the meeting that his colleagues in Street Cleaning are assessing evidence of the need for a barrowman in parts of the city. If MCC wish to secure a barrowman for Roseburn, it will be helpful to provide him with specific locations where this type of street cleaning is required. R Smart and H Barbour cited several locations.

J Forbes referred to the issue, which he had raised last year, regarding the state of the north pavement of Corstorphine Road between Western Corner

and the Zoo and was pleased to report a positive improvement in the cleanliness of the pavement.

13.5 H Barbour relayed an invitation to Murrayfield Community Councillors to view the new retirement homes at 18 Murrayfield Road on Wednesday, 28 June between 4 and 7 pm.

14. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 August 2017

Subsequent meetings: 10 October and 5 December 2017.

Minutes approved at meeting of 15 August 2017.

for approval