

### Secretary's Report

Since the last meeting I have attended the following meetings:

The Localities roll-out at WHEC with Dr Houston. We were given an overview of the proposed Transformation of the way services throughout the City would be provided in four areas (Localities). This will mean that community services will be provided from hubs within the localities rather than shared across the whole City. More details will be available towards the end of April and will be posted on the Colinton CC website.

Attendance at the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The main part of the meeting was a presentation by Paul Lawrence, the new CEC Executive Director of Place. He described the challenges faced on the reorganisation of planning, transport environment as well as dealing with corporate services. Paul's remit is a very wide one covering many aspects of the former Services for Communities section. He has a central role in the *Transformation* programme and as an Executive Director will be overall head of one of the four new Locality teams.

One of the key events in Colinton this year will be a Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Health & Wellbeing Action Group, Colinton Heath Fair to be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 from 10:30am until 1pm taking place in Colinton Bowling Club. The Health Fair is part of a promotional campaign raising awareness of issues affecting the elderly. These are: Dementia Awareness Week (30 May – 5 June) & Carers Week (6 June – 12 June) and Launch of Currie as a Dementia Friendly Community (October 2016). The Health Fair will be attended by many charities and organisations supporting the elderly and those who either have Alzheimer's, or care for someone with this condition in its various forms. More information will be available once all the contributors have been confirmed.

The most recent event is related to alcohol licensing which is almost as hot a topic as planning and on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the City Chambers Alcohol Focus Scotland launched its Resource Toolkit designed to help community councils deal with licensing applications in their area. There is a link to this in the health section of the Colinton CC website.

David Bewsey  
Secretary

### CRIME AND SAFETY

The plague of break-ins and theft continues in the village. In one case I know of, a car and two high-end motorcycles were taken. And this happened when the owners were away from home in the Hailes Park area for just one night.

It could be argued that a robbery such as this has little to do with the taxi or travel agent theory about householders away from home.

The car has been found in Drylaw and returned - but it cost the owners £150 in fees. To date, there is no sign of the bikes.

Police told this victim of crime that men in Balaclavas had been seen running from a property in Woodhall Road before speeding off in a car.

On February 29, Gordon Neill and I attended the latest Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Crime and Safety Action Group meeting. As this report has to be submitted before that date, we will raise any relevant matters at a future CC meeting.

### ARMY GROUP

We still await a meeting with Major Price before taking forward the ideas presented in my last report.

Alastair Murray, Safety Group Lead

### **Communications Report**

Routine communications activity continues as usual, using the familiar picture/caption format, which has recently been updated to include Twitter and Facebook's logos. The "Tell us what you think" campaign is now in place and links directly with some re-formatting of the web site. Social media activity is being escalated. A message box has been placed in Colinton Library and Library staff will provide message slips for those who wish to contact us but do not have access to email.

A short article and graphics were provided for the forthcoming edition of Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership's "Pentlands Digest".

Plans to purchase banners and promotional media to support plans for "pop-up" stalls are being progressed and cost estimates being obtained. The Communications sub-group plans to create a new "Welcome to Colinton" leaflet for incoming families, both military and civilian. The leaflet, currently being drafted, will describe the scope of the Community Council's activities and indicate the range and variety of businesses within Colinton in order to encourage them to be used. Funding bids are required.

The tunnel art project feasibility study continues, with a report anticipated by April. CEC's contractors are currently carrying out the planned structural works in the railway tunnel, which should be complete by the end of March. We now know that repairs will be made to faulty lights in the tunnel and that the lighting units will be cleaned. Exploratory meetings with potentially interested and/or influential parties continue to take place.

All communications activity is aimed at increasing our email contact with residents and encouraging them to use our web site and social media. Registrations for our e-newsletter continue to increase (now at 217 subscribers) as does social media and website activity, though the urgency of village issues drives online activity.

Several options for continuing to enhance public engagement continue to be progressed.

Mike Scott  
Communications Convenor

### **Environment Reports**

As agreed at the last meeting I attended the meeting between members of Woodfield Park Residents Association (WPRA) and Council SW Roads, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at SW Neighbourhood Offices

The meeting was held to look into action required to alleviate flooding issues in the Woodfield Park woodland. It was agreed to carry out the camera system investigation as discussed in July 2015 and make an attempt to clear both culverts.

I was also invited to attend a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February with Dr Houston and members of Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT), City of Edinburgh Council South West Roads (CEC) and Colinton Amenity Association (CAA), regarding a proposal for ornamental railings adjacent to Woodhall Road.

The Community Council was invited to this meeting as an interested party to discuss the safety of the railings from No.2 Woodhall Road to the junction with Bridge Road/Colinton Road. It has been agreed by CEC to obtain three quotations for risk assessments. The meeting went on to discuss wider issues relating to Woodhall Road. CEC confirmed that any safety work required would be met from central funds and not affect local capital including the funding of the Neighbourhood Environment projects in SW/Pentlands.

Nigel Rudd  
Environment Convenor

**Waste Management: Questions answered**

- Q1 Why take two separate collections to pick up recycling. The main bin is taken at one time on the appropriate day and the glass container is taken later by another vehicle. Surely this is doubling up effort and therefore a waste of money for a Council that has little to spare.
- A1 *Recycling collections require two vehicles to collect in order to avoid “cross contamination” of each waste stream, eg, glass in plastic & vice versa. In addition, our glass vehicles are equipped with what we call “double skinned” floors due to the nature of the product being collected. As we stated on the evening, we have tried what we refer to as “Split body and One Pass” vehicles, however, the danger here is that one of the load chambers on the body becomes fully loaded before the other chambers. Equally, plastic is different from glass, where the vehicles or chambers “bulk out” before they actually “weigh out”. Bottom line on such subjects - we must ensure route completion daily in order to meet our service level agreements with council taxpayers.*
- Q2 Clothes recycling does not appear to be working. Is this service yet to be started?
- A2 *Textile recycling requires further work at this stage, although we do have collection in place, however not ideal in operational terms at the moment. We are looking at further storage capacity on our vehicles for this form of recycling and also at more suitable vehicles.*
- Q3 If this Community Council could put forward recommendations to the City of Edinburgh Council on how waste management services might be improved, what would you suggest we say on this matter?
- A3 *There are many ways to answer such a question as to what to suggest, but one avenue has to be educating communities on such things as recycling. This can take many forms, schools, community councils, advertising etc and it can deliver ease of handling for collection services, in addition, correct recycling delivers much needed revenue for CEC. Simple and precise messages are what we require to hear for all concerned.*
- Q4. Leaving bins out the night before and all day increases the risk of toppling and rubbish blowing about on windy days. Could the day's schedule not be published on-line or in an app much like carriers give approximate delivery times on the day? Could this also be used to advise of delays to subsequent days when this occurs
- A4 *We cannot avoid the weather and we do have service level agreements in place approved by our elected members to ensure all residents present their bins from 06.00hrs daily. Totally on board with the use of technology apps, e-mails, calendars etc. to advise members of the public as to daily status.*

## TRAPs Reports

### Clarence

I believe our efforts to encourage more use of Clarence for reporting defects is beginning to show results locally. It also reflects the usefulness of our website for communicating such information. Publicity carried out by CEC some years ago was effective, but this seems to have waned in recent years. Fed back will be given on any plans by SWNP or CEC to improve publicity in the next report.

### Neighbourhood Environment Projects (NEPs)

The deadline for submissions for community improvement under NEPs scheme is 1<sup>st</sup> April. We currently have interest in the submission of projects by local groups and individuals. It should be noted that the NEPs program is designed for submissions by any individual or group in the community and not only those put forward by the Community Council. The Community Council is here to assist in submitting projects which in the first instance are motivated residents or groups and which will improve any amenity within the community, secondly that such projects will rate highly against other possible projects from other communities, from as far as Fairmilehead to Gorgie.

Last year we were new on the block, being established only a couple of weeks before the closing date, we were therefore surprised that our 2 submissions, put together at short notice, were successful. This success we believe was achieved due to the high scoring of our supported bid by council officials.

Submissions can be lodged throughout the year. These are considered by the SWNP and if they meet the initial selection criteria can be scored and reviewed along with other projects banked in previous years. A full explanation of the process for 2016/2017 (unchanged from 2015/16) is on the SWNP website under 'NEP Scheme'.

We hope to be able to work closely with those proposing to submit bids as the fund pool is shared over more than one community council and we need to compete for these funds with highly rated submissions to be successful.

All communication on NEP projects requiring assistance from Colinton Community Council should be addressed to the [secretary@colintoncc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@colintoncc.org.uk) in the first instance.

Due to the closing date of 2016/7 NEPs bid, it is an agenda item on the 8<sup>th</sup> March general meeting.

### Walk About

This is planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and is established on a regular basis to highlight local issues affecting the community and any public work needing imminent attention. It is open to all residents to attend as it brings their concerns to a focal point where they can be addressed and reviewed. Last year we investigated several pressing issues which highlighted the need for community service work, in depth surveys and badly needed maintenance work.

The SWNP need input from the community and these 'Walk Abouts' are a successful method for the collection of issues in need of attention and we must continue to encourage attendance by the community at large. However, we must continue to explore other routes for community feedback on issues in need of attention within the community.

If there are any pressing issues after the 'Walk About' they will be raised during AOCB on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Bill Alexander  
Roads Convener Colinton CC