



Public Meeting – 7:30 pm - 10th May 2016

Venue: Colinton Bowling Club

Agenda

Time	Item	Subject
7:30	1.	Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest
7:32	2.	Police Report
7:50	3.	Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 12 th April 2016
7:55	4.	Matters arising from the April minutes
8:05	5.	Annual Summary Reports
8:20	6.	Presentation of annual accounts for approval
8:25	7.	Tunnel Project proposal
8:35	8.	A.O.C.B. to be notified to the Secy. prior to the meeting
8:40	9.	Questions from the Public
8:45	10.	Close

Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 14th June 2016

See Secretary's Report for proposed dates for the remainder of the year.

The draft minutes of the previous meeting and reports can be found on the website

Times for each agenda item should be adhered to wherever possible to allow time for informal conversation after the business of the evening has been concluded

Present

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Bill Alexander, Colin Proctor, Alastair Murray, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), Cllr Jason Rust, Cllr Richard Lewis, Gordon Lindhurst, Duncan Campbell (CCCT) & 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Major Alex Price (3 RIFLES), Gordon Macdonald MSP, & Joanna Cherry QC MP, & Sarah Stone.

Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He clarified that community council meetings are a meeting in public and not a public meeting. He went on to introduce Duncan Campbell of Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT).

Presentation on the Colinton Community Conservation Trust Artwork Project

Duncan Campbell of CCCT presented the proposal for artwork panels along Woodhall Road replacing the current railings. A key issue is one of safety and the ability of these panels to protect against vehicle penetration. The artwork panels will represent Colinton's history. There is currently an assessment being carried out which will report to the local roads department. CCCT have an alternative proposal to site the panels on the Drover's Path should the outcome of the assessment not suite the preferred choice of site.

Declarations of Interest

None

Police Report

PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris outlined the crime related issues during the past month. She reported that there had been one incident of housebreaking and a case of someone trying doors. She stated that an arrest had been made in relation to the latter. She went on to say that many of the thefts were perpetrated by teenagers who had stolen high value cars and usually drive them at high speed. She advised that if a member of the public should see one of these cars with several young passengers, sometimes wearing balaclavas, they should immediately call 999 to report this. It was also mentioned that there had been cases where registration plates were being removed from high value cars.

PC Kaiser-Ferris reported that there had been no assaults or hate crimes in the past month.

Sgt William Telford has now taken over from Sgt George Richardson who has moved to Wester Hailes. It was also commented that PC Vinnie Blair of MOD Police had left and the position was to be covered by Police Scotland

Cllr Rust suggested the possibility that another Crime Prevention meeting might be held.

The Secretary said that the upcoming Health Fair on Saturday 7th May might be an opportunity

to combine health and welfare issues and the elderly, with crime prevention and he would follow up on this.

ACTION: SECRETARY

The Chair asked if CCTV was a recommended installation. PC Kaiser-Ferris suggested that it was definitely a deterrent and that even although most perpetrators wear a mask, they could still be identified by their build and walk.

Schools Crisis

The Vice-Chair proposed that the current PPI1 schools safety issues should be a matter for the Community Council to write to City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) about its concerns over this matter and to seek assurances that it would be fully investigated, as he saw this as a failure of the building control system and not just a failure of management.

It was suggested that we should not jump to conclusions until further investigations had been carried out. The community council is to monitor the situation and respond accordingly.

MS expressed concerns about the safety of pupils. The Secretary informed the meeting that there was a link on the website to the latest information and this would be updated as further information was received.

TM moved that a letter should be written to the Chief Executive of CEC expressing concerns about the school building programme and the safety of pupils. Seconded GN.

Minutes of the meeting of 8th March 2016 and matters arising:

The minutes were approved. Proposed: TM, seconded: NR

TM informed that there had been contact with the owners of 6-8 Bridge Road Kilpatrick Property Group and that there would be a meeting between Colinton CC, the owners of the building and the Cooperative. It was also mentioned that the premises were unlikely to be occupied before 1st Quarter 2017.

In response to concerns about those who either have no internet access or cannot get to the Library to see CC meeting papers, the Secretary proposed that for an annual fee of £10 the papers could be posted to them. Seconded: NR.

The Chair mentioned that he had not had a positive response to his request for money to upgrade the Spylaw Bank Road Tunnel lighting.

Action Group Reports – Matters Arising

Communications

MS read the brief summary to the Tunnel Project feasibility report which was later distributed to members. It was proposed by MS that this should be the subject of a business meeting to discuss how the project is taken forward. Seconded by AM and approved.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary mentioned the Dementia Awareness week and the series of events around the Colinton Health Fair to be held on Saturday 7th May 2016 at Colinton Bowling Club.

Community Safety

AM had nothing to add to his report.

Environment

No action to report

Roads & Pavements

Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEPs) 2016/17

Following discussions with SW Roads, BA proposed that the two projects to be taken forward are:

- **Campbell Park** A new path from Woodfield Avenue to Campbell Park Play Park
- **Woodhall Road** Upgrade pavements between Campbell Park Drive & Woodfield Avenue on both sides of the road.

Seconded: LO and carried.

AOCB

The Chair pointed out that there had been a useful business meeting on Thursday 7th April 2016.

GN suggested members consider items for the budget for 2016/17 for discussion at the next meeting and that in light of three-yearly CC elections the AGM might be better changed to a November date. The Secretary is to seek advice from the Community Council Liaison Officer.

Public Questions

None

Date of next meetings: Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club

TM tendered his apologies for the next meeting

The meeting closed at 8:27 pm and the Chair thanked the Bowling Club for use of the hall.

Reports are available on the website and in the folder in the Library.

25 April 2016

Chair's Annual Report 2015-16

It is always a challenge to start a new organisation and make it effective. That was the strategic objective facing the eleven new community councillors (including two nominated by local organisations) who attended the inaugural meeting in February 2015. Office bearers were promptly elected and I found myself as Chair of the 44th community council in Edinburgh.

While some of the *modus operandi* is specified in the Act and the City of Edinburgh Council's Scheme for community councils defines public meeting schedules, remits for office bearers and the duties and conduct of individual community councillors, much is rightly delegated to each community council to determine. For now, however, we adopted the model constitution.

An early requirement was liaison with Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) which had been performing some of the roles of a community council before our existence. This was sorted out quickly with all democratic representative roles transferring naturally to the Community Council and the CAA focusing on local amenity issues of interest to its membership and executive committee. These changes were clarified by the appearance of two articles in Colinton Magazine, one written by the CAA Chair and one by myself.

It seemed to me that it was right to set up specialist sub-groups of councillors to focus on key areas of Colinton Community Council's activities. We defined these as: Planning, Environment, Roads & Pathways, Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety and the particularly important area of Communications with our local residents. Remarkably, we found that we had a lot of skills and experience appropriate to these specialist areas and so allocations were agreed quickly.

The lead councillor of each sub-group was tasked with reporting regularly to public meetings so that the whole Community Council was kept informed and could make any substantive decisions that were required: otherwise, each sub-group was given sufficient delegated authority to make positive progress. We also held ad-hoc informal business meetings in private to discuss some issues at more length prior to their appearance on a public meeting agenda.

I believe this sub-group system has worked very well and so the annual reports are presented in the same way, allowing each group to report on their own progress.

There have been some really significant local issues in Colinton to deal with over the past year. The 8 Bridge Road planning proposal to double the retail area of the present premises in preparation for a Co-op was hugely controversial and came at a time when the whole future of Colinton Village was thrown into uncertainty with the closure of the Royal Bank. Your Community Council was effective in co-operation with CAA and the three local City Councillors in gaining a full hearing at the Planning Sub-Committee and persuading it to reject the proposal. However, the Reporter reversed this decision after appeal and found in favour of the developer.

This major local issue and others highlighted the need for effective consultation with residents. With the assistance of our Secretary, we quickly set up a web site and launched a survey which showed how difficult it is to gauge the view of such a large community (approx 7,600 people). We picked up some local views in favour of the Co-op in a small sample which indicated that there might be a significant number of local people who thought differently from the apparent vocal majority at our first meeting. So right away, we were improving local democracy.

As you will see from the Communications Group's report, we put a lot of effort into publicising our existence and encouraging attendance at our meetings including maximal use of our local library's facilities and one full mail drop which took up a very large proportion of our limited budget.

Another major issue was the SLGBC's proposal to divide Colinton at the Water of Leith between two different wards before the 2017 Edinburgh Council elections. So Colinton Parish Church and

cemetery would be in a different ward from Spylaw Park! We have yet to see whether our energetic challenge to this proposed splitting of our community will have been successful.

The Traffic, Roads and Pathways Group (TRAPS) has been very busy with many issues including the new pavements in Bridge Road and Redford Road together with the improvements to road, pavements and railings adjacent to the main traffic lights at the end of Woodhall Road. Efforts are ongoing to improve safety by changing yellow line restrictions in a number of locations. New NEP proposals in 2016 include a path across Campbell Park and pavement improvements also in the west of Colinton. Please see the full TRAPS report for more information.

Environment has been involved with drainage issues and problems with waste collection after a change to in-house operation to name but two of the items in this group's work during the year. On Health, we are about to host a Health Fair on behalf of the Pentlands Community Partnership. Community Safety have helped businesses recover from break-ins and worked with the Police on this and other matters including domestic burglaries in the last fifteen months. Please see the detailed reports on these issues.

We co-opted two community councillors during the year: Catherine Lang, who was our Health lead until her resignation in January and Sarah Stone who is an ideal spokesperson for the large Army community within Colinton based at Dreghorn and Redford Barracks. Indeed, we recently formed an Army Liaison Group, starting with a high level meeting at Edinburgh Castle with the Garrison Commander. We will follow through on this in future months.

Finally, we conducted a feasibility study into the idea of decorating the walls of the historic railway tunnel on the north bank of the river. Please see the report on this exciting artistic endeavour.

I wish to thank everyone associated with Colinton Community Council, fellow office bearers and members for the excellent team effort we have put into the first year of this new organisation for the benefit of Colinton residents. From here, I feel confident we will go from strength to strength.

Dr David Houston
Chair

Secretary's Report

Since inception on 17th February 2015 Colinton Community Council has held 12 meetings in public and 5 separate business meetings at which decisions on procedure and organisation and other matters relevant to the operation of the Community Council were discussed. Attendance by Community Councillors at public meetings has been very high. (see table below) but during the year we lost a co-opted member due to personal reasons and the representative for Colinton Amenity Association stepped down on 13th October 2015. Sarah Stone was co-opted for only few meetings as a representative of the Army community before relocating away from Edinburgh.

Dr David Houston (Chair)	12/12	Alastair Murray	11/12
Tom McDonald (Vice Chair)	12/12	Bill Alexander	11/12
David Bewsey (Secretary)	12/12	Colin Proctor	8/12
Gordon Neill (Treasurer)	11/12	Lorraine O'Shea (CVE nominated)	11/12
Nigel Rudd	11/12	Catherine Lang	6/12
Mike Scott	12/12	Sarah Stone	2/12

For my part I have carried out my duties to the best of my ability and, in addition, I was elected to the post of Secretary to the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC), the body which represents all community councils on the Edinburgh Partnership. Involvement in EACC means Colinton is able, with other member community councils, to have a voice on the Edinburgh

Partnership and gain from other community councils with more experience so that common issues might be resolved.

As mentioned in the Communications report, the website is a source of information about events and matters affecting Colinton, but our meetings fail to draw many attendees unless there is a controversial issue such as a planning application which is unpopular with a small minority of the Colinton population. We then have up to 75 attendees as at our first meeting but this has dwindled away to only a few. This is an area we need to address and perhaps with community council elections and the return of Art in the Park, at which we shall have a presence, we may be able to attract more. Our grateful thanks are due to Colinton Bowling Club for the use of their facilities. Meetings are always followed by an opportunity to enjoy a refreshment and casual conversation with Community Councillors on subjects which some may not wish to discuss in open forum. As Community Councillors we are always open to listen to residents' concerns or suggestions.

In September there will be Triennial Community Council Elections for all community councils in Edinburgh. As Colinton has been in place for more than eighteen months we are required to take part and engage with the community to seek nominations to fill the twelve places available and also seek other constituted bodies in the area to come forward to be "Nominated bodies" for which there are six places.

Nomination dates for the election process have not yet been confirmed, but should be as follows: **2nd - 23rd Sept 2016** (for nominated groups), **5th – 26th Sept 2016**, for community councillors. If more than the required number of nominations is received, personal statements will be required by 6th October and a poll will take place on 27th October 2016.

Community Councils may meet either until results are declared or they fail to receive the minimum number of nominations required to form a community council and it fails.

Proposed meeting dates in 2016: 14th Jun, 9th Aug, 13th Sept, 11th Oct, 8th Nov, & 13th Dec.
On either the date in October or November, there will be an election of Office Bearers

David Bewsey
Secretary

Treasurers Report

Due to Community Council only existing for six weeks in the year 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, and our funding was not received until September 2015, I have accounted for all expenses incurred during that period on 1st April 2015. Consequently this year's accounts are from inception to 31st March 2016. I have adopted a policy of writing off all capital expenditure less than £100 at date of purchase

Our income for the period was £1048.29 comprising £670.88 being the grant from CEC for the financial year 2015 -2016, £77.41 being the CEC grant for the 6 weeks of the previous financial year, and £300 from the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel that was ring-fenced for a leafleting campaign.

Our expenses totalled £939.69 leaving a reserve of £108.60. The expenses break down approximately as follows:

Administration	5%
Insurances	6%
One off set up costs	54%
Leafleting campaign	32%
Colinton CC Activities	3%

I would hope that over the years to come a reserve of £300 - £400 could be set aside to allow the Community Council to leaflet all the residents at short notice should the need arise.

I was also a member of the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel which allocates funds for community activities. There were four applications from within the boundaries of Colinton Community Council, three of which were funded in full, and one of which was funded in part. The awards were as follows:

1. Colinton Amenity Association £2000 for the finger post signs in the village
2. Colinton Bowling Club <£3000 for equipment to engage local children.*
3. Colinton Community Council £300 for a leafleting campaign
4. Colinton Village Events £2000 for the Reindeer Parade.

* From memory the award was greater than £2950, however as the minutes for that meeting have yet to be distributed I cannot confirm the exact amount.

Gordon Neill
Treasurer

Communications Report

It is a little over one year since Colinton Community Council was formed, with virtually no publicity that a petition had been moved to create the new body. Colinton's community was accustomed to the Colinton Amenity Association having acted as a quasi-Community Council for many years and many people will not appreciate the change.

Much has changed in a year. An active communications campaign has been pursued, using the twin approaches of media advertising and electronic communications, which we know to be the envy of many other Community Councils.

Our media presence has been built around the now-familiar pictures with captions, utilising local pictures with short messages. The main themes have been to build awareness of our web site and social media activity, so encourage residents to sign up for electronic newsletters and to tell us what they think about key issues facing our community. Publication has been in the Dell Directory, the Colinton News, the 702 Gazette/South West Edinburgh magazine. The pictures have also been presented on plasma screens in Colinton Library and Colinton Medical Practice. Additionally, articles have been published in The Edinburgh Evening News, the Currie and Balerno News, the Pentland Digest and elsewhere.

We carried out an effective leafleting operation in 2015, in which every household in Colinton received a leaflet seeking their involvement with the Council, particularly in the context of the planning matters that were active at the time.

Electronic communications have been a further success story. Our web site was created quickly, thanks to David Bewsey, and has developed steadily. Initial planning issues in the village drew many visitors to the site and enabled us to quickly build a modest mailing list, which has continued to grow over the year. Facebook and Twitter feeds have been added. A monthly e-newsletter is published. The website now has self-help links for residents, such as the "report it" sections, which allow for the direct reporting of roads problems, etc. Throughout the website are links to the "tell us what you think" campaign", enabling residents to make narrative comments for action by Councillors. A message box and pre-printed slips are in the Library for those without internet access, who now also have the opportunity to request that Council papers are mailed to them on a monthly basis.

Website visits and social media statistics vary monthly, peaking when controversial issues (planning, electoral boundary reform, etc.) exist and dropping at other times.

We now have over 220 residents on our emailing list. From one viewpoint that is a good result in our first year. Alternatively, given that Colinton has an adult population of some 5,500, it means that we currently communicate with only 4% of residents but don't know what the remaining 96% of residents like or dislike, want or do not want. We must continue to broaden our base and market penetration.

Some other approaches have recently been launched in collaboration with other Pentlands Community Councils. The aim is to link with established activities to demonstrate that our Community Council is delivering tangible benefits to the community. The first of these is the electoral Hustings at Juniper Green Parish Church in May. The Pentlands Book Festival, successfully established in 2015 will, through our involvement, extend into Colinton in 2016.

Looking forward, we have plans to use "pop-up" stalls to boost awareness, but need to find finance for banners, etc. We intend a further leafleting campaign. We are also developing a "welcome" leaflet for Army families and new residents, aiming to encourage them to support local businesses and involve themselves with the Community Council. Again, funding is required to allow printing and distribution to happen. Comprehensive market research is a further option under consideration, but may well mitigate against it.

The railway tunnel (Easter Hailes Gate) art project scoping report has been presented to Councillors and recommends that the project should proceed. A wide range of stakeholders expressed support for the refreshment and re-interpretation of existing murals in a contemporary street art context. Our basic proposals would deliver the biggest such project in Scotland, which has the potential to significantly increase visitor numbers and deliver real economic benefit to our community. Extended proposals could see a visitor centre, cafe and shop being established as a social enterprise close to the tunnel. Senior CEC Officers have also supported our view that the social benefits would include enhanced safety for tunnel users, and that street art projects such as this are a powerful disincentive to casual graffiti and "taggers". We believe that the project will be able to attract funding and that we have identified a potentially excellent organisation to deliver and manage it.

Much has been achieved in our first year, but much more remains to be done to create an awareness of Colinton Community Council as an active organisation which represents residents effectively and delivers positive outcomes for our community.

Mike Scott
Communications Convenor

Railway Tunnel Art Project



A wide range of stakeholders have expressed support for the refreshment and re-interpretation of existing murals, combining traditional and modern approaches into a street art context. Newly developed images would reflect the history of the Balerno Branch Line, the unique rolling stock, the mills along the Water of Leith and the growth of Colinton; whilst creating the opportunity for invited artists to create a range of stunning contemporary images.

Following extensive historical research and consultation, the study group's conclusions were that the project, as proposed, can be carried out successfully, that to pursue the project is an appropriate activity for Colinton Community Council, and that it would provide a range of benefits including community safety, community engagement, community involvement, reduction of anti-social behaviour and "tagging", and encouragement of visitors; which would aid Colinton's ailing economy.

We concluded that the project would be able to attract funding and that we had identified a potential delivery partner. Colin Proctor has agreed to join the project team of Mike Scott and Alastair Murray for the next phase of work. We therefore invite Colinton Community Council to agree to taking the project forward, to a project plan and an engagement plan being developed, and to funding applications being developed.

Mike Scott
Communications Convenor

CRIME AND SAFETY

SINCE the inaugural meeting of the Colinton Community Council, perhaps the most pressing issue facing residents has been the number of house breakings in the area.

A substantial Police Scotland operation across the Capital, Operation RAC, has been dedicated to crack down on this epidemic and the allied theft of cars, often to carry out other crimes.

There have been peaks and troughs in offences but officers continue to keep pressure on offenders, many of whom are known to them. A significant number of arrests were made.

One tangible result in the village was the eventual granting of planning permission to install a security gate at Colinton Hair Design in Bridge Road. This allowed Jennifer Fleming to protect her business after a series of break-ins. A word of thanks is due to Councillor Elaine Aitken for her help in pursuing the matter on Ms Fleming's behalf after an approach from the Community Council.

There have been no reports of hate crimes and serious assaults.

According to Inspector Liz Duthie, after talking to local residents, officers have been told that people's greatest concerns are drugs and anti-social behaviour, the fear of homes being broken into and dangerous driving and parking.

I have also been in contact with PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris after reports reached me of a couple exercising up to five Huskies in the playground area of Spylaw Park on or around April 12.

On receiving reports of safety concerns, I contacted the Royal Bank of Scotland about the failed lighting above the ATM at the former Colinton branch.

Michael Todd, manager of the RBS branch, at Juniper Green, was really helpful and promised to contact the bank's ATM team to instigate action, even though he has no direct responsibility for the Colinton cash machine.

At 6.00pm on the day we met, he contacted me to report that the request for repairs was in the pipeline and the work was expected to be complete within seven working days.

I was also lead on the Army Liaison Group, which had a fruitful initial meeting in January along with Sarah Stone and Bill Alexander. There were good ideas for a closer relationship with the military and have high hopes, mainly due to Sarah's contacts within both barracks.

However, pressure of my other role in the Communications group work on the Easter Gate Tunnel means that I have had to step back from this role.

Alastair Murray,
Safety Group Lead

Environment Report

This is the first annual report of the Environment Group.

The work of the group has involved:

- Supporting local groups and individuals in their dealing with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) in pursuance of remedy of environmental problems.
- Liaison with the CEC and other Community Councils through attendance at various meetings.
- Dealing with environmental reports from the public, determining which CEC department is most appropriate to deal with these matters.
- Attendance at regular village walkabouts with CEC, ColintonCC Transport group and Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) members.

Examples of public support

Woodfield Park Flooding – Colinton CC was approached by Woodfield Park Residents to support them in their discussions with CEC in respect of surface water flooding of properties in the south east of the development.

In recent years there had been puddling on Woodhall Road which Woodfield Park residents had drawn to the attention of CEC. CEC inspected and cleared the gullies but the consequence of this was to discharge more water onto Woodfield Park property causing flooding. CEC engaged contractors to investigate two culverts under the Woodfield Park land. The inspection has been carried out and one culvert opened up, easing the problem. The contractors have yet to report on their findings so it remains to be seen how unblocking the second culvert will be achieved and whose responsibility this is.

Bonaly Grove Residents – Bonaly School Extractor Fans – Bonaly Grove residents approached Colinton CC to ask for assistance in resolving a problem they were having with noisy extractor fans in the neighbouring primary school. This had been an intermitted problem over an extended period and the residents advised they had approached the school on a number of occasions but there had been no resolution to the problem. They asked Colinton CC to intercede on their behalf.

The Environment Group approached the contractor with responsibility for management and maintenance of the school but found it impossible to contact the contractor's officer. Eventually Colinton CC approached CEC and a CEC officer investigated the problem. The problem was that the fan was on an automatic timer to ensure there was no overnight disturbance of neighbours but this had been overridden and the fan not turned off at the end of the day.

CEC have undertaken to ensure the problem does not recur by setting out new guidance and responsibilities for ensuring the fan is off at the end of each day. CEC have also provided contact details of one of their staff with responsibility for turning off the fan should it happen again.

Colinton CC have advised CEC that baffling the extractor such that the noise is directed away from neighbours would be the best solution but it appears this is not possible.

Walkabouts

Group members have taken part in a number of walkabouts over the year discussing matters such as litter bin locations, railings replacement, burn blockages and artwork location proposals from Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT).

A number of the items discussed have been implemented or have been the subject of feasibility assessments to determine whether there is funding available to effect changes.

The CCCT project to install panels depicting the history of Colinton along Woodhall Road, which has been stalled for some time over safety issues, has recently been given a boost as consultants have reported the safety concerns are unjustified and the project can be achieved without a significant engineering upgrade.

Greenspaces

Monitoring of our woodlands, trees and open spaces is key to maintaining Colinton as a pleasant place to live and visit.

The management plan for Dreghorn Woods is progressing well and entering its third year. This will be a great asset as a consequence of the Section 75 agreement between Miller Homes and CEC. A few years ago nearby Redford Woods received a substantial boost after a management plan financed by the Cairdean Care Home development and the Neighbourhood Environment Programme saw this woodland substantially upgraded. The woodland is now a much improved area to walk since the upgrading of pathways. Colinton CC intends to seek funds to keep up this level of maintenance in future years. Similarly the Green Flag status of Spylaw Park is being maintained by a substantial budget and something we all need to appreciate. It is hoped that improvements to Campbell Park will bring all our green spaces to a very high level for the enjoyment of all.

Nigel Rudd
Environment Convenor

Planning Report

Our existence came into being just after a major planning application for the village. The extension to 6-8 Bridge Road met with considerable resistance by many residents and despite our carefully presented objections and presentation to the Planning authority resulting in a rejection of the application. However, on appeal the Government Reporter found in favour of the applicant. Other applications have not been as contentious. Development of 20 flats at Woodhall Catteries was rejected on appeal to the Scottish Government and the application for a house on Torduff Road has now been withdrawn. We await the decision on the application for a green burial ground on Torduff Road which requires examination of ground water seepage tests.

The majority of planning applications are for minor domestic alterations which in general fall into the category of permitted development.

David Bewsey, *on behalf of*
Tom McDonald, Planning Convenor

Roads & Transport Report

Introduction

At the beginning of the Roads Subgroup's first year we were faced with several channels for reporting defective or substandard amenities, and a variety of outstanding works of differing urgency and severity. In the past this often resulted in work being overlooked, duplication or abortive planning. The task was to deal quickly with those issues which could be handled by "Clarence" and the CEC interactive web reporting facility and following them up to conclusion. Thus allowing us to concentrate upon issues needing a further case made for them being given attention.

Neighbourhood Environment Project (NEP)

In March last year, as the CCC was in the process of being constituted, requests came from South West Area Neighbourhood Office (SWNO) for bids on the NEPs.

"NEPs are designed to get residents involved in making decisions for local environmental improvements, allowing local people to have a say on how Council budgets are spent.

There are two types of NEPs: one for improvements to local roads and footpaths; and the other for improvements to areas of council housing. In both, the local community plays a significant role in deciding where this money is spent."

In the short time allocated for submission we selected 2 proposals from a short list drawn from the community and the combined knowledge of the recently appointed community councillors.

These projects were:

1. Resurfacing the west side footway on Redford Road at and around Woodthorpe residential development and in the vicinity of the large trees where roots were damaging the surface.
2. Continuing the work replacing the paving on Bridge Road footway from Pharmacy (Cuddies Lane) to Spylaw Street, which was an extension of prior year's project.

We were encouraged by the SWNO and our local councillor considering both our proposals worthy of support and in turn they were adopted. The work is now complete, and the removal of uneven and loose paving and tarmac will give confidence, we are sure, to those dependant on footway access to and within the village.

A similar method was adopted for the NEP's submissions for 2016/17, and these are as follows and we await the outcome of the assessments:

1. Footway repairs to Woodhall Road, from Woodhall Avenue to just beyond Campbell Park Drive on the north side and from Torphin Road to the residences just beyond Woodhall Grove on the south side.
2. To provide a footway in Campbell Park, from residential access points to the play area at the far end of the park via the pavilion. A possible extension to southwest corner exit to the underpass, to allow easy access to and from The Pentlands/Water of Leith.

Bearing in mind the current financial restraints imposed on the CEC, we hope at least one of these proposals will merit use of the NEP funding available for 2016/7.

Routine Roads/Footways Care

The lists of works referred to earlier were not segregated, coordinated, prioritised or indeed still outstanding. We catalogued these and prioritised them for attention, referring most to "Clarence" (A CEC email and phone reporting service) and the CEC's web based reporting service. (<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report> which runs in parallel with "Clarence").

The “Walk About” is a forum driven by the SWNO to increase community engagement in improvement, general repair and maintenance work of amenities in the ward. It is held regularly throughout the year, and proved a very useful forum to address the remaining items on our list, The list has now been whittled down to a manageable size, used and added to for attention at the “Walk About” or NEPs where appropriate. We plan to publicise this event more in 2016/7 in order to give all residents the opportunity to raise their issues directly with officials and Community Councillors. When the SWNO issue dates of the “Walk About” we will post them on the CCC website. All residents are at liberty to attend the Walk About” or email the CCC at roads@colintoncc.org.uk in good time, with details of their issue, which will be raised with others at that time.

During the year several issues were taken forward with the SWNO including, but not exclusively:

1. Yellow lines at the junction of St Cuthbert’ Court and Colinton Road. (TRO Issued)
2. Yellow lines from 1. to Rustic Cottages bus stop to avoid congestion. (Notice pending)
3. Woodfield Park roads and pavements (Requires capital expenditure to complete)
4. Remedial work to the surface of Colinton/Woodhall Road traffic lights where the surface was breaking up. (Incorporated in the Capital program now complete)
5. White lines on Gillespie Road to improve safety at bends. (On SWNO/CEC program)
6. Yellow lines reassessed on the south side of Bridge Road. (On SWNO/CEC program)
7. Safety issue at bend on Woodhall Road after Barnshot Road outbound. (In progress)
8. Safety and logistics issue at Bus Stop, Bridge Road inbound. (In progress)
9. Yellow Box Junction Thorburn Road/Colinton Road to be repainted. (In progress)
10. Bus Stop (Dentist), south side Bridge Road, upgraded bollards and resurface needed. (In progress with SWNO from last “Walk About”).
11. Campbell Park poor access to play area. (See NEPs)
12. Issues raised by residents using the footways around junction of Torphin Road and Woodhall Road. (See NEPs)
13. Numerous Reports through “Clarence” and CEC’s web based reporting system which we hope helped with continuous improvement of the systems.

General

During the year we visited the Clarence Support Centre in Market Street where we obtained a better insight into that operation. We identified some small issues common to the “Clarence” and the web based reporting system and will work with all those directly involved, including other community councils, to improve the current position. This is important if we are to encourage more use by residents of these facilities along with timeous and satisfactory outcomes.

We need constructive input from the residents of Colinton if we are to ensure we fulfil our role in securing the best deal for our community and its amenities.

Bill Alexander
Roads Convener Colinton CC



Accounts for the year to 31 March 2016

Balance Sheet

	2016
	£
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash at bank	133.40
	<u>133.40</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Uncleared cheques	24.80
	<u>24.80</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	108.60
	<u>108.60</u>
Represented by:	
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	<u>108.60</u>

Signed: Date:

(Treasurer) (Chairperson)

Auditor's Report

I have examined the above statement of accounts of Colinton Community Council for the year ended 31st March 2016. I certify that these statements reflect the income and expenditure of Colinton Community Council for the year ended 31st March 2016 and are in accordance with the books and records of the Treasurer.

Signed: Date:

George Middlemiss BSc DipAcc CA
(Auditor)



Accounts for the year to 31 March 2016

Income & Expenditure Account

	2016
	£
INCOME	
Administration Grant	748.29
Pentland Funding Panel	300.00
	<u>1,048.29</u>
EXPENDITURE	
Communication	757.18
Equipment	52.47
Insurances	60.00
Stationery	45.24
Sustenance	8.20
Travel	16.60
	<u>939.69</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	108.60
SURPLUS BROUGHT FORWARD	-
SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>108.60</u>