



Public Meeting – 7:30 pm - 13th September 2016

Venue: Colinton Bowling Club

Agenda

Item	Time	Subject
1.	7:30	Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest
2.	7.32	Police Report
3.	7:45	Minutes of the meeting held on 14 th June 2016
4.	7:55	Matters arising from the June minutes
5.	8:05	Sub-group reports & matters arising
6.	8:15	Community Council Elections
7.	8:25	Art in the Park – event follow-up and feedback
8.	8:35	A.O.C.B. to be notified to the Secy. prior to the meeting
9.	8:40	Questions from the Public
	8:45	Close

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

Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Bill Alexander, Colin Proctor, Alastair Murray, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), PC Ali Murdoch & 22 members of the public.

Apologies: Dr David Houston (Chair), Cllr Jason Rust, Cllr Richard Lewis, Cllr Elaine Aitken, Sarah Stone, Gordon Macdonald MSP, Joanna Cherry QC MP, & Major Alex Price (3 RIFLES).

Welcome by the Chair

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the meeting that Dr Houston was attending the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting and would join us later. He went on to ask for a minute's silence for the victims of the Orlando shooting.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Police Report

PC Ali Murdoch outlined the crime related issues during the past month. He reported that there had been three housebreakings in the area, the theft of a car in West Mill Road, vandalism at the former Torphin Golf Clubhouse. There had been one incident of hate crime in Hailes Cres. There was one minor assault on 24th May and no anti-social behaviour. He went on to say that there would be a Pentland Hills Rural Crime awareness event at Harlaw Visitor Centre on Sat. 18th May at 10 am.

There was a discussion around the request from Insp. Duthie to provide feedback regarding the changes in the balance between Community and Response Policing in the area. It was agreed that the Safety group might respond.

ACTION: AM/GN

Minutes of the meeting of 10th May 2016 (AGM) and matters arising:

BA stated that the Flower shop was not being used for storage by CVE.

The minutes were approved. Proposed: LO, seconded: MS

The Secretary stated that the information on setting up Cold Calling Zones was on the website. He went on to say that, in a response to the Chair's proposal to move the AGM to November, the Community Council Liaison office had discussed this and they had responded saying "it was not within their gift to allow the AGM to be changed". DB went on to state that the arrangements were enshrined in Scottish Government regulations and that the reasoning for the May timing was for the Council to receive reports and accounts which demonstrated that the Community Council was carrying out its duties correctly. It also allowed scrutiny of the accounts in order to make the next year's grant available.

Reports

The Secretary (DB) stated that he attended a meeting of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) at which a Scottish Government Officer had given a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act by and the presentation and other related information was in the EACC Documents section of their website. DB also went on to say he had attended the Edinburgh Civic Forum meeting, run by the Cockburn Association, which primarily dealt with planning matters and that updated Planning Concordat had been discussed. That document is also on the EACC website and is an agreement between developers and Community Councils to liaise with one-another on any local development. Not all CCs have signed up to this Concordat. The EACC recommends that CCs use this to leverage betterment from any large scale (>50 houses) development in their area.

The subject of the NEPs fund (Neighbourhood Environment Programme) was raised. BA said he would be looking at the NEPs bids. DB went on to say that several Colinton projects as well as one from Fairmilehead had been costed and most were likely to be accepted but a final scoring had to be agreed by all CCs in Ward 8. It was noted that the suggestion of a path across Campbell Park had been costed at £40k and couldn't be included as the budget is only £35k. After discussion between DB, NR and the Parks official who thought it was a good idea, it was noted that there weren't any other budgets to access at the time. TM suggested that despite there not being any available Council funds, we should look at alternative methods of funding as this was still a good project to take forward. After a discussion on various options it was agreed to form a group, headed by NR, to look at alternative means. It was also agreed to write to Richard Lewis as Convenor of Culture and Leisure, to see if he had any alternative sources of funding. A suggestion to review the grass cutting regime was also made. **ACTION: DB & NR**

The Secretary mentioned that Woodfield Park had two projects which had been marked highly and are likely to be accepted. This seemed to show the system appeared to work well.

BA mentioned the Walkabout follow-up and he confirmed that the issue with the hole in Spylaw Street was being actively looked at by CEC and Scottish Water is aware of this issue.

Meeting Dates

The Secretary discussed the review of meeting dates and mentioned that there should be a business meeting to discuss Art in the Park at a date to be arranged in August. It had already been agreed to hold a meeting on 13th September at 7:30 pm. DB also intimated that there should have been agreement for a meeting schedule for the coming year at the AGM. It was then decided that future public meetings would be on the second Tuesday in October and November, one of which would be when office bearers would be elected following Community Council elections. Thereafter there would be meetings on the second Tuesday of the month in December, February, March and April. The 2017 AGM would be held Tuesday 9th May 2017. MS asked about the starting time. It was agreed that unless there was to be a particularly heavy Agenda, it would remain at 7:30pm and if an earlier time was required, it would be advertised well in advance.

Publicity for Community Council Elections

The Secretary announced that there would be minimal advertising for the CC elections. It would mostly be done via social media. He went onto explain the election process and nomination dates and the decision process. It was also mentioned that there was a strong move to encourage minority and ethnic group members to seek nomination. A comment was made on promotion of meeting dates on noticeboards and other means. TM suggested that some suggestions for promotion of the elections were needed.

AOCB

No. 18 Bus service: The Secretary announced that First Bus would not re-tender for the No. 18 route. BA announced that there were plans to reduce subsidy for Taxis to hospitals etc. He also mentioned a proposal to strengthen the 18 bus route. The Secretary suggested that we should write to the Councillors/Lothian Buses about the continuing service.

There was a discussion on other matters including:

Art in the Park: Approval to book a stall agreed and payment of £15 made. It was agreed that sufficient members would be needed on the day.

Future of the Village:

TM commented on concerns expressed about the state of village retail centre. LO asked the Secretary if there had been any information from RBS regarding the relocation of the ATM. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had been informed by RBS and Councillor Rust that the ATM was to be reinstated in the new position and it awaited a dedicated BT line to be installed prior to decommissioning of the Bank building, prior to it being auctioned in September or October. It was pointed out from the floor that the Post Office does offer a money service and that it was more flexible than the ATM although only within business hours.

TM asked members of the public about their concerns for the village situation. Pam Wardell (PW) spoke about a small survey she and others had carried out to seek opinion about what could be done to regenerate Colinton Village. She went on to describe a number of ideas that came out of the research she had carried out and what other groups around Scotland had done. She went onto propose that a meeting be held to look at creating a Colinton development trust to raise finance to create a community shop.

TM suggested that the Community Council were in a position to promote and support such a trust and help take matters forward, but it required a core of individuals to start things moving forward. At that point the trust could have a representative on the Community Council.

TM mentioned that there was to be a meeting coming up with the owners of Kilpatrick Property and the Coop to identify what betterment might be achieved out of the situation.

With the close of Convenience Store time was of the essence to restore some services. It was pointed out that the Community Council might not be in a position to have any more information than anyone else. TM suggested that any proposals would be welcome. BA suggested that parking was a major issue within the village. It was suggested that a steering committee be formed to send round a leaflet to the community and that some form of contact

with the landlords of the vacant premises in the village should be attempted. Another suggestion made was to examine what brought people to the village.

Public Comment

Chris Moorey on behalf of residents of the Spylaw area thanked the Community Council for its support in successfully objecting to the recent proposed Local Government Boundary Commission changes.

Date of next planned meeting: Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7:30pm, at Colinton Bowling Club

05 September 2016

DRAFT

Secretary's Report

Discussion at the business meeting of 16th August was mostly around arrangements for the Community Council's presence at Art in the Park which will have passed by the time of the next meeting. The subject of the replacement railings along Woodhall Road was raised at the business meeting and as an action point I contacted CEC SW Roads Manger. As a result of a survey on the safety of the railings, it was suggested that the older style railings were not up to current safety standards. If the project by Colinton Community Conservation Trust's (CCCT) to install panels depicting Colinton's history go ahead, the panels can be mounted directly onto these new railings.

Publicity material pack for the forthcoming Triennial Community Council Elections has been supplied and the pack contains leaflets, brochures and posters. A campaign of social media posts will continue during the nomination period. The Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council has been actively promoting involvement by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans or intersex groups (LGBTI) and the black and minority ethnic (BME) groups.

I continue to act as Secretary to the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and the latest meeting on Saturday 3rd September is in the form of a Q&A session with a senior manager within the Health and Social Care organisation of NHS Lothian. More details will be available in due course. The next meeting after that will be their AGM on Saturday 26th November at which office bearers will be elected from the members nominated by their respective Community Councils

David Bewsey
Secretary

Community Safety Report

At our last meeting, vice-chair Tom McDonald asked me to look into the issue of community policing in our area. The changes seem to be a pan-Scotland plan as I have a son-in-law who is a police constable and he was taken off exclusive community duties to go back onto his station's main roster.

In pursuit of Tom's request, I contacted Inspector Liz Duthie of Police Scotland for her view.

She told me: "We believe that the future changes to the community model will be very positive in terms of enabling a more focused community team, which is better protected from other duties in order to enable them to engage and work within their communities.

"The larger number in response will enable us to more effectively meet our demands. The decisions are being made based on a demand analysis and also feedback from officers, staff and other partners and stakeholders.

"The community shift pattern will be changing in order to enable the community team to meet the needs of their role. As the work continues to develop we will be able to provide further information."

Sergeant Billy Telford is the Community Sergeant for Ward 8 – Colinton and Fairmilehead.

Of course the main talking point in Crime and Safety since we last met was the vicious attack on an elderly man on Redford Road near the Bowling Club.

Two other men – including our Secretary – went to the victim's aid, only to be attacked themselves.

Thankfully, such events are extremely rare in our area. You will be pleased to learn that Edinburgh was recently ranked as the safest city in the UK (YouGov poll 2014).

By the time of our next meeting, I will have attended the latest PNP Crime and Safety Action Group session in the Oxfgangs Neighbourhood Centre. I have mentioned the Redford Road attack as a subject for discussion and feedback.

Alastair Murray
Community Safety Group

Communications Report

Although Community Council meetings have been paused since June, communications work has continued in the background.

Joint work with the other Pentlands Community Councils to bring Colinton into the Pentlands Book Festival has been very successful, with more than eight events planned to take place in Colinton during the week of 21st to 27th November. A particular success is that Colinton Library will host events on the Thursday, when it would normally have been closed. The PBF16 programme has now been launched at www.pentlandsbookfestival.org and a wide range of local publicity is planned. Membership of the organising committee has required a large time commitment but is believed to have benefited our community.

Routine communications activity continues as usual, using our customary mix of print media (Dell Directory, Edinburgh SouthWest Magazine (formerly 702 Gazette)) and, where available, plasma screens (currently Colinton Library and Colinton Surgery). No messages have been received via the box in Colinton Library, but staff continue to check on our behalf.

The main thrust has been in preparation for our presence at Art in the Park (AiTP). Proposals to purchase banners and promotional media to support our stall and subsequent "pop-up" events, which required approval, have now been progressed.

We now have a generic vertical banner, which will be useful for a range of functions and as a backdrop at meetings. We have two large horizontal banners promoting CCC meetings, to be attached to the railings in advance of each meeting. A full colour A5 brochure has been designed and printed, describing the functions of CCC and seeking involvement. It will also serve as an introduction to our work for military families and families moving to Colinton.

Two small slips were prepared for AiTP, one asking residents to sign up for electronic newsletters and to consent to being consulted on key issues; the other sticking with our "Tell us what you think ..." theme and seeking to elicit opinions on key village issues. By the time of the September meeting we will be able to report on the outcomes from AiTP.

The art project team continues to develop links with potential funders and related agencies, having met with Creative Scotland and a number of other potential supporters whilst developing the proposal to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the closure of the Balerno Branch Line of the Caledonian Railway, which took place in December 1967.

Colinton Parish Church, whilst not wishing to be represented on CCC, has enthusiastically accepted an invitation to publicise its range of community activities via our website. It is anticipated that the Colinton News could also be made available through our website.

Having invested considerable time in the role of Communications Convenor, other matters now demand too much of my time for me to continue in the role. I shall, therefore, be standing down from the role in advance of the forthcoming Community Council elections. I thank colleagues on the sub-group for the contributions that they have made to increasing residents' awareness of our Community Council.

Mike Scott
Communications Convenor

Environment Report

Long Grass in Campbell Park

Colinton CC received complaints from users of Campbell Park that the grass outside the boundary of the cricket field was too long to walk through comfortably. Colinton CC approached City of Edinburgh Council Parks to discuss the matter but holidays and workloads have militated against arranging a meeting. In the meanwhile, CEC have cut the grass.

It was reported earlier in the year that CEC was reducing the frequency of grass cutting in parks to save money and to promote biodiversity. A meeting with CEC to discuss this matter will be arranged such that we can advise residents of the proposals for 2017 and give the Community Council an opportunity to discuss and comment on the possible effects. Any feedback from the community that we could take to the meeting would be appreciated.

Advising proprietors of 7 Allermuir Road in respect of a High Hedges complaint from a neighbour

The Environment Group met with the owners of the 7 Allermuir Road to discuss the issue of trees adjacent to their boundary and their attenuation of sunlight to the property to the east.

Nigel Rudd inspected the garden and noted the plant along the boundary. He advised that under the terms of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013 it seemed the planting did not represent a hedge as it was never planted as a hedge. Mr Rudd referred the matter to City of Edinburgh Council for consideration. The Council officers advised they could not formally comment on individual sites but agreed with the interpretation that the Act does not apply to this situation because this is not a hedge, as defined in the Act.

Mr Rudd has advised the proprietors of 7 Allermuir Road of confirmation of the interpretation and pointed out that the neighbours are entitled to cut back branches that overhang their property and then give the cuttings to the proprietors for disposal. The neighbours have no right to reduce the height of the trees.

Mr Rudd also pointed out that the property is within the Colinton Conservation Area and, as such, trees within gardens are protected by a TPO (Tree Preservation Order).

Note: The above illustrates a recurring problem with trees in established residential areas. Most residents of areas like Colinton are attracted to the location because of the tree-covered character. Occasionally, someone asks for trees to be removed or severely cut back. Situations such as these have to be dealt with correctly otherwise there is the possibility of a major change in character of the area. It is the role of Colinton CC to advise in these situations to help avoid serious disputes between neighbours.

Proximity of Trees to buildings - West Mill Road

Our advice has again been sought in respect of the proximity of trees growing on the north bank of the Water of Leith to terraced properties at the west end of West Mill Road. Mature trees dominate the buildings and should they fail there is potential for damage to the residential property.

Colinton CC is consulting Parks and Green Spaces on the matter.

Litter and Dog Poo Bins around Dreghorn Woods

There have been several approaches to Colinton CC regarding placement of Dog Poo Bins close to and within Dreghorn Woods. We are aware from correspondence with CEC that due a reduction in staff a number of bins have had to be removed, notably one in Redford Wood. There may be some benefit from a discussion with the relevant department in order to examine if their schedule for collection might be extended to allow a less frequent service but a greater coverage.

Open Space Strategy

Last but by no means least.

The Council is updating Edinburgh’s Open Space Strategy. The Strategy explains how the Council protects and cares for existing green spaces. It also sets out where new open space should be provided as the city grows. Well managed and connected green spaces are important for health and wellbeing, urban wildlife and supporting investment in the economy.

The Council is now seeking views on the suggested way forward for different types of green space across the city, including:

- Parks;
- Play Areas;
- Residential green space;
- Allotments and Community Gardens;
- Cemeteries and Burial Grounds;
- Playing Fields; and
- The Green Network.

There will be a link on the website to go to this item.

Nigel Rudd
Environment Convenor