

# **FAIRMILEHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday 6 September 2005, in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls, 1 Frogston Road West, Edinburgh

## **1. Attendance and Apologies**

Present: Dennis Williams, Chair; Louise Maguire, Vice Chair; Sheena Robertson, Secretary; Alison Elfick, Treasurer; PC Graham Harvey; Cllr Mrs Elaine Aitken; Norman Tinlin; Daphne Sleight; Jennifer Munro; C/JG Whytock and ten residents. Part-time: Tom Clark, Jim Grieve and Caroline Burwell (City Development Department, City of Edinburgh Council)

Apologies: Bruce Beveridge; Joyce Beveridge; Sheila Bulmer; Norman Mackenzie; Richard Hinton; Brian Wilson; Johanna Carrie; Cllr Andrew Scobbie; Cllr Jason Rust; Nigel Griffiths MP; David McLetchie MSP.

## **2. Reports from Community Beat Officer, PC Graham Harvey.**

PC Harvey gave a summary of the incidents reported during August. Details can be seen on the monthly "A Division" Community and Neighbourhood Watch News on the website ([www.fairmileheadcc.org](http://www.fairmileheadcc.org)) Crime was down on the previous month and many incidents had been resolved. He informed residents of the police YAT (Youth Action Team) which will operate in the Pentlands Wards. Six dedicated officers, based in Balerno, are available to respond to youth-related incidents, such as under-age drinking, curfew offences and ASBOs. He said that in light of the problems experienced on Braid Hills Road last year during the Festival Fireworks additional officers had been on duty and there were no incidents, although the usual amount of alcohol had been confiscated.

Mr Whytock asked what protection was given to bus drivers when school children travelled on the buses in the afternoon. PC Harvey said he would check and report back at the next meeting.

PC Harvey spoke about Halloween last year when the police visited shopkeepers in Ward 52 to ask them not to sell eggs to youths. This initiative had reduced the number of incidents and he said that Inspector Grant had submitted a report to Police Headquarters proposing that all areas of the city should be included this year.

## **3. 20 mph Zone around Buckstone School**

Dennis Williams introduced Jim Grieve, Tom Black and Caroline Burwell from the City of Edinburgh Council, City Development Department. They had been invited to attend the meeting to clarify the proposals for traffic calming measures in the Buckstone Estate. The plans had been displayed in the School in June.

Jim Grieve answered questions about the mandatory 20 mph zone at Buckstone School which will be introduced in the Buckstone area, using funding provided by the Scottish Executive.

Norman Tinlin referred to statistics relating to speed surveys in Buckstone Estate, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and questioned the validity of one "snapshot". Residents expressed concerns and asked questions about many aspects of the proposed plans, these included:

- 1) anticipated difficulties of driving vehicles up Buckstone Crescent, in snow and ice conditions in winter.
- 2) snow ploughs being able to clear the roads for vehicles transporting disabled persons;
- 3) using only one "snapshot" speed survey;
- 4) the comparative costs of installing the speed reducing "humps" or "cushions";
- 5) the need for maintenance on roads which were already covered in potholes;
- 6) positioning of speed humps in cul-de-sacs
- 7) overall cost of installing speed reduction measures.

The general feeling of the meeting was that while speed reduction measures were acceptable in the vicinity of the school, the proposals, which cover the whole of the Buckstone Estate, were considered to be excessive.

Residents urged the Officers to "have some common sense" and it was agreed that the proposals for cul-de-sacs would be looked at again.

Tom Clark provided information and a drawing of two options for a pedestrian crossing on Comiston Road, A702. Surveys had been conducted to measure the foot traffic at three points: 1) Buckstone Gardens; 2) Buckstone Road and 3) Buckstone Avenue. Using a standard formula Officers had concluded that Buckstone Gardens was Priority 3 in the City and said that funding could be available in the next financial year. The drawings were left for residents to examine. Louise Maguire asked if the traffic lights could be co-ordinated to control the flow of traffic during the morning and evening "rush hours".

The Chairman thanked the Officers for coming along and answering the resident's questions.

#### **4. Minute Of The Meeting Held On 6 June 2005 And Matters Arising.**

The secretary informed the meeting that there had been an amendment to the Minute in Section 5. The Minute, having been circulated, and amended, was accepted as a correct record, proposed by Norman Tinlin, seconded by Alison Elfick and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Correspondence

- 1) CC Liaison and Development Officer, Eileen Hewitt
  - a) Agenda for CC Joint Meeting 20 June
  - b) Information Leaflet on funding available from WREN
- 2) Get up and Go Programme
- 3) Chief Executive's Annual Report
- 4) Community Information Service Bulletin – July 2005
- 5) Colinton Amenity Association Newsletter Summer 2005
- 6) Post Watch Scotland
- 7) Forestry Commission Scotland – consultation papers on-line – Louise Maguire to examine and respond by 16 September on behalf of FCC.
- 8) New website targeting rogue tradesmen
- 9) ASCC Annual subscription due – Treasurer to send cheque for £15
- 10) Planning Aid Scotland Newsletter
- 11) 1FCC letter requesting statutory consultee status for planning application at 106a Biggar Road. Application withdrawn 16 August
- 12) Green Belts consultation draft paper. Louise Maguire to respond by 28 October on behalf of FCC
- 13) Orange Network Newsletter
- 14) 1CC Liaison and Development Officer Eileen Hewitt
- 15)
  - a) Minute of Community Council Joint Meeting held on 20 June with copy of presentation given by Children's and Families Department
  - b) CC Office bearers list
  - c) EACC dates of meetings
- 16) Community Engagement Co-ordinator – Recent changes to Edinburgh Partnership – meeting 28 September.
- 17) Modernising the Planning System – Scottish Executive White Paper – comments due 16 September. Dennis Williams to set up meeting.
- 18) Correspondence from Liberton CC re changes to 11/31 bus route. Cllr Aitken to pursue with Alison Fisher
- 19) Letter from FCC (written by Norman Tinlin, Transport Sub Committee re 20 mph zone in Buckstone estate
- 20) Response from Accessible Transport, City Development
- 21) Letter to CEC with comments on Edinburgh City Local Plan consultation paper
- 22) Key Facts and Figures 2005/2006 the City of Edinburgh Council
- 23) Fly posting complaint Swanston Avenue
- 24) Edinburgh Partnership News
- 25) Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service – Service Improvement Plan, presentation 2 September 2005
- 26) Dates for Pentlands LDC meetings
- 27) Scottish Awards for Planning
- 28) Notice of Meeting and Agenda Pentlands LDC Wednesday 14 September in Sighthill Community Centre

## **6. Councillor's Report**

- a) Councillor Mrs Elaine Aitken reported that the deadline for consultation of the 20 mph zone had been extended to 15 September and she encouraged residents to send in their comments to Accessible Transport, City Development Department.
- b) An information letter will be circulated on the two options which were presented by Tom Clark for a crossing on Comiston Road. Norman Tinlin asked for an A4 size drawing for the Notice Board.
- c) She spoke about the City of Edinburgh Local Plan for new housing developments and said she would report in more detail in due course.
- d) Andrew McBride will bring revised plans for the AIP Scheme at the junction of Pentland View and Comiston Road to the next meeting on 4 October.
- e) She referred to the delay in putting up the street light on the pathway in Winton Wood which is used by school children and said it will be up before the end of the October school break.
- f) She said that the change to the Number 11 bus route, which were due to start on 12 September, was a curtailment of the service and she would take up this issue with Bill Campbell, Operations Director Lothian Buses.
- g) She reported that no progress had been made to re-instate the Number 18 service.
- h) She said she would take up the point raised by Mr Whytock about the safety of bus drivers.

## **7. Planning and Environment Sub Committee**

Nothing further to report

## **8. Transport Sub Committee**

Norman Tinlin referred to the tram which was on show in Princes Street Gardens -without the wires that will be necessary to operate trams.

## **9. AOCB**

Daphne Sleigh informed the meeting that the landscaping/planting work has been completed in Camus Park, but due to the very dry weather the pond has dried up. However, it will fill up during the winter and the plants will attract the wildlife next year. She said the Community Council should monitor the project and suggested that a Friends of Camus Park could be set up, eventually, to protect the area. It was agreed this should be an agenda item at a future meeting and a bulb-planting event could be co-ordinated with the primary schools.

Norman Mackenzie had taken up the offer from Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service to check smoke alarms and he reported that he was very satisfied with the service he had received.

A resident asked for information on how to get the wall at the corner of Buckstone Gardens and Comiston Road repaired. Cllr Aitken said that it was owned by the householders of "old Buckstone" and that she had asked the Planning Department to find out from the title deeds which properties are responsible for the maintenance of the common wall. The Chairman said this issue had been raised previously.

#### **10. Date Of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 October at 7.00 pm in the Caiystane Room, Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls, 1 Frogston Road West, Edinburgh