

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton; Sheena Robertson; Councillor Elaine Aitken; PS Chris Kowalski; Margaret Christie; Ian Elfick; Margaret Imrie; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Audrey Ryan; Fiona Sim; Tom & Jean Strathdee; Margaret Walker; Charles Whytock

**Apologies:** Councillors Eric Barry & Jason Rust, Johanna Carrie; Julie Davies; Jennifer Munro; PC Kenny Welsh

## 1. Police Report

In the absence of PC Welsh due to illness Sergeant Kowalski gave a report on the crime for May. A house in Pentland terrace had been broken into by 2 males kicking in rear door. There were positive lines of enquiry.

There had been 4 thefts. This included 2 theft from motor cars, one in the Cayside area while the other in King Malcolm Close. Flags had been stolen from 3 greens at Lothianburn golf course and a garden bench from Margaret Rose Walk.

A window in Margaret Rose Crescent had been broken and there had been suspicious incidents in Oxfords Road, Buckstone Road and the Fairmile Inn. The Inn was still a source of concern.

A boy had been assaulted by a male of a similar age in Fairmilehead Park. There had been 85 incidents reported during the month.

A female had been arrested for the assault, and 2 other unrelated ones, near to Morrison's.

In response to a question it was stated that the Fairmile Inn was still a cause of concern.

## 2. The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee

Councillor Aitken who was a member of this Committee gave an insight into its work. She also said she was a member of the Culture and Leisure Committee.

After the report in 2002 after the unfortunate death of Caleb Ness, there was a departmental structure review of the Social Work Department and an overhaul of the processes. As a result of this review Children and Families Department was formed incorporating the child aspect of social work and also taking in the Education Department. The adult side of Social Work is now covered in Social Care and there is partnership working with the NHS hence the Health part.

The remit of the health and social care aspect is to protect vulnerable people such as the elderly and those with mental problems. It includes adult social care services (including drugs and alcohol strategy); community health service and health improvement.

There are 4000 employees in the Department with a budget of £203 million. There are 14 care homes run by the Council and the department works in conjunction with the private and voluntary sectors as that is where a lot of the expertise is.

Drug and alcohol addiction and HIV are also included and the department is also responsible for the preparation of court and parole board reports along with other criminal justice responsibilities. A lot of the work of the department is bound by the legal framework.

One of the services is supporting people to stay at home as long as possible. The NHS and support groups are also involved in this drawing up care plans. Respite care is also offered but this is somewhat limited at the present time but it is hoped that in due course this will be expanded.

The largest client group is the elderly which takes 55% of the expenditure; 20% goes on mental disabilities and 10% on physical disabilities while 6.5% is for criminal justice and 5.5% for mental health services. 51% of the services are commissioned from the private and voluntary sectors.

There are also 15,000 people living with disabilities, both physical and mental, and the provision of services to support those people throughout their lives as they move through the transitions in the various stages of their lives is being looked at.

There is also a homeless strategy but because a lack of suitable housing there is a great reliance on the likes of the Salvation Army and Bethany Trust. There is also the problem of trafficking and the influx of persons from Poland and other east European countries.

The shopping service is being looked at where it is hoped to involve supermarkets who already to a delivery service and charges for care homes are also being examined as these differ widely depending on the level of care and support provided and also between the public and private sector.

The housing side of the Committee covers housing and regeneration; anti-social behaviour, home safety and Edinburgh Building Services. There is a policy of replacing kitchen and bathrooms if over 30 years old. This applies to council housing but is beneficial in the long run as the units put in should last at least that length of time.

### **3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 6 May 2008 And Matters Arising.**

The minutes were approved on the motion of Richard Hinton seconded by Bryan Fisher with two small typographical errors amended and the addition of "A donation of £600 from the Buckstone Association" at the end of the first paragraph of item 1 Youth Project. .

Matters Arising:

- a) Parking – Buckstone: The Secretary reported that there was no response yet to the request for yellow lines. However after the last meeting he had reported several areas of the road around manhole covers that required patching and a drain which was dangerous, all in Buckstone Crescent. A couple of days later workmen had attended to put a metal plate over the large hole which had developed at the drain.
- b) Planning Application – The Steadings; Louise Maguire reported that she had submitted objections to this on behalf of FCC following on from the decision at the last meeting.
- c) Edinburgh City Local Plan Public Inquiry – The Secretary reported that he had attended at a preliminary procedural meeting regarding the forthcoming Inquiry which was due to commence late September. He also said that the Council had decided to remove the proposal for housing at the zoo from the plan and the statutory notices would be published shortly. It was decided that the easiest way to make representation would be by written submission.
- d) Edinburgh Airport Resurfacing Leaflet: The Secretary reported that he had made enquiry with BAA who had stated that according to their leaflet distribution company leaflets had been delivered to all houses in Buckstone. BAA was following this up.

#### **4. Correspondence**

- a) Safer Scotland – Leaflets on new Licensing Act (*Copy put on notice board*)
- b) Inside Letting Spring Issue
- c) Planning Aid for Scotland – AGM 7 June 2008 (*Louise Maguire attending*)
- d) Capital Review – Spring Edition
- e) Firhill CC – Invitation to AGM 27 May (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- f) War Memorials Trust – letter re small grants scheme
- g) CEC Services for Communities – Poster re next Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting 18 June (*Put on notice board*)
- h) Pentland Hills Regional Park – Annual Report 2007-08
- i) Edinburgh Partnership – Access to Sport and Culture Conference – 18 June (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- j) CEC Planning Department – Acknowledgement of objections to Steadings application
- k) Games Legacy Team, Scottish Government – Invite to meeting 9 June (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- l) Friends of Hermitage of Braids and Blackford Hill – Forthcoming events
- m) Scottish Gas – Information regarding Scottish Government central heating programme
- n) Friends of Braidburn Valley Park – Poster re Orienteering event 11 June (*Put on notice board*)
- o) CEC Licensing Department – Requests for nominations to Licensing Forum (*Dennis Williams an existing member – Secretary to submit forms nominating the Chair*)

#### **5. Councillors Report**

Councillor Aitken reported as follows: There is a review going on about the gritting in the area and Councillor Barry had requested this be completed as soon as possible and put into operation for the coming winter period. A request had also been made for the siting of grit bins in Pentland Drive to assist with pupils going to the school.

The travel plan for Pentland Primary School was being signed the following Monday.

The fence at the Buckstone field was to be repaired and Scottish water had been granted planning permission for the new treatment plant at Glencorse. They had also applied for planning permission for pipeworks between there and Alnwickhill and Fairmilehead works.

Pentland Parent Council are setting up a group to look at the possibility of play equipment for Fairmilehead Park. The Council has said that there was no possibility of a cul-de-sac sign for Buckstone Howe.

The Hermitage Golf Course was having a family funday in August and had held a meeting to look at ways to develop the facilities.

Councillor Rust and she had put a motion in front of the last Council meeting when it had been agreed that the 18 bus which had been withdrawn on a Sunday be re-instated for 6 months to allow a proper review to be undertaken. This had been agreed by the council but she was unaware as to when it would be re-instated.

The Chair thanked the Councillors and all those who had been involved with the 18 bus campaign.

Questions were raised about the resurfacing of Buckstone Grove; Boroughmuir school; a seat for the bus shelter at Buckstone Terrace/Camus Avenue; dropped kerbs in Oxgangs and Caiystane and lack of acknowledgement regarding a claim for damage caused by speed bumps.

## **6. Other Issues**

- 1 18 Bus – Covered under Councillor's Report
- 2 Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership – Request received for nomination for a member to the funding panel to consider applications on behalf of the partnership. The Secretary was nominated.
- 3 Scottish Government Consultation on Community Council – It was decided that the Secretary would arrange a meeting at the Chairman's house to discuss this and the local consultation on the scheme for Community Councils.
- 4 Engaging with the Community – Some suggestions were surveys, going round houses; meetings in different parts of area; timing of meetings and a newsletter. Members were asked to think about ideas during the summer break.

## **7. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire reported that she had been on a visit to Dalmeny Street Park and that a park survey was going to be undertaken sometime.

The Secretary reported that work had just started on the nursery extension in Braid Road and as a result large piles of materials had been deposited in the road causing restrictions to the road width. No permission had been granted and as a result of a call to the Council the materials had been removed the following day.

## **8. Transport Sub-Committee**

Nothing further to report.

## **9. AOCB**

The Secretary reported that the Scottish Government had announced that small charities, churches and voluntary organisations would continue to be exempt from water charges until 2014. Previously it had been proposed that charges would be levied from next year.

Louise Maguire raised a concern that Buckstone Post Office may be on the list for closures which were to be announced on 19 August.

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

This was arranged for Tuesday 2 September 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 7 October 2008

Tuesday 4 November 2008

Tuesday 2 December 2008

### **Contacts:**

e-mail: [Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk) Website: [www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk](http://www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk)  
445 5160