

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Johanna Carrie; Councillor Elaine Aitken; PC Kenny Welsh; M Christie, Michael and Vicki Chung; Barbara Dick; Ian Elfick; James and Caroline Hill; Margaret Imrie, Colin Manson; Ken Macaskill; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Christine Spence; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker.

**Apologies:** Bryan Fisher; James Gow; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Councillor Jason Rust; Julie Davies

**In Attendance:** Dr Pat Straw

## 1. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh gave a report for the month of October. There had been 13 crimes and offences of which 6 related to dishonesty. These had been a housebreaking, an attempt housebreaking and theft from cars. A person had been arrested on Oxgangs Road for breach of an ASBO and a person had been arrested in Swan Spring Avenue after being seen trying garage doors. He had been transferred to Northumbria where he was wanted regarding 9 offences.

He had been tasked to look at car crime in the Oxgangs area and had possible culprits in mind. There had been no incidents reported at Halloween in Buckstone or elsewhere in the area.

Questions were raised about high density of cars parking on pavements in Buckstone making it difficult for wheelchair users; no cul-de-sac signs at Buckstone Howe.

## 2. Patient and Public Partnership Network

Dr Pat Straw, Head of Patient and Public Partnership for NHS Lothian University Hospital Division outlined her work. Her doctorate was in Sociology and Public Consultations. The patient and public partnership network is 60 strong and was previously on the periphery. Professional guidelines were drawn up by the membership. There was now a trend to greater public involvement in the health service and this also assisted the Board in hopefully giving better value for money. There was a strategy to get people involved in areas such as budget setting and auditing services. There were open meetings of the network every week and they received presentations from decision makers.

Information and communication was essential nowadays and there was still a clinical risk in patients receiving wrong or incomplete information regarding their care or treatment. Initiatives leading from this resulted in the Patient Information Centre at the ERI. Without promotion they had 10,000 enquiries; 52% being patients, 20% relatives and carers and the remainder staff. As part of a two year pilot the Citizens Advice Bureau also provided staff 3 days a week and dealt with enquiries, for example, on benefits. The previous day a new centre had been opened at St Johns in Livingston and another would open in the Adam Ferguson building at the Western General.

There was a Volunteering Manager and there were at present 700+ volunteers throughout Edinburgh. SMILE (System for Managing Information in Lothian and Edinburgh) covers 25 areas and its main job is to improve communication within the health service. She encourage people to get to know the system and how it works. Patients are the experts.

Points raised related to chilled meals for the patients coming from Wiltshire and the carbon footprint caused by this; PFI and complaints regarding care.

The Chair thanked Dr Straw for her attendance.

### **3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 14 October 2008 And Matters Arising.**

The minutes were approved on the motion of Kenny Welsh seconded by Elaine Aitken after a typographical error was corrected.

#### **Matters Arising:**

##### **a) Play Equipment in Buckstone;**

The Secretary read over an e-mail he had received from Richard Hinton regarding this subject. The Chair invited Barbara Dick, administrator of the Buckstone Association, to address the meeting. She said she was actually present for another matter but gave some background information and that the equipment had been installed on 28 October last year. She and Richard had received several phone calls about the annoyance caused by equipment. The Association's AGM was on 10 March next year.

Mrs Chung was given the opportunity to address the meeting and she stated that both her and Mr Campbell's back doors were right next to the area concerned. Their concerns had been mentioned to the committee at the time and there had been no consultation with them prior to the installation. Their concerns had been raised again and the benches had been removed but the committee were threatening to re-install them again. She would like a meeting with the committee, Councillor Aitken and PC Welsh to try and resolve the situation.

Comments from the floor included the types of problems caused by the benches; why put the equipment back just now, could it not wait till at least the AGM; suggestion that the benches perhaps be replaced by another type of equipment; an EGM had been held to discuss a similar problem in the Howe.

It was suggested by the Community Council that the offer of a meeting as mentioned by Mrs Chung should be taken up by the Association's committee.

##### **b) Patients Rights Bill Consultation:**

The Secretary circulated copies of the questions for the consultation and asked those present to forward him any comments so that he could draft responses.

##### **c) Climate Change:**

The Secretary reported that he had sent an e-mail to the relevant Council Department posing the questions raised by Johanna Carrie. A response was still to be received.

### **4. Correspondence**

- a) CEC Planning Department - Notice of withdrawal of application regarding demolition and replacement of the Steadings, Biggar road
- b) Pentlands Hills Regional Park – Autumn edition of Pentland Beacon
- c) Eileen Hewitt CC Liaison Officer – Community Council Publicity Leaflet and Edinburgh Festival of Libraries. *(Copies distributed)*
- d) Licensing Board – Applications for premises licences – non in area.
- e) Planning Aid for Scotland – Invite to Parliamentary Reception, 25 November
- f) Edinburgh Civic Forum – Papers for next meeting 2 December *(Louise Maguire attending)*

g) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership – Street Naming Workshop

## **5. Councillors Report**

Councillor Aitken reported as follows: Regarding Boroughmuir School, she was chairing a meeting the coming Thursday at South Morningside school where both a representative from the Council and Action for Boroughmuir would be present to present their cases. The consultation had been due to finish the previous day but had been extended to the Friday of the present week. The Glencorse site would not be up and running until 2011 and Scottish Water had stated that the Fairmilehead site would not be available until then at the earliest. The Council had put forward the suggestion of the new site. The site is 25 acres but only 10 acres would be required for a new build school. A report on the consultation result with one option would be reported to the Council at their meeting on 18 December.

Due to the heavy storms an old tree in Buckstone Drive had come down. It was the subject of a tree preservation order and Craig Dunlop from the Council was liaising with the owners. She had been in touch with Gordon Drysdale, the area roads manager, regarding the state of the road surface in Buckstone Drive.

The garden refuse (brown bin) collections were being extended throughout the winter months. There would be 2 in November and 1 in December. Householders should be notified accordingly. There had been complaints of dog fouling in the High Buckstone and Pentland Primary school areas and the environmental wardens had been informed.

The perceived speed of traffic in Biggar Road had been monitored but this had showed there was no excess speed. Bill Campbell from Lothian Buses had confirmed he would be attending at the next Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting. Lothian Buses were being asked if they could re-route a night bus since they had withdrawn the N11.

The Pentland Community Safety Panel, of which she was the chair and the Secretary a member, were having a special initiative as part of the police activity week. She had been unable to attain the figures for park and ride usage mentioned at the previous meeting as they were still being assessed.

Questions were raised on grass not being cut adjoining paths; weed killer treatment; the fence at the water board field; suggestion for rubbish bin location.

## **6. Other Issues**

### **1 Oxgangs Post Office Closure**

The Secretary informed the meeting about the recent announcement regarding a six week consultation, which had started that day, on the proposal by Post Office Ltd to close Oxgangs Post Office. He read over a letter that the Chair, in a personal capacity, had sent to local and national politicians asking for their support.

Firrhill and Fairmilehead Community Council were working together with the postmaster to oppose the closure and a small co-ordinating group had been set up. The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary along with the Councillors were on this group. A public meeting had been arranged for the following week and Mr McLetchie and Dr McKee, MSPs, would be attending along with representatives from Post Office Ltd. Further details could be found on the FCC website site.

The meeting agreed to support representation to Post Office Ltd against the closure.

## **7. Planning and Environment**

Nothing further to report.

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

The Secretary informed the meeting of the following roadworks in the area: Gas mains renewal in Braid Road which would be closed in sections between Hermitage Drive and Cluny Gardens; footway improvements in Braid Road between the Hermitage and Braid Hills Road involving width restrictions and traffic control.

## **9. AOCB**

Johanna Carrie reminded the meeting of the event in the Pentland Community Centre on 26 November regarding Peak Oil.

The Chair reminded the meeting of the bonfire and fireworks display to be held outside the Community Centre the following evening.

The Secretary informed the meeting that at the recent Council meeting the Chair had been approved as a member of the Licensing Forum.

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

This was arranged for Tuesday 2 December 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church and would conclude with wine and cheese.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 6 January 2009

Tuesday 3 February 2009

### **Contacts:**

e-mail: Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk  
445 5160

Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk