

# Colinton Community Council

*here to represent you*

Minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2015

Venue: Colinton Bowling Club

## **Present**

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Nigel Rudd, Mike Scott, Bill Alexander, Alastair Murray, Colin Proctor, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), Iain Gotts (CAA).

Sgt George Richardson, PC Graeme Howie, PC Vinnie Blair, & 16 members of the public

## **Apologies**

Cllr Jason Rust, Cllr Elaine Aitken, Cllr Richard Lewis, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Ms Joanna Cherry QC MP, & Catherine Lang

## **Welcome by the Chair**

The Chair, Dr David Houston, welcomed the audience and thanked Colinton Bowling Club for allowing us to use their premises. He also mentioned that he had received an email from Joanna Cherry QC MP from the House of Commons saying that she was unable to attend but would be attending one of our meetings in the future. He commended Councillor Jason Rust on the considerable amount of work he has been doing on the Community Council's behalf.

## **Minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

The Secretary intimated one correction change to the draft minutes of 14th April 2015. Under AOCB para 2, should read, "Mr Andrew Paterson commented that two roads were noticeably missing, mentioning Torduff Road in particular given its length, narrowness and lack of pavement" The minutes were approved. Proposed: Nigel Rudd, Seconded: Mike Scott.

## **Matters arising:**

The Treasurer announced that we now have a Bank account and Indemnity Insurance.

## **Police Report**

Community Constable PC Graeme Howie introduced Sgt George Richardson, and PC Vinnie Blair of the MoD Police, then proceeded to give his report for April 2015 which he announced was in a new format. During April there were a total of six housebreakings carried out in Bonaly Crescent (2), Hailes Grove, Carnethy Avenue, and Gillespie Road. Many of the thefts involved garden equipment and PC Howie emphasised the need for vigilance and to ensure property is secured. He stated that there were four minor assaults within our area and there were positive lines of enquiries taking place. There had been three reports of bogus workmen in the area,

two of which were false alarms. Most of the road safety report items take place on the City Bypass and there were very few of these. Numerous arrests had been made under Operation RAC, a nationwide Police Scotland initiative. Colinton and Craiglockhart business owners have been invited to a meeting to be organised at which security advice will be given. A public meeting is also to be organised probably at Firrhill High School. Crime prevention Officer Stevie McGill will make the presentation. He informed the meeting that there is a Police Surgery at Oxfords Library every Wednesday 5 - 6pm. Amongst questions from the floor was a question about invisible marking kits and whether they were available free of charge. It was mentioned that these kits will be available at the Crime Prevention meetings. The Chair asked about the specification of these kits. No information was available at this time. It was stated that the Police have a good relationship with Pawn Shops. This is making recovery of stolen items much easier.

PC Vinnie Blair of the MoD Police introduced himself. He emphasised that the Army were staying in Colinton with more units moving into Redford Barracks. He outlined potential action to curb waste dumping on Defence Estates land. He stated the close working he has with the community Police and the Army. If there were any issues to do with MoD or Barracks, get in touch with Defence Police.

The Secretary mentioned that he had received information on safety from another Community Council and would put this on the website. ACTION: Secretary

AM mentioned that all the break-ins in the village appear to happen on a Thursday. There was mention of possible drug dealing. The Police have been made aware of this.

### **Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEPs)**

The Secretary outlined the way the NEPs programme worked, being the top slice of City of Edinburgh Council's discretionary Roads and Footways budget. The amount this year was approximately £33k divided between the three Community Councils of Ward 8. IG stated that CAA has already intimated their project preferences, being the restoration or replacement of the railings at the traffic lights at the foot of Westgarth Avenue and the resurfacing of Redford Walk. The Secretary pointed out that both of these suggestions were likely to be capital items, but should be on a priority list. The Chair asked BA what his recommendations were. BA indicated that he had already submitted a report which would be made available on the website. He also said he was attending a meeting the following day which would give details on the new system for applications. BA indicated that two items might be considered, these were the pavement on the south side of Woodhall Road, lighting on the path across the park from Redford Bank to Tesco, part of which might be through MoD land. BA also suggested that if the bid was taken up he would approach Tesco to contribute to this project. PC Blair to enquire with DIO. ACTION PC Vinnie Blair

The Secretary pointed out that from information he obtained from the Flood Defence team, this path was not an unofficial path as it was installed as part of the Flood Defence project to

allow access across the public park and crossed into MoD land for part of that.

The Chair asked for delegated powers to be given to the Sub-group lead BA along with the Chair and Vice-chair to put forward the appropriate projects as the timing of the current NEPs decision and the options to be looked at didn't allow time to feed back the Community Council before close on 14 May 2015. The Motion was carried.

## **Sub-Group Report**

### **Planning**

In discussing the application for 8 Bridge Road and the comment submitted to the Planning Officer which is on [www.colintoncc.org.uk](http://www.colintoncc.org.uk). TM mentioned that the Planning Officer had recommended the application be granted. It was recommended that the CC should lobby local Councillors as the issues raised by CCC did not appear to have been taken into consideration. If possible a deputation to the Development Management Committee should be put forward at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**ACTION Planning Sub-group**

TM turned to sub-group discussions on other applications suggesting that most were seen as "no action required" as they would not affect the wider community. Other larger applications noted were Merchiston Castle School's All Weather Pitch which was seen as no wide community concern. The other Merchiston application for a Sports Hall and Swimming Pool raised concerns about the wider impact of use of these facilities by the community. It was also noted that there were wider implications from potential additional development. An action point to make direct contact with the school was made and this will be carried forward.

**ACTION: Planning Sub-group.**

IG pointed out that Merchiston held a consultation event about these proposals. CP asked for clarification on whether any of the proposals include floodlighting. TM said the hockey pitches were to be but this should not be directly visible.

The Secretary explained that there was a Planning Concordat which put an onus on developers of large scale proposals to consult the local community and Community Council. A member of the public, Mr Ian Wright, queried a point in the previous minutes on a housing development on the school site. This was discussed by TM and IG. TM covered procedures which need to be in place in case it was necessary that the CC needed to respond to future applications.

TM also mentioned other matters discussed at the sub-group including security issues on shops in Bridge Road, he followed this by going over the proposed procedures to be used by the Planning Sub-group to respond to applications which might need a response. These were, that the Weekly Lists of applications and decisions published by CEC Planning are to be reviewed by TM, IG, LO and the Chair. Significant applications are to be noted on the website for responses by the community. Householder applications will not be responded to except in exceptional circumstances. Reviewed applications are to be brought to the attention of the CC but only for noting. TM moved for a vote on his proposal. Proposed: Chair, Seconded: Secretary. Motion agreed unanimously.

The Chair thanked TM for the time he had spent on the response. IG asked whether CC and CAA should lobby together or separately. A discussion followed. A question from the floor asked about how much influence the CC could have with the development Management Committee.

The Chair proposed delegation of response to representation to the Planning Group. Proposed NR Seconded: BA. The motion was agreed. TM to circulate main report on 8 Bridge Road to members.

TM mentioned the Local Development Plan proposal and the Garden District suggesting that there was nothing directly affecting Colinton.

### **Environment**

NR followed up on the Cherry Trees on Colinton Road outside Redford Barracks. The key issue was lack of finance to replace the ones which were removed. This will continue to be followed up with a view to identifying possible funding.

Potential flooding on Woodhall Road and the adjacent Woodfield Park Woodland when exception rainfall occurs. The CC is gathering as much information as possible on recent developments in order to approach Scottish Water and Roads officials at the Council's SW Office to seek a drainage solution. NR asked if anyone has any helpful information about the issue, would they please let the Community Council know. PC Howie informed the meeting that this area never used to flood when he lived nearby some years ago. NR mentioned a number of developments that could be partly responsible.

### **Transport Roads and Pathways**

BA presented a report (TRAPs) which will be published on the CCC website. This contained a prioritised list of 70 identified issues combining with information from CAA. One key matter mentioned was the pavement outside Dante's Restaurant, where an elderly gentleman had fallen that day. The 20mph area is being extended to include Bridge Road. thanks to Councillor Rust's intervention. BA also reported on other projects that had been addressed. BA to liaise with CAA and the list is to be updated on a regular basis. BAs report to posted with a list of top priorities on the website at [www.colintoncc.org.uk/traps](http://www.colintoncc.org.uk/traps).

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The Secretary reported that he had attended the Health & Wellbeing meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The main action items were on the LOOPs initiative (Local Opportunities for Older People) discussed at the last meeting by Natasha Iregbu. He mentioned that there was an opportunity to take these schemes forward and further detail would be available on the website.

There is to be a Health Fair in Currie on 30<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 2 pm. There are to be stalls offering help and advice to older people.

This group is also looking into abuse, not just domestic but general safety in the community.

### **Communications**

MS reported that Colinton would seem to have a high expectation of high quality communications. He said that most of the communications had to happen in an inexpensive manner, usually electronically. There had been a review of potential methods of communication; CAA Magazine, Church Magazine, Dell Directory, C&B News etc. He went on to say that the CC was not sufficiently resourced to match these other media. Communications was not just a one-way street. The CCs function was to reflect the views of the community.

Actions proposed included: Building on the website and increasing the email list. The Library has been helpful but there wasn't the money to leaflet the whole community but that was one potential idea if funding became available.

### **Complaint**

At this point the Chair asked the Secretary to leave the room for this item.

The Chair confirmed that the complaint from Mrs Sab Mathur that he had referred to at the previous meeting had been investigated by himself and the Vice Chair. The complaint was about the conduct of the Secretary, Mr Bewsey, who had entered Mrs Mathur's shop on 20th March 2015 to purchase a newspaper and had a conversation with Mrs Mathur. From his point of view he thought he was just having a discussion on local views expressed to him by local people about the planning application for 8 Bridge Road. However, Mrs Mathur took these to be the views of the Community Council and emailed a complaint to Councillor Rust having become most distressed by what she heard. The investigation found Mrs Mathur's complaint to be largely upheld. At the next informal meeting of community councillors the Chair emphasised the high standards (similar to the Nolan Principles of Public Life) that community councillors have to keep to and that, in particular, care has to be taken when expressing views ensuring that they make it clear as to whether they are personal or Community Council views.

The result of the complaint was as follows: Mr Bewsey had been reprimanded and would not be involved in the planning group for at least six months. In addition, as a new Community Council, the Chair would be seeking training in public communications for all the councillors including Mr Bewsey. The Chair reported that Mrs Mathur was content with this result and thanked her for raising the complaint as this would help the Community Council improve the quality of service that it provides to the people of Colinton. He then asked if the Community Council approved the resolution of the complaint and this was agreed.

BA suggested that what Mr Bewsey said was just a careless moment and that in so many other ways he had done a considerable amount for his community - indeed, the Community Council would not be where it is without his help. The Chair agreed and called Mr Bewsey back into the meeting.

## **AOCB**

The Chair mentioned that he had received an email regarding the poor state of the pavement between Woodfield Avenue Campbell Park Avenue. This item is to be included in the TRAPs list. Another request had been made for a Bus Tracker to be placed at the city-bound Bus Stop at Rustic Cottages. Mr Paterson mentioned that the Section 75 agreement for the Polofields was to include a Bus Tracker. The Secretary commented that there is either a 10 or a 16 every 10 or 12 minutes and that the 18 was not on Bus Tracker most of the day and it might only be valuable for the 45. Mr Paterson suggested that the 18 might be up for tender. CAA had previously asked about this and there had not been funding at that time. This should be investigated as something worthwhile. A suggestion was to seek information from Planning. The Secretary mentioned an email from the Secretary to the Tram Enquiry, asking to hear from the public on two themes:

- 1. What issues should the Inquiry be investigating in detail?*
- 2. What direct evidence does the public have on the consequences of the failure to deliver the project in the time, within the budget and to the extent projected? This information should be directed to **info@edinburghtraminquiry.org by 4<sup>th</sup> August.***

Other notices were mentioned including a notice about Currie Fair and the Marie Curie Summer Fete. BA intimated that the Army Rugby 7s will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June. These items would be placed on the website for information.

## **Other Questions from the floor:**

A comment was made about the noise from a fan on Bonaly Primary School. This was to be looked into.

**ACTION Nigel Rudd**

A further comment about provision of information for those not on the Internet was noted and steps to help will be taken by the Communications Group.

BA suggested that a suggestion box be placed in the Library and look into other possible sites.

A question was asked about Dreghorn Woods. A discussion on the progress so far taken and it was pointed out that the future going forward was probably within the community's hands following the five year management plan.

**Date of next meetings: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7pm**

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.