

Present

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

Cllr Jason Rust, Cllr Elaine Aitken, Gordon MacDonald MSP, PC Vinnie Blair (MoD), PC Sonia Kaiser, & 14 members of the public

Apologies

Colin Proctor, Cllr Richard Lewis, Mr David Thomson.

Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

Minutes of the meeting on 9th June 2015

These were approved. Proposed: BA, Seconded: AM.

Matters arising:

The Vice Chair outlined the City of Edinburgh Council's Development Management Committee's response to the application at 8 Bridge Road on 29th July 2015 and indicated that the applicant could appeal; something which in his opinion was unlikely. He indicated that a more likely scenario would be to resubmit a modified plan within a year. He also drew attention to several points about the application and clarified that the use cannot be considered inappropriate and even the scale of the building might be appropriate with a more suitable design. TM proposed that the Community Council make contact with Kilpatrick Property Limited to ascertain their position. Seconded by DH and carried unanimously.

IG expressed concerns about the extent of consultation with the developer. Cllr Aitken suggested it would be appropriate to find out if the applicant intended to present another proposal. A public question asked what the current tenants' plans were and if the premises were likely to be vacant for a long time. The Chair explained that, at the planning hearing, it was made clear that none of the current tenants intended to renew their leases which expire in 2016. He went on to comment on the viability of the village with the announced Bank closure.

The Secretary added that he had been approached by a resident who has mobility issues and was greatly concerned about the state of the pavements, the resurfacing of which had been delayed while awaiting the outcome of the planning application. Cllr Rust said he had been in touch that morning with the Roads Officials to get the works re-scheduled as soon as possible.

IG: In responding to a suggestion at the last meeting about CAA taking on the role of “Friends of Parks”, advised that CAA did not consider that it was appropriate for an organization to take on that role but that it was more for a group of committed individuals to take on.

Police Report

PC Vinnie Blair gave a brief overview of MoD policing issues. He covered issues going back to May as he had been on holiday. These were:

- A report of a suspicious vehicle outside the Barracks and the TA Centre.
- Reports of suspicious persons around the barracks and married quarters. These areas are checked regularly by both MoD Police and Police Scotland.
- The Princess Royal visited the training area at Dreghorn on 23rd May where the last WW1 commemorative tree was planted.
- A person is being sought who was allegedly looking into windows of houses from waste ground between Latch Park and Tesco. PC Blair stated that this land was surplus to MoD requirement and that they intended to dispose of it.
- Residents had been asking if the waste ground could be tidied up. It had been suggested that between the Army and the Council the litter might be dealt with and the DIO who own the land, organise the cutting of the vegetation. There had been reports of small fires being lit on the waste ground. These had been dealt with by the Fire service with no involvement by Police.
- The Lord Provost’s Tattoo rehearsal also took place at Redford Barracks with approximately 300 visitors. PC Blair mentioned the opening hours of the Bar at the Barracks while the Tattoo was on and hoped that there would be no disturbance.
- 51 Brigade are still planning to move into Redford Barracks after the refurbishment.

PC Sonia Kaiser gave a summary of the July Police Report which contained only a few items as the crime rate in the area has dropped considerably. She suggested that everyone should remain vigilant. The Chair asked about who was responsible for most of the crime. She said that criminal elements from Glasgow were hiring Drylaw gangs to work for them. The Police report has been posted on the Safety section of the Colinton CC website.

PC Kaiser mentioned road safety in general but specifically a report of a motor cyclist travelling up Woodhall Road at speed, but no registration number has been obtained. A reminder about Police surgeries at Oxfangs Library every Wednesday 5 - 6pm were given.

Action Group Reports

Transport Roads and Pathways

BA reported that he is finding that Clarence isn’t working. Specifically mentioned was the CATV box on the Bridge. The Secretary suggested BA email Roads SW asking for a position on any specific item. LO suggested that phoning often resulted in getting an explanation of the situation. BA said he was going to try fixmystreet.com. Cllr Rust stated that the CATV box was to be repaired on Friday 14th August under temporary lights.

Environment

In a comment on his report NR commended the Council's quick reaction to the investigation of drainage in Woodhall Road. He went on to describe the maps and plan of action for the gullies surveyed by camera. It was probably a case that the probable solution, that of installing larger pipes, could not be carried out due to lack of funding.

Closure of the RBS Colinton Branch:

The Chair mentioned that like many other customers, he had received a letter from RBS about the closure and it was thought that nothing could change RBS's mind on this.

Cllr Rust said he had received a communication stating that the ATM would be retained but many services might be delivered by the nearby Post Office. The reason for closure was the reduction in numbers visiting the branch and full services were available at Juniper Green. The Secretary expressed concern that it was the elderly residents without online banking or their own transport, who may find difficulty. He went onto say that if a transaction were only to take ten minutes it was possible to catch a 45 Bus at Rustic Cottages and return in about 30 minutes. If the transaction took longer, it was likely to take a full hour for the return journey. He went onto say that it was those who have to transact business within a branch that the CC needs to hear from.

There was concern that if everything was put on the Post Office, with no certainty about its future, we may not have any banking facility in the village.

GMcD discussed a similar situation in Balerno, where meetings with RBS proved fruitless.

The Secretary suggested the matter be followed up with regard to exactly what the Post Office can deliver. He suggested discussing this with the Post Office. AM suggested inviting Andy Mathur to the next meeting.

ACTION: Secretary

It was suggested that Bank of Scotland customers already can use the Post Office, but the extent of that should be examined. IG suggested it was important to Colinton that an active use be found for the building and asked if the bank used agents to stimulate interest in the property. A member of the public suggested that to make everyone use online banking was discriminatory.

Community Consultations:

The Chair mentioned the two consultations currently ongoing. One the Strategic Development Plan or SESPlan and the other on Colinton Ward Boundaries changes.

The Chair suggested that everyone should look at the SESPlan MIR (Main Issues Report), where possible attend local meetings, one of which will be hosted by SWCF on Monday 7th September at Gibson Craig Hall, Currie as well as a drop-in session at Waverley Court, Market Street on Thursday 3rd September, 6-8pm, and provide comments before the next meeting.

The Chair went on to say that this was a long term look at how the city would expand. The Secretary added that this was a 20 year vision for the City Region and it looked at a balance between growth and maintaining green space. He suggested that Colinton might not be directly affected, but indirectly it could. He further mentioned that there were consultations on

developments at Winton Gardens in Fairmilehead, Newmills Road in Currie, as well as Ravelrigg Road & Cockburn Crescent in Balerno. The mitigation effect (upgraded traffic lights at Gillespie cross-roads) might have an effect on Colinton with increased vehicle numbers.

IG commented that the most important single issue to come out of the Strategic Plan will be the population forecast that the next Local Development Plan will have to address. The Chair asked if the CC should form an opinion on the population numbers. IG suggested that others in Pentlands were already working on this.

The Secretary mentioned a request from PPS to give a presentation at the next meeting on the proposals for the “Garden District”. It was explained that this was land immediately to the west of the City Bypass from Baberton Mains to Gogar roundabout, part of which lies within the Strategic Development Area (SDA). This was agreed with the Chair. **ACTION: Secretary**

Ward Boundary changes:

The Chair explained the background behind the proposed boundary changes and asked who present would be affected by these changes. It was also suggested that the Community Council should object using all the reasons used to justify the changes to the boundary. The Secretary suggested everyone should go to the CC website where there is a front page article about this and follow links to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland’s website.

It was suggested by a member of the public that the Community Council should take the lead and there were those who would distribute leaflets. IG said CAA will be in touch with residents using their email list. It was further suggested that if approximately 800 individual letters were sent in response to this consultation, it might have some effect. TM suggested that Colinton CC could co-opt individuals in order to take this forward. MS and the Chair suggested that the CC has room for another two community councillors and interest groups. This might also be taken forward using the proposed flier.

Engaging with the community:

MS introduced the topic of deciding on a new logo, AM described the process and talked about the designer, who in his experience had excellent credentials and, following a meeting between her, AM and MS, had brought forward seven designs of which the meeting was presented with three. MS mentioned that the Communications group had discussed the logos and by a vote of three to one had picked the centre logo. MS suggested that the members take a vote on which they preferred. A member of the public asked to see the logos and they were distributed amongst the public. The Chair asked a number of questions having stated that he had previously been involved in logo design. There followed a discussion on the detail in particular in regard to fonts used. TM suggested that this would be best to feed back to the Secretary who will collate suggestions.

The proposed flier was discussed. MS suggested that this matter had been floated previously. MS suggested an amended flier be circulated to members and seek comments in two weeks. It was decided that the cost estimate was satisfactory and that wording would need to be reviewed in light of the Ward Boundary Review.

As the CC has not yet received its Council Grant a Community Grant Fund application had been made to meet the £300 estimate for design, printing and distribution.

AOCB

Play Park wall mural concept was discussed and not thought to be a good idea.

The Treasurer mentioned the Community Grant's Fund meeting the following evening of which there are two applications from Colinton. One is for the Colinton CC flier and the other from Colinton Amenity Association for "finger posts". The application from CAA stated that this was discussed and agreed with the Community Council. He went on to say that as far as he knew there had been no formal consultation with the Community Council and sought to clarify the position before the CGF meeting. BA asked exactly where these posts were to be sited. IG read out a list of signs for both the posts, one to be at the junction of Bridge Road and Spylaw Street, the other to be at the top of the Drivers Steps at Woodhall Road. The Chair asked if the CC would support the proposal. This was agreed unanimously. LO requested the list to be sent to all members.

ACTION: Secretary

Questions from the Public:

There were thanks for the email about the traffic disruption due to Scottish Power repairs. MS suggested that it was important to gather as many email addresses as possible. The Secretary intimated that a request to join the main email list would be sent to those who responded to the Survey Monkey survey and that it would be a positive subscription process.

Date of next meetings: Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Reports will be available on the website and in the folder in the Library.