

Environment Report

Proximity of Trees to buildings - West Mill Road

The matter has been passed from CEC Parks to CEC forestry for their attention and we await a response.

Damage to Bridge railings – Spylaw Park

The matter has been given to the CEC Park Rangers but we have yet to be advised on a timescale for effecting repairs.

Ineffective Gully at Redford Walk

This has now be replaced and due to be completed soon.

Litter Pick by Colinton Primary School

Colinton Primary School are to be congratulated on carrying out a litter pick in the neighbouring area including the Park and waste grounds between Adams Well and Tesco, Colinton Mains.

Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership - Environment & Transport Action Group 26 October

Nigel Rudd was unable to attend because of a short-term illness and unable to arrange for a replacement.

Nigel Rudd
Environment Convenor

Transport Roads and Pathways (TRAP) Report

Road Improvements

Last month there was a meeting arranged by the TRAP Team and City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Roads Dept to visit the following three sites to look at road safety issues which could in our view be relatively easily improved without significant financial implications and remove some of the traffic frustrations in the community:

- a) Extending the double yellow lines already approved to protect the entrance to St Cuthbert's Way in order to restrict parking adjacent to the Rustic Cottages Bus Stop and thereby avoid frequent road blockages at this point when buses queue to enter the bus stop.
- b) Improving markings/ signage / restrictions on the blind bend adjacent to 27 Woodhall Road in order to reduce the likelihood of accidents to road users or pedestrians at this point.
- c) Moving the two parking spaces outside the Chemist on Bridge Road westwards and moving the bus stop eastwards to immediately behind the markings of the pedestrian crossing in order to improve traffic flow and reduce collisions with parked cars here – there have been two recent minor collisions.

CEC Roads have come back to us saying they do have proposed solutions to (a) and (b) above and are finalising detailed plans for these which we hope to be able to table at the November CCC meeting. With (c), the moving of the bus stop requires approval by the Public Transport Section and so this will take longer while CEC Roads liaise with them.

Bill Alexander
Convener, TRAP Sub Group

Communications Report

Awareness-raising work in respect of Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals concluded on 22nd October. The Commission will now review and consider all responses and objections, making final recommendations to Scottish Ministers in May, 2016.

Alastair, David and Mike attended a "Communications for Community Councillors Workshop" at the City Chambers on 22nd October. Only three other Community Councils sent delegates. It was a worthwhile session, though it was clear that our current and recent activities were very much in line with the presenters' suggestions. Other delegates were interested to hear of our approaches.

Developed from discussion at the workshop, we propose to run a photographic competition, which would potentially build our stock of local images and encourage community involvement. We propose a small prize and a big certificate, and would hope that we can persuade a local MSP or MP to present the prizes. The intention is to launch it online and through our burgeoning social media (and via the plasma screen and local schools). The options are either to go "themed", e.g. seasons, buildings, landscapes; or to use Colinton as the peg and let people hang anything on it. We propose to use the gallery function on the web site to show all the entries, starting with some we already have. David could set up an email address (e.g. colintonphotos@ or competition@) to send images which would forward them to a central repository. **Proposal: Colleagues are invited to support the establishment of a photographic competition.**

Last month's report mentioned that the Communications sub-group is working on an exciting idea for the railway tunnel when it has been refurbished, details of which were sent to our Chairman immediately after the September meeting. The proposal is to seek the involvement of Edinburgh College of Art and/or Napier University and (possibly) the Army to create a community street art (graffiti) project in the tunnel. The idea is of a train travelling in each direction, one on each wall, with exaggerated passengers looking from the windows at the mere mortals walking between. The main cost would be to for spray paints, but there could be an application for Lottery funding. If the Army can be involved, central government funding may be available for a joint military/community project. Consultation would be required with the team in charge of the refurbishment. Early stage work has begun to identify possible contacts at the universities. **Proposal: We seek colleagues' agreement to take this work forward and to report back on feasibility.**

The total number of visitors to our web site has dropped from last month's peak but, in contrast, visitors are exploring the site in greater depth and visiting more pages on each visit. The duration of the average visit has also increased by more than 60%. Just under half (46.8%) of the visitors to the site are new. Twitter and Facebook activity is also progressing well.

Scope exists to enhance our communications with forces' families in local married quarters, given Sarah Stone's co-options to Colinton CC. Scope also exists to replicate that co-option model so that forces' families throughout Scotland potentially have a similar voice in their own local communities. Potential quick "wins" exist in Firrhill CC (for families in the married quarters near Morrisons); on Queensferry & District CC (for families at Craigiehall HQ) and at Penicuik & District CC for families at Glencorse Barracks.

Our communications are under continuing review in order to enhance their reach and effectiveness. We aim to create comment and provoke debate. Challenging, striking communications get noticed and provoke discussion, whereas bland communications do not. It is inevitable that, from time to time, elements of our communications may not be to everyone's personal taste. Whilst we want our communications to be noticed we do not wish to cause offence, make every effort to avoid doing so, and regret any errors that may very occasionally escape our scrutiny.

Mike Scott
Communications Convenor