

Planning Report

Introduction

The sub-group has continued to monitor planning applications within our area and particularly those likely to have wider consequences and those for Listed Buildings or within the Conservation Area.

Most proposals over recent time have been “householder applications” with no wider concerns for the community or requiring the CC to give specific advice.

The CC considers the following ongoing applications and planning issues have wider community implications and is keeping a watching brief.

Bridge Road

Kilpatrick Properties are still considering their position and will contact us when they have reached a decision on how they wish to proceed.

Woodhall Riding Stables

The original planning application was withdrawn but an apparently identical one has been submitted. One effect of this is to cancel all the local objections because they do not automatically transfer to a new application for the same site!

The CC did make a comment on the previous application recording that we had no evidence of widespread concern within the community but noting that it appeared to be contrary to policy. As a brief note on the CC website pointing out the main issue and requesting comment has not resulted in any groundswell of opinion for or against, so the CC proposes to reiterate its previous comment.

RBS new ATM

An application has been lodged for an alteration to their existing premises to create a new illuminated ATM and secure service area – both accessed directly from Bridge Rd.

Post Office

The Post Office is now up for sale which could have serious consequences, as there is no guarantee that a new owner would either wish to, or qualify to run a Post Office.

This also bears on the statement from RBS which referred to an arrangement with the Post Office to provide some of the banking services lost through their branch closure. The CC is aware this is not a specific promise for Colinton and any such provision will also be subject to a wide range of “fine print” conditions.

Tom McDonald
Vice Chair Colinton Community Council
30th September 2015

Communications Report

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's (LGBCS) proposed changes have been the focus of the majority of communications activity this month.

Over the period, we worked with the Local History Society, representatives of residents of the properties to the north of the Water of Leith and Councillor Jason Rust, contributing to solid coverage in the Evening News of opposition to the proposals. See the article on 15.9.15 at: <http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/plan-to-split-colinton-in-two-1-3886731>

Unusually, there was relatively little "chat" in the Evening News's electronic forums. With the inevitable few exceptions, most of what did appear supported our position and a Letter to the Editor added further weight.

Consolidating coverage, an opinion piece was published on 21.9.15, which generated some further positive feedback. Juniper Green CC has also been in touch with our Chair, proposing collaborative communications activity on shared boundary concerns. DB has circulated some of the correspondence.

Hostelries, shops, surgeries, the Library and CAA notice-boards now display our two mini-posters. CAA's support is particularly appreciated. Electronic versions are also running on the Library's plasma screen, along with notices of the next meeting and wider "awareness" advertising.

Effective and visually impactful banners were purchased and are in place on railings at each end of the village. Thanks to Lorraine and Bill for their work. The posters, like all current promotional materials, use our new logo. The round version of the logo is now in use on all electronic media.

Leaflets were printed and have now been distributed to all households in Colinton. Copies will be available at the meeting. Thanks to David B for making this happen and for distributing some leaflets personally. Anecdotal reports indicate that they have been received positively.

Yet more LGBCS-related coverage is anticipated prior to the closing date for objections (22.10.15) and Eric Milligan, former Lord Provost, has recently published his objection. The Communications sub-group are also working on an exciting idea for the railway tunnel, details of which were sent to the Chair by Alastair immediately after the September meeting.

Web activity has increased sharply, as may have been anticipated as a result of all of the activity that has taken place. We now have 168 people on our e-newsletter list (latest edition published 1.10.15 and opened by 72.6% of recipients the same day). The month's web stats to 1st October showed 951 sessions having been carried out by 675 users. 2,498 individual web pages have been viewed. That market penetration, in just six months, indicates that CCC is being noticed within the community and beyond. We even have LGBCS "following" our Twitter feeds.

Effective communications aim to create comment and provoke debate. Bland, boring communications do not transmit messages effectively. Challenging, striking communications get noticed. 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 escape our scrutiny.

Mike Scott
Convenor Communications

Environment Report

Listening to our Customers, Scottish Water Consultation – 29 September 2015

Nigel Rudd and David Bewsey attended this event, which was Scottish Water's Annual Consultative Meeting.

No more than forty people attended the meeting and it appeared more than fifty percent were SW employees.

There was a brief welcome to delegates and Douglas Millican, SW Chief Executive then set out the company's performance and aspirations. The issues covered are dealt with in the Scottish Water Performance Summary 2014/15. The document is available from the Scottish Water Website - <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/publications/key-publications/performance-summary-201415> or in hard copy from the company.

Questions were asked about the performance level of repairs to ironworks in roadways and in particular the specifications for reinstatements which seem to fail after a short time. It was agreed that this aspect needed to be looked into with the city being subject to heavier vehicles. The public perception was that this aspect was not a high priority for SW, probably because they saw it as a Council responsibility.

Proximity of Trees to buildings - West Mill Road

Our advice was sought in respect of the proximity of trees growing on the north bank of the Water of Leith to terraced properties at the west end of West Mill Road. Mature trees dominate the buildings and should they fail there is potential for damage to the residential property.

It is not clear who has responsibility for the trees. CCC drew the matter to the attention of Parks and Green Spaces, CEC who said they would follow this up and advise on the best course of action in respect of this matter.

Other Tree Concerns

During discussions with CEC officers in respect of issues with trees CCC was advised that the best way of handling trees representing a threat to property or public welfare is to report the matter to CLARENCE as advised on the CCC website.

Damage to Bridge railings – Spylaw Park

CCC was advised that fencing adjacent to the bridge over the Water of Leith in the north of Spylaw Park was damaged. The matter was raised with Parks and Green Spaces CEC who have undertaken to undertake repairs as necessary.

Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative

This week saw the launch of the share offer for the above. Further information on the offer and the initiative is available on the CCC website. There is also a local drop in event on Saturday October 17th – Currie Community High School –31 Dolphin Ave, Currie, EH14 5RD.

Snow Wardens

As you may have seen from the E-Newsletter and the website, CEC are looking for volunteers to be Snow Wardens. This isn't overly burdening on those who take part but it might help keep things moving should we get severe weather this winter. More information on this will be published on the website and in future E-Newsletters as they are received receive.

Nigel Rudd
Environment Convenor

Transport Roads And Pathways (TRAP) Report

1. Neighbourhood Environment Project (NEP)

Recent advice received from Dr. Andy Edwards, South West Roads & Footways Manager advises all 4 NEPs projects for ward 8 are planned to be completed.

These are: Resurfacing of footway - Redford Road outside *Woodthorpe*

Footway Resurfacing – Cuddies Lane to Phone Box at Spylaw Street

Carriageway resurfacing - Redford Walk

Guardrail restoration - Westgarth Avenue

2. 20MPH Program

There is little more to report except publicity is being distributed. More information is available on the CEC website follow this link:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20243/20mph_for_edinburgh/1024/about_20mph_for_edinburgh

3. Road Repairs

As part of our research into roads paths and street lighting reporting and the apparent lack of feedback on progress on reported defects we visited the CEC 'CLARENCE' care centre headed by Gillian Cockburn. Since the introduction of the online reporting facility there has seen a significant increase in use of this service, freeing up access to the care centre for other more complex queries. It was acknowledged that the update system is not working as effectively as it could be. However, they are aware of the situation and working towards a solution. We will keep this under review and report back on progress.

Of the 10 issues reported to CLARENCE in our last 2 reports the SOLVED status remains the same. However our visit to Clarence centre indicated action was being taken on all our (CCC) reports. We will endeavour over the next few months to seek improvements in the feedback system.

I would again encourage residents to make their own submissions to CLARENCE and advise Roads subgroup roads@colintoncc.org.uk when there is no satisfactory progress.

4. Road Improvements

Following on last month in September we motivated the following issues which will remove some of the traffic frustrations in the community:

Adding double yellow lines between the proposed at St Cuthbert's Way and Rustic Cottages Bus Stop to remove road blockage as 2 buses que at this point.

Some improved markings/ signage / restrictions on the bend at 27 Woodhall Road.

Relocate the Bus stop at Cuddies Lane to immediately behind the markings of the pedestrian crossing to improve traffic flow and reduce collisions.

In conclusion, it would be useful to have a Tab on the website, 'Community Initiatives'. This could be pioneered by a rallying point for 'the Winter Relief Team', refer to last month's report. Here an appeal for a network of 'Good Samaritans' could be readily alerted in event of a serious disruption of services etc.



Secretary's Report

Local Boundary Commission Consultation

In a communication from Juniper Green Community Council, it was suggested that houses on the south side of Lanark Road between Gillespie Crossroads and the City Bypass Bridge be transferred into Pentland Hills Ward as it might be regarded as part of Juniper Green's "natural neighbourhood". A majority of the community councillor has shown favour with this in an email poll. I will write to JGCC to inform them that while we consider this to be a sensible move, they should poll the residents of the affected houses. This will be officially voted on at the next Community Council meeting.

Presentation on development plans for Land East of Milburn Tower, the "Edinburgh Garden District"

Following the presentation on 8th September to Colinton CC, a proposal has now been lodged with City of Edinburgh Council. While we agreed that this would not directly affect Colinton perhaps the Community Council should take a position with regard to this proposal for the record.

Attendance at Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) Meeting 24th September 2015

Progress is being made on rejuvenating the EACC with a view to providing more support for Edinburgh Community Councils. I have continued to be involved in the communications group setting up a new website offering more facilities than the old version. Communications is viewed as being one of the key elements in making the EACC a valuable resource. Work on an updated Constitution is proceeding and this as well as other reports are on the new website at www.edinburghcommunitycouncils.org.uk.

Please note, the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting of 29th September has been postponed until Thursday 8th October 2015 at 7pm venue Pentland Community Centre

David Bewsey
Secretary