

Marchmont & Sciennes Community Council



Meeting on Wed 27 September 2017 at 7:30pm

St Catherine's Argyle Church Halls, Beaufort Road

A G E N D A

1. Sederunt and apologies

Sederunt

Cuillin Scott, Sheena Scott, Norah Rogers, Cllr Mandy Watt, Nigel Ayton, PC Jennifer Mackenzie, Alison Service (Treasurer), Akiko Kobayashi, Cllr Melanie Main, Susie Agnew, Shane Voss, Robin Holder, Brian Gilmore (Chair).

Apologies

Mike Shields (Park Department), Anthony Holmes, Cllr Neil Ross, Cllr Nick Cook, Ian Murray MP, Cllr Alison Dickie, Doug Rodgers, Cllr Steve Burges, Cllr Cameron Rose

2. Draft Minutes of last meeting, 28 June 2017, and matters arising (not otherwise on Agenda)

- Minute are passed by Alison Service, Seconded by Susie Agnew
- The Council is informed that the issues with planning at 19 Palmerston Road has ended well. The plans were modified hugely and all involved are satisfied.

3. Police Report

- Report given by Jennifer McKenzie, Ward officer for Morningside and meadows.
- There have been 136 calls to police over the last month.
- There is still an issue with house breakings which occur predominantly during the night but this is not an issue which is more prevalent in the area including Marchmont and Sciennes and is not an increase on previous months.
- Advice is to phone 101 should you see anything suspicious. Ask for community officers if an incident involves youngsters
- There was a knife point robbery on Marchmont Road last week. The perpetrator has been arrested and charged with attempted robbery.
- There have been a number of calls relating to youths and noise complaints.
- The MSCC has been advised that neighbourhood watch teams should feel free to email community officers who would be happy to attend meeting.
- Similarly, should there be noise complaints community officers should be contacted.

4. Meadows & Bruntsfield Links

- Mike Shields is not in attendance and cannot report.
- Alison Service states that things are running smoothly, there are regular walk arounds to highlight any issues and there is no further information relating to the Jawbones.

5. City Councillor report on topical local issues

Melanie Main reports:

- Regarding the Jawbones, Scottish Natural Heritage has been asked for an update and the MSCC will be informed as soon as this is available.
- A recent road safety meeting went well and it is felt that this is a format which may be easily developed for community engagement. There may be further opportunities to run a similar initiative in the future. This is a model which has been used in Morningside and worked well so may have potential in the future

6. New Representative from the Grange Association

- The MSCC officially acknowledges and welcomes Nigel Ayton as the new representative from the Grange Association.

7. Election of Secretary (repeat)

- N/A

Items for discussion

8. Royal Hospital for Sick Children Redevelopment, Current Developments

- The Marchmont and Sciennes Development Trust was set up to register community interest under the Land Reform Act.
- The Scottish Government held the application for an extensive amount of time and eventually stated that as the site has two owners the MSDT must submit two applications. This is despite the fact that developers submitted single bids.
- It was then claimed that the MSDT re-application was faulty on the grounds that one of the signatories was not registered to vote at local elections but only national and European. However, this is something which was not highlighted on the initial application.
- During this period 6 months had passed since the initial petition and the MSDT was therefore told it must once again collect signatures. The requisite number of signatures was successfully collected, and a third application was submitted. It was discovered a week later however that missives had been signed with a private developer 2 days prior to the submission date.
- It remains unclear whether the transaction has closed or whether Downing is simply nominated as the preferred bidder, to work with the Health Board to conclude a sale contract.
- It has been recommended that the MSDT register another interest as early as possible as there is a possibility that the site may not yet have changed hands and, even if it has, parcels of the development are likely to be offered for sale in the future.
- Robin Holder was in attendance and is the Planning Consultant advising Downing Group - the group who are understood to be the preferred bidder and may already have acquired the site. Mr Holder declined to elaborate on this distinction noting commercial sensitivities.
- Robin Holder would like to state that Downing is separate from issues raised about NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government.
- The MSDT will be holding a debrief to inform the community of the events which happened. It will also ask the community to consider how it wishes the MSDT to represent

them moving forward. MSDT may contemplate redefining the geographic boundaries of its interest and identify other sites that could be appropriate for a Community Right to Buy project.

- Discussions have begun with the Downing team about how to move forward and they have been advised to engage with the community. MSCC will be included in this consultation and the planning which will follow.

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- A speculative timescale was discussed as follows:

- ❖ October: Formal process will begin and a proposal application notice (PAN) will be submitted. This indicates an intention to submit a planning application. The PAN will include identification of the red line for the site, a description in writing of the broad use classes the developer intends to use and their intentions for public consultation. Edinburgh Council is able to consider whether they are satisfied with the way the developer aims to engage with the community.
 - ❖ There have been early meetings with Linda Hamilton, the Planning Manager for this project.
 - ❖ The PAN will be submitted before community consultation.
 - ❖ After the submission of PAN consultation is required to start within a maximum of three months, after which the applicant can submit a planning application.
 - ❖ There is a statutory consultation process as part of the planning process which will be an organised and formal event but it has been proposed that a more focussed exercise with community representatives and the developers may be beneficial if that takes place much earlier in the process. This would be a way for a select group of representative stakeholders to productively focus on the proposals which will be emerging before the wider consultation process. This is still under discussion.
 - ❖ This focussed approach towards consultation will be the very initial point of the consultation process.
 - ❖ This focussed group meeting may happen as soon as October.
 - ❖ The earliest that any formal planning application could be submitted is January 2018.
- The MSCC has agreed as a group that they are happy to have Douglas Rogers as lead representative for MSCC going forward.
 - Douglas Rogers will liaise with Robin Holder to organise the proposed focused meeting.

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- MSDT has asked the MSCC to consider where it sits in relation to the development trust. This is due to some social media posts by the MSCC which had referred to the MSDT activities in the first person e.g. 'our petition', 'our application'.
 - It was also noted that it may be beneficial for MSCC and MSDT to consider which aspect of the community they wish to voice.
 - The MSCC has concluded that it has been a hindrance not having a representative of MSDT at every meeting as MSCC does have a statutory right in the issue of the Sick Kids development. As a result, there will now be a representative at every meeting.
 - The MSCC will be asking Linda Hamilton to attend the October meeting. This will be actioned by Brian Gilmore.

9. Astley Ainslie Hospital Redevelopment: update

- The Grange Association has been taking the lead initially in raising public awareness of the site. Supported by the MSCC, the Merchiston CC, the Morningside CC and the Grange Prestonfield CC, the Grange Association has organised and publicised guided walks of the Astley Ainslie site for this coming Saturday and the following Sunday (8th October).
- This is simply to raise awareness of the attributes of the site and the prospective sale process upon which the Health Board is embarking for the Astley Ainslie site.
- Those visitors undertaking the walks will be given questionnaires seeking their views on the redevelopment of the site.
- There is a concern that information from the questionnaires and other sources will need to be co-ordinated with the MSCC and other community councils to make best endeavours to identify views that are representative of the entire community.
- It was suggested that it might be prudent to contact parent councils at local schools and hold a sounding board meeting.

10. Planning (Applications & consultations)

- MSCC has registered an objection relating to the application for 7 Grange Loan Gardens.

11. Localities and the Neighbourhood Partnership position

- There are no neighbourhood partnership meetings until January and meetings are usually held four times a year.
- It is expected that locality governance will go to local councils at the end of October/ November and a decision will be made by the locality committee regarding whether they wish to maintain neighbourhood partnerships.
- This is with the aim of devolving local council work to localities and locality committees.

12. Spottiswood Street Entrance to Cycle Network

- This item relates to a prize won by Shane Voss with his idea to create a safer entrance to Spottiswood Street which will involve flattening the curb and widening the path slightly for cyclists.
- Shane Voss wishes to pass his prize money to the council with a view of developing this idea.
- The MSCC is informed that this idea has been circulated within the council and on 5th October there will be a council action taken to the Transport and Environment Committee.
- The MSCC wishes to extend congratulations for a good idea to Shane Voss.

See: Item 5 in <http://www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017-comp-entries-in-order.pdf>

Items for information

11 Treasurer's report

- As of the end of August '17 the MSCC has £647 in the bank.
- Taking into account set things eg. Hall hire, insurance, events the cost for next year is predicted to be £850

- To deal with this shortfall, it is suggested that the council reduce their memberships, eg. To the Cockburn Association and cease to pay a Minutes Secretary.
- This has been agreed by all council members.
- The position of minutes Secretary will be posted on The University of Edinburgh Volunteering website.

12 Meetings attended

- EACC was attended by Brian Gilmore. The biggest item of discussion was neighbourhood partnership.

13. AOCB

- The Christmas event will be held on Saturday 9th December 2017 and music will be provided by the primary and senior choir of James Gillespies School.
- A concern has been raised regarding the graffiti on the notice board outside Russle's Paint Shop.
- One of the councillors will address the issue of all bin on Marchmont Crescent being "bunched together" and they will hopefully be moved.

14 Date of next meeting 25 October 2017

All who live or work locally are welcome to attend.

MSCC is online at: <http://marchmontandsciennes.blogspot.com>