

Marchmont & Sciennes
Community Council



**Minutes of Marchmont & Sciennes Community Council
Meeting of Wed 23rd February, 7.30pm by Zoom.**

Present: Brian Gilmore (Chair, MSCC), Rhianna Robinson (Minute Secretary), Nigel Ayton (Grange Association), Susie Agnew (MSCC), Alison Service (MSCC), Cllr Alison Dickie, Kayleigh Gordon (MSCC), Alastair Philip (Resident), Ben Parker (Prospective Green Candidate - Morningside), Michael Shields, Stephen Fox

Apologies: Anthony Holmes, Tim Pogson

Matters Arising:

Minutes have been circulated; approved by Alison and seconded by Nigel.

Police Report:

No police report.

Meadows and Bruntsfield Links:

Mike:

He emailed Scottish Natural Heritage with no response. Discussion of the Jawbones which are too fragile to stand outside in elements and would have to go to a suitable indoor space. To put in its place there was discussion of the creation of bronze **replica** – need clarity on payment. The Council’s Culture and Communities Committee had met on 1 February 2022 and noted:

“The casting of a bronze replica... would cost about £120,000 for which there is insufficient funding. Officers will progress discussions with stakeholder and potential funders on the proposed approach and will report back to Committee on the outcome of these discussions in due course.”

With regard to events, applications getting a bit more normal. These include the Meadows Marathon which is quite popular. In April there is a one-day Highland games event, which is expected to be fairly small. The Meadows Funfair will start at the end of May until mid-June. There has also been an application for a Jubilee **March** in June, coordinated with Orange Lodge for Queen’s Jubilee.

Anne received an email regarding the temporary toilets as they were installed last summer and extremely useful – this is still uncertainty as they require additional funding and at present the discussion is still ongoing.

FOMBL

Report has been circulated.

Alison: Jawbones replica discussed at meeting but no mention about funding. The issue of temporary toilets in the Meadows was also raised in order to ensure they are in place by early April. Apparently everything is ready to go but there's no word on the funding. Alison Service has asked various Councillors to help ensure this funding is agreed.

FOMBL plan to hold monthly Online zoom talks from September;
Volunteers have recently planted 10 new trees.
New playground equipment for the Links expected soon.

City Councillor Report on topical local issues:

Cllr Alison Dickie:

Building on the discussion of temporary toilets in the Meadows, they have raised the importance and is hopeful that this funding will come. Cllr Dickie also met with Sciennes Primary parents and spoke of submitting a motion with regard to the playground, road etc and ask for a briefing or a report for short-term and long-term progress. Parents are concerned about cars and safety issues, one of actions agreed is to narrow and physically prevent motor vehicles using the route intended for cycles. Signage is to be installed to identify it is a cycle path and play area. Cllr Dickie is currently waiting on a report and briefing.

An update has been provided on the reopening of Newington Library, which is set to return to normal in around 5-6 weeks.

Susie has queried as to when the Warrender Pool is going to reopen – Cllr Dickie is going to query this and confirm

Susie also raised the issue of the new layout junction at Lauder Road and Grange Road and a concern of the issue for cyclists going north, some of whom ignore the new cycle path and carry straight on across the junction as before, without using the new signalled crossing. There was mixed discussion on this issue with the recognition that the crossing of Grange Road at the Tantallon Place / Cumin Place junction has yet to be installed, as it has been redesigned to accommodate comments made in the recent consultation acknowledging that there were some objections. Susie argues there is a feeling that the consultations produce no results such as Sunday parking. Her view is that is more dangerous for cyclists to cross **Grange Road** at Lauder Roadnow than previously because car drivers are not expecting cyclists in the middle of Lauder Road. It was concluded this was an issue to agree to disagree about as Nigel explained that there was consultation regarding this since 2016 and MSCC supported the proposals at the time. He challenged the assertion that the new layout is more dangerous than the previous unsigned and uncontrolled crossing.

Alastair queried the city wide Air B'n'B timescale, with Cllr Dickie confirming that the planning committee approved proposals going to Scottish government. Cllr Dickie going to clarify with convening officers and get back to him

Publicity

Kayleigh has adjusted the media that was made for Marchmont at Christmas for the new MSCC social media. It has attracted 103 followers on Instagram which is significant progress.

There was a proposal for a new MSCC logo, to add a splash of colour to attract more interest. A note was made to be careful with colours and political connotation. Kayleigh will publicise the Radio 4 – Any Questions event. There will be a monthly local business shout out. The possibility for professional photos of Marchmont/Sciennes was raised with a quote still to be received.

New proposals for social media content include a feature on the different churches in the area and potentially an interview/consultation with Sciennes Primary.

Sick Kids Hospital Site Redevelopment

Report circulated.

Would need to consult before posting on social media. Cllr Dickie going to clarify the signage and road closures given the confusing wording from Downing about changes to the road signage.

Separately, there are currently 3-way traffic lights in place at the south end of Argyle Place to facilitate repairs to the gas main in Roseneath Street. Kayleigh reported that workers at the site reported that the repairs relate to 5 minor and 1 major leak.

Astley Ainslie Hospital Redevelopment

Nothing to update, with Nigel receiving confirmation there is currently no further progress.

Planning applications

Marchmont St Giles – changing antenna, four of which will now be external. Susie raised questions about this and the disruption it may cause in terms of appearance and the clock. However, it is likely this may be necessary for 5G. More detailed images are available online as to what this is expected to look like.

Grange Cemetery

Monthly Report has been circulated.

Nigel:

Bulbs appearing, but not a lot of change to report otherwise. Quote from stonemason for next 7 monuments. Kayleigh provided the link with William Purves.

Update on Sewer Flooding project

Nigel: Gone to awaiting decision. , The contractor working for Scottish Water appears to have responded to concerns raised by the initial application and has made changes including:

- The kiosks will now be only 1.8m high, not the 3m originally proposed;
- The kiosks will be on Warrender Park Terrace, alongside other existing utility cabinets, rather than on the footpaths across Bruntsfield Links;
- The proposed 'grasscrete' access road from Leamington Walk will no longer be installed; rather a dedicated tanker parking bay will be provided on Warrender Park Terrace, with a permanent pipe connection to the new sewer tank.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly report has been circulated. The bank balance is currently £1654.11.

Meetings attended

None.

AOCB

Discussion of the Christmas Event 2022, with Alison questioning whether choir and band would be available. Potential suggestion that it should be held at the German church or go ahead. Plenty of time to plan and will re-evaluate closer to the time.

With regard to the Whitehouse and Grange Bowling Club, Stephen Fox was present. He detailed the tree planting ceremony which recently occurred to commemorate the club's 150th anniversary. He stated their desire to increase engagement with local community and securing of sponsorship from local businesses (shirts from Farmers Autocare etc to commemorate their 150th anniversary). Club numbers are dwindling and they plan to campaign this year to increase membership and would like promotion to help with this. They will have a Summer Fair on 28th May and various matches and have kindly offered MSCC use of their facilities.

A new restaurant on Argyle Place suffered from graffiti. Alison raised the idea that we could potentially offer use of a graffiti removal kit to businesses and residents.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.30 – Planned to be held on Zoom.