

Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting - Online

Date/time: Tuesday 20 June 2023, 7.00 pm

Attendees: Councillors: Cllr Beal, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson

Community Councillors and Associated Groups: Steve Kerr (Chair), Vikki Brown (Minutes), Angela Benzies, Deborah McCall, Tommy McLean, Jonathan Melville, Fiona Moug, David Sutherland (Corstorphine Community Centre), Keith Walker.

Public: 48 members of the public were in attendance

Guests: Martyn Lings, City of Edinburgh Council, Cllr Scott Arthur, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies: Cllr Hyslop, Cllr Thornley, Jane Kerr (Corstorphine Trust), Ian Kirkpatrick (Corstorphine Churches Together), Margaret Mackay (Scottish Women's Institute), Frank Ross, Robert Stokes (Forrester Park Residents), Chris Young (Low Traffic Corstorphine).

Minutes of May Meeting: Minutes can be accessed at <http://corstorphinecc.uk/minutes/>.

Co-opting of individuals and organisations: New members welcome - to discuss joining the Community Council, please contact Steve Kerr via admin@corstorphinecc.uk

Declarations of Interest: None

Police Report – via email from PC Sam Davison

Community Police Officers can be contacted at EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk. PC Sam Davidson agreed to postpone attendance at June meeting to allow more time to discuss the Corstorphine Connections project at June meeting. Due to availability, he will now attend the September meeting. The latest Police reports can be accessed at <http://corstorphinecc.uk>.

Corstorphine Connections – Cllr Scott Arthur (Convenor, Transport & Environment Committee), Martyn Lings - City of Edinburgh Council

Cllr Arthur explained that the aim of the Corstorphine Connections project is to help people move around the area safely. Market research showed that 66% of respondents were concerned about safety and travel. We are at the start of a 6 month trial period. After 6 months, Councillors will look at benefits and issues and decide how best to proceed. Cllr Arthur noted that he had been out to visit the area twice since the implementation of the measures – once by bike and once to accompany a resident who requested that he join them whilst they drove the school run and onward commute to work by car. He encouraged feedback from residents about what else they felt could be done to make streets safer.

Martyn Lings confirmed that Phase 1 of the project is now complete but some changes have been made to signage. Temporary signage will be replaced with a more permanent solution. The monitoring plan, traffic counts and baseline data is available on the Corstorphine Connections project website at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cycling-walking-projects-1/corstorphine-connections/1>. Martyn advised that bollard protection would remain in key locations around the school as part of the Phase 2 pavement widening exercise.

Cllr Arthur and Martyn Lings answered as many questions as they were able to take during the session. These are summarised below:

- Multiple attendees asked why the LTN had been implemented even if the consultation suggests it is not wanted. Cllr Arthur responded that lobby groups can try to influence consultations and therefore it is important to take comments and other information into account too. Market research showed that two thirds of people think that vehicles in the area are an issue.
- Concern was raised about how drivers were confused and struggling to interpret signage and road markings around the Manse Road bus gate. It was felt that the potential for an accident was high. Some drivers have been seen using the left lane to turn right and as a result are driving through green pedestrian crossing phase. Some are confused

about when the right hand lane changes to being south-bound which results in cars driving towards oncoming traffic or not allowing those turning right onto St John's Road to filter into the lane. Martyn Lings thanked contributors and advised that the project team would continue to review signage and layout.

- There was concern that traffic is being pushed onto other residential roads and causing chaos. Cllr Arthur advised that things are still in a period of transition and that traffic monitoring is in place. Both traffic counts and speed data will be collected throughout the trial.
- Appreciation was voiced for attempts to address traffic issues but there was worry that it felt as if school traffic was being moved to other locations such as Ladywell Avenue and causing some issues.
- One attendee stated that the agenda is to get as many vehicles off the road as possible. This causes those who need their vehicle stress. Cllr Arthur responded that Edinburgh is the most congested city in the UK. The Scottish Government has a target to reduce car miles by 20%. City of Edinburgh has a target of 30% - this is whilst the city continues to grow. There is lots of new development planned in west Edinburgh – if everyone has 1 or 2 cars it is going to become even more congested. Waiting for the latest census data but at the last count 40% of residents don't have access to cars.
- One resident felt that there was an issue with build outs on Corstorphine High Street. Their son had gone to Corstorphine Primary for 7 years and had experienced no issues and so felt that these were not needed. They also stated that elderly dog walkers needed cars to get around the area. Cllr Arthur responded that many disabled or elderly mobility challenged people don't necessarily drive and some of the pavements in the area are alarmingly narrow. Martyn Lings added that the next phase of the project will be to build out the footways which will make these extended areas more usable. Have also been trying to put in more seating to allow those with limited mobility to rest if needed.
- Jackie Connor spoke as Chair of ACE (Accessible Corstorphine for Everyone) and repeated the question of why the measures had been introduced when the consultation suggested that people didn't want them. Cllr Arthur referred to his previous response and encouraged attendees to watch the Transport and Environment committee decision to more fully understand discussions that had taken place. It can be accessed via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toYhZk4mP2Y>. He added that decisions have to be made based on evidence.
- A member of the public asked when meetings were going to be held in public rather than online. Steve Kerr advised that Community Council meetings are held in public rather than being public meetings. There have been many guest speakers in attendance and many can only attend if the meetings are held online. Experience to date is that online meetings are much better attended than those held in-person. There is an intention to go back to in-person meetings but these are likely to be hybrid to allow as many to attend as possible.
- A community councillor commented that the measures are a trial and there is a due process to go through. People need to know how they can be legitimately heard and it's important to have clarity. Martyn Lings confirmed that responses could be sent by email to edinburgh.consultation@projectcentre.co.uk or in writing to: Traffic Orders, 3.3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh. EH8 8BG.
- One resident felt that Manse Road was previously fit for purpose and asked why a bus gate was needed. Martyn Lings responded that feedback from the consultation, school community and the Community Council all raised concerns about traffic around the school. Data showed strongly that Manse Road traffic levels were much higher than others in the area and it was felt that measures were required to meet street design guidance.
- Concern was voiced that Station Road was now backed up with vehicles as a result of the changes and that it is now more dangerous. The resident stated that they want less motor vehicles but felt that people had to be realistic.
- A community councillor commented that they had been attending meetings for 7 or 8 years having got involved following a placemaking exercise that the Community Council were running in 2016. Almost every month someone raises issues about traffic and traffic management issues. In October 2017 a public meeting was held with Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Councillors, Community Councillors and Community Police representatives to discuss the issues in the area. Potential solutions have been talked about for a long time and the current project is a trial. Traffic is a known issue and if this trial doesn't work, it can be removed, if it needs tweaked, it can be tweaked.
- Steve Kerr added that the Council approached the Community Council with a proposal to trial a filtered permeability neighbourhood as a holistic solution to the issues being raised about traffic in the area. He asked people to consider that while CEC are running this project we need to come forward with solutions and comments in a constructive manner about things we would like to see to improve the area.

- A community councillor stated that they felt there was not enough joined up thinking happening and that there was not enough car parking in the area to help the elderly and disabled get around.
- A member of the public stated that they live on the north side of St John's Road and has a family member who lives in the Featherhall area. Both have health issues and the changes have made their lives more challenging. They raised the fact that both the health centre and school have large catchment areas which means people have to travel quite large distances to reach them which contributes to traffic in the area and that 20 minute neighbourhoods are not possible from far reaches of the area. They felt catchment changes may help this and also that more buses are needed to make a viable alternative to private vehicle use. Cllr Arthur noted that there is a new Park and Ride planned for West Lothian and he wants to speak with the new Transport Minister regarding rail connections. He added that money is being invested in improving public transport. There will be 37,000 new houses in the next 10 years – if the target is to reduce car use by 30%, moving people to public transport is key.
- A resident from The Paddockholm advised that she had been watching traffic on Station Road – it seemed initially very quiet but then 10 cars in quick succession. All vehicles seemed to be turning left so they believed that it seemed like it would have been displaced traffic from Manse Road. They also noted that there is a disused grey mail box on the pavement outside the Post Office on Station Road which is causing unnecessary clutter and narrows an already narrow pavement. Martyn Lings responded that he would look into whether it was still in use or if there was a possibility it could be removed. Cllr Arthur stated that these types of mailboxes and old telephone boxes could be very challenging to get removed but they would do their best.
- A community councillor stated that there are problems with cars in the area – they had experienced two incidents recently where they were nearly hit by cars running through red lights at pedestrian crossings on Glasgow Road. They added that should not default to ideology and felt that LTN are an ideology.
- A member of ACE asked if Cllr Arthur would be willing to meet face to face. Cllr Arthur declined the offer citing that he was not prepared to meet with people who have been insulting Council staff and threatening to undertake illegal activities. ACE stated that they had taken steps to remove any members who posted inappropriate material. Cllr Arthur advised that he would be happy to come back to talk at Corstorphine Community Council as that is the most appropriate statutory channel.
- Cllr Arthur felt that all could agree that there was a common consensus that all would like to make it easier to walk around the area, the difference comes with agreeing how best to do it. He advised that once data starts to come through, will have a better idea of what works.

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) six month consultation period started on 24 May 2023. The ETRO can last for up to 18 months. Keep an eye on the Corstorphine Connections website for the latest information including details of how to comment. <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cycling-walking-projects-1/corstorphine-connections/1>. The best way to stay up to date is by signing up to the mailing list.

Martyn Lings will be attending Community Council meetings to provide updates throughout the Corstorphine Connections trial period.

Steve Kerr noted that he was very grateful to Martyn Lings and Councillor Arthur for coming along to the meeting and taking so many questions.

Meeting ended at 21.04. The Community Council takes a break for the summer in July. The next meeting will take place Tuesday 15th August.