

Morningside Community Council
DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 7:30 pm Wednesday
At Open Door, 240 Morningside Road

People present:

MCC office bearers-

Willie Black(WB),Chair, Goff Cantley (GC),Planning, Secretary, Moira Gibson (MG), community engagement.

Members-

Caroline Mckinley, Kerr Fraser, Jennifer Scarce, Theo Spannellis.

Ex officio-

Cllr Neil Ross.

Attendees- PC Neilson, PC Mckendrick, Anne Ness, Arne Strid, Paul Bailey, Sheena Nimmo, Jane Brown, Kenneth Easson, Kenneth Harvey, Paul Findlay, and 1 other person.

Apologies-

Daniel Johnson MSP.,Tamsin Kilgour, Carol Duncan.

POLICE REPORT.

PC Karen Neilson and PC Brandon Mckendrick, reported the following:

- Recent charges for Anti-Social Behaviour: 9 youths (some as young as S2) charged with 77 offences. Some from outwith the area travelling in via free bus travel. Matters will be referred to the Children's Panel. Some incidents still being investigated.
- Foot Patrols from South Morningside Primary School to Holy Corner, when possible. Letter to inform local businesses.
- Fire-raising at the Chest, Heart and Stroke charity shop: suspect traced and charged.
- Traders' Association meeting coming up: Inspector Casey attending.
- Introducing two initiatives (can MCC please publicise these):
 - Coffee with a Cop – monthly at Waitrose - 1st Friday in May
 - Monday 20 May, Police Surgery, Eric Liddell Centre – potential for this to be a quarterly event
- Vape Shops – gathering intelligence, co-operating with CEC Trading Standards

An attendee reported that motorbikes had been terrorising walkers in Midmar Paddock (also Mortonhall Golf Club). Police responded that any instance of cars or motorbikes driving dangerously should be reported via dialling 999. The officers emphasised that they always have to be cautious in pursuing dangerous drivers.

Paul Bailey from BBVP Friends group ,explained that graffiti had been sprayed on mural in the Park and has been removed by the Friends 15 times. Paul asked if the Police can patrol the Park from time-to-time? The Police advised that every occasion should be reported to them, so they can build up a picture and decide on best response. They would consider patrols in the Park.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING.

The Minutes were agreed.

Paul Bailey raised a query about a reference in previous minutes to the introduction of bus gate on Morningside Road. Willie clarified that this had only been a suggestion from the floor/a member, and that MCC had not endorsed or progressed it.

Braidburn Terrace/Hermitage Drive/Braid Road: The exit from Braidburn Terrace is a now completed as a raised tarmac table. At the new junction both vehicle drivers and cyclists need to slow down and pay attention to the other accessing the junction. An attendee said locals and visitors alike have to careful.

Vapes: Police are investigating Vape shops, in conjunction with CEC Trading Standards

Pop-up Bob: may try this again, as useful last time in responding to speeding vehicles

Uneven surface on raised table crossing at Steel's Place unsafe for pedestrians. At Cluny Avenue, road markings have been drawn through potholes.

PLANNING.

GC reported:

Millar Place – plans have been withdrawn.

Community Grants Fund for 24/25 has re-opened.

The planning approval of the Winton Drive carehome scheme has taken some pressure of proposals to develop Midmar Paddock.

Local Place Plan for Morningside- GC and CMcK will lead on this. The plan will feed in to the City Plan 2030-40. Its purpose is to empower communities to help identify local places, and consider how places maybe developed, if at all; and its impact on new homes, jobs, tourism; energy, flooding, open spaces; shopping; growing food etc.

At the end of the last meeting, some attendees stayed behind and, using a large-scale map of the MCC area, to start the process of discovering possible strengths and weaknesses of places in Morningside.

More input needs to be gathered, and more engagement with local people. It would be good to get as much information as possible to paint a picture of our area, eg input on the history of the area from the Morningside Heritage Association, an audit of listed buildings and green areas etc. We should include adjacent areas important to Morningside, eg Astley Ainslie.

It was agreed that CMcK develop a SWOT survey online, and then using the results MG will set up several face-to-face opportunities for local people to input, eg at schools, library, other venues. Kenneth Eason suggested harnessing talents of Planning students and this was agreed. Information will be put on the MCC website and facebook.

TRAVELLING SAFELY.

The Quiet route and the Braid Estate: Paul Findlay has created a petition on Change.org, (<https://www.change.org/the-braid-estate>) claiming deficiencies in the consultation process to open the Braid Estate. They have knocked on local doors and over 700 people have signed the petition.

Other members pointed out that the closure of roads in the Braid Estate did not reduce traffic but instead diverted it down the A702, where traffic was backed up, causing delays to buses, pollution in the playground of South Morningside Primary School and congestion in Morningside.

Willie clarified that MCC would not take sides. (In the consultation MCC requested a wholistic approach)

The nature of the CEC consultation process was discussed. Cllr Ross explained the history of this, with a lengthy, largely consensual consultation, pre-2017, on the Quiet Route. When Covid arrived, emergency measures were put in place and, post-Covid.

It was agreed the consultation could have been better handled.

It was agreed that a lack of data led to confusing claims and counter-claims about volumes of drivers and cyclists using different routes.

The recent CEC consultation showed a majority in favour of returning to an open Braid Estate. Further changes will require 6 months of consultation.

TREASURER. WB reported approximately £600 in MCC's bank account.

AOB.

Maisie statue: Anne Ness has been in touch with sculptor who designed Hamish McHamish. Estimated costs from Powderhall Bronze are £28,000+VAT, plus stonework, plus permissions.

Morningside Cemetery: Arne Strid says that, if planters are being removed from the Braid Estate, the Friends of Morningside Cemetery would welcome them.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15th May at 7.30pm at The Open Door.