



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 28 May 7pm, Northfield Community Centre

Agenda

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. The Annual Report for 2014-15
3. The Accounts for 2014-15
4. Election of Office Bearers

The Constitution provides:

11. Meetings of the Community Council

(b) Once in each year in the month of May or June the COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall convene an annual general meeting for the purpose of receiving and considering the annual report of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, the appointment of office bearers, and the submission of the independently examined annual statement of accounts.

Open Forum

A general discussion amongst all present about the work of the community council, including ideas for improving Northfield and Willowbrae for all residents.

Close: 9pm



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

1. The Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council was re-established through elections held in February 2014, following a public petition. The opening AGM was held on 10 April at which office bearers were elected. Seven ordinary meetings have been held and one public consultation meeting. Members and office bearers are listed at the end of this report.
2. Our membership is small so we have asked all the schools in the area to propose representatives (as permitted under the Scheme). Only the Royal High Primary School has nominated such a member. We have co-opted several members and one elected member left through non-attendance. We continue to seek to increase membership through nominating organisations and co-option.

Public Engagement

3. We recognise that our area covers communities which may not feel associated with each other and, in some parts, feel they are part of others, for example, Duddingston Village and areas bordering on Portobello. We quickly established a website, with associated small e-mailing list, and a Facebook page, linked to other Facebook pages operating in the community. Our highest level of interest came when we reported our efforts in relation to potential improvements to Baronscourt Park.
4. Finding the right way to connect with our community has proved difficult. We are grateful to Morrisons which allowed us to talk to shoppers in the entrance to the store on a Wednesday and Saturday morning in October and November. Shoppers seldom want to be accosted when on urgent business so we confined discussions to what did they like and what would they change in Northfield and Willowbrae. Overwhelmingly, shoppers love the place and there were very few issues of concern.
5. In April 2015 we placed an article in Duddingston Direct, which circulates bimonthly in our area and are considering a newsletter for autumn 2015. We have a permanent notice board in Piershill Library where we post notice of meetings and have posted notices around the area, which are seldom noticed. We welcome suggestions for ways in which we can more actively engage with the community.

Planning

6. For many community councils planning and licensing applications dominate business. In contrast, planning issues for Northfield & Willowbrae have generally been small alterations to domestic dwellings where there were no wider concerns.
7. However, we were disappointed to find that a planning application granted some years ago for a site in Duddingston Village had resulted in remodelling of a house to such an extent that it now has a major impact on views of the Loch. This has caused us to be increasingly vigilant on such cases.



8. There are relatively few listed buildings in the area and we have been keen to maintain their protection. We gave considerable thought to a set of applications to extend the former Janitor's House of the Royal High Primary School, as we tried to balance the business and employment interest with its status as a listed building. Eventually the occupiers proposed a solution which should protect its listed status.

9. The largest prospective development in the area is for the large site of St Margaret's House, Meadowbank House and the Jock's Lodge corner. Planning permission for this fell to be renewed in late 2014 and we supported the proposed development which appeared to us to offer significant improvements to the area as well as the prospects of employment and turnover for local businesses. Whether this development will go ahead in the period of the now granted permission is not clear. Developments outside our area have been considered too. The new ALDI and Crudens site at Portobello Road/Portobello High Street offers an addition to the shopping range for our community, recognising that it might be seen differently by businesses in central Portobello. We met the developers but did not comment on the application.

Baronscourt

10. It is difficult to separate the various issues in which we have been involved around the Morrisons, Domino's Pizza and Tanz businesses. We objected twice to applications by Domino's Pizza for a Late Hours Catering Licence which would, in effect, enable it to run a 24 hour catering operation close to quiet residential areas. The purpose of the licence was to serve all-night deliveries across the whole of the east side of the City. Our objections were heard by the Licensing Sub-Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council, along with those from local residents and Councillors. The licence was refused and a comprehensive Statement of Reasons referred to the continuing problems of litter and noise on and around the site.

11. Alongside this, traffic issues in the recently permitted car parks behind Domino's and Tanz caused considerable concern. The legal status of the access from Baronscourt Terrace to Portobello Road is not clear but pedestrians have felt in some danger from cars driving in and out at speed. We remain in positive discussion with the Roads department on measures to curb this.

12. Morrisons is the largest store in the area and over the 25 years since the site was first developed the site has become tired and ripe for refurbishment. The store itself is bright, clean and airy but the margins of the site are less satisfactory. In particular, an informal entrance has been adopted through Baronscourt Park, involving tricky negotiations of a slope. The fencing has collapsed and the Parks department was keen to improve the Park but faced difficulty in gaining agreement with Morrisons. We have been in productive talks with Morrisons at Board level and remain optimistic that our partnership approach will bring results. We held a public meeting about the proposed improvements to the Park and as a result the City Council is preparing revised proposals.



Traffic

13. The main interest for many parts of the City has been the planned introduction of the 20mph speed limits. As most roads in Northfield and Willowbrae are already limited to 20 mph this should not have much impact. However, the traffic in Paisley Crescent which has become a rat-run since the removal of the chicanes has been the subject of continuing concern about speeds past Parson's Green School. The Roads department has been helpful and is carrying out surveys before proposing steps to remedy this.

14. An ad-hoc sub-group of the community council is working with City authorities to develop new cycling routes into the area. Cycling is a concern in the re-surfacing of Brighton Place in Portobello which is a major traffic route into our area.

15. We supported the City's consultations on School Streets restrictions for the roads around St John's and Duddingston Primary Schools although there was no consultation with us before they were published. We distributed 150 leaflets inviting comment and submitted these to the City which is about to conduct formal consultation on an experimental Traffic Regulation Order which may come into force before the end of 2015.

Housing

16. Residents of the Lady Nairne Sheltered Housing sought our support in persuading the City Council to make good its promise to refurbish their kitchens and bathrooms. As a consequence, the Vice Convenor of Housing visited the homes and refurbishment is now to be programmed according to the age of the facilities rather than whether they meet the standards.

17. We have some concerns about planning applications for conversion of shops into small flats which, in general, produce poor quality homes.

Neighbourhood Partnership

18. Members of the Community Council are regular attendees at the NP Community Safety Forum and the Environment Forum (chaired by our Vice-chair). These provide regular reports on policing although crime in our area is moderate.

19. The Environment Forum has proposed to the Neighbourhood Partnership a group of local improvements which are currently under consideration.

Thanks

20. We have enjoyed considerable support from our politicians: Sheila Gilmore MP, Cameron Buchanan MSP, Kenny MacAskill MSP and Councillors Joan Griffiths, Alex Lunn and Stefan Tymkewycz. Portobello Community Council has been a good friend. Calm, considered help has come from Eileen Hewitt and Breid Croal in community engagement. We owe special recognition to Faye Gray who retires as our year closes having been the centre of excellence in the Neighbourhood Partnership.



MEMBERSHIP

John Fayer	Chair
Ian Murray	Vice-Chair
George Callaghan	Treasurer
Geoff Pearson	Secretary
Margaret Alexander	
Caroline Kaye	
Christine Kerr	
Stewart Kerr	
Dave King	
Gordon Macdonald	
Shami Khan	to January 2015
Gavin Bayne	September/October 2014
Nick Marshall	co-opted June 2014
Dave Ferguson	co-opted March 2015

Website: www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/northfieldandwillowbraecc

Email: secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk

Postal Address: c/o Piershill Library
30 Piershill Terrace,
Edinburgh,
EH8 7BQ

TREASURER'S REPORT 2014-15

1. The Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council has an account at the Bank of Scotland. Expenditure is by cheque and requires the signatures of two of three office bearers:

- John Fayrer, Chair
- George Callaghan, Treasurer
- Geoff Pearson, Secretary

2. Full accounts are attached. In summary, the opening balance was £3090.50, to which the City Of Edinburgh Council added a grant of £348.69 from which had been deducted [£75] as our share of the public liability policy which the Council holds for community councils, collectively. This gave a total income for the year of £3,439.19

3. Expenditures totalled £404.51 (again see attached accounts). Leaving a closing balance (reserve) of £3,034.68.

4. The accounts have been independently examined by Carys Macdonald who has submitted the following statement:

“Please take this email as confirmation that I have reviewed your Statement of Accounts for Northfield & Willowbrae Community Council 2014/15 and am happy that the transactions within confirm to the bank statements.

**Kind regards,
Carys Macdonald, 1 Scone Gardens, EH8 7DQ”**

5. A copy of these accounts has been displayed in Piershill library and are also available on our website.

6. Following the AGM a copy will also be sent to the local authority.

George Callaghan

Treasurer



Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council accounts April 2014-31st March 2015
Income and expenditure

Income		Expenditure		
Opening Balance	3090.5	02/10/2014	RHPS	150
Income from ECC	348.69	09/11/2014	Park cleanup	20.75
		03/03/2015	Leaflet for school streets	70
		18/03/2015	Web address and email	23.76
			Newspaper advert	140
Total	3439.19			404.51
Closing balance	3034.68			

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council accounts April 2014-31st March 2015

Balance Sheet

Assets	£	
Balance as at 31st March 2015		3034.68
Total Assets		3034.68
Liabilities		
Room hire due		30
Reserves		3004.68
Total liabilities		3034.68
Net balance		0



NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL: CALENDAR 2015-16	
26 May	Environment Forum 18:30 Northfield
9 June	Community Safety Forum 14:30 Restalrig
18 June	1st Meeting (all meetings 7pm Northfield Community Centre)
7 July	Environment Forum 14:30 Restalrig
16 July	2nd Meeting
21 July	Community Safety Forum 14:30 Northfield
18 August	Environment Forum 14:30 Northfield
1 September	Community Safety Forum 18:30 Restalrig
17 September	3rd Meeting
29 September	Environment Forum 18:30 Restalrig
13 October	Community Safety Forum 18:30 Northfield
22 October	4th Meeting
10 November	Environment Forum 18:30 Northfield
24 November	Community Safety Forum 14:30 Restalrig
19 November	5th Meeting
21 January	6th Meeting
18 February	7th Meeting
24 March	8th Meeting
21 April	9th Meeting
5 May	<i>Scottish Parliament election</i>
19 May	10th Meeting and AGM