



# Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

## Minutes of Community Council Meeting

**Date and time:** 15/06/2021 19.00

**Location:** Remote, Microsoft Teams

Community Council Members: Gordon McDonald (Chair), Nick Marshall (minutes), Dave Armstrong, Ian Murray, Charlie Wood,

**Councillors:** Cllr Ethan Young, Cllr John McLellan, Cllr Alex Staniforth

**Others:** Community Police Officer Anna Morrison, CPO David Love, George Callaghan, Jamie Livingstone, Mel Miller

**Apologies:** Cllr Joan Griffiths,

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### 1. Approval of minutes of last meeting (11<sup>th</sup> May 2021) and Matters Arising

These were approved as circulated. All matters arising would be covered under agenda items.

### 2. Treasurer's report

The current bank balance was unavailable because the treasurer was not present, but there were no transactions since last meeting. The annual accounts are under way, and hopefully will be ready to be approved at the next meeting.

### 3. Police report

CPO Morrison covers Northfield and CPO Love covers the Willowbrae area. Their report covers the period between 1 May and 15 June and covers calls to 101.

	Northfield	Willowbrae
Public nuisance	17*	26**
Drug use	2	2
Cycle thefts	2	3
Housebreaking	3	1

\* Mostly youths in Figgate Park and RHSchool (incl Baronscourt Pk)

\*\* 22 in Holyrood Park

### 4. Baronscourt Park

PCO Morrison had met several times with Steven Cuthill (CEC) re Baronscourt Park, including site visits. The unkempt space, specifically the corner behind Baronscourt Terrace attracts problems, including drug paraphernalia, cushions, mess, vandalism, rubbish and bonfires. Steven Cuthill suggested clearing some of the bushes from the corner to open it up rather than plant more trees and shrubs which would be vandalised. It was suggested that extra lighting (4-5 lampposts) along the main path from S Elixia PL to Morrisons could help (although CEC policy is for no lighting in parks). Cameras were suggested but rejected as this would need a van and the problem would come back as soon as the van moved on. Park rangers are very stretched at the moment, with widespread youth ASB due to closure of youth centres etc. There was a

request to fix down the goalposts more securely as they are a target for vandalism. CPO Morrison had contacted CEC Lifelong Learning and Streetwork (and NGO) to see if they could help. Jamie Livingstone had photographed some of the youths and passed the photos on to PCO Morrison (who had then passed them to the Schools Liaison Officer and Head Teachers). It was felt that Morrisons could have more of a role here, in particular by putting CCTV cameras, to install a barrier to stop trolleys being taken into the park and to clear up litter and installing bins on their side of the fence. PCO Morrison has spoken with the manager of Morrisons, but so far with little result, although she is continuing to push them. It was felt that more pressure could be exerted on Morrisons from various quarters (councillors, NWCC, CEC), and that the CC could invite a rep to the next meeting.

## **5. Transport**

69 bus

Ash Denham MSP is planning to hold a public meeting with Lothian Buses re discontinued bus services.

Spaces for People

Concern was expressed about the poor state of road surfaces, especially in cycle lanes, and the lack of cleaning leading to accumulation of litter and broken glass. A dangerous blind spot on the cycle lane near Morrisons was also mentioned. CEC has been awarded some extra funding for road surfaces so some improvements can be expected although there is a lot to do. Most SfP schemes will be reviewed over the next few months with a view to making improvements.

## **6. Meadowbank**

There had been no further developments regarding plans for the area. The Sports Centre was expected to open in October.

## **7. Community Engagement**

Two important CEC documents had been produced – 2030 Climate Strategy (for consultation) and 20 Minute Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that, although the nearest Neighbourhood Hub was in Lochend, that we could propose Northfield Community Centre/Royal High School/Piershill Library/Restalrig Church as a hub comprising a set of community-use buildings.

It was suggested that the CC should know more about local community organisations and see if we could help them, and it was suggested that the Neighbourhood Network would be the best way to take this forward (contact Evelyn Kilmurry).

CC members (Dave A and Nick M) were investigating whether we might run Participatory Budgeting in this area. The Ripple Project are working on PB in the Lochend area and provided useful information.

It was suggested that we make more use of the Duddingston Direct magazine.

## **8. AOCB**

None

## **9. DONM**

The date of the next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> August. We will aim for this to be an AGM and to approve the accounts for the last 2 years.