

NORTHFIELD & WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2025 @ 7PM, NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Welcome & apologies: Apologies were received from Ellie Burroughs, Charlie Wood & Cllr Alex Staniforth. There were 3 members of the public in attendance, and Cllrs Aston & Griffiths.
2. Minutes of last meeting (12th November 2024) - these were read and approved, proposed by DA, seconded by JK.

3. Police Report - WPC Morrison sent a written report in her absence. Ongoing issues are ASB around Northfield Broadway, including setting fires and fireworks, issues with drug dealing in Piershill and Northfield Drive, and parking around school streets in the Duddingston Road area.

Actions: Increased police patrols in Northfield, ongoing work between police and CEC to address properties and tenants involved, and further traffic initiatives arranged with traffic wardens in next few weeks.

4. Matters Arising: Actions

(a) Street Signage at Hamilton Terrace - police unable to enforce speed restrictions because of inability to have electronic sign repaired. New sign expected to be in place by end of January.

(b) Hamilton Terrace traffic and parking issues - following November's CC meeting, when 8 residents from Hamilton Drive/Terrace attended, it was agreed that a site meeting should be held with the CEC Road Safety Team. This took place on the morning of 18th December and was attended by 4 residents, 3 community councillors, ward councillor Kate Campbell, Deputy Head Teachers from Duddingston and St John's Primary Schools and Mark Symonds, Road Safety Officer. It was noted that traffic was less as both schools had classes attending the panto at Portobello Town Hall. *Action - CEC agreed to measure traffic volume by Spring 2025 and investigate further lineage, signage and pavement bollards to prevent illegal parking. An update will be given at the March CC meeting.*

(c) Wall Clearance - Lady Nairne Crescent/Meadowfield Terrace - contractors cleared most of heavy undergrowth and ivy from the boundary wall at the junction, but ivy embedded in the walls was not removed as this may have caused the walls to collapse. Residents deeply unhappy at lack of progress. MB contacted Paul Swan at CEC to ask that a site inspection be carried out ASAP. PS advised residents to claim on their own insurance or on the council's - but the latter course proved impossible as form was inappropriate for this type of claim. *Action - Cllrs Aston and Griffiths to be forwarded the relevant correspondence and they will try to follow up. (MB, DA, JG)*

(d) Piershill Flat - no progress to date. Structural report still not completed, more than a year since first reported. PS stated that Council more likely to return flat to housing stock in light of housing emergency. MB reminded PS of overwhelming support from residents for flat to be used for community use. No response yet. *Action - Cllrs Aston and Griffiths have asked for latest correspondence to be forwarded and will follow up. (MB DA JG)*

(e) Return of 69 Bus Service - New service provided by HCL (Handicabs) began on 16th December. MB travelled whole route. Service not routed down Lady Nairne Crescent due to parked cars making access difficult. CA and MB have put up enlarged photocopies of timetable on notice boards, bus shelters, school, shops and surgery along the route. Figures for December showed almost 200 journeys made. *Action - CEC has agreed to put up timetables in all bus shelters and will consider need for double yellow lines at corners along the route.*

(f) Cavalry Park meeting - AC and MB prepared a briefing paper on all the current issues at the site following extensive consultations with residents of the bungalow. This was circulated to councillors and council officers, police, staff at Edinburgh Leisure, Portobello RFC, SWT and Duddingston Conservation Society, who have been invited to a meeting on Tuesday 28th January at the Millar Hall, Duddingston Kirk. The CC agreed to pay for room hire of approx. £50. *Action - Agenda and briefing papers to be sent out to all attendees on Tuesday 21st January.*

(g) Baronscourt Park - bench and path lighting - following delays in ordering bench and issues with bank of Scotland, bench was ordered as per £1700 grant. Ordered in November and delivered in December to CEC Parks Team who installed it in early January 2025. Residents have been informed. Adjacent path lighting to be installed by CEC in summer 2025.

(h) Lilyhill Terrace - new community information notice board - HES Park Manager contacted in November 2025 to see if HES can help erect notice board on wall at entrance to Holyrood Park. Site meeting with HES Ranger and District Architect proposed for January/February 2025. HES Manager invited to May CC meeting to discuss Holyrood Park Strategic Management Plan. If use of HES wall not possible, alternative option would be nearby CEC railings but would need to approve. Board still to be purchased from CEC grant. CEC roads.

5. Tree Planting - part of a city wide initiative - 900 fliers were distributed in the Willowbrae area. 12 trees to be planted in Abercorn Crescent on Wednesday 15th January at 11.30. Pupils from Parsons Green PS and local councillors will attend.

6. Consultation on new National Speed Restrictions - review undertaken to ensure speed limits on Scottish roads are appropriate and act to reduce death and injury on road network and improve traffic flow and air quality. Proposals include reducing speed limit for motor vehicles on single carriageway roads from 60 mph to 50 mph and increase HGV limit from 40 mph to 50 mph.

Public feedback vital - consultation process underway. A series of in-person and virtual engagement sessions will be held to ensure a wide range of views is considered. For further information and response to the consultation please visit:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/consultation/national-speed-management-review-coconsultation/>

The CC is asked to promote the consultation. Further details re events will be shared in the coming weeks. *Action - post details on website and social media - JK, GM*

Consultation on proposal to develop Council land in Craigmillar - Council plans to redevelop a site within Craigmillar's local centre on the south side of Niddrie Mains Road, which currently houses several small businesses and a Tesco Express. The plans are to create a mixed development with new affordable homes above commercial premises.

Proposals can be viewed on the Consultation Hub, which will be open until Tuesday 4th March or at Craigmillar Libray on Tuesday 21st January from 3pm to 7pm.

Action - post details on website and social media - JK, GM

7. Planning - CA reported that there had been 38 new applications, 29 of them from the Council for new windows in the Piershill Square West flats. Also 4 Tree Preservation Orders were made and 2 STLs were refused. Still awaiting application for New Yorker site (student flats). Action - agreed to organise a public meeting in Willowbrae Church Hall. £50 agreed for banner and hire of hall - CA, MB.

13 more student flats added to application for Radical Road site on Willowbrae Road - now 181 units. More guidance coming from Council on student accommodation in City Plan.

8. Financial Matters - CA circulated Treasurer's Report. There is £1489.30 in the account, although more will become available when CEC grant of £2600 for Environment Fair and LPP arrives. There remains an ongoing issue with the Bank of Scotland but in the interim, Treasurer and Secretary are able to pay invoices manually. Various grant applications have been made - Northfield Circus heritage information board, RHS PS Nursery Garden, Tree survey and education programme, local heritage information board for Piershill Barracks. These would all be run by Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust for the CC.

9. Community Council Elections - process commences in February 2025.

Notice of election - 5th February

Nominations open - 6th February, close 27th February

Election (if required) 27th March.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting of the CC on Tuesday 21st January at 7pm at the Community Centre to discuss how we will publicise the election and try to recruit new members. A Campaign Toolkit will be circulated to members before the meeting. *Action - Book a room at the CC - CA. Circulate the Toolkit - MB*

10. AOB - grant application mentioned under item 8 are due to be considered by the relevant panel on 3rd or 4th February.

11. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 11th March.