# Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

**Minutes of the Community Council Meeting**
**Held on 14/07/2026 at 7pm**
**at Northfield Community Centre**

| | Agenda Items | Time |
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| 1. | Welcome and Apologies - The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.<br><br>Present: Ruth Pearson (Chair), Chris Alcorn, Margaret Bennett, George Callaghan, Rebeca Diaz-Vazquez, James Keating, Gordon Macdonald, Sunila Nimalasuriya, Cllr Alex Staniforth.<br>Apologies received from Cllr Danny Aston, Cllr Joan Griffiths, PC Iain Hamilton.<br><br>The chair spoke of the recent passing of David Armstrong, member since 2019. Dave was a knowledgeable and well-respected member of the community and a friend to all. He will be greatly missed. | |
| 2. | Minutes of last meeting (12/05/2026) & matters arising:<br>• Calvary Park update (MB) – MB & CA to meet with Cllr Staniforth after the meeting to discuss. Progress on new lease with Rugby Club but problems continue. Another meeting scheduled for August with Director of Place.<br>• Willowbrae Church Sale update (MB) – we have had word that a sale has already gone to the stage of signing missives, so the community buyout bid may already be too late due to the lack of cooperation from the Church of Scotland refusing to engage in any way. A huge pity if this is the case after all the hard work of the working party and the huge community support for this venture.<br>• Marionville Fire Station (RP) – closure has been postponed for now. CA highlighted the importance of keeping the pressure on with SFRS, and we should invite them to look at the two Duddingston sites with us. GC referred to the possibility that the community council has a legal right to a participation request. This depends on whether SFRS constitutes a 'Public Service Authority'. GC to investigate further and supply the link to this information to the rest of the community council. RP will then write to SFRS asking to be involved.<br>• Multicultural Conversation Café (MB) – have had c15 attendees over the last six months. Some left as they gained employment. CEC are happy to continue providing a free space at the community centre for now. Two trips planned for over the summer break, a canal trip on 29/07 and a trip to the beach on 06/08.<br>• National Emergency Briefing (NEB) film (MB) – well attended. A group are keen to meet monthly to look at climate resilience. MB to lead the first meeting on Thursday 30th July 6.30-8.30 at the community centre. MB referred to Ready Edinburgh website for simple steps to prepare for a climate emergency.<br>• No 5 Bus update (CA) – contractors have been out to look at the space for more tracker displays. Electricity supply is an issue, as is space with the narrow pavement available for two new bus shelters as requested by two members of the public at last CC meeting. Tracker is available on the app and may not be cost effective to provide at stops where there is only one bus timetabled. CA to meet CEC Public Transport team on 23/7 to gain keys for bus shelter noticeboards to insert new 69 timetable, as well as distribute c500 new 69 timetable leaflets to Lady Nairne & Bingham and will re-raise #5 service issues. GC highlighted the proposed change to bus lanes along Willowbrae Road & Milton Road West to seven days a week 7am-7pm but did not know when this was due to go live. Cllr Staniforth was able to confirm that there was no update on this planned in the next two CEC transport meetings. | MB & CA<br><br>GC/RP |

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| 3. | Police Report (Community Police Officer – Iain Hamilton). As PC Hamilton was not on shift, he sent his apologies and the following email update:<br><br>*"We are receiving reports of youth Anti-Social Behaviour in Treverlen and Figgate Park and the surrounding streets. We have conducted both high visibility and plain clothes patrols in the area, which has resulted in 6 youths being charged with various offences, 2 E-Scooters and 2 Pedal Cycles being seized. I intend to continue monitoring the area and conducting these patrols. I would ask residents to report any such behaviour via 101, Police Scotland Contact Us or Crimestoppers.*<br>*We also continue to receive reports of drug dealing/use in the area. This is either reported by residents or caught by officers making proactive stops. I would encourage the reporting of any information relating to drug dealing/use as this allows us to target specific areas with plain clothed patrols.*<br><br>*Lastly, the summer months have brought about an uptake in housebreaking, vehicle and pedal cycle theft across the city. I would encourage residents to ensure homes/vehicles/bikes are kept locked up whilst unattended. Any signs of suspicious behaviour should be reported to Police."* | |
| 4. | Treasurer's update on financial position (GC) – As the treasurer handover to GC has not yet taken place, CA gave the summary update. Currently £6,995.97 in the bank, £3,150.06 of which is restricted for specific grant funded projects (Lilyhill Terrace noticeboard & Northfield Estate heritage info board), leaving the community council with a balance of £3,845.91 in unrestricted funds. | |
| 5. | Planning update (CA) – CA reported that over the 8-week period from mid-May to mid-July, five applications of interest were relevant to the local area. We objected to three short term let applications in line with the policy to refuse due to the current housing emergency in Edinburgh. We also responded to the proposed hotel development on the corner of Northfield Drive/Willowbrae Road. The proposal includes a retail space and the same colour palette and four-story building that has already been approved for the student housing, so it is unlikely there are grounds to refuse. The planning permission for housing approved in 2023 is still valid, so if a buyer for the hotel plans cannot be found this might still revert.<br><br>An application for a two-story shop/retail/café/professional use development has been submitted in the adjacent site where the Barracuda chip shop used to be located. Comments on the CEC planning portal are live until 31st July. There was discussion about whether the LPP will have an impact on current planning decisions. It was pointed out that CEC are currently working with City Plan 2030 not City Plan 2040, so unlikely. CA commented that the development at Jock's Lodge is making very slow progress and no progress on the bigger site at St Margaret's. Questions were asked as to whether this might indicate that the student accommodation bubble has burst and this work is no longer progressing. | |
| 6. | Local Place Plan (CA) – CA highlighted the considerable volume of work done by Ellie Burroughs on this to make it such a professional document. The deadline for responses has been extended to mid-August. There have been three responses, from Porty Action, MCAN and the Duddingston Conservation Society, all making positive contributions. CA to chase other community councils for their responses. He will table to Community Cllrs the details and suggested responses before September meeting where NWCC will need to adopt the LPP to submit to CEC Planning to meet their deadline. MB asked Christina Hales from the Duddingston Conservation Society if they were making good progress on their plan having separated from the NWCC LPP in February 2026. Christina confirmed that responses from Calvary Park residents and the village were too mixed to include the closure of the low road in their plan, despite there being 37,000 cars a week through the village. CA questioned where this figure came from. GC raised the issue of traffic increase through Meadowfield Drive past Parsons Green Primary School due to the low road closure. CA has asked the CEC Transport officer if trackers currently in place are for this purpose but no response received. CA to chase. | CA<br><br>CA |
| 7. | Community & Environment Fair 2026 (RP) – grant application to be made to ECCAN to fund the fair. Currently on track with stall holders steadily booking their spot. Upmo have agreed to run the café again. Discussion about easier stalls for NWCC to run than books/toys/bric-a-brac which require huge time investment, storage and don't make much money. Most goes to charity shops after. Suggestions of plants stall, Guess the Lego and chocolate tombola. Plans are still developing so watch this space. | |

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| 8. | Public Forum & any other business.<br>AOB – grant applications with CEC Small Community Grants Scheme for mobile Local Heritage display boards, Baronscourt Park Memorial Bench with plaque in memory of Dave Armstrong, as well as second phase of Royal High Primary School's nursery outdoor garden activities (previously partly funded). Two applications were also due to the Tree Council by 19/7 related to street tree replacements along Northfield Broadway, around perimeter of Royal High Playing fields and at Piershill Squares.<br>Public Forum - A member of the public suggested that it might be interesting to see how many of the comments on the planning portal regarding the hotel development were from people living in the local area. | **CA** |
| 9. | Date of next meeting. **Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7pm in the Community Centre**. Items for the agenda to be submitted to the secretary no later than Friday 21st August for inclusion.<br>The meeting closed at 8.30pm. | |

We invite all members of the local community to attend Community Council meetings as observers. Due to the time constraints of the meeting, if you wish to comment on an item already on the agenda, please give notice to the secretary via email prior to the meeting so that your views can be considered at the meeting. If you would like to raise a new local issue, you must give at least **fourteen days' notice** via email prior to the **next** meeting date so that that the item can be included on the agenda for discussion. Please email the Secretary at secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk. There will also be a chance for comments that may arise on the night in the public forum at the end of the meeting.

To keep up to date about the work of the NWCC, look up our website (https://www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk). Copies of all previous minutes along with other aspects of the work of the community council can be found by scanning the QR Code.

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