

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 24 June 2025 at 7.30pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: J Yellowlees

Present: J Bishop, R Brown, J Cunliffe, D Dawson, B Knowles, J McDonaugh, D MacLennan, S Macpherson, E Robertson, H Ross, G Scott, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Alan Beal,
In attendance: Carlyn Fraser, Citywide Road Co-ordination Manager, and Patrick Coogan, Roads Engineer, both CEC; David Happs, Safety and Security Operations Manager, Scottish Rugby; Rachel Bayes, Head of Operations and Events, Edinburgh Rugby; Scott Findlay and Lee Humphrey, Crexcell; Scott Neil, Murrayfield Ice Arena; 8 members of the public,
Apologies: J Brown, J Lamb, M Rumney, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Fiona Bennett, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr Finlay McFarlane, Cllr Claire Miller, Cllr Jo Mowat, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Miles Briggs, MSP, Foysol Choudhury, MSP, Alison Johnstone, MSP, Angus Robertson, MSP, Lorna Slater, MSP, Sue Webber, MSP, Christine Jardine, MP.

1. Welcome and Apologies and Matters Arising

Apologies were received as above. The Chair welcomed those in attendance. It was agreed that to accommodate those in attendance who did not live locally Item 3 on the Agenda would become Item 2 and vice versa.

The Chair reported that:-

1.1 a consultation about building an extension to Craigmount School on the grass field to the east was being held that day. Although the School is not within the MCC area, it is one of the four secondary schools which serve the area.

1.2 most of the new MCC members had accessed the induction training.

1.3 he had thanked Sarah Boyack, MSP for her help over the years on her announcement that she is not seeking re-election.

2. Scottish Water upgrading of Combined Sewer Outflow on A8

The Chair reported that so far the works which Scottish Water are carrying out on the A8 are not proving as troublesome as expected. Scottish Water had not sent a representative to the meeting but the City of Edinburgh Council ("CEC") were represented by Carlyn Fraser, Citywide Road Co-ordination Manager, and Patrick Coogan, Roads Engineer and the officer dealing with Scottish Water. They confirmed that the road closure is now on the north side of the A8 and will remain there for the duration of the works. Scottish Water aim to complete the works just before the autumn test against New Zealand in November.

J Cunliffe reported that she had been speaking to a number of the drivers of the 100 bus, who thought that the traffic management arrangements were working. She raised the following three issues:-

1. Cars parked outside the cafes in the loading bay on Roseburn Terrace at rush hour are causing long tailbacks, sometimes as far as Haymarket.
2. There is concern that a fire engine could not access Abinger Gardens if cars are parked on both sides of the street there. The gap between the double yellow and double red lines should be closed.
3. The “No Right Turn” into Murrayfield Gardens is widely ignored and Murrayfield Gardens is now being used as a shortcut to avoid the temporary traffic lights on the A8.

J McDonough reminded the meeting that MCC had repeatedly requested additional signage there.

C Fraser undertook to add this request to the Road Safety Team’s list. She added that the current arrangements had been discussed with the transport providers, whose silence implied that they are happy with the arrangements.

D MacLennan reiterated that the use of the loading bay in Roseburn Terrace outside the cafes for eastbound traffic requires enforcement of the prohibition of parking, waiting and loading during the morning and evening rush hours, the latter being 4.00pm to 6.30 pm because the bus lane has ended just after the pedestrian crossing and any vehicles illegally parked in the loading bay / left hand lane prevent any traffic proceeding straight ahead at the traffic lights because of the reasonable tail back of traffic turning right in the outer lane

J McDonough also expressed the view that the parking on Roseburn Terrace is not adequately managed at rush hour. **C Fraser undertook to report this concern to her colleagues.**

The Chair requested regular attendance at MCC meetings by a CEC representative. **C Fraser** asked that particular issues be emailed to her before the next meeting on 2 September and **undertook to see whether a representative could attend.**

J McDonough asked whether any contingency plans had been put in place to take account of the forthcoming Festival events and concerts at Scottish Gas Murrayfield (“SGM”). C Fraser replied that the multi-disciplinary Events Team meets before these events to discuss arrangements. David Happs, Safety and Security Operations Manager, Scottish Rugby, confirmed that Lothian Buses, Scot Rail, Edinburgh Trams and the Police are all involved and able to respond to developments and update transport information on the day of an event.

C Fraser said that CEC’s Transport Team is working with Lothian Buses to improve the information available at the bus stops which have digital displays. J Cunliffe pointed out that not all of the stops near SGM have digital displays and the information about services being curtailed or diverted is not up to date and is inadequate.

J McDonough and D MacLennan requested digital signs at **all** the bus stops at the foot of Murrayfield Road and Ormidale Terrace and on West Coates.

D MacLennan made the point that, if the Roseburn and Murrayfield area is the worst affected by events at SGM, the installation of digital signs at **all** the bus stops there should be treated as a priority. He also asked who should be contacted to request immediate enforcement of the parking restrictions on Roseburn Terrace. S Macpherson said that reporting infringements online, as requested by CEC, never produced a result. **C Fraser undertook to highlight**

this issue to the relevant team. She encouraged reporting if a particular day, time of day or vehicle was an issue.

The meeting briefly discussed imposing variable parking charges related to the size of a vehicle. S Macpherson was of the view that there is too much free parking in the Roseburn area, e.g. on Russell Road, and this should be removed to discourage vehicle use.

An invitation to MCC's meeting on 2 September is to be sent to Carlyn Fraser and copied to Gareth Barwell's assistant, Veronica Wishart.

3. Events – Ice Arena. SGM; the Hive

3.1 Events at Ice Arena – Scott Neil advised that FLY, and not the Arena, organise the FLY event at the Ice Arena. This year changing the admission time by an hour caused problems with the waiting crowd and more stewarding may be required. He thought that inside the venue the event had gone well.

J McDonagh referred to the problems faced by the Rosebean Café with queues for the toilet and badly behaved customers. He conceded that the promoters were not to blame, but said that the situation had to be better managed in future with stewards in Roseburn Park before and after the event.

Cllr Beal said he was aware of complaints about noise from local residents.

S Neil said he thought CEC had received only four complaints about noise. He added that FLY had spoken to the Café owners/staff.

The Chair reported that a local resident had complained to MCC by email about the tribute acts to be hosted at the Ice Arena before the Oasis concerts. The resident felt that it was unreasonable for local residents to be expected to put up with noise and disturbance from additional events as well as the main concerts. S Neil replied that these events should be no louder than the Ice Arena's usual discos. It is difficult for the Arena to attract customers when a major event is taking place, as people who are not attending tend to stay aware from the area. The tribute events will run from 2 to 8 pm on 8, 9 and 10 August. 1500 people are expected to attend.

The Chair indicated his acceptance of an offer for MCC to visit the rink.

3.2 SGM – The Chair wondered whether, if Scottish Rugby held their residents' meetings in the evening, they might be better attended.

3.3 The Hive – D Dawson explained that the lack of TTROs for the matches at the Hive stadium means that cars are parked across drives, on verges and pavements and at junctions. He cited Saughtonhall Avenue, the Glendevon roundabout and Pansy Walk as some of the locations affected.

Rachel Bayes, Head of Operations and Events, Edinburgh Rugby, replied that during matches Lee Humphrey of Crexcell will be on the ground, announcements will be made over the PA system and efforts will be made to get traffic wardens to attend. L Humphrey said that the cost of traffic wardens might be passed on to Edinburgh Rugby. Getting traffic wardens out for the first match of the season would have an effect on future behaviour.

R Bayes assured the meeting that, as the Edinburgh Rugby season does not start until September, there is time for work to be done on these issues.

In reply to a question from Cllr Beal about Scottish Rugby's tow truck, David Happs confirmed that it can only be used to tow away a vehicle which is infringing a TTRO.

4. Road safety measures including Ellersly/Kinellan Roads

The Chair asked John Bishop to speak about the paper which he had prepared in collaboration with four of his neighbours on enforcement of 20 mph speed limits. A copy of the paper is attached as Appendix 1. J Bishop explained that the purpose of the paper was to ascertain whether MCC had an appetite to tackle this issue in any of the ways outlined in the paper. One of the options is SpeedWatch, a Police initiative which involves training volunteers to operate speed cameras and gather data. If a driver is caught on at least two occasions, this is reported to the Police, but prosecution does not necessarily follow. H Ross thought that often the Police simply contact the individual. PC Susan Fulton had given the impression that insufficient manpower means enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit is not a priority. J Bishop asked whether MCC might take the SpeedWatch idea to a senior Police officer with a view to obtaining a more positive response.

G Scott pointed out that CEC is reducing 40 mph speed limits to 30 mph across the city and that this action is inconsistent with the failure to enforce the 20 mph limits.

At J McDonough's suggestion the meeting voted to give J Bishop a mandate to pursue the proposals in his paper and form a sub-group to do so.

5. Councillors' reports

Cllr Beal reported as follows:-

5.1 Gullies – he had noticed cones at the top of Roseburn Street indicating that work was to be done but had seen no one there.

5.2 Oasis concerts – there was some concern about bad behaviour by fans and he had raised a question about it at a full Council meeting. The Chair mentioned that Cllr Fiona Bennett had criticised negative comments about “fat, rowdy middle-aged men”.

5.3 Craighleith Drive tunnel – the plans are with CEC's team to deliver the agreed measures. **Cllr Beal undertook to forward copies of the plans to H Ross.**

5.4 Stadia parking review – it appears that the plan is to have a TRO for the whole of Edinburgh and local representations can be made through that process.

5.5 Coltbridge Gardens – the pothole repairs are being done.

5.6 Roseburn Street/Gardens parking on raised pavement at junction – he had raised this question at full Council; it was then passed to the Transport and Environment Committee who rejected the issue. **Cllr Beal undertook to pursue the issue in other ways.**

S Macpherson said this presented a danger to children walking to school and action should be taken.

5.7 Easter Belmont Road, planning permission for a gate without pedestrian access - J Forbes reported that Cllr Davidson has pursued this and CEC is taking legal advice as to whether they can insist upon pedestrian access being maintained.

In reply to a question from a member of the public about what CEC is doing to prevent a repetition of the bad behaviour by fans which was experienced at the last Oasis concert, D Dawson referred him to the meetings with residents which Scottish Rugby hold before major events and reassured him that

information on fan demographics can be obtained via the ticket purchasing system and arrangements adjusted accordingly.

J Mc Donough referred to the news that CEC has granted Scottish Rugby permission via its liquor licence for SGM to host up to 12 events per year in addition to the usual rugby matches. D MacLennan said that he had asked Cllr Jo Mowat to look into this, as he feared he had been misled by the information which he had been given by CEC to the effect that the variation to the licence related only to decibel levels. **Cllr Beal undertook to investigate too.**

6. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13 May 2025

6.1 Roseburn House – a member of the public reported that he had met the new owner of Roseburn House, who had purchased it from the estate of the late Margaret Sturgeon. He knew that Margaret Sturgeon's father had bought the house in 1929. The new owner said he did not intend to develop the land but might grow potatoes.

6.2 Balgreen Tunnel – the Chair referred to Network Rail's new Community Fund and reported that Elma McLean intends to apply to it.

6.3 Saughtonhall Community Association's Rec Hall – J McDonaugh reported that there had been no progress in the issue of a letter from CEC confirming the grant of £100,000 of funding. CEC is awaiting funds from the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme. If a smaller amount than £100,000 is received, CEC will apply to the Shared Prosperity Fund for the balance.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: J McDonaugh, Sec: J Yellowlees.

7. Police Report

The Chair went over the Police Report, which had been received via email prior to the meeting and which is attached as Appendix 2.

8. Planning Report

J Cunliffe reported that since the last meeting there had been only householder applications and applications relating to trees.

9. Licensing Report

D MacLennan reported that there had been nothing new since the last meeting. He was pursuing the matter of Scottish Rugby's licence with Cllr Mowat, as reported at Item 6.

10. Engagement and Inclusion

H Ross had submitted a report by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached as Appendix 3. He encouraged those present to sign up for MCC's Newsletter. He also said that Community Councillors who wanted to see incoming email but not be part of any resulting email conversation could be bcc'd.

11. Western Community Grants Fund panel

The Chair reported that he and Moray Rumney had attended a meeting of the Western Community Grant Fund on 16 June and had considered the first round of applications. None had been from Murrayfield.

12. Friends of Roseburn Park update

B Knowles reported that there had been changes in the CEC personnel with whom the Friends of Roseburn Park usually deal and the Park will be left with only one ranger. Maintenance of the Park is ticking over.

13. Treasurer's Report

J McDonaugh reported that the opening balance in May was £1,801.71. There had been no income. Bank charges of £8.50 left a closing balance of £1,793.21. Expected Expenditure for June 2025 was £60 for hall hire and bank charges of £6.25.

D MacLennan asked whether MCC could move its bank account to a bank which does not impose charges. **J McDonaugh undertook to make enquiries.**

14. Any Other Competent Business

14.1 The Chair reported that MCC had been asked to publicise the switch off of the Radio Teleswitch Service affecting old electricity meters. The deadline of 30 June has been abandoned because of the disruption it would have caused.

14.2 The Chair reported that on the 150th anniversary of the Cockburn Association its Director, Terry Levinthal, announced that he will be leaving in September to join Edinburgh World Heritage.

14.3 Redcroft on Murrayfield Road held its annual Open Garden Day on 7 June.

14.4 21 Murrayfield Avenue – E Robertson confirmed that the applicant has withdrawn the application for planning permission to construct ancillary accommodation in the rear garden.

14.5 D Dawson reported that Scottish Rugby is keen to work with local groups in partnership and is offering funds for suitable projects. There was no response to his request for volunteers to form a group to look at possible ways to take up this offer. (He has since received one volunteer and invited others.)

14.6 J McDonaugh mentioned that his computer had been hacked. He apologised to anyone who had received a suspicious email apparently from him. D Dawson encouraged the reporting of phishing emails.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 2 September 2025

Subsequent meetings: 14 October and 2 December 2025.

Minutes approved at meeting of 2 September 2025

APPENDIX 1

MCC Agenda Item for 24 June, 2025

20 mph speed limits: influencing vehicle drivers' behaviour

The purpose of placing this item on the MCC agenda is to assess the appetite of MCC as a body, to seek to improve driver behaviour in relation to legally enforceable 20mph speed limits on our roads.

XXX

Three possible actions in MCC area: Would you support all or any of these suggestions?

1. Seeking outside help?

Where do local groups go for information that will assist them to improve road safety. RoSPA (Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents) have published a Road Safety Factsheet which, among other bodies, appears to have the support of the Scottish Executive and Edinburgh Council.

Should MCC invite RoSPA to assist and advise us?

2. Improve publicity about 20 mph?

Both Scottish Executive and Edinburgh Council have (or have had) publicity toolkits available to help communities. We have seen little evidence of such publicity in the Murrayfield area.

Should MCC acquire and use publicity about 20 mph more widely?

3. Adopting Police Scotland's SpeedWatch?

Police Scotland assist Scottish communities to use trained volunteers to monitor and report on speed limits.

Should MCC promote the development of a SpeedWatch scheme in the Murrayfield area?

XXX

If there is support for undertaking this work should we establish a **Murrayfield CC Road Safety Group** (to include Roseburn and Saughtonhall) which would:-

- Seek views on and report on road safety issues to MCC and Edinburgh Council
- Undertake specific initiatives to educate, sustain and encourage enforcement of 20 mph speed limits;
- Support local residents in their efforts to enhance road safety
- Use the MCC website as a communication resource for this work
- Liaise with other Community Councils?

XXX

Background: 20 mph limits are intended to provide a better balance of the interests of pedestrians, especially people with limited mobility (young and old) cyclists and vehicle users. While improved road safety is a particular goal (given the increased risks of fatality above 20 mph) there are other significant benefits to maintaining lower speed limits: the health of local residents, social well-being and the environment.

All roads with the exception of Corstorphine Road are classified as 20 mph; some roads are through roads, including Ravelston Dykes, Murrayfield Road, Ellersly Road, Saughtonhall Drive and Balgreen Road. Through roads attract high numbers of vehicles which, when congested, feed smaller and quieter roads. Speed monitoring is a key factor in determining which responses Edinburgh Council make to mitigation of speed excesses.

For speed limits to be effective they require the support of both local residents and vehicle drivers; road and pavement design work is able to support the slowing of the traffic; the use of narrower lanes, kerb extensions, refuge islands and roundabouts are additional examples. Clear signage and vehicle-activated signs play a role. Education and publicity both have a role; as does the prospect of enforcement.

John Bishop
Caroline Booth
Jim Forbes
Don Page
Rab Houston

[Date]

APPENDIX 2

POLICE REPORT from 12 May to 23 June 2025

Housebreakings:

13/5/2025 – Intended Theft at Roseburn Street – Approaching property trying door handle before leaving. The suspect was dressed in black with a face covering

18/05/2025 – 19/05/2025 – Attempt Housebreaking with Intent to steal at Rosebean Café, Riversdale Crescent – Attempting to force the lock by unknown means, failing to gain entry

19/05/2025 – Theft by Housebreaking at HUI Takeaway on Roseburn Terrace – Smashing glass panel in door, entering and stealing from within

Vehicle Theft:

03/05/2025 – Theft of Motor Vehicle at Henderland Road – Stealing motor vehicle by unknown means whilst left secure and unattended

21/05/2025 – Attempt theft Motor Vehicle at Succoth Park – Attempting to break into Motor Vehicle by damaging the window trims and door handle

30/05/2025 – Theft of Motor Vehicle at West Coates – Stealing motorcycle by unknown means

Other Theft Crimes:

Nothing of note

Antisocial Behaviour:

Again, several calls were received in relation to youths wearing balaclavas on Suron Bikes causing antisocial behavior around the following areas, which we do continue to tackle:

- * Roseburn Park
- * Roseburn Street
- * West Coates

Vandalism:

None of Note

Bogus Caller:

None of Note

Other:

During June the Roseburn Path was closed for several days due to a police investigation, in which a firearm was found. We appreciated all the support from local residents in and around Roseburn and we are aware this was an inconvenience for regular users of the path network.

There is no risk to the wider community.

No further details can be disclosed.

for approval

APPENDIX 3

Murrayfield Community Council Engagement Report for meeting of 24 June 2025

Liaison (MCC member attending)

- 15-05-2025: Donaldson Community Association AGM
- 03-06-2025: Wester Coates Community Association AGM
- 03-06-2025 (Cancelled): Saughtonhall community (home security event, cancelled)
- 17-06-2025: Murrayfield Stadium Centenary Event
- 18-06-2025: Ellersly/Kinellan Road Safety Group

Newsletter Circulation

- 03-06-2025 Newsletter: 31
- 16-06-2025 Agenda: 36

New website/email contact from individuals since last meeting

- freelance reporter interested in John Lennon plaque
- prospective concern about Kingsburgh Road rat-running from Corstorphine Road works
- noise during FLY event
- anti-social behaviour (Murrayfield Road) following Robbie Williams event
- yellow/red lines parking at bottom of Murrayfield Gardens

Website anonymous survey responses since the last meeting

- Too many vehicles, too much unrestricted parking for commuters, illegal motorbikes on the Roseburn path
- Roseburn Path tram line proposal
- Vandalism, burglaries
- Roseburn Path, SRU events, CCEWL cycle track speeds, pavement weeds, Scottish Water works on main road below Abinger Gardens

Facebook commentary topics

- Corstorphine Road roadworks
- Pavement Parking Roseburn Place/Street junction
- Stadium corporate event parking in Roseburn, lack of enforcement, merits or otherwise of controlled parking in Roseburn (and history of consultation)

Website page views (20 May – 18 June)

- 2221
(Note: much-inflated by people Googling “Robbie Williams Murrayfield” or similar)

Facebook Data (28 days to 18 June)

- Followers: 318. ~ 70% female, mostly 35-65 age groups.
(Note: much of our reach and engagement is not through followers but other Facebook groups)
- Post reach: 2,573
- Post engagement: 1,222
- (Note: the above much-inflated by Saughtonhall Police meeting, and its cancellation)
- New Page likes: 1
- Reactions: 56
- Comments: 21

Hamish Ross 18 June 2025

for approval