

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Community Council
Tuesday, 24 February 2026, 7.30 pm
Online

Present: J Bishop (JBi), J Brown (JBr), J Cunliffe (JC), D Dawson (DD), B Knowles (BK), D MacLennan (DM), S Macpherson (SM), J McDonough (JM), E Robertson (ER), M Rumney (MR), H Ross (HR), G Scott (GS), J Yellowlees (JY), Cllr Alan Beal

In attendance: Michael Edwards (City of Edinburgh Council Edinburgh Visitor Levy Participatory Budgeting) & 8 others.

Apologies: J Lamb (JL), Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Fiona Bennett.

1. Welcome and Apologies

As above. Item 5.(b) was taken first.

2. Participatory Budgeting under the Visitor Levy

Michael Edwards explained the Visitor Levy-funded part of Participatory Budgeting (info sheet attached). There would be £100,000 per City Council Ward over three years from April 2026. Grants would be issued to local groups and could cover a project's staff or capital costs. Unlike the Community Grants Fund, grants were not limited to £5000, the normal award process was by local vote, and each project must benefit visitors as well as locals (local heritage projects might satisfy both). Cross-ward projects (e.g. for the Water of Leith) would need to engage each ward. There was no defined role for Community Councils (CCs) but they might: submit projects; alert local groups to the scheme; co-ordinate project ideas in their area; provide formal status to informal groups.

3. Scottish Gas Murrayfield

(a) The year's event line-up had not changed. The traffic and local access plans for the 14 February rugby international were much improved for Donaldson area neighbours.

(b) There had been a meeting with Scottish Rugby about community projects. **Action: MCC reps would meet Scottish Rugby again in March.**

4. Councillors Reports

Cllr Beal spoke to items 5.(c)-5.(f), 6.(a), 6.(c) & 7.(b). Most neighbours were pleased with the planned double yellow lines in Western Gardens and the Belmont area. Murrayfield Road and Lennel Avenue were to have pavement resurfacing. Parking around the Saughtonhall bridge was being looked at. Fencing of the island at the junction of Balgreen Road and Glendevon Park must await the next financial year. **Action: HR would find out if problems had reduced there.** Cllr Beal had raised the issue of parking at the bottom of Murrayfield Gardens. Bus stop closures had been discussed at City of Edinburgh Full Council. Lothian Buses do not have to consult on route changes even though bus stops are supplied by the City Council. The future of the Coltbridge Avenue bin hub remained unknown. **Action: Cllr Beal would chase this.**

5. Minutes of 2 December 2025 meeting and matters arising

(a) Scottish Parliament election hustings would be discussed in April.

(b) JBi had supplied a Road Safety Group (RSG) report (attached). We thanked Jim Forbes and the local group behind the Ellersly/Kinellan road safety works. The works were nearly complete. Most but not all of the demands in the MCC sponsored petition

of 2023 were met. **Action: RSG would list and propose refinements.** The safety of the narrowed but uncontrolled crossing at the Murrayfield Road junction still relied on wider issues being addressed, like driver respect for the Highway Code and speed limits.

- (c) The Safety Audit for the Craigleith Drive tunnel project was complete and works should begin at the end of March.
- (d) The Craigleith Crescent speed survey was being re-done in the spring.
- (e) The Ravelston Dykes dropped kerb for cyclists at Roseburn Path had been delayed awaiting materials.
- (f) **Action: Cllr Beal would chase the “no right turn” into Murrayfield Gdns sign.**
- (g) There were no reported issues near Murrayfield Ice Arena around 5-7 Feb tournament.

6. Traffic and Transport

- (a) The Russell Road pavement is not dual-use but is often used by people on bikes. Neighbours in The Maltings find this unsafe. The City Council intends to improve cycling on this part of Russell Road. **Action: Cllr Beal would supply contact details for the City Council officer who we could invite to a meeting.** MCC had not been to recent School Travel Plans workshops.
- (b) A Coltbridge Terrace resident had asked about changing the street to be one-way. The area as a whole should be looked at. Lansdowne House plans and the Roseburn Controlled Parking Zone would affect it. **Action: HR would offer to help gather local views.**
- (c) Planning permission had been granted for a gate across the private Easter Belmont Road. No gate had been put up. The Local Access Forum might now meet because the City Council had a new Access Officer. **Action: Cllr Beal would provide contact details for the new access officer.**
- (d) The minutes of 13 January 2026 were approved (JY/JM).

7. Planning and Licensing

- (a) Planning permission for a display screen at 1b Russell Road (Tesco) (25/05546/LBC) had been refused and the sign removed. This was only because it was a listed building. MCC had objected but did not have time to look at other lit signs in the area that might have required planning permission. Permission had been granted for the shop sign at 101-103 Saughtonhall Drive (25/06275/ADV). MCC had objected.
- (b) There was not time for MCC to create a Local Place Plan¹ for the next Local Development Plan (CityPlan 2040). But it might be a way for Saughtonhall Community Association (SCA) to protect “The Rec” green space, as might *Fields in Trust* status. **Action: JM & MR would meet to discuss.** MCC could respond to the “Call for Ideas” for CityPlan 2040 (July to September 2026), with or without wider consultation. **Action: JC would ask Jim Forbes for previous notes.** Craigleith & Blackhall CC were thought to be planning a survey.

8. Reports

- (a) HR referred to an Engagement and Inclusion Report (attached). The *Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether* Facebook page remained suspended.
- (b) JM reported accounts for January (attached) and anticipated those for February.

¹ <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/local-development-plan-guidance-1/local-place-plans>

- (c) JY relayed a police report (attached). Police reports do not include traffic offences but PC Bent is engaged with MCC's RSG. There will be a *Coffee with a Cop* session at the Rosebean Cafe, Roseburn Park, 1000-1145 on Friday 27 February 2026.
- (d) GS reported for Donaldson Community Association (DCA) as attached. DCA hoped to connect with new corporate neighbours. These include student flats at Haymarket Yards, hotel operators Meininger at the former Osborne House, and City Cabs.
- (e) BK reported for Friends of Roseburn Park (FoRP). Roseburn Primary School had proposed a herb planter, wooden bench and book shed. The forestry service was checking for Dutch Elm disease.
- (f) MR reported for SCA. Their AGM had gone well with 40 people there. There were reps from MCC and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC). Members were now being moved to the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). There were two new trustees. The hall works were out to tender.

9. Any Other Business

- (a) The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) had proved helpful to new community councils. There was to be a City Council CC Internal Form information session 10 March 6-7 pm. **Action: JY or HR would attend.**
- (b) Roseburn hanging baskets. **Action: JY would speak to Art Et Facts.**
- (c) The Caledonian Masonic Lodge would open their doors on 28 February. Local garden *Redcroft* would open in May as usual under Scotland's Gardens Scheme. The garden also has a blog.²
- (d) JY had reiterated the John Lennon plaque/event suggestion to Murrayfield Ice Arena.
- (e) Scottish Water had been seen looking at the noisy manhole cover on Corstorphine Road at Ormidale Terrace.

The above are **subject to approval** at meeting of 7 April 2026.

Next meetings : 7 April, 19 May preceded by AGM, 23 June (all at Murrayfield Church Centre)

² <https://thecaley.org.uk/category/redcroft-garden-blog/>

Edinburgh Visitor Levy

Participatory Budgeting

Overview – October 2025



What is it?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) gives communities or groups of citizens the chance to decide how public money is spent – normally by voting.

The **Edinburgh Visitor Levy** is a 5% payment on the cost of paid overnight accommodation in the City, capped at five nights.

£1.7m of Visitor Levy income will be allocated through PB over three years starting in April 2026.

Spending through PB will be spread across the City, currently expected to be **£100k per Council ward**, and is expected to provide funding for projects delivered by community groups and charities.

What we can fund using money from the Visitor Levy is governed by law – the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024.

What we're doing now

PB can be delivered in many ways, and all of Edinburgh's communities are different.

We're currently looking at how we use PB in ways that:

- Are **meaningful** for communities.
- Are **appropriate** for what we want to fund and to local communities.
- Encourage **collaboration** between communities and partners.

Why I'm talking to you

To **understand** what community councils think we could achieve together through Visitor Levy PB.

Identify enthusiasm for working on this project. This could include a range of opportunities for community councils to be involved – potentially from providing a focal point for community input to acting as a local delivery partner.

Explore **other work or events** planned or currently underway that could be delivered at the same time, or where joint projects could encourage greater community participation overall.

What I'm looking for

Who is interested in continuing the conversation? Community Councils are key grassroots organisations and there many ways you could participate, assist, or lead.

If you're interested in discussing Visitor Levy Participatory Budgeting, please contact: Michael Edwards – 07834 790591 – michael.edwards@edinburgh.gov.uk

Road Safety Group report for CC meeting 24 February 2026

- RSG has been joined by a resident of Murrayfield Road who had obtained a FOI return from Police Scotland revealing that the Police Penalty notices were very rarely used in the Murrayfield area
- Had a useful meeting with PC Bent on 15th January where:
 - PC Bent restated the role of Police Scotland on 20 mph issues. Role based on a policy that adherence is based on a “self-enforcing” policy for motorists. “Casualty reduction” requirements might stimulate police action, particularly near schools. PC Bent requested information about accidents or incidents in the Murrayfield area.
 - RSG described their concerns about Local Authority speed monitoring which triggers the possibility of traffic calming measures. The concerns are about use of “Average Speeds” and inconsistencies over placing of monitoring equipment
 - Highway Code: PC Bent confirmed that drivers should give way to pedestrians who are crossing or signal their intention to cross at “uncontrolled crossings”. the Ellersly Road/Murrayfield Road junction being an example.
 - PC Bent agreed to meet with RSG member Caroline Booth to discuss concerns about travel to and around school issues
 - We agreed to invite PC Bent to a further meeting (date to be arranged) when we hoped to have an Edinburgh City Council Road Safety representative present.
- Work on Ellersly/ Kinellan Roads started during week of 14th January, and is due to be completed in March; while draft drawings were shared before the work started, the attempt to engage with the MCC and RSG on plans were rudimentary. We welcome the work that has been undertaken but believe that there are some missed opportunities to improve the crossing provision at Ellersly/Murrayfield road junction and at the eastern end of Ellersly Road.
- Continuing concerns about speed monitoring on Murrayfield Road and Campbell Avenue, particularly the use of average speed data, and inconsistent placing of monitoring equipment
- Work on Craigleith Tunnel has yet to start; speed monitoring on Craigleith Crescent got off to a poor start but now rectified with more appropriate camera positions.
- RSG considering ways of publicising continuing concerns about road safety after the work has been completed, focusing on the need for enhanced 20 mph adherence, more sensitive speed analysis, and awareness of the pedestrian priority afforded by the 2022 Highway Code changes.

John Bishop
17 Feb 2026

Murrayfield Community Council
Engagement Report for meeting of **24 February 2026**

Liaison

- 29-01-2026: Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
- 02-02-2026: Saughtonhall Community Association AGM
- 23-02-2026: Living Streets – Local Place Planning

Newsletter Circulation

- 19-01-2026 Newsletter: 148
- 24-02-2026 Agenda: 152

All sources contact or discussion since last report:

- people on bikes on the pavement on Russell Road
- the fate of the *Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether* Facebook Group
- the location of the planter on Old Colt Bridge
- interest in speakers about Roseburn
- interest in local walking guides
- one way application for Coltbridge Terrace
- road safety and rat runs, disregard of 20 mph limit and poor driver behaviour
- the geographical limits of VOI bike scheme
- fireworks

Website “unique visitors” (30 days to 24 Feb 2026)

- 396

Facebook Data (28 days to 24 Feb 2026)

- Followers: 347
- Views: 2740
- Engagement: 72

Hamish Ross 24 February 2026

Murrayfield Community Council

Treasurer's Monthly Report

January 2026

OPENING BALANCE	01 January 2026	£2,413.78
Income		
	Total Receipts	<u>£0.00</u>
Expenditure		
Zoom Fees (January)	21/01/2026	16.79
Bank Charges Aug/Sept 2025	23/01/2026	£4.25
	Total Expense	<u>£21.04</u>
CLOSING BALANCE	31 January 2026	£2,392.74

**Bank charges are £4.25 monthly fee and £0.50 per transaction

Murrayfield Community Council
2025-26 Year To Date Treasurer's Report

January 2026

Opening Balance at 1st April 2025			£1,959.96
	Income	Expenditure	
April	0.00	158.25	1,801.71
May	0.00	8.50	1,793.21
June	0.00	66.25	1,726.96
July	0.00	4.75	1,722.21
August	0.00	4.25	1,717.96
September	865.90	46.79	2,537.07
October	0.00	96.50	2,440.57
November	0.00	4.75	2,435.82
December	0.00	22.04	2,413.78
January	0.00	21.04	2,392.74
February			
March			
	£865.90	£433.12	£2,392.74
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	£432.78		



Northwest Monthly Community Meeting
MURRAYFIELD & CORSTORPHINE WARD
14th January 2026 – 22nd February 2026

Housebreakings:

- 11 x report of theft housebreaking to a non dwelling.
- 1 x attempt theft HB
- 1 x attempt theft OLP
- 1 x attempted theft
- 1 x theft slip in
- 1 x suspect person found within the curtilage of property

Vehicle Theft/crime:

- 2 x report of vehicle theft
- 2 x vehicle recovered

Antisocial Behaviour:

- 1 x report of fireworks being set off and males fighting in the street
- 1 x report of youths on Suron bikes
- 2 x report of youths on Quad bikes

An incident occurred on a Bus at West Coates where multiple members of the public were threatened, assaulted and multiple bus windows smashed. The 3 culprits were apprehended nearby shortly after and arrested. A total of 6 crimes were recorded in this incident.

Bogus Caller/Fraud:

- 4 x reports of fraud

Other incidents of note:

- 2 x report of drone activations in the area
 - Scotland Vs England rugby at Murrayfield – 1 associated crime report
-

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The next date for Coffee with a cop is Friday 27th of February from 1000 to 1145 hours. This will be at the Rosebean café in Roseburn Park.

Road safety:

PC Bent met with the road safety group on the 14th of January. Topics discussed were minuted and were to be shared in a separate report by RSG to MCC.

The requested information which the police have been able to obtain was shared with the group.

Each of the initial tasks for the police have been completed or are booked and are pending.

It is our intention to attend the next meeting to plan out further actions and next steps. It was discussed that the RSG would invite someone from Edinburgh City council to attend and the Edinburgh Road Safety Group. It is our opinion that working together with these groups would increase the reach and impact we can have together.

No date has been set for this yet.

If there are any questions which arise between, please feel free to get in touch with either the RSG or ourselves.

Advice

[Neighbourhood Watch Scotland | Safer Neighbourhoods Stronger Communities](#)

[Latest Scams - Trading Standards Scotland](#)

Please feedback in regard toto myself via my e-mail.

**Kind Regards,
PC Fulton & PC Bent
Tel 101.
EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk**

CONTACT US;

Email (for all ward areas): EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email address is not monitored 24/7 or for reporting crime or ongoing incidents. These should be reported by calling 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency).

Twitter: @EdinPolNW **Facebook:** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/EdinburghPoliceDivision>

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Donaldson Community Association

Update for MCC 24 Feb 2026

Committee membership

- In the absence of a Chair person, the committee continues to operate with the temporary arrangements of rotating the chairing of meetings and other duties distributed to committee members. This is being kept under review.

Building Works

- The new student flats at Haymarket Yards, which partly look onto Devon Place, were completed at the end of October by building contractor Ogilvie. Representatives from the DCA committee were in regular contact with Ogilvie throughout the construction process and will now focus on connecting with the building management firm, Prestige Student Living.
- Work on the former Osborne House is on track for its target completion date at the end of April. Again, throughout the build, DCA committee reps have been liaising with Ogilvie to try to minimise the impact on residents. The company is creating a delivery lay-by at the end of Devon Place which should be completed by mid February. They will also reinstate grout around the cobbles which has been eroded by constant wear and tear from delivery trucks, workers vans and so on, and repair the damaged pavement at the corner of Devon Place. There is still some disruption at the east end of Devon Place as supplies are delivered at the top of the street. DCA committee representatives are hoping to be able to liaise with the hotel operators (Meininger) before the hotel opens, with the aim of ensuring deliveries have as little impact as possible on local residents and to ensure that it abides by the terms of its alcohol license.
- The premises previously occupied by Company Bakery, at the east end of Devon Place, have been taken over by City Cabs, operating as “The Taxi Garage”, under a three year lease. Planning permission was not required as the site was already zoned for commercial use. The garage will mostly be repairing black Cabs, focussing on “running” repairs to tyres, electrical systems etc, with major diesel repairs being done at Newbridge. The manager of the garage has been extremely helpful in liaising with neighbours.

Planning Applications / Licensing

- No new matters to report

Donaldson Community Association

Update for MCC 24 Feb 2026

Local Issues

- Balbirnie residents reporting problems with rotting leaves causing a slip hazard and pot holes in road
- Devon place residents reporting concerns about electric bikes being left, often causing an obstruction on pavements
- These issues will be raised by DCA members to local councillors
- A drain in Carberry Place, at its junction with Pembroke Place, has been missing its cover for well over a year. Residents have reported this to the Council on several occasions, with no result, despite their webpage stating that officials will visit the site of all reported problems within 5 working days and that “ironworks” missing from manholes is an emergency (!) Scottish Water has also been notified but say this is Council responsibility. The DCA has now submitted a written report to the Council and will be monitoring the situation carefully.

Weeding group

- DCA are hugely grateful to the pool of 20 local volunteers who weeded our area once a month from March to September. The group will resume in March 2026.

AGM

- The date for the AGM is 30th April 2026, in The Bible Society, 7 Hampton Terrace, to which all in the local area, as well as representatives from MCC, are warmly invited.

Gill Scott

For Donaldson Community Association, 19th February 2026