

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting of the Community Council Tuesday, 19 May 2026 at 7.00 pm
in Murrayfield Church Centre, Upper Room
Chair: J Yellowlees

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Order of Business
3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 13 May 2025
4. Chair's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Engagement and Inclusion Report
7. Election of Office Bearers
8. AOCB
9. Date of Next AGM

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Chair's Report

Last year's AGM saw us thanking three stalwarts, upon the conclusion of their service – Vice-Chair and planning convenor Jim Forbes, Ann Anderson, Pete Gregson and Norma MacDonald. We also welcomed new members Juliet Brown, John Bishop and John Lamb, and co-opted Jocelyn Cunliffe as our planning convenor. It was also welcome-back for Hamish Ross who became our Secretary. His role expanded when after twenty years of diligently taking our minutes Rosanne Brown announced that the time had come to prioritise grand-parenting responsibilities. We thank Rosanne for keeping our affairs in good order.

We were looking forward to a period of stability with hard-working treasurer Jim McDonough as our new Vice-Chair when devastating news reached us that he had contracted incurable cancer. Determined not to go down without a fight, Jim carried on to the end, presiding over the Christmas festivities at the Old Colt Bridge, seeing through assistance to the Saughtonhall Community Association letting the contract to refurbish their hall, and making an input to our most recent meeting held just two days before his untimely passing which was no less shocking for being expected.

Jim's loss is incalculable for his ubiquity as Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Chair of the Friends of Roseburn Park, and for his special mix of clarity and wisdom. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

During the year a newly-established road safety group under John Bishop developed our watchfulness on enforcement of 20 mph speed restrictions and scored a success when the City Council was persuaded to include pavement-widening in the resurfacing of Ellersly Road, leaving a set of supporting measures that we shall continue seeking in order to take the scheme from good to great.

Our other *cause célèbre* was the proposed redevelopment of Lansdowne House, until now part of the St George's School estate, to offer super-caring sheltered housing. A consultation produced a number of concerns, but when we tried to put these to the City Council we were defeated on what could only be discounted as procedural grounds – a defeat that rankles with us and will be a matter for continuing reflection on the lessons learned.

Road resurfacing schemes, parking controls, *Oasis* and other events during Murrayfield Stadium's centenary year, a bus-stop closure, threats to access and the north-south tram consultation also kept us busy, and in all of this we were supported by City Councillor Alan Beal who single-handedly champions our concerns at City Council level. We are most grateful for his continuing support and our only ask of him is that we should continue to hear from him loud and clear. I am indebted to all of my fellow Community Councillors for their help in seeing us through another year, and to the members of the public without whose input we could not be of service to our community.

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Engagement & Inclusion Report

Engagement

Meetings

We met 8 times in the year to the AGM, either in-person or on-line. Representatives attended many other groups' meetings.

Broadcast

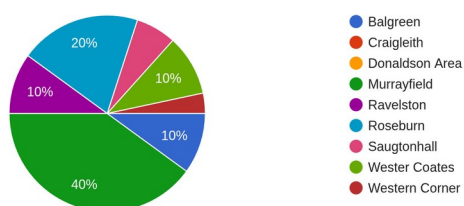
In the last year we continued to broadcast:

- on our website
- on Facebook
- on our noticeboards
- in the Murrayfield Grapevine
- by newsletter

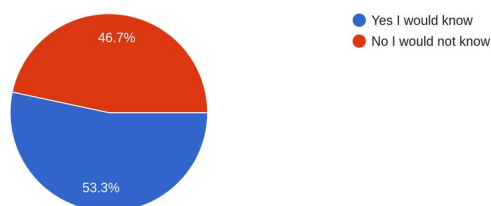
The newsletter was created this year with a view to expanding our list of email addresses. We now have 158 subscribers (or 1.5% of our constituency. For comparison, *The Roseburn and Murrayfield Village Blether* Facebook Group has 5,000 members, albeit many of them are not local people). We sent 8 newsletters in the year.

We had about 20 website contact form enquiries and an unknown number of direct email enquiries over the year. We have a standing survey on our website to provide an anonymous means of raising issues. There have been about 30 completions over the year. For our broadcasting efforts, there are some points of interest from the standing survey:

Which area do you live closest to?
30 responses



Would you know if the Community Council had discussed the local issues that concern you?
30 responses



Like it or not, most of our broadcast traffic reach is via Facebook. The Facebook demographic is quite specific and a question remains as to whether we should adopt other social media platforms.

Asking

We have attempted to gather, or rely on, local input about issues where such input has been easy to obtain. But these efforts work only where the case has: a clear set of affected people; a clear question; a fair means of asking all of the affected people; and a means of dealing with different answers. This kind of input is tempting but needs rigour.

We have not made pro-active, agenda-setting engagement efforts. (Examples include the in-street work of *Corstorphine Gyle Community Council* and the large-scale Local Place Plan projects of *Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council*). The surest means of setting Murrayfield Community Council's agenda is to contact us. Whether the resulting set of priorities would be different by other means is not known. The City of Edinburgh Council and/or City Councillors aren't themselves doing elaborate local engagement activities. Instead they remain open to contact from local people and expect to be held to account for the decisions they make. For that to happen, local people need to know they exist. By extension: we could do much more asking, but the effort will be wasted if it is at the expense of broadcasting (large numbers of constituents don't know we exist) and it will not relieve us of having to make our own decisions.

Inclusion

We have tried to improve seating arrangements at in-person meetings to make it easier for people to hear each other. Side-talk is now the main source of problems, especially for those who use hearing aids.

The Community Council area has a population of approximately 10,000. The City of Edinburgh Council has published a dashboard which can be interrogated at Community Council level for census data¹. Without trying, it is hard to know whether different meeting frequencies, days, times and venues would support a wider range of Community Councillors or meeting attendees. We might think about the pattern of on-line and in-person meetings in this regard, rather than as a seasonal preference.

1 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/strategy-performance-research/area-profile-dashboard>