

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting of the Council
Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 7 pm
in Saughtonhall Community Association's Rec Hall

Chair: J Yellowlees

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Order of Business
3. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 21 May 2024
4. Chair's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Engagement and Inclusion Report
7. Any Other Competent Business
8. Date of next AGM

MCC 2025 AGM : DRAFT CHAIR'S REPORT

2024 was for many in Murrayfield the year of Taylor Swift, and for three nights in June did we rock! Improved relations between Scottish Rugby and our community meant that things passed off with very few problems, and we can be proud of the welcome that Murrayfield gave to the fans.

Whilst Scottish Rugby are working hard at being good, responsible neighbours when it comes to SG Murrayfield games and events, residents of Riversdale, Baird and Saughtonhall are still experiencing traffic, parking and noise issues with Edinburgh Rugby's games at the Hive. We are also keeping an eye on events at the Icerink following some late-evening noise last year.

Headline stories during the final year of Jim Forbes's tenure as our Planning Convenor were the demolition of 37 Corstorphine Road and of Rosebery House. A gate at Easter Belmont Road was on hold pending consideration of its impact on access by people out for a stroll. We held firm against getting involved in a neighbourhood dispute at 21 Murrayfield Avenue, but expressed concern over procedures on a House of Multiple Occupation proposal at The Lodge. New challenges on the horizon included St George's intention to redevelop Lansdowne House, but it was to our ongoing delight that no more was heard about the threat to our little lochan behind Kinellan Road.

The Christmas celebrations led by Heather Raeburn with Jim McDonagh at the Old Colt Bridge seem to get better each year! We observed with satisfaction the constructive dialogue between Blinkbonny residents and the City Council over traffic-calming at the Craigleith tunnel, and a new group looked forward to similar progress at Ellersly Road. Our other tunnel at Balgreen received a start on the long-awaited mural. We saw the opening of a new active travel route just outside our area towards the Union Canal, but expressed concern that traffic proposals for Dalry might simply export the congestion onto the A8. We awaited a consultation on a tramline along the Roseburn Railway Path, but a more immediate concern there and in Roseburn Park was the menace of balaclava-wearing motor cycle-riders. A perceived rise in local crime was met with a Coffee with a Cop session, but a rerun of a workshop on home security went awry. Pigeon poo at Roseburn House remained perhaps our most intractable local issue.

We forewent hustings for last July's general election because locally there seemed little point, and congratulated Christine Jardine MP on her return to Westminster. At our own recent elections we bade farewell to several weel-kent faces. Jim Forbes has given eminent service as our Vice-Chair and Planning Convenor during which he unerringly drew a distinction between on the one hand issues of principle that ought properly to concern us and on the other local matters that should be left to neighbours. Norma Macdonald represented Murrayfield churches in a suitably ecumenical manner. Ann Anderson kept a careful eye on local traffic issues and on implementation of the CCWEL. Pete Gregson came to us with a firm reputation as an achiever at the Friends of Roseburn Park and I am glad that he will continue to apply his energies there. Noah Munro was our youngest member, and we wish him well for his future studies.

Jim McDonagh becomes our Vice-Chair, continuing as Treasurer. Rosanne Brown continues in the ever-vital role of Minutes Secretary, David MacLennan as Licensing Convenor, and also continuing in membership are Liz Robertson and Dave Dawson, while Gill Scott, Barbara Knowles and Moray Rumney will continue as our representatives from the Donaldson Community Association, the Friends of Roseburn Park and the Saughtonhall Residents Association. We welcome new members Juliet Brown, John Bishop and John Lamb, and are delighted to have Hamish Ross rejoining us as our new Engagement & Inclusion Officer - we are already grateful to him for having designed and developed our new MCC website. Finally Jocelyn Cunliffe has kindly agreed to be coopted as our new Planning Convenor. Our thanks are due to our City Councillors, particularly Alan Beal and Euan Davidson whom we seek to support in their mission to get things done on our community's behalf.

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2024 - 2025

1 **Income**

Our sole income in the year 2024 - 25 was the annual administrative grant from the City of Edinburgh Council.

2 **Major Projects - Website Redesign & Migration**

In 2023/24 MCC's website hosting provider intimated that they were closing down their business and that MCC would need to consider an alternative hosting platform from 1/4/24. In order to better promote the Community Council and to keep local area residents better informed on issues, events and activities, MCC redesigned its Website and migrated to a new website hosting provider.

3 **Operational Expenditure**

Murrayfield Community Council meetings in the period April 2024 - March 2025 were run in person at Murrayfield Parish Church with others, during the winter months, remaining online using the Zoom platform. Our cost for hosting meetings is therefore a combination of hall hire charges and Zoom licence fees. Other operational expense items included Public Liability insurance premiums, photocopying & printing, noticeboard supplies and webhosting support.

4 **Discretionary Expenditure**

During the period, MCC incurred no expenditure associated with its programme of micro projects (local projects costing less than £150) and no hospitality related expenses were incurred.

5 **Bank Service Charges**

During the period, MCC's bankers (Bank of Scotland) advised that a monthly Account Maintenance Fee (£4.25) and transaction charges (£0.50 per item) would be applied from Feb 2025.

6 Murrayfield Community Council has no paid employees or fixed assets. Council members do not receive remuneration for work carried out. The balance sheet consists, therefore, solely of the money we hold in our bank account.

7 Murrayfield Community Council produced £189.85 surplus of income over expenditure during the period April 2024 to March 2025



Jim McDonough
Treasurer
16th April 2025

**MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2024 - 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME		
City of Edinburgh Community Council Grant ¹	842.70	692.70
City of Edinburgh Western Neighbourhood Network Grant ¹	----	964.00
	<u>842.70</u>	<u>1,656.70</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Supply, Installation & Refurb of Noticeboards at Saughtonhall Ave & Western Corner	----	993.76
Website Hosting & Support ²	173.27	40.00
Hall Rental (In Person Meetings) ³	210.00	105.00
Zoom Licence Fees (Virtual Meetings) ³	31.18	46.77
Photocopying & Printing ³	149.65	100.00
Insurance Premium (Public Liability) ³	84.00	84.00
Treasurer's Expenses	----	----
Hospitality ⁴	----	225.00
Micro Projects ⁴	----	114.99
Bank Service Charges ⁵	4.75	----
	<u>652.85</u>	<u>1,709.52</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year to 31st March 2024⁷	<u>189.85</u>	<u>(52.82)</u>

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
REPORT ON ACCOUNTS 2024 - 2025
STATEMENT OF BALANCE at 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening Balance	1,770.11	1,822.93
less uncleared cheques	----	----
	1,770.11	1,822.93
 Surplus / (Deficit) for year	 189.85	 (52.82)
	 1,959.96	 1,770.11
 Closing Balance	 1,959.96	 1,770.11
less uncleared cheques	----	----
	1,959.96	1,770.11
 Represented by:		
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	 1,959.96	 1,770.11

I have examined the Records of the Treasurer in respect of the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025 and found them to be correct.



 Independent Examiner
 Date: 16/4/25

Neil M. Davidson M.C.I.B.S

Murrayfield Community Council Engagement and Inclusion Report – 13 May 2025

Engagement

Meetings

- We held 8 meetings in 2024, either in-person or on-line.
- We held meetings at Murrayfield Parish Church Centre and at the Saughtonhall Community Association Hall, one of which was advertised by a leaflet drop and was well attended.
- Meetings are public for reasons of openness and transparency. We tend to regard them as a significant form of engagement. (This has implications for inclusion, below).
- We facilitated a Home & Garden Security Workshop with our Community Police Team. This was not well attended and a more focused and local approach is being considered. We routinely facilitate and attend meetings between neighbours and City Council officials over local issues.
- We attend meetings and liaise with other local community groups and initiatives, such as with Scottish Rugby and our own Local Interest Groups, and relevant City-wide groups such as the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

Broadcasting

- We have posted on our three noticeboards, including Highlights of meetings, and have had these Highlights published in the Murrayfield Grapevine.
- We have updated the design of [our website](#)¹ and post there and on Facebook, including in support of other forms of local engagement such as “Coffee with a Cop” and relevant City Council consultations, as well as news arising from our meetings.
- We actively supported the promotion of the recent CC Elections (attending public engagement days, and running website, Facebook, and email-based campaigns, as well as using supplied poster and fliers). We liaise with and attend meetings of other local groups.
- We could extend to other social media platforms and be more engaged in commenting on comments. We have yet to design a formal means of incorporating social media discussion into meeting agendas, perhaps because it is unclear what significance to attach to it.

Community Survey

- We have opened a [standing short-survey](#)² on our website, partly as an indicator of reach (geographical and numerical) and partly as a relatively anonymous way of reporting issues.
- We have taken an interest in neighbours organizing their own formal and informal petitions. Evidence of the existence and quality of such surveys might be a precondition of the

1 <https://murrayfieldcc.org.uk/>

2 <https://forms.gle/H7spMzp8N8kzMm5h8>

Community Council taking more declared positions on behalf of constituents than we tend to at present.

Email

- We have an email list of about 90 people who receive various types of communication. It should be an objective in 2025 to significantly expand this with a view to also sending newsletters/bulletins. The aim is to build an audience that might eventually be asked for their views on specific issues.

Strategy and Measurement

- A small working group has been considering engagement in the run up to the Community Council elections. We are not attempting to measure engagement at this time.

Inclusion

The Community

- The population of the Murrayfield CC constituency is approximately 10,000. I have asked the City Council where census summaries for this boundary can be obtained. Assessment of our inclusiveness is difficult without such information.

Community Council Members

After the 2025 election process:

- We have members covering much of the geography of the constituency, with the exception of Craighleith, but with a continuing preponderance of members from Murrayfield, *per se*. Local interest groups also cover Donaldson Area, Saughtonhall and Roseburn (Park).
- Data on other characteristics of CC members are not collected.

Meetings

Inclusive meetings are difficult to hold. Although we have held meetings in more than one venue, and online, we would struggle to hold them at different times. There have been requests to join in-person meetings remotely, which have not been possible to accommodate.

It may help to avoid using “presence” at Ordinary business meetings as a default means of engagement. We could also:

- pre-advertise and ask those unable to attend to email questions/issues
- then set the agenda
- feed back

A common observation at in-person meetings is difficulty in hearing:

- This might be addressed by amplification.
- But perhaps greater attention to who sits where would make a difference.

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at 7pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: John Yellowlees

Present: A Anderson, R Brown, D Dawson, J Forbes, P Gregson, B Knowles,
Norma Macdonald, J McDonough, E Robertson, G Scott,
J Yellowlees,
In attendance: 4 members of the public,
Apologies: D MacLennan, S Macpherson, N Munro, Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Fiona
Bennett, Cllr Euan Davidson, Cllr Margaret Graham, Cllr Finlay
MacFarlane, 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

Apologies were received as above.

The Chair welcomed Gill Scott, the newly nominated representative of the renamed Donaldson Community Association ("DCA"), and Bev Donald, the DCA's co-Chair.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 2 May 2023

The Chair referred to the fact that, at the previous AGM D Dawson had expressed his wish to resign as Social Engagement Officer, but no replacement having been found, he had continued unofficially and had been very successful. The Chair expressed the view that the meeting held in Saughtonhall on 16 April, which had been well attended, and MCC's ongoing support for the Ellersly/Kinellan traffic calming campaign are evidence of MCC's social engagement.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 2 May 2023 were approved.

Prop: J Mc Donough, Sec: D Dawson.

4. Chair and Secretary's Report

The Chair, who confirmed that he also monitors the Secretary's mailbox, had circulated his report by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

5. Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair had circulated his Report on planning and licensing issues by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had submitted the audited Accounts for 2023-2024 by email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

7. Social Engagement Report

D Dawson reported that Hamish Ross had done a lot of work in establishing the new MCC website, assisted by Stella Macpherson. They all continue to post on social media.

8. Election of Office Bearers

The Chair explained that the current office bearers would remain in office pending the holding of Community Council elections and a General Election later in the year.

9. Community Council elections in 2024

The Chair confirmed that the date of the Community Council elections has yet to be confirmed by the City Council.

10. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

11. Date of next AGM

To be confirmed.

The Chair closed the Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved at AGM on 13 May 2025

CHAIR'S REPORT

During early summer of 2023 Murrayfield echoed to the strains of Beyonce, Harry Styles and Bruce Springsteen confirming the home of Scottish Rugby to be also the nation's biggest live entertainment venue. While welcoming the sight of so many fans enjoying themselves, we deplored unnecessarily lengthy road closures and took exception to the unexpected legacy of plastic feathers that blew around for months afterwards.

In September we were thrilled to see the long-neglected old toilet block in Roseburn Park reopen as the Rosebean Cafe in a triumph for the Friends and in particular for Pete Gregson who had kept faith with the project over many years.

Festive celebrations around the Christmas Tree at the Old Colt Bridge enabled us to make a welcome donation to the library at Roseburn Primary School.

It was goodbye with thanks to our long-serving community policeman Sam Davison on his transfer to CID, and we welcomed his successors Susan Fulton and Mike Bent. And hello again to our webmaster Hamish Ross, home from his exile in time to improve our website.

The filling of planters and laying of horseshoe and hopscotch paving-stones presaged the opening of the CCWEL, Edinburgh's first on-street segregated cycleway from Roseburn to York Place on 20 March by the then active travel minister Patrick Harvie which would prove to be a political landmark for the Scottish Greens.

A campaign of Murrayfield Avenue residents led by Drew Black scored a notable success in persuading the City Council that a bin-stand met no local need and was being used as a drive-by dump.

Some progress is at last being made in the decade-long wrangle over traffic calming on Ellersly Road and Kinellan Road. We have engaged with local residents in a strong campaign resulting in a 121 signature petition which will be heard by the Transport and Environment Committee this week.

As battle lines were drawn over revived plans for a tram line along the Roseburn Railway Path, we supported calls for the consultation to be open and transparent.

Rumblings over Quiet Route 9 showed the controversy that transport proposals can arouse at even the most local level.

Dave Dawson's efforts to raise our profile in the Saughtonhall area through an engagement exercise, including mass leafleting, culminated in a successful meeting at its Recreational Association Hall, a bid for whose refurbishment we were pleased to support.

There we co-opted by far our youngest member, Noah Munro, whose presence will work wonders on our age profile.

We bade farewell after eight constructive years to Mike Stevens as our representative from the Donaldson Area Amenity Association, and look forward to welcoming Gill Scott from its successor, the Donaldson Community Association.

I was saddened at recent news of the passing of Margaret Sturgeon, who was for many years a redoubtable voice of wisdom from the public benches.

21 May 2024

We are pleased at the City Council's recognition that our present boundaries should continue, and have made our input to the second stage of their consultation.

With elections due in the autumn, I am very grateful for the constant support of our office-bearers, members and you the public in continuing to guide us on our way, as always supporting and sometimes urging our three City Councillors to get things done for the people of Murrayfield.

J. Yellowlees

for approval

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

Much of my attention as Vice-Chair in the past year has been on matters already mentioned in the Chair's report, such as our collective response as a Community Council to consultations. These have included proposals for changes to the Edinburgh Scheme for Community Councils and to Community Council boundaries (our demand to keep our present boundaries has been accepted), and proposed improvements to Quiet Route 9, which we were neither wholly for nor wholly against. I have also devoted a great deal of time and energy on another matter the Chair has highlighted - our engagement with the Ellersly/Kinellan community, to which (declaration of interest) I belong. Local residents are frustrated and angry at years of Council inaction on making their heavily-trafficked streets safer for everyone, especially walkers and wheelers.

On planning issues, one year ago our focus of attention was on Haymarket. Though just outside our area, Haymarket affects us all as our gateway to the city centre and a major transport hub. We opposed on several grounds the proposed redevelopment of the Rosebery House site adjacent to the station and tram stop to provide a much higher and bulkier office block. Our views, however, did not prevail. Planning permission has now been granted for the development on appeal to the Scottish Ministers. Meanwhile, the long-running saga of 37 Corstorphine Road, which we have known for two years was set for approval, finally came to a conclusion with an agreement on financial contributions to education and affordable housing. A flooding risk aggravated by climate change was deemed acceptable by the Scottish Ministers, on the basis that provision had been made for safe evacuation. Contrarily, at committee level the Council refused planning permission for an environmentally sound, highly sustainable house at 42 Saughtonhall Avenue, stating flood risk.

No new planning applications of significant concern have been posted in the last twelve months. I continue to monitor the weekly lists. We do not comment on householder applications unless substantial community or heritage issues arise. Change-of-use applications for new short-term lets have become frequent but are almost always rejected by the Council, usually citing depletion of scarce housing stock.

Two licensing matters were resolved to our satisfaction at Board level. An alcohol licence was granted for the hotel under construction at Osborne House, with restrictions meeting most of our concerns. We initially objected to an application from Murrayfield Ice Arena for a 24-hour public entertainment licence, but MIA agreed to give advance notice to the Community Council of late-night or all-night events (such as the recent Boiler Room event) so that any concerns could be addressed.

J Forbes