MERCHISTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of public meeting on 20th Oct 2015 at Merchiston Tennis & Bowling Club

Present

Members:	*Councillor:*
Robin Morris (Chairman)	Gavin Corbett
Tom Graveson (Vice-Chair)	*Police*:
France Hawarden (Treasurer)	PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris (Oxgangs)
Ian Clement	PC Sacha Ponniah (St Leonards)
Ian Doig	*Public:*
James Geekie	Michael Billinghurst
Bridget Stevens	Francis Valentine
Mike Talbot	
Ted Tate	

Welcome & Introductions

Robin welcomed all present.

Apologies

Members: Mairianna Clyde, Ros Claase, Sally Lloyd; Cllr Andrew Burns. [Sally attended until the police report].

Minutes of previous meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2015 was proposed by Bridget, seconded by Ian C., and agreed.

Matters arising are taken below.

Post of Secretary

Robin reported that Alison had resigned as Secretary. Sally offered to take on Alison's duties and the offer was gratefully accepted. A message of thanks to Alison from the CC along with a gift will be arranged. **[Action: Robin]**

Report - Police

PC Kaiser-Ferris summarised her tabled report on recorded crimes in the Fountainbridge area over the past month. Compared with the same month last year crime numbers had dropped from 98 to 54. Of the 54 crimes 8 have already been resolved. The past month's figures include 11 assaults, 2 house break-ins, 27 thefts (mainly of bikes), 5 vandalisms, 9 breaches of the peace. PC Kaiser-Ferris urged bike owners when locking bikes in public places to do so in the view of CCTV cameras where possible.

PC Pooniah reported on incidents within the Merchiston/Bruntsfield area. In the first month for some time no house break-ins were recorded. However there were 3 shop break-ins mainly around Holy Corner. There were 4 bike thefts and one breach of the peace. Three youths had been arrested for anti-social behaviour offences. PC Pooniah urged the public to alert police to anti-social behaviour incidents by phoning 101.

Gavin Corbett said, in response to a question from Ian D., that the £2.6 million grant to Police Scotland from CEC is now specifically funding community police officers which he believes is a positive step. .

Local police in the MercCC area can be contacted by email at:

- edinburghmeadowsmorningsideCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk
- edinburghfountainbridgecraiglockhartCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

The PCs were thanked for their reports.

Matters raised by residents

Recording the origins of Ecurie Ecosse in Merchiston: Local resident and business owner, Mike Billinghurst, enquired if it might be possible to recognise, perhaps with a plaque, the establishment of this very successful motor racing company which started in garages at Merchiston Mews in 1951: an Ecurie Ecosse team went on to win the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1956 and 1957. It was pointed out that installation of a plaque would require the cooperation of the current owners of the property. Mike Billinghurst was encouraged to pursue the proposal and to apply, with the support of MercCC, for funding from South West Neighbourhood Partnership.

Report - Planning

Marianna reported by email that she had not noticed any planning applications of special concern in the past month.

Old Napier Students' Union, Merchiston Avenue: Robin was contacted by police seeking information about ownership of this property following a fire-raising incident. A new planning application to convert the property to living accommodation is expected.

Garvald offices at 2 Montpelier Terrace: A planning application has been submitted to convert these premises into 6 flats.

26 Greenhill Gardens: Ian C. reported that a planning notice has appeared outside this property. He will inform Mairianna. **[Action: Ian C.]**

12 Horne Terrace: James enquired about the status of this site where the buildings of the old body repair shop have been demolished. Robin recalled that outline planning permission had been sought for a residential development but was not aware of further applications.

Dalton Scrap Metal Merchants, Yeaman Place: Ian C. noted that the scrap yard appears to have been cleared.

Report - Licensing

Robin said that there were no applications of note to report from the previous month.

He had recently attended a joint meeting of the Licensing Forum and Licensing Board at which the issues of health & safety and entertainment noise were highlighted. Licensing standards officers, in future, may pay more attention to health & safety conditions in assessing premises. Noise from entertainment venues was a continuing problem for neighbouring residents. On the other hand there were concerns that the number of live music venues in the city was being restricted by noise controls.

Report - Treasurer

Frances reported that there had been no transactions in the past month. The current balance in the bank account is approximately £2,500.

Attendance at meetings

Robin expressed frustration that Ian C. had not let him know he would be attending the EACC meeting on 24th September even though it had been previously agreed that members should notify in advance and report back subsequently. Ian C. explained that the EACC meeting was open to all community councillors and, since he made clear to the EACC that he was contributing on a personal basis, he thought that notification was not necessary. It was agreed that, in such circumstances, as a matter of courtesy, the Chairman and designated MercCC representative, should be told in advance.

Discussion turned to reporting back on meetings which members attend. Ian C. has special interest and contacts in health & social care and represents A City for All Ages on NHS Lothian and Council joint committees. Ian C's expertise on health matters was acknowledged but it was considered unnecessary for reports to be received from such meetings when a member is not representing MercCC. It was agreed that health and social care are vital for many residents but it was felt that the contribution that CCs individually can make in relation to their resources is limited. Nevertheless Ian C. was urged to organise canvasses/surveys of local residents to gauge opinions, perhaps with the help of MercCC Engagement Group.

[Note: No report on the EACC meeting on 24th Sept was provided by Robin or Ian C. but papers from the meeting can be viewed at http://www.edinburghcommunitycouncils.org.uk/index.php/eacc-documents]

Councillors' Notes

Cllr Gavin Corbett spoke about issues from his case load which may be of interest to MercCC::

- He offered the help of his team to distribute MercCC flyers in the Shandon area. Mike will contact him to make the necessary arrangements **[Action: Mike]**
- Gavin continues to support and encourage the Friends of Harrison Parks, a small informal group of interested locals. The group has met a couple of times but so far no one has expressed enthusiasm for a more formal structure. Local people are happy to be involved with individual events, principally organised by Craig Dunlop, the Council's parks officer. Gavin maintains an email list of those who have expressed an interest in the parks;
- Fountainbridge Green, the new park along the canal, is looking good though not yet fully handed over;
- He drew attention to the 'meantime use' of the Grosvenor development site at Fountainbridge. A 'wiki-house', or large garden shed , has been erected to serve as a resource for community groups;
- Gavin urged support for the petition to the Council from the social enterprise group, Re-Union Canal Boats Ltd, which is seeking replacement premises near the canal for its work;
- He has received enquiries about the erection of bike racks alongside the Sainsbury store in Dundee Street. There are bike racks nearby but these are associated with the student flats and not accessible to shoppers.

AOB

Merchiston walkabout: The walkabout in the Merchiston area with Council officials is due to take place the following day. Amongst the issues to be raised are:

- Leamington Terrace and problems with HMO flats;
- Road safety on Colinton Road;
- Road surface on Forbes Road between Bruntsfield Gardens and Chamberlain Road;
- Blocked drains at junction of Gillsland Road and Polwarth Terrace.

Robin recommended that members and local residents report problems with roads, pavements and street lighting through the Council's Clarence helpline [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report] or by phone at 0800 23 23 23.

Community Empowerment Bill: Frances asked, in the light of the recent enactment of this bill, if CCs should not be working together more closely. Robin said that there was no further progress to report on the liaison group proposed by Tollcross CC.

Gavin recommended the e-newsletter, Local People Leading, produced fortnightly by the Scottish Community Alliance, as an information source on community matters.
[http://www.scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/]

South West Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel: Ian D. reported that a recent meeting the Panel allocated £15k of the £50k given by the Council to a number of community based projects. A further £10k has been earmarked for a Grant-a-Grand scheme where young people in South West Edinburgh are being given the opportunity to suggest projects and vote on the ones they want. The groups will come together to vote on 26th February 2016.

Date of next meeting

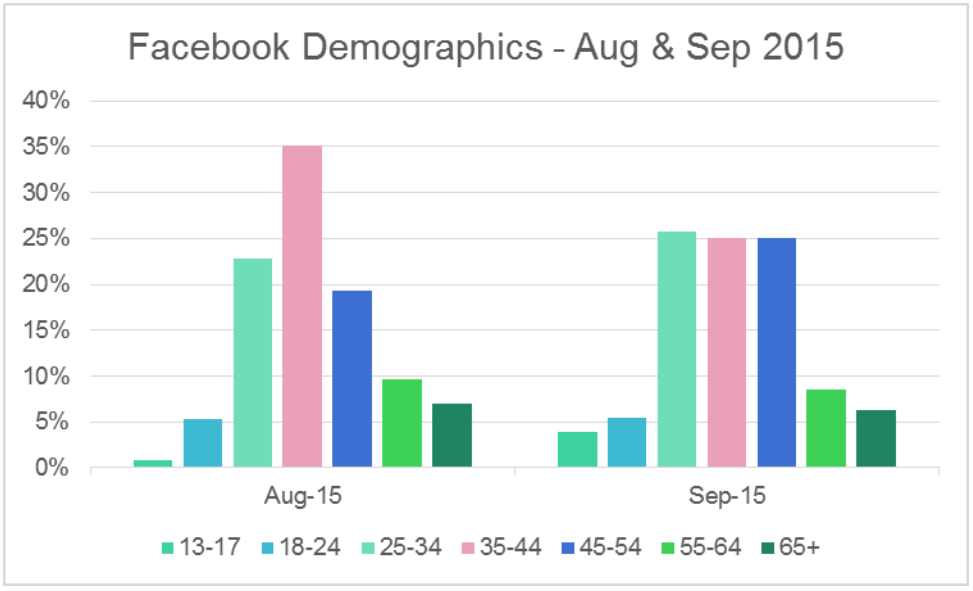
Tues 17th Nov 2015 from 7pm at Merchiston Tennis & Bowling Club. Tom will chair the meeting in the absence of Robin.

2.11.15

Merchiston Community Council – Social Media Statistics – October 2015

Facebook Stats

	August	September	Trend
Number of fans	112	113	Up 1
Reach (organic)	500	498	Down 2
Total impressions	1315	1674	Up 359

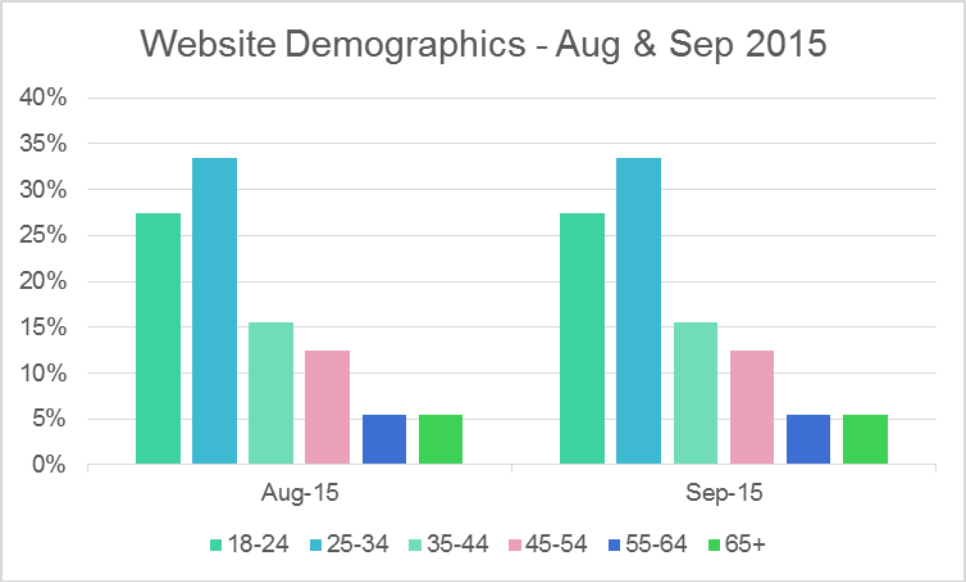


Twitter

	August	September	Trend
Number of fans	141	154	Up 13

Website Views (01 August 2015 – 31 August 2015)

	Aug	Sept	Comment
Sessions	472	300	Down
Users	335	227	Down
Pageviews	754	678	Down
Pages/Session	1.6	2.26	Up
Avg Session Duration	01:44	01:56	Up
Bounce Rate	73.52%	63%	Lower
New Sessions	67.16%	67.33%	Same



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