



Morningside's Wild West – prize-winning entries from our 2015 photographic competition by Freya Beveridge

Morningside Community Council e-Newsletter

issue no 8 March 2016

Re-organisation of Council services

We have been briefed a number of times on re-organisation of City Council services into 4 “Localities”. The headline objective is to get services closer to the citizen but it’s also aimed at streamlining organisation and cutting staff. We’re already starting to lose valuable and helpful contacts in the City administration. Few details are available of how the new structure will actually operate and we’ve heard senior figures admit that it will be a “challenge” – official-speak for “very difficult”. But some encouraging news is that our current Neighbourhood Manager, Sarah Burns, has been promoted to be our new Locality Manager. Sarah has been a good friend to us and neighbouring CCs.

Bins again

Waste management is one area where we hope that reorganised services will achieve the promised responsiveness to citizens’ needs. The state of communal bins in our area is a regular source of complaint. We encourage everyone to report problems through the Council’s “report it” section on their website or through phoning 529 3030. The Council will do its best to respond – indeed our recent experience with reporting problems has been good. We’re pleased that more glass-recycling bins are appearing in Morningside but we have doubts about their adequacy and, in some cases, their siting. We’ll await completion of the roll-out of this new facility and then follow up anything we feel is still a problem.

Street lighting

A number of residents have complained to us about the dim street-lighting in Morningside’s side-streets since the installation of LED lights. We’re told that the light level can be fairly easily adjusted but the Council won’t act because they have only received a few complaints. If you think that your street lights are too dim, please add your voice and complain directly via the Council’s website or by e-mail to streetlighting@edinburgh.gov.uk

Planning procedures

The City Council’s planning committee has decided to alter procedures at hearings of major applications by reducing the time allotted to CCs from 15 to 5 minutes. The developer still gets 15 minutes to make their case. We feel that this weights the scales even more in favour of the developer and, in conjunction with other CCs, we have protested at a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Civic Forum. The Chair of the Cockburn Association, an influential body in City planning, will formally protest to the planning authorities on behalf of CCs.

The Open Space Strategy

Edinburgh has a bewildering array of action plans and strategies. One of them, the Open Space Strategy is up for review, which could provide an opportunity to flag up some areas in Morningside that are in need of improvement – such as the Cemetery. We’ll try to get some local options on the agenda in advance of the formal consultation.

Licensing

If you are interested in, or concerned about, alcohol licensing, we encourage you to look at the new “Communities Licensing Toolkit” produced by Alcohol Focus Scotland at <http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/> It’s a very clear guide to the complexities of the licensing process and what you need to know if you are thinking about objecting to a licence application

*Next Meeting, Wednesday 20 April 2016, 7.30 pm at the Open Door. All welcome.
Confidential police surgery from 7.00 pm.*

Contact us through our website www.morningside.org.uk or through Facebook (look for Morningside Community Council) or e-mail secretary@morningside.org.uk