



Morningside views by (from left) Lottie Beveridge, Eona Beveridge and last two by Jo Young

Morningside Community Council e-Newsletter

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Police Report

The police are reporting a trend in housebreaking to target valuable and powerful cars, often ones left while owners are on holiday. Our Ward Officer, PC Sacha Ponniah, advises caution in chatting casually to strangers about holiday plans. If you are worried about home security, the police can visit and carry out a crime prevention survey – contact them via the non-emergency number 101.

The new primary school in Canaan Lane

Local residents have raised concerns about the consequences of building a new primary school in Canaan Lane. Problems have become evident since occupation of the Annexe and seem likely to become much worse when the full school is on site. Some residents (though not all) are unhappy about extra noise and disturbance. Parking problems from parents dropping off and picking up children have also arisen. The most widespread concern – and one we have already raised with the City Council – is about road safety in Canaan Lane. Groups of parents and children spill off the narrow pavements in a narrow road that now takes considerable traffic, including large delivery vehicles for businesses in the Lane. Closure of the Lane to vehicles has been suggested, either during school start and finish times or permanently. However it will be difficult to achieve a safe solution that satisfies the interests of children, parents, residents and traders. We will be writing to City Councillors to open a debate on what might be done in terms of the school lay-out and traffic management.

Planning – Balcarres Street

The developers of the combined care home and residential block under construction in Balcarres Street have applied to vary the planning consent by doing away with 12 on-site residents' parking spaces. We have lodged an objection to this proposal on the grounds that it is contrary to the Council's parking policy for new developments and that it would lead to further and unacceptable demands for on-street parking in Balcarres Street.

The Open Space Strategy and Morningside Cemetery

Another planning matter is the 2016 review of the City's Open Space Strategy, which we feel could offer an opportunity for improvement of some open spaces in Morningside – there is a background paper on our website at <http://www.morningside.org.uk/community-council/planning/> We have agreed to propose Morningside Cemetery and the untidy strip of council-owned land on the north side of Greenbank Drive as candidates for action. And also on the Cemetery, two of our members have been taking forward the idea of forming a Friends of Morningside Cemetery organisation to lead in securing some improvement to its present dilapidated state. There has already been an encouraging amount of interest from residents – please get in touch if you would like to take part.

Help the City Council to spend our money

And finally we urge residents to go along and vote for local projects at "South Central Decides" – a participatory budgeting event on Saturday 30 April, 11 am to 3 pm, at the Methodist Church Hall, 25 Nicolson Square. We've submitted some road and pavement projects but South Central covers a big area so there will be stiff competition. You can preview the projects on the Neighbourhood Partnership website at <http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/> Vote fairly but vote Morningside!

*Next Meeting, incorporating our AGM, Wednesday 18 May 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