



Morningside Farmers' Market by Shona Johnstone

Morningside Community Council e-Newsletter

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Police report

The police report an encouraging reduction in housebreaking and assaults but a less welcome increase in vehicle crime. There are worries about beggars in Morningside, especially those that seem organised and might reflect organised crime or human-trafficking. The police are encouraging the public to report details (via "crimestoppers"), for example of beggars being dropped-off and picked-up from vehicles.

Police Scotland will be reducing the number of officers in Community Police Teams by re-assigning them to response teams. However Community Officers will be a more dedicated community force because they will no longer have to join response teams on call-outs. The overall effect is expected to be positive for community policing – but we'll see!

Road safety in Canaan Lane

Regular followers of our activities will know that we have raised concerns on a number of occasions about road safety in Canaan Lane following the opening of the Primary Annexe there. Our latest request for action by the City Council has received a long and comprehensive reply. We're quite encouraged – though we'll be happier when the good intentions are translated into action – but at least we know that the problems there are being taken seriously.

Morningside Cemetery

We were represented at a workshop on the Edinburgh Open Space Strategy, which is due for revision. Our main aim was to flag up some areas in Morningside, particularly the Cemetery, which could be improved as part of the Strategy. The workshop didn't help much, having bigger fish to fry than individual sites. However other contacts with City Council officers about the Cemetery have been much more helpful. They are now willing to allow the vehicle gates to be locked at night if volunteers from the community will do the locking and unlocking. We hope this could be a step on the road to halting the loss of valuable headstones that has been happening over the years.

Proposed extension to Morningside Parish Church

The bulk of our June meeting was devoted to a debate on the proposal by Morningside Parish Church to build a new hall at the north-east corner of the church. The Parish church can no longer afford to keep 2 listed buildings. The Session and Congregation intend to sell the Cluny Centre and accommodate the many community groups that currently use it in the new hall. Several residents in the immediate vicinity object because of increased traffic and parking around the church, and because the new extension will damage the character of the key building in a conservation area. Our members have listened carefully to the arguments but haven't reached a joint conclusion because the final plans have yet to be made public. Revised plans should shortly be announced via a planning application and we urge everyone with an interest in our community to look carefully at the application and comment on it. There is a real dilemma here – the Parish Church is undoubtedly a signature building in a relatively unchanged part of Morningside. It is also undoubtedly an important and heavily used community facility that feels it has to change its physical structure in order to continue in that role.

*Next Meeting, Wednesday 17 August 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