



*Morningside Cemetery photographs by Rona Robertson*

**Morningside Community Council e-Newsletter**

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### **Police Report**

This month's Police Report was given by our new Ward Officer, PC Stuart Fraser. Stuart told us that while housebreaking remains an issue for our area, incidence is reducing. Overall crimes of theft have increased due to a spate of shoplifting in July. The good news is that the solvency rate for theft has doubled. Further good news is that the extra policing required in the City Centre for the Festival is provided by a dedicated team drawn from all over Scotland – so it's not taking away community officers from areas like ours.

### **Edinburgh Rugby – proposed move to Myreside**

We're dismayed to learn about a proposal by Edinburgh Rugby to form a partnership with George Watson's College to play home matches at the Myreside stadium rather than Murrayfield as at present. The initial plan is to erect temporary stands for 6,000 spectators for a 6-month trial period starting in January 2017. If successful, it is proposed to make Myreside the permanent home for Edinburgh Rugby with permanent stands for up to 12,000 spectators. Local residents are seriously worried by the implications for extra traffic congestion, parking chaos and noise on match days. An opposition campaign is getting off the ground – their website is <http://no2edrugby.wordpress.com/>. We will await the details in the forthcoming planning application before reaching a formal view. Whatever action we take will be on behalf of Morningside residents so please let us know your views, for or against.

### **Council services**

We've had a long debate on the present deficiencies of City Council services, all the more frustrating because they are undergoing a major re-organisation and we're losing touch with our usual go-to contacts to get things done. You won't have missed the filthy state of communal bins, often overflowing and often surrounded by dumped stuff that won't go in the bins. We urge everyone to keep reporting these problems by phone on 529 3030 or online via the "Report it" section of the City Council's website. Another bone of contention is the ever-increasing clutter on the pavements of our high street from A-boards, shop displays and outside tables and chairs. There is a quite strict code of practice for such things though it's not very strictly enforced. Let us know about particular hot-spots – the more ammunition we have, the better case we can make for stricter enforcement.

### **Morningside Cemetery**

We are continuing to support restoration of Morningside Cemetery – see pictures above for its current dilapidated state. The Friends of Morningside Cemetery organisation is gathering local support and trying to arrange help with re-erecting headstones through "Community Payback Orders" (CPOs). Instead of a prison sentence, offenders can be given a CPO to do unpaid work in the community. The scheme has already proved successful in helping to restore Liberton Cemetery – we can hope for the same outcome in Morningside though we may be on a long list for CPO work.

### **Community Council elections**

Next month there will be Community Council elections. The resulting new MCC is likely to be a mixture of old and new faces. If you would like to be one of them and help deal with the issues we report every month, please consider standing for election. All the details are on our website at <http://www.morningside.org.uk/community-council-elections-2016/> or you can contact the secretary directly if you prefer.

*Next Meeting, Wednesday 21 September 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](http://www.morningside.org.uk) or through Facebook (look for Morningside Community Council) or e-mail [secretary@morningside.org.uk](mailto:secretary@morningside.org.uk)*