



Police report

The most notable features of this month's police report were house-breaking (as usual but still down on the same period last year) and theft of pedal cycles. The latter appears to reflect a lot of new students unaware of the risks of keeping their bikes in common stairs. Our Ward Officers have also been giving attention to obstruction by parked vehicles around Marks and Spencer. We've raised this in the past and will be adding some other notorious local black-spots for inconsiderate and illegal parking.

Edinburgh Rugby – proposed move to Myreside

Jonny Petrie, the Managing Director of Edinburgh Rugby (ER), came to our meeting to explain in detail ER's plans for the proposed move to Myreside – news that caused consternation at our August meeting and has aroused considerable local opposition. Jonny told us that there is no intention or likelihood of attracting 12,000 spectators as has been claimed. The maximum crowd envisaged by ER is 6,500, which is not hugely bigger than past crowds at big games at Myreside, and which will be better managed under ER's plans. We were assured that ER will do everything it can to encourage responsible travel and parking by spectators – which have been major worries for residents. Plans include use of the Craiglockhart campus carpark as a "park and ride" for 300 cars and negotiations are under way with other private parking facilities in the area. Jonny acknowledged that parking on residential streets will be inevitable on match nights but stewarding will be extended outside the stadium to protect residents from inconsiderate parking by fans.

ER has already modified stand layout to reduce noise for neighbouring residents and light pollution will be reduced by better alignment of floodlights. Food and drink outlets in the stadium will close at 9.30. Jonny emphasised that ER wanted to be a good neighbour. A planning application is due very shortly and we will study it closely.

Planning

On other planning matters, we were disappointed to learn that our objections to 2 earlier applications had been rejected. The most disappointing was approval to open up the entrance by the lodge house at Craighouse as a second access for construction traffic. Undeterred by these setbacks, we agreed to object to an application to build a block of flats on the site of the 2 disused bungalows at the top of Midmar Drive. A planning application for development of Hermitage golf course, to which we and others have objected, is proceeding to a hearing even though the operator is in liquidation and all the facilities have closed. We have protested about this seemingly farcical situation but we will nevertheless be represented at the hearing and a preceding site visit by the Planning Committee.

Christmas lights 2016

With some regrets we have decided not to organise a switch-on ceremony for the Christmas lights this year. City Council support for these events is considerable but has been sharply reduced this year. The organisational burden for members and volunteers is ever increasing, especially when the weather is as unkind as it often is in December. This has been one of the most difficult and protracted decisions we have made – we hope that those who have enjoyed the ceremony in the past will understand our reasons.

*Next Meeting, Wednesday 19 October 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