



*Autumn tints – photographs by Norma Gregory*

**Morningside Community Council e-Newsletter**

**issue no 15**

**October 2016**

### **Community Council elections**

We've now had our first meeting since the Community Council elections. We welcome some new members and welcome back some previous members who have successfully stood again for membership. We had 13 members following the election and we've co-opted 2 more to fill some vital functions. One of the members who stood down was our IT Officer Jo Young, whom we thank for her huge success in boosting our internet profile. We're fortunate in finding an able replacement in Willie Black. Once he has fully taken over the reins from Jo, he'll put the new list of members on our website. But you can still get in touch with us through the same channels – the website, Facebook pages or the Secretary.

### **Police report**

This month's police report showed some welcome reductions in crime compared to the same period last year. Regrettably one of the main problems in our area – house-breaking – remains at much the same level. Even more regrettably, the police warn that the onset of darker evenings is likely to see an increase in this activity. We're all urged to redouble basic precautions such as keeping car keys (a common target) well hidden, or preferably on our person. And keep tools locked away to stop them being used to break in.

### **Thefts of bikes**

We had a long discussion on thefts of bikes from common stairs. A new and worrying trend is stealing bikes chained to bannisters by snapping the bannister uprights, which are quite brittle. They're also expensive to replace and breakage can leave a dangerous gap in upper-floor bannisters. Keeping bikes on landings where they can be dangerous obstructions isn't recommended – the police advise keeping them inside flats. A better solution could be secure on-street bike storage facilities though this would mean the sacrifice of precious car-parking space. Please let us know if you have a view on this.

### **Planning matters**

We can report some good news on the planning front. A proposal to build a block of flats at the top of Midmar Drive has been withdrawn in the face of many objections, including one from us. The expected planning application for Edinburgh Rugby's proposed move to Myreside is now on the City Council's website (ref 16/04715/FUL) with a closing date for comments of 11 November. The proposals have been discussed at length at previous meetings and there are views for and against. Consequently we have decided not to comment at this stage. As the application is for a trial period, we will be able to make a better evaluation of whether significant problems do actually arise in Morningside and react accordingly to any further application for a permanent change.

### **Alcohol licensing**

In late September we joined a number of other Community Councils at a hearing by the Licensing Board into a relaxation of the regulations applying to amplified music on licensed premises. Our objections were unsuccessful so we have to wait to see whether the change will, as we fear, increase difficulties for residents living near pubs and music venues. There are several other concerns among Community Councils about the City's alcohol licensing regime. Some of these were discussed at a seminar organised by Alcohol Focus Scotland, in which our Licensing Representative, Jill Powlett Brown took part.

*Next Meeting, Wednesday 16 November 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)*