



A very Happy New Year to all our readers

Morningside Winter photographs by Iain Murray

Morningside Community Council e-Newsletter

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Police Report

The crime report for the previous month included the welcome news that only 4 housebreakings were recorded and 3 of them had been solved. PC Stuart Fraser and PS David Cuthbert updated us on the many activities that the Community Police Team has been involved in, from vehicle speed checks to school visits. They pointed out the advantages of re-establishing community policing with local officers on foot patrol being able to deal with crime on the spot and gather vital intelligence through talking to residents and traders.

Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies

We discussed the review of Edinburgh's UK parliamentary constituencies. The proposal by the Boundary Commission for Scotland would put Morningside in a constituency stretching from Bonaly to Leith Walk. We agreed to support an amendment suggested by Ian Murray MP that takes out the City Centre and adds more of our neighbouring area in the Grange. We feel this makes for a more compact constituency and maintains links with communities facing similar issues.

Street Trees

We're asked for reinstatement of street trees in Newbattle Terrace and Braid Avenue but the initial response from the City Council isn't encouraging – the Forestry department has no money. We'll keep asking through the local Neighbourhood Office in case they have a more generous environmental budget. We appreciate the financial difficulties the City has but it would be a great pity if such attractive local features were allowed to vanish – a good number have already gone and it looks as if more are scheduled for removal.

Planning

It's not unusual for developers to rush planning applications in just before Christmas. This year was no exception so we had several planning issues to deal with at our meeting. A revised application for the Hermitage Golf Course thankfully leaves out the mountain bike course on an area of particular importance to wildlife immediately adjacent to the Hermitage of Braid Local Nature Reserve. However, we still have serious reservations about some features of the proposals so we agreed to submit a further objection. A revised application for housing on the site of the former garage in Jordan Lane has also been made. It seems to be much improved over the first proposals but we will await views from neighbouring residents before making a decision. A massive application (101 documents) has been made for Phase II of the REH re-development. We feel this is unlikely to contain anything to which we could realistically object and, in view of the work-load imposed on our Planning Officer, we've decided to let this one go by.

A funding opportunity for local projects

Are you involved in, or thinking about, a small project that draws in different generations to the benefit of the local community? If so you may be interested in a funding opportunity offered by our local Neighbourhood Office. The maximum grant is £2,500, the project must benefit people in Council Wards 10 and 15, the deadline is 20 January 2017 and awards will be decided by public vote at an event in February. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from <http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/about/south-centra%C2%A3-decides-intergenerational-activities/>

*Next Meeting, Wednesday 18 January 2017, 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