

**MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL - DRAFT**  
**Open Door, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Present**

**Members:** Alastair Webb (Chair), Caroline McKinley (Secretary), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer) Moira Gibson , Callum McLeavy, Ken Harvey, Serena Naismith

**Ex-officio:** Cllr Ben Parker, Cllr Marie-Clair Munro

**Attendees:** Jane Brown, Paul Bailey (Friends of Braidburn Valley Park), Arne Strid, Anne Ness, Kerr Fraser, David Milne, Phillida Sawbridge, Diane Eden, Drew Eden, Jane Allison- Pickard, Paul Findlay, John Halliday

**Apologies:** Polly Purvis (Local Place Plan), Tamsin Kilgour, Iain Meiklejohn, John Robson, Jennifer Scarce

**Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting and introduced City of Edinburgh Council speakers Clive Hutt (Head of Roads and Infrastructure) and Sean Gilchrist (Transport Manager), noting Police Scotland was unable to attend.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising**

There were a couple of minor alterations including an update on who was present and absent

**2. Travelling Safely:**

**A) Road Operations – Road Maintenance overview: Cliff Hutt & Sean GilChrist**

A PowerPoint presentation on the Council's road and footway maintenance was well received. Infrastructure covers roads, not rail, which is handled by Network Rail. The Council has five teams managing maintenance of roads, footways, gullies, flood prevention, streetlighting, and signage.

The has been circulated with the minutes – please see this presentation for detailed overview of how the council maintain and manage road and footway infrastructure.

Key points from the discussion were:

- Essential works require £85m per year, but only £30m was available this year; additional funding may come from the Visitor Levy.
- The World Heritage Site's city streets are much more costly than tarmac, straining budgets.
- Utilities may dig up roads for emergencies even if they were recently restored.
- Heavier vehicles cause more damage, but adjusting taxes is a national (Westminster) issue.

- The department faces staffing challenges, with only 53 employees and difficulty hiring and retaining staff.
- In winter, 26 staff form the gritting squad with bus routes prioritized.
- Four teams clean gullies every six months; one team handles resident requests.
- Various surface treatments are being tested to address climate change and cut carbon emissions.
- Street lighting is now 95% LED, providing illumination comparable to old sodium lights.
- Meadows/Morningside contains 64km of roads, making up 4% of Edinburgh's network.
- If weeds disrupt new surfaces, contractors fix them at no taxpayer cost. Edinburgh has 2,250km of footways, inspected by two staff.
- York stone is used in the New Town, Caithness stone in the Old Town.
- Footway repair priorities consider width and SIMD, given greater reliance on pavements for public transport in deprived areas. Issues raised included developer contributions and repainting road markings.
- Cliff and Sean were commended for their informative presentation and openness.

#### **B) Quiet Route:**

The Chair noted that, after extensive previous discussion, three main issues remain: TRO/ETRO, Safety Audit, and Trees. Feedback will be gathered on the ETRO and upcoming arrangements. Although public consultation strongly supported Option 3, it was later modified by the Transport Committee. Safety Audit concerns include risks with cycle lane layouts and cyclist safety at cross-street junctions like Braid Avenue.

**ACTION:** Cllr Parker to ask from report from Stantec – **IN PROGRESS**

**ACTION:** Cllr Parker to ask about risk appetite in relation to the Road Safety Audit for the Quiet Route - **IN PROGRESS**

**ACTION:** Cllr Parker to supply information to MCC about Petitions process -

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/say/petitions/1>. **COMPLETED LINK IN MINUTES**

**ACTION:** This matter to be put on Agenda for MCC's October meeting – **COMPLETED ON AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Cllr Parker Ask about the depth of tree pits for cherry trees on Braid Avenue – **COMPLETED**

**RESPONSE:** We have confirmation from the forestry team that "Yes, the pits will be suitable."

### **3. Planning**

Goff Cantley individually objected to the large extension at 17 Midmar Gardens, as MCC didn't meet over the summer and no official view was taken. He argued the extension failed to benefit the local conservation area.

John Robson raised that there Spokes put in an objection to the missing active travel link cycle paths that goes between George Watson college north side playing fields via Royal Ed hospital via Myreside road. This route is on the border of MCC boundary.

No update on mobile phone mast planning – no application has been made yet.

### **4. Place Plan Update**

Caroline McKinley reported that a draft is under LPP sub-committee review and may go to the October MCC meeting, followed by public consultation. The deadline is Spring 2026.

## 5. Correspondance

### Police Attendance at meeting

The police have proposed quarterly ward forums to be held in the community, covering areas beyond the Morningside community council. A suitable venue is needed to accommodate all ward areas. The secretary requested suggestions for venues to relay to the police.

Suggested Venues from attendees include:

- Open door
- Library

**ACTION:** Secretary to email the police to provide suggested areas and ask for a crime ward report and provide suggested location venues for the quarterly forums. **COMPLETED EMAIL SENT TO POLICE**

### Astley Ainslie Place Plan

A community consultation event on the place plan will be held on Saturday, 27th September from 10 am to 4 pm at the Eric Liddle Centre, where residents can give feedback. An online survey will also run from 27th September to 12th October. Further details are included with these minutes.

### Blackford Pond

A new work programme with volunteers will address overdue maintenance at Blackford Pond this autumn. A duck feeding pillar has been installed to promote healthy feeding and reduce rat infestations. Officers are reviewing signage, with updates expected next week. Now that bird breeding season has ended, stronger protections for nesting birds and swans can be planned for next spring.

### Bus Tracker outside Morningside Medical Practice

The broken Bus Tracker outside the medical practice on Morningside Road has finally been fixed.

### Financial Position

Ongoing hand over of bank account information to new treasurer underway. Total balance of the account is: £1,117

**ACTION COMPLETED:** Secretary to email council re receiving money for the previous 2 years. Money to be received into the account by the end of September.

### Any Other Competent Business

- Six planters will soon be delivered to the Clock location. Carol has bulbs and needs volunteers for planting and watering. Contact the Secretary to volunteer.
- Arne Strid raised concerns about bin hubs moving on Belhaven Terrace since no barriers encased them **ACTION:** share latest bin hub update – **COMPLETED INFO PROVIDED TO ARNE**
- John Robson said there were plans to roll out the docking locations of hire bikes, one of which might be Morningside.

### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Open Door at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 October.