

MINUTES FROM MCC MEETING

19 NOVEMBER 2025 AT OPEN DOOR

Present

Alastair Webb (Chair), Caroline McKinley (Secretary) Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer), Moira Gibson (taking minutes), Kenneth Harvey, Ian Meiklejohn, Serena Naismith, Callum Mcleavy, Arne Strid, Polly Purvis, Anne Murphy, Charles Murphy, Jane Brown, Sheena Nimmo, Neil Ross (Cllr), Kerr Fraser, Tamsin Kilgour, David Milne, Fiona Matheson, Iain Matheson, Paul Bailey, Sarah Hunt

Apologies

John Robson, Theo Spanellis, Ken Harvey, Cllr Marie-Clare Munro.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of October's meeting were approved, with the amendment of those present at that meeting to include Tamsin Kilgour, Kerr Fraser and David Milne. The Secretary emphasised the importance of signing in so that attendance could be accurately recorded.

- Christmas Tree Lights

The Council has confirmed that the switch-on of Christmas Tree lights will take place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 3 December, and South Morningside Primary School has kindly agreed to provide a little choir to lead the singing of Christmas songs. A publicity poster will be prepared and MCC will liaise with Morningside Traders.

Planning

Comments on the application for the 5G phone mast at the junction of Cluny Avenue and Morningside Road close on Friday 21 November, and MCC has already lodged an objection. Grounds for objection include the fact that this is a conservation area and a tall mast would be aesthetically unsuitable. Other comments included querying whether the merger between O2 and Vodafone made the application unnecessary with two masts already in close proximity, and a view that the photographs submitted with the application were misleading.

On another issue, a question was raised as to whether official guidance for cycling under trees would be enforced on Braid Avenue when the cycleway was introduced. It was suggested that Ruridgh McMeddes, who is in charge of this project, be asked about this.

Local Place Plan (LPP)

The draft text is almost complete with some refinement still required. Public consultation is an important part of the LPP process but identifying funds for this is proving a challenge.

Money is needed to produce materials suitable for an exhibition, including laying out text, photographs, a map, feedback forms and so on. MCC applied to the Council for a small community grant of £1,300 but was awarded only £420, which is insufficient for our needs. The criteria for the community fund appear to be uncertain, with an organisation outwith our boundary receiving a large grant from monies reserved for Morningside. MCC will re-apply in hopes of a more positive response.

Travelling Safely

- South Morningside Primary School: at October's meeting, a local resident described the dangerous situation on Comiston Drive where large vehicles doing 3-point turns by Margiotta present danger daily to children going to and from school. Strong support was voiced for measures to be taken, with options including bollards, street markings, a one-way street or a School Street. At this November meeting, Cllr Ross said that he was aware that the School had applied for Craiglea Drive to be treated as a School Street and Councillors would liaise with the School's Parent Council to see what solution would work best for Comiston Drive.
- Greenbank Lane: MCC welcomed a delegation of residents from Greenbank Lane who expressed concern that their road has become a dangerous rat run, unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and even motorists. The situation has worsened since Comiston Road became more congested and since vehicles became much larger (SUVs). Drivers behave aggressively, use bad language and drive on the pavement. The mini-roundabout is dangerous and workmen refuse to come because they can't park nearby and are horrified at the danger on the pavements.

There is a suggestion, but no evidence, that traffic to George Watson's College may contribute to congestion. Watson's has 2,477 pupils, many coming from far afield. It was noted that their own travel survey showed that pupils carrying musical instruments and/or sports kit often cannot get on crowded buses at rush hours and so are driven to school. It was suggested that revitalisation of the South Sub might help alleviate the problem. Cllr Ross noted that Watson's Community Outreach Group had not met recently but that he could suggest they resurrect this.

Cllr Ross suggested that Alan Dunlop, a Council official, be asked to visit and come up with a design which would increase safety by modifying driver behaviour.

- Quiet Route: the data from the traffic survey is not yet available. There was some discussion as to what design changes are possible under the ETRO: increased traffic volumes will not necessarily lead to changes but more accidents may. It was suggested that a 'near-miss' register be implemented but local residents stated that near-misses are a daily occurrence at present, so there is no meaningful benchmark

against which post-change layouts could be judged. The meeting was reminded that Option 3 was the preference expressed by local people in the original consultation. All our local Councillors will be meeting with the Convener of the Transport Committee and officials to discuss the issues, and concerns expressed during the ETRO period will be given every consideration.

- Updates on roads and pavements: money is in place for the footpath opposite Waitrose to be widened; Steel's Place will be improved; pavements in front of Canaan Lane Primary School will be widened. Concerns were again raised about tree roots on the north side of Morningside Drive which are both a trip hazard and undermining the wall of The Crescent: residents have asked the Council for a Tree Management Plan.

Financial Position

In the Treasurer's absence, it was noted that both the Treasurer and Chair now have cards and card readers and are awaiting a PIN.

Correspondence

The Secretary noted the Macmillan exhibition in Morningside Library, and the art exhibition and George Heriot's concert at Morningside Parish Church.

Any Other Competent Business

- Ian Meiklejohn has kindly agreed to represent MCC on the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.
- Locally-managed Participatory Budgeting may offer greater transparency and we support it 'in principle', but more information is required.
- The Chair asked those present to think how we could raise the profile of MCC – 'What's the Point of MCC?' - possibly including events such as a guided walk, an art exhibition or litter-picking, as well as through the website and social media. Ideas to be brought for discussion at January's meeting. A vote of thanks was proffered to Carol Duncan, our Engagement Officer, for organising the planters and planting at the Clock.
- Some bins on Belhaven Terrace have recently been withdrawn and the remainder are constantly overflowing. Attention was also drawn to the poor cleaning of food bins.
- Could the Council or MCC help clear autumn leaves on pavements which are a danger when wet?
- Foxes have been blamed for the death of swans at Blackford Pond. People should be discouraged from feeding foxes.

Date of Next Meeting

No meeting in December. Next meeting on 15 January 2026, 7.30pm, Open Door.