

DRAFT MINUTES OF MCC MEETING, OPEN DOOR, WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026

Present

Members: Alastair Webb (Chair), Caroline McKinley (Secretary), Carol Duncan (Engagement Officer), Theo Spanellis (Treasurer), Goff Cantley (Planning Officer), John Robson, Ken Harvey (Keep Edinburgh Moving), Kerr Fraser (Morningside Heritage Association), Callum McLeavy, Serena Naismith, Iain Meiklejohn (Chair, Friends of Midmar Paddock), Moira Gibson (Minutes).

Attending: Arne Strid, Jane Brown, Sheena Nimmo, Ruth Findlay, Paul Bailey (Chair, Friends of Braidburn Valley Park), Adrian Rainford, CEC Cllr Mandy Watt.

Apologies

Tamsin Kilgour (I Love Morningside), Polly Purvis (Chair of Local Place Plan sub-committee). Jennifer Scarce.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- The minutes of 18 February were approved.
- The Cluny Centre is still on sale, according to the estate agent's website.

2. Planning

- No specific issues to report.
- There has been a site visit to Braid Avenue from Council tree experts to assess arrangements for planting and nurturing new trees, which will be a mix of cherry and apple. It is hoped that the expensive rose granite setts will be reused.
- Ongoing concerns expressed about the tree roots on Morningside Drive undermining the wall of The Crescent.

3. Local Place Plan

In the absence of Polly Purvis, Caroline McKinley reported on the Local Place Plan. It must focus on issues relevant to planning, and is not a vehicle for commenting on traffic, dogs, bins etc. It aims to protect the unique character of our area, especially the town centre and green spaces, and contribute to the city's requirement for additional housing and meeting climate challenges. The five priorities therefore identified are:

- Maintaining the vitality of our town centre, protecting ground floor commercial premises and using developers' section 75 contributions for local benefit;
- Green spaces and leisure, retaining existing green spaces and green belt;
- Housing, with support for new developments which include 35% affordable housing to provide homes for older people and young families;
- Within Conservation Areas, permitting climate adaptations and especially limiting the height of new developments to that of neighbouring buildings;
- Potential development sites to be preserved as green space or sensitively developed.

Public consultation will take place on the weekend of 25 and 26 April in Morningside Library and Greenbank Church (details to be circulated). Everyone is asked to spread the word so as many

people as possible will give feedback. MCC members will be asked to help with stewarding etc. Arne Strid, former MCC Chair, offered a vote of thanks.

5. Travelling Safely

- Potholes continue to be a problem and individual reports to the Council do lead to action. To put a proper hardwearing surface on the city's roads would cost £85m and entail road closures and huge disruption. There aren't enough skilled workers to do the job, although the Council is contemplating training schemes. Meantime, temporary patching continues.
- In an effort to create greater transparency in the Council's approach to repairs and upgrades to roads and pavement, the Chair has prepared a chart to track progress:
 - Steels Place is in line for improvement;
 - The outcome of the application by Greenbank Lane residents for funding to address their traffic concerns is pending;
 - No update on concerns about dangerous 3-point turns in Comiston Drive;
 - Pavement widening on Morningside Road is planned for later this year. It was reported that an injury had occurred when a pedestrian had tripped over one of the kerbs;
 - Improvements to plans for Canaan Lane are still being explored;
 - There is uncertainty about the timetable for re-opening the Braid Estate, whether the 5-year provision expires in June, and whether the original consultation will have to be re-run;
 - Concerns about the accidents at the crossing of Morningside Park, near M&S, continue. Cllr Watt has been asked to help get an update.

A query about the dangers for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles of the junction of Cluny Drive and Midmar Drive was again raised.

4. Financial Position

£2,500 approx in the account includes the Council grant of £420 for the Local Place Plan and a £1,000 donation towards the costs of producing it for which a vote of thanks was given to Goff Cantley.

5. Correspondence

- The Council's Schools Placing Committee is looking for participants.
- A Scottish Parliament election hustings will be held at Greenbank Church on Thursday 30 April at 7.30pm.

6. Any Other Competent Business

- Callum McLeavy updated the meeting about plans for a free concert in Braidburn Valley Park on the afternoon of Sunday 14 June with music from South Morningside and Boroughmuir Schools and others tbc. Callum has worked hard with partners to make complex arrangements including the programme, bins, toilets, First Aid, publicity etc.
- The Council was congratulated on seeking legislation for regulation of vape shops.
- Efforts are being made to retrieve the information lost from the MCC website.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Open Door at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 April 2026.