

**Morningside Community Council**

**Meeting held on the 21 August 2024 at The Open Door, 240 Morningside Road.**

**DRAFT note of the meeting.**

**People present:**

**MCC office bearers-**

**Chair: Willie Black (WB)**

**Planning officer: Goff Cantley (GC)**

**Secretary: Carol Duncan(CD)**

**Engagement Officer: Moira Gibson(MG)**

**Members- Caroline McKinley( CMcK), Theo Spanellis(TS), Nominated member: Kerr Fraser.**

**Ex officio- Cllr Neil Ross, Cllr Marie-Clair Munro.**

**Attendees- PC Wong, PC McKendrick, Alastair Webb, Arne Strid, Paul Bailey, Sheena Nimmo, Tamsin Kilgour, Rhona Robertson, Ken Harvey, Sheona Hall, Christine Swanson, Bruce Wright, Claire Gibb, Jane Brown, Iain Meiklejohn, Joanne Dovesi, Amanda Dovesi, Jean Archibald, Tom Swallow, Nicola Stock and Polly Purvis.**

**Apologies- Jennifer Scarce, John Robson, Daniel Johnson MSP, Gennaro Cortellessa, Ian Murray MP.**

**POLICE REPORT.**

Following concerns raised at June's meeting, PC Wong and PC Mckendrick reported they have been successful in charging unregistered road motorbike drivers. They do not have final numbers yet.

Whenever possible the Police are holding public drop in sessions - 'Coffee with the Cops' on a Friday at 10am in Waitrose store. Weekly details are on their website.

Currently the Police are doing a quite a lot of foot patrols popping into the shops and also to Astley Ainslie, particularly in response to any youth disorder.

In addition, the Police reported speed checks have been carried out on Midmar Drive.

Cllr Ross advised of reports of vandalism in Balcarres Street and the Police explained that they have been visiting in plain clothes. The matter of temporary CCTV was then discussed.

**ACTION:** Cllr Ross agreed to enquire about Temporary CCTV on the lampposts and PC Mckendrick agreed to reach out to the Environmental Wardens to find out if they still operate CCTV vans.

PC Mckendrick advised that all damage to cars should be reported on 101, as it helps build up the picture of local issues.

Rhona Robertson, from FOMC, raised concern about youths moving the benches smoking cannabis and smashing bottles in the cemetery. There have been incidents of dogs eating the cannabis and being seriously ill. The Police agreed to report the concerns and to assist where they can.

**PLANNING.**

GC reported that in response to the Cluny Centre Planning Application Ref. 24/02345/FUL and 24/02346/LBC. Historic Environment Scotland requested changes to the proposed pattern and

number of roof windows as part of their consideration of the plans. A compromise solution is understood to have been reached and the plans should proceed to approval shortly. GC asked Archie Maclean about the progress at the Cluny Centre. He advised that the strip out is 90% complete and the wet rot is 99% complete. The lower roof has been replaced.

## **THE OLD POST OFFICE SITE. PRESENTATION ON UPDATED PROPOSAL**

In response to MCC's request, Ros Maclean and Archie Maclean gave a slide presentation of their revised proposal for the boutique hotel, restaurant, bar and café. They informed the meeting that a new architect and design team who are experienced in this type of work have been employed. A planning application will be submitted shortly.

The new design appears to make a number of changes: removes the basement floor level, both the front of house and back of house are smaller, the number of bedrooms are reduced to 11, and there is now a 1 metre wide passageway to the north side of the building and the entrance to this will be secure. There will only be small window openings on the northside of the building and the ventilation will be on the roof. The roof terrace will only be visible from the ground level as the building is set back and a hedge is around the the perimeter of the top floor.

Following the presentation, there were a number of questions from the floor that resulted in further points of clarification.

Waste will be removed along Jordan Lane. Archie Maclean understands the Cortellessa family has concerns about right of access and in response he has had his solicitors investigate. He believes no. 265 Morningside road was given right of access when Grampian Homes developed the site in 1963-64. He thought concerns maybe raised during the construction period and pause the work, but he is very hopeful that the solicitors will resolve any issues.

The developer acknowledges that there will be some disruption on Morningside Road during the building phase, but some of this cannot be avoided.

The development will need to repair the Jordan Burn sewer and the engineers may look at some heat extraction from the water, however it is intended that building will mainly use a geo-thermal heating system. The structure is likely to involve piling and the engineers will need tests prior to any final decisions.

The front of the building will be faced in sandstone with light brick at the back.

There will be no visitor parking at the hotel, when it is operational.

## **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING.**

The June Minutes were agreed by WB and seconded by GC.

It was noted that Cllr Ross had followed up on the request to repaint the box junction at Braid Rd/ Cluny Gardens and this work is now complete.

## **TRAVELLING SAFELY.**

- THE QUIET ROUTE.** MCC was advised that the Revised ETRO for the Braid estate has had a Road Safety Audit and some amendments are required. The changes should be completed shortly and the contractual work should be completed by the end of 2024. There will be a further consultation period after the changes are bedded in. The engineer confirmed the modal filters will not be removed before the provision of the protected cycleways and speed control measures on affected streets are installed. An attendee remarked on the expense of the Quiet Route plans. Cllr Ross explained the implementation needs some flexibility to respond down the line as there may be further adjustments and consultation. The attendee also commented that the Council Tax will be going up to pay for this kind of work. Cllr Ross explained the possible impact on the future funding. He advised that there is considerable pressure on the funding of Health and Social Care and Homelessness, so there is likely to be some rationalising of these services. The next annual budget will be set early next year with debates between parties in February.
- PAVEMENT OPPOSITE WAITROSE.** CD reported that MCC's recent Road NEP bid is looking positive in progressing the project to create a level wider footpath.
- SPACE OUTSIDE M&S AND THE BUS STOP.** MCC bid for funding to improve this space but it has recently received notice that the Placed Based Investment Programme funding for 2025/26 is now uncertain as the Council has not had formal notification from the Scottish Govt. So the Council's discussion of the various bids is not taking place at the moment.

**TREASURER.** WB reported approximately £600 in MCC's bank account.

## **CORRESPONDENCE.**

MCC was advised the grant for the noticeboard should be received shortly. The grant for the planters is suspended due to the difficulties of delivering the project.

Applications are invited from groups for Local Energy projects that encourage community heating. Cllr Parker can advise.

## **AOB.**

Cllr Munro informed the meeting that she was involved in speaking to various parties regarding the travellers that moved on to the AMA land at the Braid Hills. The Council advised on the legal notices. The travellers have moved on, however she expressed concern that the site is only secured with a locked gate.

A former MCC volunteer, Mary Nisbet, has died and her funeral is at Mortonhall on the 28 August.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm at The Open Door.**