

MINUTES OF MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 7.30pm

The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road

Present:

Members – Alastair Webb, Caroline McKinley, Tamsin Kilgour, Jennifer Scarce, Iain Meiklejohn, Theo Spanellis (TS), Moira Gibson, Carol Duncan (CD), John Robson

Ex officio – Cllr Ben Parker, Cllr Neil Ross, Cllr Marie-Clair Munro

Attendees – Kerr Fraser (MHA), Paul Bailey, Arne Strid, Helen Sang (AACT), Sheena Nimmo, Jenny Abushal, Ruth Findlay, Jane Brown, Adrian Rainford, Michael Levack

1. Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Rurighd McMeddes, Project Officer CEC, here to give a presentation about the Quiet Route project within the Braid Estate area. A representative of Morningside Heritage Association also had a display regarding their Morningside Stones project outside the meeting (poster attached).

Apologies were received from Callum McLeavy, Goff Cantley (GC), Ken Harvey and PC Wong

2. Police Report

There was no police report as officers were delayed by an incident.

3. Quiet Route Presentation

Rurighd McMeddes shared a presentation regarding the Greenbank to Meadows Quiet Connection, focussing on the Braid Estate (presentation attached).

As requested by attendees, additional detail was given on the changes to the plans introduced since the Autumn 2023 consultation (slide 11, & designs 12-18) particularly the speed reduction measures on Braid Road, Hermitage Drive, Braid Avenue & Midmar Avenue. The Hermitage Drive/Braid Avenue junction and how cyclists would transition from the bidirectional to unidirectional cycle lanes was also explained.

In response to questions from attendees it was stated that:

- In reducing the number of parking spaces, those for residents would be retained, with visitors parking displaced elsewhere.
- It is hoped that the additional drop kerbs at the junction of Braid Avenue/Cluny Drive crossing would help address St Peter's Parents Council concerns re: the safety of that crossing.
- The pavement build-outs at Midmar Avenue/Cluny Gardens junction are designed to improve sight lines and do allow sufficient width for emergency vehicle access.
- The introduction of cycle lanes along Braid Avenue will require crown lifting on the cherry trees.

Concern was expressed about the road surface on Woodburn Terrace (outside these plans).

Action point: Cllr Munro to request that it is included in this year's road assessment.

Progress/Monitoring (Slide 19):

- Traffic monitoring (speed and volume) will be undertaken at 10 junctions prior to implementation & a few months in. The meeting requested that a Cluny Drive/Braid Avenue junction count be added to these.
- The ETROs are currently being drafted with implementation expected in Autumn 2025.
- There will be a leaflet drop to local residents to alert them to the 6 month consultation; it was requested that the leaflet drop included both sides, not just one, of the boundary roads.
- The ETRO is a statutory process, but does allow unstructured/open feedback so this would be one opportunity for residents to feedback how it works for them/suggest tweaks
- Following the ETRO process the scheme will go to the Transport & Environment Cttee (TEC); it is at this stage the decision between Option 3 (revised) or Option 1a/2a would be made; it would be possible for local groups (MCC/St Peters PC) to request to make deputations at that meeting.
- Following TEC the scheme will go to the (separate) TRO sub-committee; this is a semi-judicial process and there is not the opportunity for local input.
- Once final decision made it is anticipated that the work will take 3-6 months.

4. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising:

It was confirmed that Callum McLeavy is an elected Community Councillor following a change in governance rules regarding the declaration forms.

Various members had attended the Community Council Induction on its rearranged dates of 12 & 13 May.

Action point regarding raising MCC profile postponed to a later meeting due to time constraints.

5. Planning

The Chair shared a report from the Planning Officer (GC)

“Residents may have noticed that the former Cluny Centre on Cluny Drive has been put up for sale with the benefit of its planning permission for conversion to ten flats. The developer has decided that funding this approved conversion is not a priority when compared to the redevelopment of the former Post Office site. We can expect demolition of the former Post Office to begin in the very near future. Demolition Consent has been granted.

GallifordTry have shared plans with us for a new 20m telephone mast at the junction of Morningside Road with Cluny Avenue. Associated cabinets will replace the wooden bench closest to Morningside Road. It is disappointing that companies cannot share masts to a greater degree - there is a mast already located close to this site. The proposed site is better than the original proposal which was for our Christmas tree site. Councillor Mandy Watt helped to stop that proposal. Other sites were examined with GallifordTry at that time - now a couple of years ago. The latest site proposed is possibly the most acceptable, if we must have this mast, and your Planning Officer would not propose any objection. Other views are welcomed.

The Friends of Midmar Paddock have lodged their Local Place Plan with the city council following a highly successful public consultation. The Plan can be viewed on their website. 3,218 public responses were received, 3,197 in favour of retaining the site as unbuilt on publicly accessible open space. 21 negative responses were received, mostly showing support for affordable housing.”

Ongoing concerns were expressed regarding the placement of the telephone mast, with a position in the Bank of Scotland car park previously having been suggested to the developer.

6. Update on Local Place Plan

The group reported that they had now received the census data from Cllr Parker. The consultation at Boroughmuir had been successful and resulted in 208 responses to the questionnaire.

Grant applications to help fund the consultation have been unsuccessful. CD agreed to lobby EACC to lobby CEC regarding appropriate funding.

7. Financial Position

TS reported that the paperwork is in progress to change over signatories on the MCC bank account. He is awaiting the accounts from previous treasurer; however it is understood that available funds are minimal, with any money in the account being grant funding allocated to specific projects. This year's allocation is released by Edinburgh Council on receipt of the previous accounts.

Members present queried balance given it had previously been reported as c.£1400. This will become clearer when accounts received but it believed to be grant money.

8. Correspondence

Secretary reported nil of note.

9. AOCB

Cllr Munro highlighted that the City Mobility Plan is being discussed at tomorrow's Transport & Environment Cttee. If agreed, the changes may significantly increase traffic on the A702 (Morningside/Comiston Road) despite it not being defined as an arterial route in the plan.

It was reported that the Domino's bikes had been moved from the pavement near The Merlin, & traffic wardens had been asked to monitor.

Cllrs present were asked to find out the timescale for the pavement widening & related works near Waitrose.

10. Date of Next Meeting

A vote of thanks was offered to the Chair (& to be passed to Rurighd) for their management of a meeting on what has been/is a contentious topic locally.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th June at 7.30pm in The Open Door.