

Minutes of Meeting: Wednesday 16th June 2021

Present:

Chair: Willie Black (WB)

Secretary: Carol Duncan (CD)

Planning Officer: Goff Cantley (GC)

Councillor: Cllr Ross.

Members: Rebecca Diggle, Theo Spanellis, Moira Gibson(MG), Jennifer Scarce, Jill Powlett-Brown Caroline MacKinley

Attendees: Ken Harvey, Ali Wright, Tamsin Kilgour, Sheena Nimmo, Ben Parker, Nicola Stock, Jill Edwards, Geoff Murray, Ewan Fisher (Home Energy Scotland), John Percival and 'Kenny'

Apologies:

John Robson, Maceij Malasuk, Dougie Roxburgh and Cllr Mandy Watt.

1. Police Report

There was no Police report this month. December's update was informative.

Attendees felt that speeding continues to be an issue and no police presence has been seen.

In addition, several incidents of antisocial behaviour on Braid Road were mentioned. Cllr Ross encouraged residents to phone the Police on 101 and keep a record of the anti-social behaviour.

2. Matters arising from the minutes.

KH and CD agreed the following amendment to December's minutes (re Braid Road survey results).

'the 1st preference of all the survey respondents was to open Braid road both ways, although the 1st preference of residents in the survey area was Braid Road only open southbound. '

MG reported that she is continuing to enquire about assistance from Edinburgh Uni. to carry out a survey that can help understand how people travel to Morningside. TS offered to contact Heriot Watt Uni. MCC discussed carrying out the survey ourselves.

Action: MG, CD, Caroline and John to meet to discuss a survey.

Paula McLeay sent a link to apps that can measure individuals CO2 and advice on reducing your CO2.

Action: Geoff and Theo to investigate the apps and report back.

3. Presentation from Home Energy Scotland (HES) by Ewan Fisher, technical manager.

The slide presentation and links to several online tools are attached to the minutes.

HES provides free and impartial energy advice tailored to each customer's needs. It is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust. HES support over 90,000 households across Scotland each year, working to tackle fuel poverty and reduce Scotland's carbon emissions. Their phone number is 0808-808-2282. Ewan

also explained there is a green homes network so that it is possible to visit /speak to people who have installed energy reducing measures.

After the presentation, a Q&A followed.

Firstly, one attendee asked about how many **private landlords** contact HES each year and Ewan explain that around 150 each year.

Cllr Ross asked about **heat pumps** and the heat that can be generated. Another attendee asked about the **noise heat pumps** make. Ewan advised that HES can help with these kinds of questions. He explained heat pumps are a lot quieter now and suggested visiting someone who has one installed to listen to the sound. However, he emphasised that heat pumps are not for everyone and there are other measures that can be used to reduce heat loss and your carbon emissions- better insulation, secondary glazing, and more efficient radiators can all help.

One attendee asked if **solar panels** can be installed on a tenement roof for one household rather than for multiple households. Ewan explained that solar panels usually connect to one meter but there are options for a whole tenement that may be able to receive support eg power one main meter which then powers a whole tenement.

Another attendee enquired about installing **solar photo voltaic** cells to feed electricity into an air-source heat pump. Ewan explained that solar power cells are most productive in summer, winter is not so effective. An electric battery is an option – in theory if you have overdeveloped electricity, you can store it to a battery.

The problem of **insulating old property** internally was raised. Ewan agreed it can be disruptive and is like a renovation job. Again, he said there are options eg bead insulation behind the lathe and plaster, if there is a gap. Also think about draughtproofing measures in older properties.

A further attendee asked if there was a silver bullet option coming in terms of renewable options. Ewan's view is that heat pumps are improving. **Hydrogen** in domestic settings doesn't seem likely to be an option until around 2030.

Following this question, one attendee asked about using **aerogels** for insulation. Ewan said they are expensive to buy, but it is a positive measure to consider.

Another attendee asked about using existing **shutters and heavy curtains** to reduce heat loss. Ewan said it would help but windows would need to be draughtproof, and these would only work in the evening, when they are closed.

4. Travelling Safely.

Cllr Main sent MCC a copy of the latest proposal for Braidburn Terrace and we responded that it was not clear how this proposal linked with the Quiet Route, at the east end of the Terrace, and we asked if improvements to the traffic lights, at the west end of the Terrace, were included.

Cllr Ross explained that the pedestrian and cycle crossing at the entrance to the Hermitage of the Braids will be finalised as part of the Braidburn Terrace proposal. When the crossing is complete, Braid Road, south of the crossing, will be 2 way for vehicles.

5. Planning

GC informed the meeting that the Old Post Office site received planning permission for the shop and 11 flats above. Several people expressed their disappointment at the presentation given at the development committee and the decision to grant permission for the 4-storey block in such an important corner and despite 115 people objecting.

In addition, some MCC attendees are surprised that community groups do not have the right to appeal and also that on one hand there is a need for climate change, yet new buildings do not appear to be making serious attempts to reduce their Carbon emissions.

Action: WB to raise concerns about the Planning process with the Associations of Edinburgh CC.

6. Financial Position

Payments this month for Zoom use and annual IT protection fee.

7. Correspondence

An informative reply was received from Environmental Health re air quality and nitrogen oxide (NO₂) levels on Comiston Rd and Morningside Rd. asked for a comparison with St Johns Road where breaches are known). A table of annual emissions for NO₂ shows no breaches in Morningside up to year 2020.

The officer also informed us that low quality air quality sensors can be fitted to lampposts and can detect changes at peak times and traffic particulates PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. This happens in 9 sites in the city but not in Comiston Road/Morningside Road.

SEPA also works with schools on air quality projects.

Action: Cllr Ross to enquire about low quality sensors in Morningside.

Action: MG to raise possible interest in a project with the school council.

Heriot Watt Transport students sent us through their several options for the south suburban network and invited us to give our comments

Action: CD to forward to AW and MG to make comments on behalf of MCC

8. AOCB

Same graffiti tag appeared in Balcarres Street and Morningside Park. Cllr Ross explained Police will only tackle graffiti, if it is a hate crime or criminal behaviour.

Cllr Ross advised that a proposed management plan for cemeteries will be discussed on the 1st of February, at the Council's culture and community committee.

Action: CD to email FOMC

GC informed the meeting that the new contact for Community grants in our area is - Carol Tuzun carol.tuzun@ea.edin.sch.uk

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 7.30pm.

Meeting to be held in person at the Old Schoolhouse (opposite Waitrose) 140 Morningside Road