**CORSTORPHINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL – MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2018**

Before commencement of the meeting a commemorative silence was held for the long serving and active Member of Corstorphine CC, Brian Rattray, whose passing was announced on 27th December 2018. The loss of Brian is felt by all who, with his guide dog ‘Kiera’, was well known and highly regarded in the wider local community. A funeral and memorial service, attended by several Members of Corstorphine CC, was held in St. Thomas’s Church on Tuesday 16th January 2018. Our sympathy is extended to family and friends.

Brian composed the following verse shortly before he passed away. They were read out at his Memorial Service and included here as a epitaph to a friend and colleague who will missed by all –

Disturbed Comfort

By Brian Rattray

As I stand here at the cross’s foot

And gaze on pain that should be mine:

Do I feel the love that Christ forsook -

Incalculable sums.

With your forgiveness (conscience’s tine),

Redemption comes.

But did I need to be redeemed?

I never asked nor thought to need.

In kindest acts my life I schemed

With good in store.

I’m content, with life and deed:

Can GOD want more?

But, LORD, you are right, the image is wrong -

Created to hide a soul so shallow -

To show me as the good and strong;

A shining light;

Example for the young to follow:

A life so trite.

So, LORD, I kneel to seek your face,

Forgive the wickedness I’ve hid?

My motives were a true disgrace -

A child of darkness.

Your sacrifice was made to rid

Us Men of blindness.

With eyes now open, LORD, I see.

To be like you, I need to serve:

Seek good for others and set them free

From care and pain.

Bear them myself and never swerve

From furthering your reign.

**APOLOGIES** **–**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Claire Bridgman; Cllr Frank Ross; Jennifer Beck; Iwona Meiklejohn; Cora Stewart

**POLICE REPORT –**

Community Police Officer Euan Sinclair introduced his new colleague, Community Police Officer Brown, to the meeting.

Statistics of general crime in the area for December 2017 were presented - there were a total of 58, comparing favourably with 80 for 2016 but the solvency rate was somewhat less at 31% as opposed to 47.5%. A slight increase in housebreaking crimes since 2016 is noted (9 compared to 7) which were mainly of sheds and garages - the West Area Housebreaking Team is attempting to further reduce this type of offence and advise that bike racks left on cars often advertise storage of expensive cycles in nearby garages. House entry is often obtained through back of buildings with patio doors. Of note was an attempted break in at the Corstorphine Bowling Club. Four individuals were charged with 200 instances of this type of offence in December 2017 and a city wide reduction is expected during their incarceration. Crimes of violence were down during the previous month (8 compared with 9 for 2016) of which 5 were domestic with one also involving an assault on the investigating officer. One ‘Hate Crime’ involving the use of racist language was reported. Other listed crimes were thefts 7, vandalism 8, and road traffic offences 15, showing in total a slight increase over the same period of 2016. The operation of ‘speed guns’ in the vicinity of schools and other areas of concern is continuing with monitoring of parking at or near school entrances and at other reported areas such as Tylers Acre. Calls should be made to ‘101’ to report obstructive vehicle behaviour. Over the festive period drug and alcohol checks were made on licensed premises. It is now commonplace to find small traces of cocaine on surfaces in toilets, banknotes etc.

Cllr. Robert Aldridge reported youth problems in the Bughtlin Market area are decreasing and this trend will hopefully continue though often the problem is ‘displaced’ to other areas. There were police presentations at primary schools in the Carrick Knowe area on the introduction of 20 m.p.h. limits and Community Police Officer Scott Kennedy is now working in the area.

There was a question from the public regarding injuries sustained by a Police Officer in Portobello whilst investigating an incident during fireworks night. Another issue of concern was the identification of empty or vulnerable properties targeted for future break in by daubing with white powder etc. The public are asked to report any such suspicious behaviour.

**COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS AND QUESTIONS –**

Cllr. Gillian Goyer – The next Transport Committee meeting is on 25th January 2018. The Schools Review has recommended developments at Roseburn primary and secondaries with a new primary in West Edinburgh and in consequence catchment areas may change. On one controversial issue – the future location of the Music School – there has been an administrative ‘change of mind’ resultant from public consultations.

Cllr. Robert Aldridge – Edinburgh City Council budget for 2018 is due to be decided in April after ongoing consultations and is expected to be marginally better off by £17m than expected with fewer ‘cuts’ such as a ‘Brown Bin’ charge. There is expected to be additional resources devoted to Health & Social Care and funding for Community Police Officers sustained. On 24th January 2017 an initial Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting following restructuring is scheduled to setup basic operational structures. The programme regarding the sites of grit bins has been delayed owing to sickness in the department involved.

Public Comment – Caroline Terrace is like an ice rink during frosty weather.

Reply – ‘Priority Streets’ are available on the website and requests can be submitted – existing ones are listed on the council meeting papers for 18/01/2018 under [www.edinburgh.cov.uk/cpol](http://www.edinburgh.cov.uk/cpol) or ‘Council Papers Online’.

Cllr. Mark Brown – A £1m budget is set aside for enhancement of the city wide CCTV as the present system is almost 20 years old and is falling apart. A ‘Sport & Neighbourhood Partnership’ is being formed.

Cllr. Gillian Goyer – A map of streets with specific problems and issues is available on the City of Edinburgh Facebook page.

Public Question – Does the Budget Plan include plans to introduce a tourism/levy?

Cllr. Robert Aldridge – There are no powers at present to local authorities to introduce such a tax but the Scottish Parliament is considering the issue as there is general public support for introduction of such a tax.

Public Question – Has the major ongoing work at the Sighthill recycling centre any relation to the examination of environmental conditions in 6 chosen town centres?

Cllr Gillian Goyer – This is part of the implementation of the current Traffic Management Scheme.

Public Comment – Public pressure should ensure that Scottish Water implement efficient traffic management during operations and speedy and effective road reinstatement on completion.

Reference was also made to the BBC2 programme high lighting the 10% reduction in air pollution levels achieved in Manchester on a 1 day trial involving the re setting of traffic light times and prohibition of on street parking.

**UPDATE FROM FRIENDS OF CORSTORPHINE HILL –**

Gordon Swann - There is concern regarding the state of Corstorphine Hill Tower as it is now 150 years old and urgent work is required on the staircase, roof and wall masonry. After due consultation with City of Edinburgh Council they agreed to match £4000 with a locally raised similar sum and work is due to start in February 2017 and hopefully be completed in time for the summer opening time. It has proved a popular attraction with over 1000 visitors per year. Thanks for fund raising were extended to Corstorphine Bowling Club and individual members of the ‘Friends’. A knowledgeable local resident has produced leaflets for guided walks starting from the walled garden for tourists and visitors. There are at least 80 identified species of bird and 200 of plants. The Tower was originally built in memory of Sir Walter Scot and on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at the Capitol Hotel there is a talk entitled ‘Life and Times of Sir Walter Scot’ by Prof. D. Pordic. On 8th March 2018 at same time and venue Gordon will give a talk on ‘Scottish Wildlife Trust’.

Edinburgh ‘Parks and Green Spaces’ has initiated the ‘Living Landscapes’ project to increase Bio Diversity in public parks and open spaces involving reduction in frequency of grass cutting to encourage other natural flower and plant growth and money savings. To date only 10% of parks are involved and ‘formal gardens’ such as Princess St. Gardens and Saughton Park are excluded. Local ‘Friends of Parks’ groups are trying to get involved.

For more information on Living Landscapes please go to the follow website - https://edinburghlivinglandscape.org.uk

The Pollinator Pledge which individuals, groups and businesses can sign up to was also discussed and can be found at the following website - https://edinburghlivinglandscape.org.uk/pollinatorpledge/

Public Question – Are Neighbourhood Partnerships involved and what are the educational aspects?

An example in the case of Gyle Park was given where there is a split of opinion amongst local residents concerning maintenance and dog walking issues and that the summer period may prove ‘testing’ with reduced frequency of grass cutting.

It was acknowledged that ‘Recreational Spaces’ differ in many respects from ‘wild’ areas such as Corstorphine Hill.

Public Comment – Part of the mission should be to inform and involve the local community.

Public Comment – The education of maintenance staff is of vital importance as often invasive species such as hogweed can kill off other native species such as meadow flowers etc.

**At this juncture two additional members were adopted as Corstorphine CC Members -**

**Mr. Keith Walker** who is a member of the ‘Friends of Gyle Park’.

**Mr. Tommy McLean** with previous occupational experience in the educational sector and prior to this adoption an attendee of long standing at previous Community Council meetings as a member of the public with important contributions to make.

Both adoptions were proposed by Steve Kerr, Chairman, Corstorphine CC and Seconded by Warren Hope, Planning Convenor, Corstorphine CC.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS –**

Planning – The separate full Planning Report was prepared by Warren Hope and circulated electronically to Corstorphine CC Membership and is available for inspection on the Corstorphine CC website.

The main issues at present are –

* The forthcoming appeal by the developer against the Council’s decision to refuse the major development of 1400 homes west of 19 Turnhouse Rd. – ref. no. 16/04738/PPP on the Edinburgh Planning website. The appeal is expected to b heard at the ‘Novotel’ from 24th January 2018 till the 26th.
* A notice of forthcoming application for major extension of the Gyle Shopping Centre. Details of the proposal are expected to be revealed at the following public exhibition times at the Gyle Shopping Centre – 8thFebruary 2018 from 3 p.m. till 8 p.m. and 9th February from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. - ref. no. 17/05894/PAN on the Edinburgh City Planning website.
* A notice of forthcoming application for major re - development of street frontage within Corstorphine Village encompassing numbers 181 to 195 St. John’s Road. Details of the proposal are expected to be revealed at the following public exhibition times at the Astoria Centre, Kirk Loan 29th January 2018 from 12 noon till 7 p.m. and 30th January from 10.30 a.m. till 12.30 p.m. ref. no. 17/06066/PAN on the Edinburgh City Planning website.

Business, Licensing & Amenities - Mc Donald’s Restaurant has applied for extension of operating times up to an allowed maximum limit of 2 – 3 additional hours. There is also application for motorcycle parking provision.

Environment - On 18 December 2017 Community Council members Steve Kerr and Claire Connachan met with Dave Sinclair, Locality Transport and Environment Manager, North West Locality, Place, City of Edinburgh Council and colleagues to discuss traffic management and parking issues in the Corstorphine area and examine the practicality of proposed solutions given current legislations. Actions from the meeting included –

* Featherhall Avenue – Following the discussions of the trial closures in 2014 CEC officials agreed to offer Corstorphine CC electronic copies of the survey data, CEC proposed waiting restrictions plan (a shorter term option) and CEC outcomes report. Peter Keggie IEng MICE, Senior Transport Team Leader, North West Wards 1,3 and 6, Locality Roads Team, Place, City of Edinburgh Council has subsequently passed on the relevant data. We discussed the merits of introducing yellow lines and the options around a more holistic traffic management study in the whole area;
* Parking – Corstorphine CC are looking for further engagement and information regarding parking control in the Corstorphine area. In relation to the scope of the proposed future study area, what consultation is expected and the proposed timeline – Dave will ask his colleague Gavin Graham to confirm what resources and plans the Parking Operations team have in the New Year;
* School Streets – Corstorphine Primary School (Corstorphine High Street) – Corstorphine CC are looking for assistance to progress a School Streets option at this location. Clarify if the School need to apply, or will CEC consider the option directly. Dave to ask his colleague Andrew Easson, Road Safety Manager, to confirm;
* Edinburgh Gateway – Improve Public Transport links – Desire for more public transport services to make use of the interchange with the ultimate aim of reducing the number of services traveling through Corstorphine nearly empty at off-peak periods. Dave to ask Stuart Lowrie, Public Transport Manager, to offer a response, with the caveat that under a de-regulated market the Authority can’t prescribe service provision.

Subsequently the following contributions have been forwarded to Corstorphine CC for information –

* All schools were contacted in May to apply for the next phase of School Streets. No application was received from Corstorphine Primary School. The 4 schools that are being included in the next phase of School Streets have been contacted this week. There will be future opportunities to apply but I would say that applications for the next phase is at least a year away. To improve the chance of being included in future phases, the school should contact their Road Safety and Active Travel Liaison Officer, Mark Symonds, who will be able to provide support and materials. He can be contacted at mark.symonds@edinburgh.gov.uk or by phone on 0131 469 3817. Mark will be able to assist in working with them to reduce the impact of the car on the journey to school using a range of initiatives to promote walking, cycling and using public transport - Stacey Monteith-Skelton MSc MILT, Senior Engineer (Road Safety), Road Safety and Active Travel, Road Networks, Place Development, City of Edinburgh Council

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* I understand that Scotrail have been in contact with local bus operators to service this interchange but to date I am aware of no confirmed services. We do meet quarterly with bus operators so we can raise this issue again, but as you note in your email it is the operators themselves who determine their own routes - Andrew Renwick, Senior Transport Team Leader, Public Transport, City of Edinburgh Council

Below is an update on the Environment Sub-Group work (in addition the the traffic/air pollution work Steve has been leading) -

* We are working with a willing volunteer who is looking into leading the development of local equivalent of Leithers don't litter campaign;
* A local Dad is leading the new Corstorphine Action on Climate Change group. They had first meeting and air pollution was a key issue (he also attended last months CCC meeting too). He has led a change.org petition re west Edinburgh development and traffic which is quickly gathering support <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-edinburgh-council-make-west-edinburgh-a-safer-place-to-live-work-and-breathe>;
* We have also done a local litter pick and bulb planting at the ' parklet' between broomhall avenue and Ladywell avenue
* We continue to receive correspondence about the state of St Margaret's Park - Susan met with the Anne Miller who attended the Community Council meeting last year to raise issues and will be working with her and others to move the issues forward;
* Traffic and parking especially pavement parking continue to be big issues - so far we have no news on when the Parking Bill will progress through the Scottish Parliament;
* The mess left behind from Scottish Gas Works on Ladywell Avenue has been raised directly with them and reported to CEC. As a result of their vans and machinery parking on the pavements. There is now significant damage to the verges and pavements especially to areas around ironworks on the corner of Castle Avenue. As part of this complaint we also raised the lack of reinstatement works to the area equipment was stored during last year's gas works on Broomhouse Road (B701) and Ladywell Avenue.

Reference was also made to the BBC2 programme high lighting the 10% reduction in air pollution levels achieved in Birmingham on a 1 day trial involving the re setting of traffic light times and prohibition of on street parking". The link to the programme which starts in Edinburgh at Picardy Place is as follows - http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09m2djj

Deborah McCall, Corstorphine CC Member, suggested free travel within the city centre at weekends to discourage car usage.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2017** –

Proposed - Claire Connachan

Seconded – Deborah McCall

**A.O.B. -**

Tommy McLean - gave a progress update on the Corstorphine Public Hall Rebuilding Fund. Certain legal difficulties have now been overcome and it is now registered as a Public Charitable Organisation incorporated as ‘Corstorphine Community Centre’. The present Corstorphine Youth & Community Centre (CYCC) will join the newly created incorporated body and will henceforth cease to exist as a separate organisation.

An active fund raising programme to complete the rebuilding of the hall is still of primary importance and a forth coming concert for this purpose is – ‘SWING 2018 in Concert with Seonaid Aitken’ on Saturday 17 February 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Ninian’s Church Hall with tickets at £12.50 available at CYCC@corstorphinehub or 191 St. John’s Rd., EH12 7SL (phone 0131 261 7054).

The ‘Cyrenians’ social enterprise organisation has also been very helpful in this matter and starting in January 2018 fresh local vegetables bags at £10 each from their farm will be available for collection from the CCYCC at 191 St. John’s Rd. – orders at [www.cyrenians.scot/vegbags](http://www.cyrenians.scot/vegbags) or e - mail farm@Cyrenians.scot or phone 0131 333 5202

Tommy McLean – there should be a follow up on progress on answers to questions raised at meetings.

Susan Murray – a log questions and progress on same should be kept under a suggestion of headings as – Parking Issues, Wheelchairs, Pavements, Corners, Road potholes & sinking etc. and use by others of residents’ parking spaces.

Further Public Question – suspected removal of protected trees in Saunders Court (off Dunsmuir Court) – Warren Hope to investigate and reply to questioner.

Finally, new ideas and volunteers from youth groups are required – On Thursday 25th. January 2018 the Corstorphine Community Climate Action Group is meeting at 7.30 p.m. at Corstorphine Community Church.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME**