

Donaldson Area Amenity Association Newsletter

March 2017



Many thanks to all who provided feedback on the new-style November Newsletter. Comments were very positive, with the larger font and electronic circulation proving popular.

We also received some helpful suggestions on topics you would like to see in future editions. A few neighbours suggested details of planning applications should continue to be listed as they find that information interesting. As the limited content in this and the previous newsletter illustrates, there have been very few such applications in our area this year, although there is one currently outstanding which is noted directly below.

Single storey extension plus associated alterations at 5 Stanhope Street Edinburgh EH12 5JB

17/00874/FUL

Beecher Architect Ltd., Melford House, 3 Walker Street Edinburgh, EH3 7JY

Mr & Mrs Peter & Sharon Kerr, 5 Stanhope Street Edinburgh, EH12 5JB.

Delegated decision

Registered on: 28/02/2017

Site Notice posted on: 17/03/2017

Advertised on: 17/03/2017

Comments Due by 07.04.2017

Devon Place Reinstatement

All the pavements have now been re-surfaced although workmen are still working on guttering. There is also the matter of the removal of the 'portaloo' and the removal of various deposits of rubble. This is all going to be raised at a Council Inspection meeting with Taylor Wimpey, scheduled for the near future.

We have also again raised the issue of the choked drain and we have been told that the Local Roads Team will look into it.

Student Housing proposed for Haymarket Yards.

When we last spoke with the Planning Officer further plans had been requested and this would still appear to be the case although there has been no reply to recent telephone calls. We will keep a close watch on this.

Roseburn Cycle Path

As anticipated in the previous newsletter, representatives of the various political parties on Edinburgh City Council met in December and agreed to progress the cycle path proposals for the Roseburn area on the basis of the Council's favoured "Option A".

It is deeply disappointing that this decision has been taken, given the overwhelming opposition to this plan by the DAAA, Murrayfield Community Council and local residents.

Implementing the proposals will require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), the consultation on which will provide a further opportunity to influence the design. The process for making the TRO will take between 12 to 18 months, so the introduction of the new arrangements is still some way off.

Roseburn Park Developments

The flood prevention work is progressing to plan and is due to be completed by January 2018. The work involves the construction of 1.2km of flood defences along the Water of Leith at Murrayfield and in addition includes the creation of flood gates, pump stations and a new bridge.

The work has necessitated the cutting down of over 30 of the park's trees which is regrettable. A proposal from the Friends of Roseburn Park (<http://www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk>) to make a park bench from one of the felled oaks was discussed at a recent meeting of the Murrayfield Community Council, which agreed that a donation should be made towards the cost. The bench would be located either beside the chess table or the new play park to be installed at the east side of the Park at a cost of £90,000. If successful, this proposal will be one small but important step in restoring the park to a much loved local amenity.

There have been no further developments in the Murrayfield Wanderers proposal.

DAAA Annual General Meeting: 25 April

As indicated in the last newsletter, the DAAA AGM will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at the APEX International Hotel (at the corner of Magdala Crescent), with the drinks after the event. This is a new venue which is more accessible although seating is limited to 70 – please come early! We are pleased to advise that our speaker this year will be Ann Budge, Chairwoman and Chief Executive of Heart of Midlothian Football Club. Ann will speak about Tynecastle Stadium development.

The date of our AGM coincides with a hustings event arranged subsequently by Murrayfield Community Council for the forthcoming council elections, so councillors standing for re-election may understandably choose to attend the hustings.

We are actively looking for new committee members especially from Balbirnie Place and Devon Gardens. Please consider joining us.

Rubbish News

We enclose an easy to use guide for the bin collections which incorporates the new three-week cycle for the brown garden refuse bin. We hope you find it useful!

Miscellaneous Issues

- The City Council passed its Budget for 2017/18 on 9 February. It includes the first Council Tax rise in 10 years. The Council had received an additional £10m of funding from the Scottish Government a week before the Budget and had had to make some adjustments. It is now working on the detail of the Budget.
- Work to install a shelter at the westbound bus stop for the 12, 26 and 31 services at Haymarket starts on Monday, 10 March. This has taken an age to progress and is to be welcomed.
- The redevelopment of the St James Centre will involve the closure of Leith Street for the replacement of gas and water mains and the re-laying of the road surface. The decision to be made is whether to close Leith Street completely for 42 weeks or close it completely for 16 weeks and partially for 60 weeks. Lothian Buses prefer the former option. Either option will cause significant disruption to a very busy part of the city.

- At the recent Murrayfield Community Council meeting, the proposal by the City Council to change garden refuse collections to three weekly throughout the year was raised. Cllr Ross explained that the change from twice weekly to monthly collections over the winter always causes confusion. Regular three weekly collections would avoid this and allow efficiencies to be made.
- The same meeting noted that for major events at BT Murrayfield there were never enough temporary waste bins or toilets; it was suggested that either the City Council or the SRU should pay for these to be provided in sufficient numbers. Cllr Ross was of the view that the SRU should pay and, as they are now required to apply for drinks licences for these events, there was some leverage to be exercised regarding the provision of toilets. This topic will be raised at the next residents' meeting with the SRU on 14 March.

Contacts

Councillors - Corstorphine/ Murrayfield

Frank Ross	frank.ross@edinburgh.gov.uk
Jeremy Balfour	jeremy.balfour@edinburgh.gov.uk
Paul Eadie	paul.eadie@edinburgh.gov.uk

Councillors - Central

Alasdair Rankin	alasdair.rankin@edinburgh.gov.uk
Joanna Mowat	joanna.mowat@edinburgh.gov.uk
Karen Doran	karen.doran@edinburgh.gov.uk

Constituency MSP

Ruth Davidson	ruth.davidson.msp@parliament.scot
---------------	-----------------------------------

MP

Michelle Thompson	michelle.thompson.mp@parliament.uk
-------------------	------------------------------------

DAAA Committee Members

Michael Stevens (Chair), 7 Pembroke Place	mikestevens7@icloud.com
Liz East (Treasurer), 5 Stanhope Place	easte948@gmail.com
Karen Cullen, 60/6 Balbirnie Place	karen.wilson@blueyonder.co.uk
Bev Donald, 7f Devon Place	bevdonald@email.com
Jeff Raynor, 17 West Catherine Place	daaa@jeffr.co.uk
Ron Smith, 7d Devon Place	everon.rs@gmail.com

The DAAA Committee