

Donaldson Area Amenity Association Newsletter

Spring 2018



Welcome to the Spring edition of the DAAA newsletter.

Just when we thought we had seen the back of Winter, the snow recently visited us with a vengeance. With so many older people in our area, it was pleasing to see the lengths that many people went to in clearing the snow and checking in with their neighbours. There was a real sense of community.

The sense of a festive season also continued with the impressive multi-coloured illumination of the Donaldson Building, presumably designed to draw attention to the fact that the new accommodation in that development has gone on sale. It is pleasing to see a redevelopment of such an impressive building being accomplished with little change to its external appearance, although it remains to be seen if the new buildings being constructed to the rear will complement or detract. Certainly those buildings appear to be more prominent than some of us recall from the plans.

Last year we circulated a summary of the “bin days” that was apparently well received. We therefore attach 2018 dates with this newsletter.

Devon Place Re-instatement

Once again we are grateful to the support of the Lord Provost in our attempts to bring this matter to a conclusion. A site meeting at Devon Place was finally arranged with Peter Keggie, the Council official responsible for such matters, on 1 March to discuss the work done to date and consider what else needs to be done.

Unfortunately, on that date the whole area was covered by snow and the meeting had to be cancelled! We have suggested a revised date in the next 4 weeks and will report back at the DAAA AGM.

Cycle Track Proposals

The next stage in the implementation of the proposals to create new cycle paths on our main roads is the public consultation on a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) by the Council. The TRO was originally scheduled to be published at the end of January, but as we approach March there is no sign of it. The latest word from the Council is that the consultation may now commence at the end of March.

Meanwhile the “public realm” developments proposed for the Roseburn area are progressing. Council representatives attended the Murrayfield Community Council (MCC) meeting in early January to discuss the suggestions that had been made by members of the public, including the children in Roseburn Primary School. As you will be aware the Council are proposing major changes to the street layout on Murrayfield Avenue, Murrayfield Place and the Old Coltbridge, to improve the environment for people in these spaces. This will include

- wider pavements and additional ‘public realm’ - pedestrian space
- safer, easier and more direct road crossings
- improved pavement surfaces.

The proposed plan of the area in question is shown below.



This proposal was progressed at the MCC on 27 February and a public consultation on the design is now planned. Rurighd McMeddes, the lead Council official, has kindly agreed to come along to our AGM to take our views.

More information on what is planned can be accessed on the [Rejuvenating Roseburn page](#) of the Council website.

Planning Issues

There have been two planning decisions relevant to our area in the last quarter. The first was for “minor amendments to previously approved drawings granted permission for internal alterations and subdivision to the listed Playfair Building to create residential dwellings” at Donaldsons. The second was to “create a driveway and solid gate to East at 9A Hampton Terrace”.

Both were approved through the Fast Track Decision and Local Delegated Decision processes respectively.

More generally –

- The Haymarket Development on Morrison Street continues to surprise. In the last newsletter we noted that, following delays, the developer was hoping to commence building this summer, and had set 2020 as a target date to finish the first buildings. We have now heard that the developers have decided to put the site up for sale, further delaying any development of a major eyesore in our vicinity and for the city generally. It is difficult to believe that this piece of real estate has been vacant for so long, given its prime position.
- The Council are reviewing their policy on street advertising, with a number of bodies complaining that the proliferation of advertising boards outside pubs and cafes are creating street clutter. The RNIB have pointed out the dangers to blind and partially sighted people, while the Cockburn Association have called them a “commercialisation of public space for commercial benefit”. The relevant Council committee is due to discuss this matter on 17 May, following which it may wish to resolve the chaos its own employees create by leaving emptied wheelie bins scattered across pavements frequently making them inaccessible.

Miscellaneous Notices

- After some respite over the Christmas period, the closure of Haymarket Terrace to eastbound traffic has re-commenced and is planned to be in place until April.
- The carriageway at Western Corner and a section of Saughtonhall Drive (up to number 50) is to be upgraded and resurfaced. Works will take place days and nights dependant on location. This work is scheduled to start on the 12 March 2018 and should take approximately 8 weeks to complete depending on weather conditions and other circumstances.
- The Council has now passed its budget. A few of the key decisions taken are as follows –
 - There will be a new (£25?) annual charge for garden waste collection for those who wish this service, with a probable reduced rate or free service for low income families. We have no details yet on how this will work in practice, but the scope for misuse and confusion is manifest.
 - 10% of the roads budget will be spent on cycling.
 - No cuts to the libraries budget, and previously proposed cuts to Edinburgh Leisure have been revised.
- Following an approach by the Roseburn Primary School Parent Council on the proposed change to school catchment areas (highlighted in the last newsletter), the DAAA has written to the Council opposing the change. The Council has now extended the consultation period until the end of March. We will advise of any developments on this important issue in due course.
- The LOOPS (Local Opportunities for Older People) service provides information to older people about groups and activities in their local area. Further information can be found on the Community Navigator Card for [the South East Locality](#). The LOOPs Phonenumber also provides access to information on activities which can help keep older people happy and healthy. Over 65s, their families, friends and healthcare professionals can call to speak to a LOOPs advisor about clubs and activities in their local area. They do all the research to provide you with the information you need, and can also organise information on transport to and from activities. Call on 0131 603 8311 (10am-4pm Monday to Friday) or visit loopsphonenumber.org.uk.
- Some neighbours have asked that we raise a renewed problem with dog poo. It beggars belief that in this day and age some people still believe it

acceptable to leave their dog's dirt to fester in public, yet this seems to be occurring in Stanhope Place and the surrounding area. If you observe this antisocial person allowing their dog to foul please let the Council know.

- Finally, an interesting fact from a recent Council meeting. Edinburgh has a total of 638,000 trees, with the tree canopy covering 17% of the city. Because trees are considered part of the wider amenity of the city, the Council often needs to be notified where major work or removal is planned. More information can be found on the [Council Website](#).

Roseburn Park

- Work has begun carving a bench out of a log to be installed in Roseburn Park to mark the park's new beginnings following the Flood Prevention Scheme. The bench is being organised by Friends of Roseburn Park and is sponsored by Murrayfield Community Council and the City Council's West Neighbourhood Partnership. The work is being undertaken by Four Winds Edinburgh.



- Work on the new playpark is to start in the middle of this month and be finished in May.

Finally...

As previously notified this year's AGM will be held on 24 April 2018, once again at the Apex Hotel Haymarket. In addition to Rurighd McMeddes providing an update on Roseburn developments, we are pleased to advise that our key speaker will be Terry Levinthal, Director of the Cockburn Association.

The DAAA Committee

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