

Ratho & District Community Council  
Chair's Report at the AGM 16 May 2016

Once again as I look back over the past year it seems as if no progress has yet again been made - we have no new doctors surgery, there are numerous planning applications, the Local Development Plan still has not been finalised and as for buses and dog fouling.....

But we are told by the NHS that the doctors surgery is making progress, the local development plan should be published at the end of this month, the Community Council and our Councillors continue to have meetings and press for a better bus service and dog fouling seems to be slightly less of a problem. We look forward to some progress in the next 12 months

Turning to proposed planning applications, it would appear that while there is no finalised Local Development Plan (LDP) Developers have been proposing sites which they know are not be included in the LDP, hence the proliferation of Pre application notices (PAN's) in Ratho - east of Ratho Park Road, to the north of the Cemetery, the Old Concrete Works - watch for these in the next few months.

The application from Barrett David Wilson Homes to the East of the Moorings was refused by the City of Edinburgh because it did not comply with the LDP or the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan. Thank you for your support.

In the A8 corridor Taylor Wimpey are proposing 132 houses in Ratho Station, which is greatly to be welcomed when a formal planning application is submitted. We also understand that the Edinburgh Council have proposed that the International Business Gateway development to the east of Ingliston Park and Ride, which was to be substantially offices with 200/400 houses, will now be substantially residential with some 2,400 dwellings. We were not consulted and presumably further PAN's will be forthcoming. Meanwhile the fate of the Garden District to the east of Gogarburn is unclear.

As a Community Council we are aware that a significant increase in the size of any of our villages requires new and better infrastructure. This is something to be considered for all major applications.

These applications are in addition to the more mundane - 2 hotels at the airport, showrooms at Newbridge, advertising hoardings, mobile phone masts, super fast broadband boxes plus domestic extensions - the list goes on and on.

Turning to our successes - the majority of Main Street in Ratho had been resurfaced, Dalmahoy Road has had major patching, the Canal towpath between Ratho and Hermiston has also been resurfaced and Scottish Canals are now hoping to improve the towpath towards Linlithgow

We welcome the establishment of the Patient Participation Group to act as an interface with the Doctors Surgery and the Friends of Craigpark established for the refurbishment of Craigpark which has begun with funds from the Area Board.

But perhaps the thing that gave me the most pleasure, and caused the most headaches to our secretary, were the Christmas Lights. Everyone was most generous and we have sufficient funds, we think, to put up and take down the lights next year

None of this is possible without the hard work of the whole Community Council and I would like to thank them on behalf of the whole Community. I would like especially to thank Mike Harle and Neil Langhorn, who have left us during the year. Thank you all. The triennial elections for the Community Council are in September and we would be delighted to have new members - so watch this space!

Judy Wightman  
Chair