

Ratho and District Community Council

Chair's report for Annual General Meeting on 15 May 2017

Looking back at last year's minutes planning loomed large. We were anticipating uncontrolled development within Ratho while the long awaited developments in Ratho Station and Newbridge were a pipe dream. So what has changed - the Local Development Plan (LDP) was published and adopted by City of Edinburgh Council on 24 October 2016. To our relief the LDP did not include any of the recent Pre Application Notices (PAN's) while including the Ratho Station sites. To date a planning application is working its way through the system for Taylor Wimpey for 132 houses in Ratho Station and the Council Planners appear to be using the LDP to guide other applications.

There have been new PAN's this year for a village of 1,200 houses at Hatton Mains and for various hotels at the Airport. Meanwhile the application for Garden District at Gogarburn has been called in by the Government. We expect an outcome later in the year.

There has also been the PAN for the Wave Garden in the Craigpark Country Park. We await the full application with interest.

There have of course been other smaller applications, house extensions, minor changes to MacDonalds drive thru, changes to and changes of use to buildings in the Industrial estates amongst others.

We have been involved in numerous discussions over Roads, parking in the whole area, dog fouling all of which are ongoing. Sadly there has been a significant increase in anti social behaviour in Ratho over the past year and we thank the Police for their help and support and hope that there will be an improvement over the next 12 months.

One highlight of the year has been the commencement of the building of the new Doctors Surgery in Wilkieston Road. I am sure we will all, especially the Patient Participation Group, be delighted, and relieved, when it finally opens.

This year has seen the continuation of the introduction of the Localities model in Edinburgh, the Pentland Hill ward bring in the South West and the Almond ward in the North West. This has resulted in integrated care, the combining of social and medical care, and the devolution of more services to the locality hubs. There has also been a significant reduction and change of staff within these offices and we look forward to seeing the outcome of these changes as well as working with new officers.

We have continued to participate in the Almond and Pentland Hills Neighbourhood Partnerships, both the North West and South West localities, the South West Planning Forum, the Ratho Surgery Project Board, the Canal Partnership Board, the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee, the Edinburgh Airport Consultation Stakeholder Reference Group and the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils keeping the name of Ratho and District Community Council to the fore.

During the year we have been supported ably by our local Councillors, and wish those who retired in May a more stress free life and look forward to working with our new Councillors, whose numbers have now risen to 8. There will always be someone there to help you!

In October all Community Councils held an election for Members and nominated groups. Sadly we did not need to hold an actual election as we received only 7 nominations for members for 10 vacancies. We also have 2 co-opted members and 3 nominated groups.

Finally I would like to thank the entire Community Council for their hard work and support over the year especially the other Office Bearers.

Judy Wightman