

Ratho and District Community Council
Secretary's report for the Annual General Meeting on 22 May 2018

In addition to supporting the Chair in meetings and walkabouts with council officials, as in previous years, the focus has been on keeping colleagues updated on priorities, and improving communications with residents in different communities in our area. We have continued to use a Google Group for email updates for interested residents and this is in the process of being revised in light of General Data Protection Regulations. We also post updates on appropriate Facebook sites and find that many residents prefer the immediacy of this communication stream. Similarly the Community Council website is updated when required but with relatively low numbers of visits.

Over the last year we have sent 51 Google Group email updates to residents' inboxes. Information has included relevant traffic orders, bus diversions, major planning applications and City of Edinburgh Council consultations. These also generate feedback or requests for information.

Posts are made on the Ratho Village Community, Newbridge Village Community, Save Gogar Hermiston Greenbelt and Save West Clifton Facebook pages as appropriate. These are generally information items affecting village life, including information on how residents can report problems. In relation to the Ratho Village Community Facebook site I also get Private Messages about particular problems which can be dealt with either directly with CEC colleagues or by pointing the residents to suitable information sources.

In the past year there have been 333 Tweets and Retweets on our Twitter feed usually about on-going situations, and notices including emergency road closures along with a good number of retweets of information which may be of interest to residents.

Planning lists are sent out monthly, for information for Community Councillors via a closed Google Group, and circulated information from City of Edinburgh Council colleagues forwarded as appropriate.

In relation to correspondence this is generally conducted by email and mainly centred on infrastructure issues – problems with bus diversions, waste services, public transport and roads. The emails are deleted when the issue has been dealt with, as required by GDP Regulations.

I have also represented the Community Council on the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee, and the South West Locality on the Edinburgh Canal Delivery Board and the Canal Community Action Board.

Kate Watt
Secretary
22 May 2018