

Ratho & District Community Council
Secretary's Report for year ending March 2020

The year April 2019 - March 2020 was a year of two parts, before and after the Community Council elections.

At the time of the election the new Scheme for Community Councils instituted the post of Engagement Officer and though it was decided that the office of Secretary and Engagement Officer would be combined, a separate report is provided for the Engagement Officer for the period October 2019 – March 2020.

Community Council Office Bearers have established good working relationships with each other, as well as our Councillors and officers to provide a seamless response for residents' queries.

Efforts continued to publicise City Council proposals affecting our residents on social media (mainly Facebook groups) and by emailing residents via our Google Group. Residents continue to engage seeking advice on how to bring problems, such as potholes and missed bin collections, to the attention of council officials. We continue to advise residents to use the Council Reporting Forms in the first instance before considering escalating such problems to our ward councillors.

From time to time we are asked for advice on how to deal with less usual problems which cannot be dealt with online with the City Council. There was a request from residents for advice in dealing with a contentious planning application which involved explaining in detail about the grounds for objecting to applications and how to proceed. That application was eventually not approved and the contribution by the Community Council was appreciated by residents.

During the year we have attended public meetings for events such as the City Mobility Plan and CityPlan 2030; proposals for the new Library and Under 5s centre and planning applications, as well as organising meetings for developers. These meetings provide us with valuable and necessary information on the views of residents in order to reflect these on any feedback to the City Council, both formally and informally.

I continue to represent the Community Council on Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee and attend their quarterly meetings.

I also continued attending meetings of the Canal Community Action Group which endeavours to promote local initiatives on the canal, including the Canal Festival centred in June 2019 on the Lochrin Basin.

However, the most important part of the job continues to be listening to our residents to find out the problems and liaising with City Council officials and Councillors where appropriate to seek early resolutions.

Kate Watt
Secretary