

## **Ratho& District Community Council**

### **Secretary's Report for the year ending March 2021**

Though this last year started off with physical meetings not possible, by City Council order, we did continue to address residents' concerns by email. 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 seek advice on how to bring problems to the attention of council officials and we continue to advise residents to use the Council Reporting Forms in the first instance before considering escalating such problems to our ward councillors.

However, there are occasions when the Reporting Forms fail to produce action, so we then encourage residents to advise us of details of the problems and try to get these resolved.

For example, during the winter grit bins were left unfilled for a significant time though this had been reported on the reporting map, emails got no action, and our councillors had to become involved. We are grateful for their support.

At the end of last year there were two areas where choked gullies led to flooding in gardens and properties and as these were not adequately addressed by City Council services we had again to involve our councillors and provide background information.

At present there is no definite date for the provision of library services to Ratho village and we have continued to seek updates from officers to provide feedback to the many residents who normally use the library.

In relation to Community Council meetings it should be noted we decided to use Microsoft Teams, rather than Zoom, so that our Elected Members and attending officers were able to use council-issued laptops to participate in our meetings. Apart from one glitch this has worked satisfactorily.

I continue to represent the Community Council on Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee and attend their quarterly meetings. The Airport has suffered a huge loss of passengers and air traffic during this last year, but the Committee has had to address Government initiatives and consultations about matters such as noise, night flying and connectivity.

I also continued attending meetings of the Canal Community Action Group which endeavours to promote local initiatives on the canal. With the imposed lockdowns the group has been unable to promote any group activity on the canal, and the Canal Festival was cancelled both for 2020 and 2021. The group is now trying to establish a different celebration of the canal, which will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening in 2022.

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

Kate Watt  
Secretary