

## Chair's Report

When I wrote my report last year, little did we realise just how long Covid was going to disrupt our lives! While it hasn't completely disappeared, we are learning to live with it. We celebrated our first in person meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 and are at present holding a mixture of online and in person meetings, and will review this later in the year.

The major outstanding action from 2021 was the publication of City Plan 2030 – this opened for comment on 9 November 2021, with our comments being posted in December. We await the Reporter's comments with interest, including whether any developer's proposals have been accepted.

Other outstanding planning matters in March 2021 included:

- Development of the former Continental site in Newbridge – first started in 2005
- International Business Gateway (IBG)
- The Garden District
- The Country Park and Wave Garden
- West Craigs South
- Development adjacent to 132 Glasgow Road, Ratho Station
- Gogarstone Road
- Dalmahoy Junction
- Library and Early Years Building, Ratho
- Crosswinds Development

Some of these developments have progressed. IBG is still on the cards, for a much smaller site adjacent to Eastfield Road, but the main area is now designated as West Town, Edinburgh. This site is for mixed usage, with some 7,000 homes proposed. Adjoining this to the east is the proposed West Craigs South development, for which we had a presentation last summer.

The Garden District proposal for 1,350 houses related to only the northern corner of the original proposal adjoining Gogar Station Road. The planning application was originally submitted in 2015 and the Scottish Ministers have now accepted this application, which has been renamed Redheughs Village. We await detailed proposals.

Following the approval of the Taylor Wimpey development adjacent to 132 Glasgow Road, Ratho Station, the land has been cleared of its mature trees. We anticipate that construction will commence shortly.

We are still pursuing some action on the dangerous junction between Gogarstone Road/A8, while discussion, letters and deputations in respect of the Dalmahoy junction proposals continued throughout the summer of 2021. At the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 8 November, the committee approved a signalised pedestrian crossing, not the fully signalised junction wanted by the community.

There appears to be little visible progress with the Wave Garden development in Ratho, nor with the building of the replacement Library and Early Years Centre in Ratho. The Library was closed in October 2020 and we have been served since by a mobile library when permitted. The opening date for this building has been deferred from August 2022 to August 2023. We look forward to some progress.

However this is not all we have done this year. There have been Proposal of Application Notices (PANs) for developments at Braidview on the old concrete works in

Ratho and by Tarmac Lafarge on their landholdings to the north of the canal, both of which may have been included in the City Plan consultation. These are in addition to the PANs for West Craigs, for West Town, Edinburgh mentioned above, for Bonnington Quarry and for a hotel, Hampton by Hilton. It has been the year of the PANs!

What else have we done beside the 88 planning applications? Amongst other things we have had presentations on 20-minute neighbourhoods; on developing a strategy for learning in West Edinburgh including the proposed High School for the A8 corridor; ongoing discussions regarding speeding, speed limits and road safety measures on Wilkieston Road; the Wilkieston bypass; abandoned cars; flooding caused by blocked gullies; planning at the Newbridge Inn; lorries using Station Road; a proposed new airport access road together with the perennial problems at the Gogar roundabout and how to solve them; the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Union Canal; and the naming of the Rusack's Bridge. In summary, while planning mainly related to the A8 corridor, other matters relate to both the Almond and Pentland Hills wards.

On a wider note, Kate Watt represents our community on the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee, and Ray Godfree on the Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board – we thank them for their hard work. I have been involved with both the Almond and Pentland Hills Neighbourhood Networks, which feed into their local Locality Community Planning Partnerships and the Edinburgh Partnership. While this represents our route to express our views on the strategic planning for Edinburgh, there is still work required to ensure adequate representation of our views and therefore local democracy.

Sadly I must note the passing in December of Dee Hunter, a long serving member of our Community Council; we will miss her support. We also would like to thank our Councillors who retired at the elections in May – Ricky Henderson, Graham Hutchison and Sue Webber – we will miss their support over the years, thank you. I would like to also thank our remaining councillors for their help too, and we welcome 3 new Councillors – Stephen Jenkinson, Lewis Younie and Fiona Glasgow – and look forward to working with them. I must also thank all the members of the Community Council, but special thanks to our Treasurer and Secretary for their support over the last year. Thank you.

Judy Wightman  
May 2022