

Fairmilehead Community Council Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 7pm, Caiystane Hall, Fairmilehead Parish Church, 1 Frogston Road West, EH10 7AA

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Colin Anderson (Secretary); Barbara Dick (Treasurer/Buckstone Association); Stella Thomson (Engagement and Inclusion Officer); Gillian Holmes (Minutes Secretary/Planning Officer); Norrie McLeod (Friends of Swanston Village); Amanda Dovesi: Jamie Adams: Mike Wilson (Editor: The Fairmile, www.thefairmile.substack.com and Build Edinburgh, www.builedinburgh.substack.com)

Ex Officio: Edinburgh SW Community Police Team: PC Jack Denwood and PC Nicola Goodall - Oxfangs Police Station.

13 members of the public

Apologies: Ian Murray MP; Councillor Jason Rust; Councillor Neil Cuthbert; Councillor Conor Savage; Douglas Grossart; Helen Wilson; Brian Ralph; Gerry Granger.

Welcome

Dennis Williams welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked PC Denwood and PC Goodall for attending and invited them to do their Police report first.

Police Report

Incidents in Fairmilehead Park: anti-social behaviour.
Fires being set.

Police will increase their presence in the runup to Guy Fawkes. Scott Arthur MP has secured agreement from local supermarkets to not sell fireworks, a policy fully endorsed by the Police.

Firework Control Zones

Asked where the Firework Control Zones are and what they mean, PC Denwood stated that in brief it is now illegal to set off fireworks in these areas between 31 October and 9 November 2025.

The zones are:

- Balerno
- Calton Hill
- Corstorphine
- Gracemount
- Longstone
- Moredun
- Niddrie
- Seafield
- Sighthill.

Full information on zones and general firework rules can be found at: www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Dark nights

3/4 break- ins to sheds/homes during September. Reminder that dark nights provide cover. Consider increasing security with items such as lighting, video doorbells etc. More information on home security available at: www.scotland.police.uk

Halloween – anti-social behaviour

Following on from the subject of fireworks, Dennis Williams raised the issue of the sale of eggs to youngsters around the time of Halloween. The practice of “egging doors” is a frequent occurrence around this time. The Police advised that it is up to individual shop owners as to whether to sell to younger people. Dennis, as one of the local shop keepers, would advocate for something more robust than individual choice.

East Safety Camera Unit

Comment was made that the Speed Camera, part of the flexible deployment unit, which has been at Pentland Terrace from time to time, is very welcome. FCC had been requesting this deployment for over 18 months with a speed survey showing that over one third of vehicles heading into town exceeded the speed limit. The camera will be in use for up to 3 months.

A request was made for a camera to be located on the Biggar Road heading East towards the A720 and out of Edinburgh. UPDATE – Colin is in touch with the Local Councillors about this.

Redford Road

A request was also made for a flashing speed reduction sign on Redford Road. The installation of such is a matter for the Council not the Police.

Mounthooly

A question was asked regarding an incident in Mounthooly where 4 individuals in balaclavas attempted a house break-in. The Police said that this was possibly a one off incident and has not formed a pattern within the area.

Costcutter

It was confirmed that the previous problems the Costcutter experienced with groups of young people, mainly female, stealing, seems to have been resolved. The use and publishing of video footage has perhaps acted as a deterrent.

Minute Of Meeting Held on Tuesday 3 September 2025

The Minutes were approved by the meeting.

Proposed: Stella Thomson

Seconded: Dennis Williams

Matters Arising

Colin Anderson undated:

SEStran Presentation

Colin has issued an invitation to Brian Butler, Partnership Director, regarding a future presentation to FCC. Awaiting response.

The Fairmile

As a result of Mike Wilson’s hard work there are now over 265 subscribers.

Damhead and District Community Council (DDCC) – Traffic Issues:

- Tailbacks on Biggar Road stemming from the two sets of lights, one at the Hillend Snowsports Centre and the other at the triple junction at Old Pentland Road. This was due in part to sequencing problems between the different lights due to installation by different companies. Sequencing has been improved but the volume of traffic is also a main contributing factor.
- DDCC have suggested that the Hillend lights should be kept on green throughout the night as no vehicles are exiting the Snowsports Centre at that time.
- DDCC have also requested that turning right from the A702 onto Old Pentland Road be prohibited.

Morningside - Old Post Office

Work continues. Pedestrian access narrowed due to fencing. Piling machine now on-site.

Tram Extension

Project team invited to do a presentation to FCC. Awaiting response.

ETRO – Greenbank to Meadows Quiet Route Ref: TRO/25/17

Confusion exists around the elements of this ETRO. It would appear to incorporate options from all 3 of the potential routes suggested. Clarification sought.

Calderstones Eco Hotel and Lodges

Sale of the site with Planning Permission is being handled by Drysdale and Company. No other information.

Straiton Park and Ride

It is believed that the landowner, from whom the site is leased by CEC, wants to reclaim the site. It will therefore be closing. A survey showed only around 100 cars per day used the facility.

Co-option of new Member to FCC – Janice Pauwels

This proposal for co-option follows an indication from Janice that she would be willing to become a Member.

Proposer: Colin Anderson

Seconded: Jamie Adams

Janice introduced herself to the meeting.

Correspondence and Report by Secretary

Information Bulletin – distributed on 6 September.

Buckstone Play Park

Councillor Savage received the following response from Council Officers:

"As promised at the last FCC meeting, I've got an (albeit disappointing) update, as can be seen below:

"I can confirm that there are currently no plans to refurbish the playpark at Buckstone Circle. While the Scottish Government funding has been very welcome, it has only allowed us to target around 20 playparks for refurbishment and approximately 65 for partial improvements, such as the replacement of obsolete equipment or safety surfacing. With a total of 179 playparks and wheeled sports areas across the city, we've unfortunately only been able to improve about half of these facilities using the funding available."

Upon learning this though, I've pushed to see what can be done to acquire more funding, to which I've got this reply:

"Our primary source of third-party funding for playpark projects comes from landfill grant distributors such as FCC. Constituted community groups are eligible to apply to these organisations for support. In addition, I'll be submitting a funding request to the Council to help us continue the renewal programme beyond 2025/26. If successful, and if sufficient funding is secured, Buckstone will undoubtedly be considered a priority for refurbishment within the next couple of years."

(Note – the FCC referred to is the FCC Community Organisation who are one of the bodies responsible for passing funds from the Scottish Landfill Tax onto community and environmental projects)

Astley Ainsley Local Place Plan (LPP)

A public consultation was held on Saturday 27 September in The Eric Liddell Centre. Gill went along and found the event to be extremely well attended. The Astley Ainsley Community Trust are campaigning for community ownership of the Astley Ainsley site and were seeking views from all interested parties as to what types of development might serve the community best within the 42 acre site. In order to elicit opinions and suggestions various techniques were employed. For example, a huge floor map of the area allowed participants to “flag” sections for types of development. The numbers in attendance and getting involved relayed the impression of keen local interest.

FCC are planning to produce an LLP for Fairmilehead. Please get involved and relay your own ideas and opinions by completing the LPP survey to be launched on St Andrews Day, 30 November.

Polling Places in Ward 8 – Boundary Adjustments

Your polling station may have changed. A change in electoral boundaries will mean more households will now vote at St Fillan’s Church Hall.

Former BUPA Nursing Home on Braid Hills Road

This closed in July 2024 and has now been sold to another Nursing Home provider. There appears to be no 24-hour security presence resulting in on-going problems with vandalism. Police have been called to the site multiple times since closure.

Fuel Theft from Esso Garage, Biggar Road

Between 2 August 2025 – 25 September 2025, seven thefts of petrol ranging in cost from £15 - £71 have been recorded. The cars involved may have been using cloned number plates. There is also concern about the quality of the CCTV images available, meaning that number plates are not readily identifiable.

FCC, Annual General Meeting

Under the terms of the Edinburgh Community Council Scheme, FCC are obliged to hold the AGM before the end of the year. Consequently, the AGM will be held at the meeting on 2 December 2025. This will involve the presentation of various reports, the appointment of office bearers, and approval of the financial statement. The Meeting will end with a Christmas Cheese and Wine.

Financial Report

Barbara continues to have difficulty in dealing with RBS regarding the FCC accounts. The annual grant from City of Edinburgh Council has been received. It is £12 more than last year. The £150 to cover hall rental should follow shortly. The current balance in the FCC account is approximately £2,800.

Website – launch of the new FCC Website at:

www.fairmileheadcc.org

Stella’s efforts to produce this new website have been immense. It represents countless hours of work and effort, and all undertaken without any professional help. FCC offer our thanks and gratitude.

Stella said that a previous survey she undertook on behalf of FCC had highlighted a very limited knowledge about the FCC within the community. The new website provides a place to store both information about FCC and the local community. Together with The Fairmile, it is hoped to reach a far wider local audience. The FCC also has a Facebook page with just under 300 subscribers, 70% female.

The new website has been designed to be easy to navigate. It includes items such as “The Latest News”, that is, recent events within Fairmilehead, FCC meetings schedule and documents and a link to subscribe to The Fairmile. Mike, Editor of the Fairmile, said that as substack pages are not easily found on a web browser, the inclusion of a link on the website should prove advantageous.

Scottish Water Office Building – update

No update since last FCC meeting. Scottish Water still deciding whether to try to gain planning permission prior to sale of the site. Once sold Scottish Water’s only remaining interest will be the Pump House and some Wayleave Rights.

Local Place Plan (LPP) – Survey Launch 30 November (St Andrew’s Day)

A sub-committee meeting was held on 23 September. A separate email address has been set up for all information relevant to the LPP: www.llpfairmilehead@gmail.com

The LLP is being produced to feed into the next Edinburgh Local Development Plan (City Plan 2040). It is hoped that the Fairmilehead LPP will be considered when CEC are deciding on development for Fairmilehead to be included in City Plan 2040. However, there are no guarantees. City Plan 2040 will effectively cover the period 2030-2040.

To gain knowledge of residents’ views on future development within the area FCC are to launch a survey on 30 November. It will be open until mid-January 2026.

An advertising campaign will accompany the launch and a link will be included on the website.

Any topics highlighted by the survey will be followed up by FCC either at the public meetings or at drop in events still to be organised.

PLEASE TAKE PART AND ASSIST OTHERS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY DEALING WITH ONLINE MATTERS TO DO SO.

Traffic Issues at Buckstone Primary

Despite many promises to either remove or reorientate the planters, the planters at Buckstone Loan East and Buckstone Circle, remain in place. They are the source of serious safety concerns.

UPDATE

Latest information is that the large planter is now to be replaced with two smaller ones. Issues with the availability of machinery to move the planters has been the cause of the delays.

Transport and Environment

Tram Trains for Edinburgh

Launch event City Chambers, Tuesday, 7 October 2025.

A new campaign group has been formed to press for the re-opening of the Edinburgh South Suburban railway, using tram-trains that can run on both the city centre tram tracks and normal rail lines. Campaigners have argued for the reopening of this useful public transport corridor for many years – but the adoption of tram train technology now makes the proposal far more practical than previously.

The proposal envisages tram trains running from a new station at Portobello which would be sited beside the existing mainline railway. Tram train services would be routed along the South Suburban railway to the tram line at Murrayfield. From here the tram trains could run both East and West along the existing tram lines.

Campaigners advocate that using the existing rail network means very little new infrastructure needs to be built compared to starting from scratch – the rails are “literally there” – although some changes would be required. Utilizing the existing railway infrastructure also minimises the conflict between road traffic and the tram trains, providing a safer and faster service once operational. In addition, it would provide public transport for poorly served areas in the South East of the city.

As an idea it is worth supporting but no indication has been given as to funding.

Resurfacing A720 – Edinburgh City Bypass

Dates given for the resurfacing at the FCC meeting have been superseded. Dates and closures are as follows:

“Further to our previous correspondence on 29th September, following meetings with our contractors, there have been some changes to the work programme and traffic management arrangements.

On the nights of Thursday 23rd October and Friday 24th October the eastbound on-slip at Calder Junction will be closed, and a lane closure will be in place on the A720 eastbound carriageway between Hermiston Gait and Baberton Junction. On Monday 27 October, only the eastbound on-slip at Calder Junction will be closed

The works at Straiton to Lothianburn Westbound will start a night earlier on Monday 27th, and the end date and traffic management remains the same.”

(note – the end date is Monday 17 November – 16 nights resurfacing excluding weekends)

Dropped Crossings

At the September meeting concern was expressed regarding the effect of the Council’s intention to change the crossings at various locations to dropped crossings with a build out construction.

Amanda had gathered comments and concerns from residents in the areas affected, which Colin then emailed to the Council Officer. Amanda received the following reply:

“The sustainable transport hierarchy, as outlined in the [Council’s City Mobility Plan](#), prioritises walking and wheeling, then cycling, then public transport, shared transport including taxis. The use of private cars is lowest in the hierarchy. These designs follow what is set out in the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance, which can be seen [here](#). The proposed improvements are expected to improve pedestrian safety, and perceptions of safety crossing side roads of a busy road by reducing the crossing distance and the speed of turning traffic.

Nonetheless, given your and other residents’ feedback, we will consider the alignment of the kerblines here and review the proposals to address concerns about turning vehicles by slightly reducing the amount of footway widening in a way that best balances the needs of pedestrians with those of motorists turning in and out of the side roads safely.”

This is a promising reply. It shows the Council will take account of responses made to their consultations.

AOCB

Petrol Station, Comiston Road

Petrol Station is currently closed. Roof is being replaced on the shop building. Unclear if other issues such as broken electric chargers or drainage problems are to be dealt with. Date for reopening unknown.

PSA TESTING

A plea was made for all gentlemen to ensure they have a PSA blood test done.

This test is to help check for prostate conditions such as prostate cancer or an enlarged prostate. The test checks the level of prostate specific antigen (PSA) in the blood.

It is a simple blood test and can save lives.

Information is available from all GP surgeries and online at; www.nhs.uk

Date Of Next Meeting

Tuesday 4 November in Fairmilehead Parish Church

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 2 December 2025 (AGM)	There will be no January meeting unless otherwise notified.
----------------------------------	---

Contact e-mail: secretaryfcc1@gmail.com

Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org