

KIRKY NEWS

Issue No 5
AUGUST 2003

KIRKLISTON TO EXPAND

Last year the City of Edinburgh Council announced that in the Draft Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan, some one thousand new dwellings would be built in the next fifteen years in the Ratho-Newbridge-Kirkliston area.

In the finalised document, approved for public deposit on June 16, 2003, it appears that 800 will be built in Kirkliston.

Housing at the Distillery has been planned for the past three years and last year it was announced that 100 houses would be built on the Drambuie site.

The area to the northwest of the village has always looked vulnerable since the completion of the Kirklands and Glendinning estates. What was not foreseen was that building on the north of Kirkliston would extend across the B800 to fill the area between the Boland estate and the proposed M9 spur.

The City of Edinburgh Council have recognised that the present primary school will not accommodate the influx of new children and there are plans to build a new primary school to the west of the B800 in the new estate.

It is unfortunate that the industry remaining in the village seems destined to close and there are no plans for any employment to move in. It can only be assumed that many of the 800 dwellings will be for the additional employees of the Royal Bank of Scotland in their world headquarters at Gogar.

It would seem reasonable to hope that a major bank might recognise the opportunity to service this ever increasing community.

Any comments on this plan should be directed before **18 August** to Kirky News or to Clive Chambers, Secretary, Kirkliston Community Council, 20 Glendinning Road, Kirkliston EH29 9HE or to Councillor Longstaff, Council Office, Kirkliston 19 Station Road, EH29 9BB, or direct to the City of Edinburgh Council by writing to – Planning Division 2, Scottish Executive Development Department, Floor 2-H, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ or by Email to Ed-LothianStructurePlan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The full plans are available in the library, as are forms for any comment.

A form to submit objections or representations is also available at www.edinburgh.gov.uk

If you think you have some time to spare and can deliver some KN in your area, please ring 335 3705

KIRKLISTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 2003

If there are any questions you would like to ask or like to air your views, the next meetings of the Council are as follows:

Tuesday 19 August
Wednesday 17 September
Monday 20 October
Tuesday 18 November

KIRKLISTON GALA UPDATE

The folk of Kirkliston certainly helped make the 75th Gala Day one to remember! The months of planning and background work paid off as the day went without a hitch. Queen Kerry Ann and all the court looked stunning – and it was fantastic to see the kilts with all their different tartans.

There was a bit of a “new” theme to the Gala Day this year – the Pageant had been rewritten and the characters were new, there was a new stage, the kilts were all new and to top all that, the weather was simply glorious. The children really enjoyed themselves and everyone has made lots of favourable comments about the improved Pageant. If you have got any feedback or suggestions for improvement, please pass your comments on to any member of the Gala Committee, or contact Morag on 333 3420.

To everyone who joined in on the parade, decorated floats, helped during Gala Week or contributed in any way, thanks for your help, the event was a complete success. Next year's Gala Week will be from 5 – 12 June 2004, so get the dates in your diary now!

SWINGING SUCCESS

Congratulations to popular village ladies, Liz Wardell and Jenny Dinwoodie, who won the Dundas Parks Ladies' Open Golf Competition beating entries from far and wide!

KIRKLISTON PARISH CHURCH

**A warm welcome awaits you at our lovely church
Sunday Worship at 11 am**

**Full details of all our organisations and activities can be obtained from the Minister Rev Glenda Keating
(Tel 333 3298) or the Session Clerk
Mr David Buchanan (Tel 333 3393)
Come inside for a faithlift**

KIRKLISTON LIBRARY

Kirkliston Library now has five computers with full broadband internet access available for public use. The service is free to all library members – you just need to call in to the library to register. Opening hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 1.00 – 3.00, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00 – 5.00, Saturdays 9.0 – 1.00.

There will be an Internet Taster Session for any beginners who want to know more about what the internet can offer and how to make best use of it etc. on **Thursday 4 September 2.00 – 4.00**. Places are limited to 6, so please phone the library on 529 5510 to reserve a place. More sessions to follow in October and November.

For those people unable to get to the library because of disability or mobility difficulties, there is a door to door minibus service fortnightly on Tuesday mornings. Anyone interested will be collected from their homes.

Reading Maze Children's Reading Scheme. A challenge to all young readers – borrow and read six library books by **31 August** and you will have completed the reading maze. Then you can collect your certificate, your medal and get free entry into a prize draw.

NEW HEALTH CENTRE

It is now 6 months since the new Health Centre was started, and work has been going well. The roof is nearly completed and the size and shape are now emerging fast. The builders were on holiday for 2 weeks and the Glebe was very peaceful.

Parking is still the biggest problem and again, residents are asked to be patient. The internal plans are on view in the waiting room if you would like to see the facilities that will be available.

YOUTH NIGHTS

A pilot scheme between the Community Centre and the Leisure Centre to run youth nights on Fridays has come to an end, but the scheme proved so successful that the Council has agreed to fund the project for the next two years. The Community Centre supplies youth workers and non sports activities and the Leisure Centre handles the sports side. The scheme will start up again in September; it is aimed at youngsters of secondary school age and they have to register, but this entitles them to a leisure access card.

DISTURBED HEADSTONES

Once again, Edinburgh Council employees have caused controversy by dismantling or laying flat over 200 headstones in the village graveyard. On the first occasion, no advance warning was given – not even to our Minister – and many locals at first blamed vandals for what looked like desecration.

At least we were forewarned about the inspectors' return last month as notices had been displayed, but few locals were prepared for the extent of the "safety work" carried out. Some have asked questions which deserve consideration, for example:

- 1) Children's safety is crucial but a graveyard is not a children's play area – can the Council make a bye-law banning unsupervised children from using it?
- 2) Who decides a stone is "safe"? Is there not an accepted standard which bereaved families are entitled to expect when modern stones are erected?
- 3) Could the Council not have put warning notices on insecure stones to alert relatives, and give them time to put things right before taking such drastic action?
- 4) There are reports that only some Edinburgh cemeteries are being targeted – if so, on what grounds was Kirkliston included in the list?
- 5) Have any other local authorities taken similar steps, or is Edinburgh going over the top on this issue?

Let us know what you think, and we'll cover the responses in the next issue of Kirky News.

USE OF OLD HEALTH CENTRE

Could the soon to be redundant Health Centre be converted into apartments, specifically tailored to meet the needs of three or four older people?

The question splits into two parts and can be answered, yes, if the price is right, and yes if three or four oldies can agree to go into partnership to purchase and convert the building into innovative dwellings for themselves.

Cutting out a developer would be the first big bonus. Plus number two, participants could design their own homes and in particular, get kitchens and bathrooms to their own specification. If you are interested and without any commitment, please 'phone 0131 333 1907

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