



**Blacket Association Newsletter**

**May 2017**

## **RECENT SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **Holyrood Park walk with dogs**

On Wednesday 3 May we had a walk in Holyrood Park for residents. Some of us regularly take our dogs for a walk there and we had a successful evening walk for both dog and non-dog owners. Fortunately the weather was excellent.

### **Tennis Club open day**

The members of the Priestfield Tennis Association (PTSA) invited Blacket residents to come along to the Tennis Club open day between noon and 4pm on Saturday 6 May. Several Blacket residents are already members of the PTSA. The afternoon was open to all ages and children were welcome. Tea and soft drinks were provided.

## **FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **Open Gardens evening**

Our annual Open Gardens Evening will be held on Friday 16 June this year. Gardens are open from 6:30pm and the final garden party starts at 7.30pm. For those who are new to the area, a number of residents allow us to have a look round their gardens, after which we adjourn to the final garden of the evening for some light refreshment and chat. The event is open to current and former residents, and their guests. We have three gardens currently signed up: 14 Mayfield Terrace (entry only via East Mayfield); 60 Blacket Place; and 17 Blacket Place (where the party will take place and there will be a plant sale for Blacket funds). Please bring along any suitable plants for selling, to No.17.

## **PARKING ISSUES**

Last year the City of Edinburgh Council consulted on their Parking Action Plan. The most significant proposals from the viewpoint of Blacket residents were that there should be shared use of permit holder and parking meter spaces, and that residents would have permits for visitors. This would greatly assist Blacket residents: we have too many parking meter places in proportion to permit holder places and visitors' parking problems would be alleviated. The Blacket Committee has lobbied the Council over a number of years in support of these proposals, which already apply in the newer controlled zone parking areas.

The Council has now agreed in principle to have shared use of permit holder and parking meter spaces but have asked for an analysis of the financial implications. We will continue to press the Council on this matter.

## **TRAFFIC ISSUES**

### **Cycle route**

The Council has now launched a consultation about a proposed new cycle route linking Holyrood Park with Ratcliffe Terrace going through the Blackets. Cyclists would enter from the Dalkeith Road via



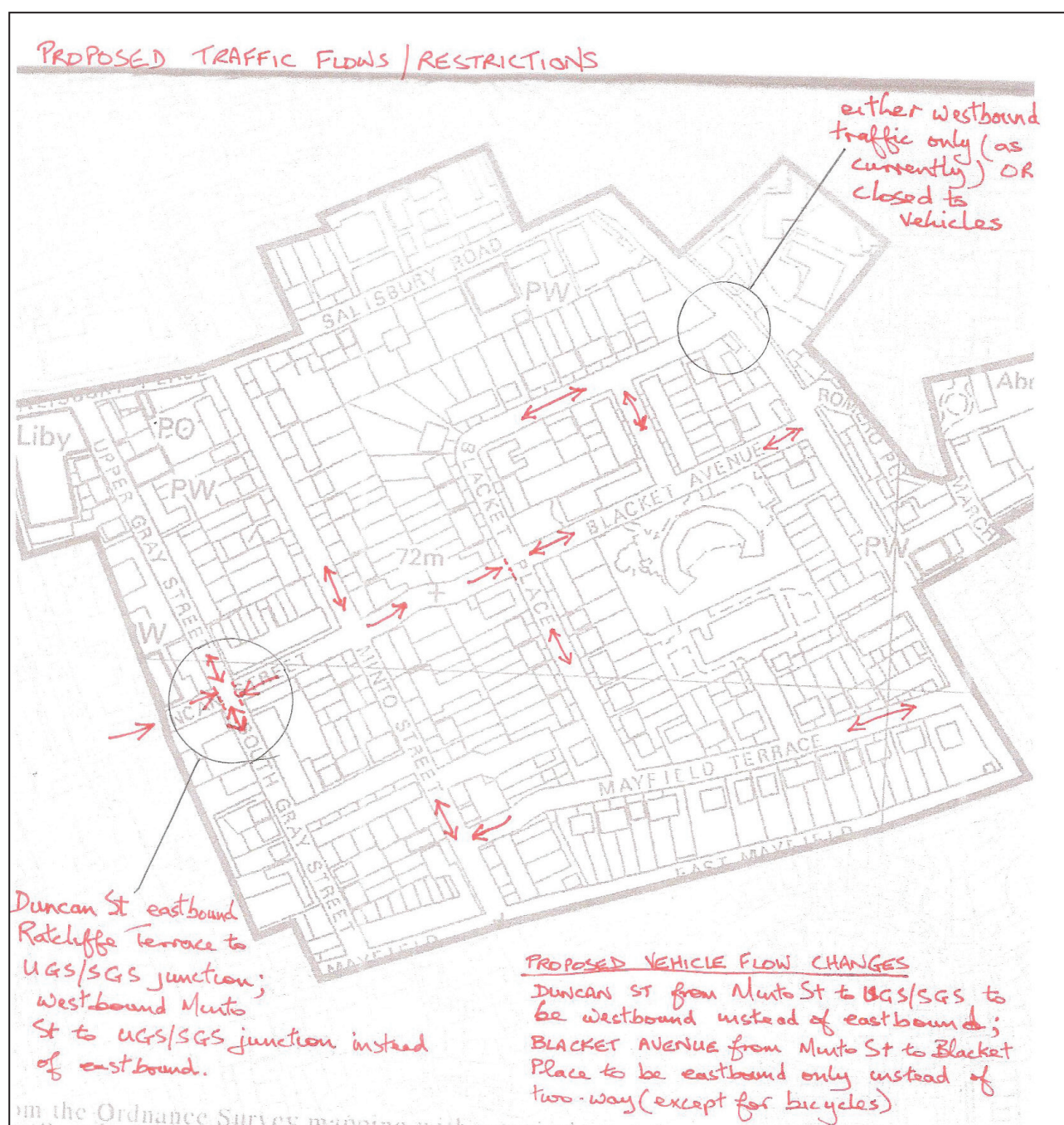


Blacket Place and exit via Blacket Avenue or Mayfield Terrace. It is proposed that Blacket Avenue would be two way for cyclists but one way for motorists (see Ian Carter's map, below), while Duncan Street would change to become westbound-only for motorists. The Blacket Association's main concern has been to maintain the entry from Minto Street into Blacket Avenue; otherwise there would be no entry from the west into the Blackets.

The consultation proposals meet the committee's principal requirement that Blacket Avenue is one way for motorists from Minto Street. In this context it is worth mentioning that the West Blacket Association has a long-standing objective of preventing Duncan Street being used as a rat run between Ratcliffe Terrace and Blacket Avenue. The plans are on view at Newington Library on 31 May, 5–8pm. For further details see [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk/](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk/). The consultation ends on 30 June.

### Minto Street into Mayfield Terrace

While the vast majority of motorists are fine, a number (including some Blacket residents) do not seem aware that cyclists are permitted to enter Mayfield Terrace from Minto Street. The sign there is no-entry only for motorised vehicles.





## EDINBURGH PLAYING OUT

The City of Edinburgh council has approved a pilot scheme that will allow residents to apply for up to five, free road closures. Such closures will allow children to play and residents to socialise on streets free of vehicles, between 1 April and 30 August 2017. Residents can apply via the Council's website: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20100/support\\_for\\_families/1553/playing\\_out/](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20100/support_for_families/1553/playing_out/). The application process and approval will take up to 6 weeks.

## PLANNING ISSUES

Since our AGM there has been only one contentious application. 38 Mayfield Terrace is a particularly beautiful house and it has historic associations. In the back garden alongside the boundary wall with East Mayfield there is a Georgian coach house which was converted into a house some time ago. An application was made to add an extension to which we objected in terms of scale and materials. However, the application was approved. Then a fresh application was made to vary the specifications of this new extension. In fact, this was an entirely new design by a different architect, and, while the design was of much higher quality, we objected again about the scale of the development. We hope that the conversion is not too obtrusive. There is nothing else to report within the five streets.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### New Neighbourhood Watch coordinator

Stanley Bird has taken over from Ian Chisholm as the Blacket Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. If you are aware of any incidents please contact Stanley (at 4 Dryden Place; [stanleybird@john-lewis.com](mailto:stanleybird@john-lewis.com)) or your local Neighbourhood Watch coordinator (see list at end of this newsletter).

### Doorstep cold calling

Cold calling on the doorstep can be a nuisance and the Blacket Association Committee is considering again whether we should become a no cold-calling zone, as some other areas have done. This issue is not totally straightforward. Would we wish to restrict selling but not doorstep charity collection? Furthermore, there may be some doorstep selling to which we might be happy to agree. Any views would be welcome. Most cold calling is of course not in person but over the phone or internet. Much phone cold calling is irritating but just intrusive selling, while some calls may have criminal intent.

## SHRUBBERY REPORT

Many trees planted when the Blacket area was developed in the early to mid-19th century have been lost over the years, either from old age or disease such as Dutch elm. These trees have been replaced as appropriate. Although trees are the ultimate responsibility of the council, the Blacket Association shrubbery working party do quite a bit of maintenance. Indeed, they have planted additional trees such as holly and, in the North Blacket Place section, a red horse chestnut (*Aesculus × carnea*) put in a year ago, which is doing well.

Earlier this spring a diseased elm at the corner of Blacket Place and Blacket Avenue was cut down by the council, and a sycamore in North Blacket Place is also due to be removed by the council because it is damaging a stone wall. It comprises two separate trees which probably grew from seedlings, and it is currently marked with a large white cross.

The Blacket Association committee is currently discussing a replacement for the sycamore; there is unlikely to be one for the diseased elm as its extensive roots remain in what is a small site.

The tradition is to choose a mixture of large and small species for the Blacket area, including some trees that are fastigate (such as many poplars), which have erect branches and allow space for the sun to light up the flowerbeds below. The autumn newsletter will probably include the final decision on the sycamore's replacement.





Meanwhile you may also have noticed that a few yews in North Blacket Place as well as an oak in Blacket Avenue have been painted with large white spots. These are to be trimmed.

## BLACKET CARDS

Blacket Cards are still available for purchase. Each card with envelope costs only £1.25, with five cards for £5. Cards can be obtained from Arlene Doherty and at Blacket events such as the Open Gardens evening and AGM.

## OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2017

CHAIR/NEWSLETTER	Ian Chisholm	MINUTES	Fiona Courtney
TREASURER	Becky Colegrave	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Stan Bird
NEW RESIDENTS	Arlene Doherty	SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY	Hugh Mackay
COMMUNICATIONS	Pauline Platt	WEBSITE	Eric Thomson
PLANNING	Richard Scothorne, Hugh Mackay	SOCIAL COORDINATOR	Phil Cullis

## LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS 2017

ALFRED PLACE	Victoria Gilmour, 15 Alfred Place; <a href="mailto:vcgilmour@gmail.com">vcgilmour@gmail.com</a>	DRYDEN PLACE	Stan Bird, 4 Dryden Place; <a href="mailto:stanleybird@john-lewis.com">stanleybird@john-lewis.com</a>
BLACKET AVENUE	Barrie West and Jennifer Flueckiger, 46b Blacket Place; <a href="mailto:barriewest@yahoo.co.uk">barriewest@yahoo.co.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:jflueckiger@gmail.com">jflueckiger@gmail.com</a>	MAYFIELD TERRACE west	Alice Kruuk, 6a Mayfield Terrace; <a href="mailto:alicekruuk@gmail.com">alicekruuk@gmail.com</a>
BLACKET PLACE north	Alison Mowat, 14 Blacket Place; <a href="mailto:am0023@mowat.biz">am0023@mowat.biz</a>	MAYFIELD TERRACE east	Pina Lang, 32 Mayfield Terrace; <a href="mailto:pina.gallucci@gmail.com">pina.gallucci@gmail.com</a>
BLACKET PLACE south, Nos 15, 46–48	Barrie West and Jennifer Flueckiger, 46b Blacket Place; <a href="mailto:barriewest@yahoo.co.uk">barriewest@yahoo.co.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:jflueckiger@gmail.com">jflueckiger@gmail.com</a>	BLACKET PLACE south, Nos 17–33, 50–62	Anna Regaard, 21 Blacket Place; <a href="mailto:annaregaard@hotmail.com">annaregaard@hotmail.com</a>