

The Parking Space

Just about the only space there is for parking is in **Spurtle!**

In McDonald Road, laid out anew after many months of disruption and in spite of the new markings, double parking is causing obstruction with emergency vehicles forced to use sirens when trying to pass. The Authorities seem unclear as yet whose responsibility it is to take this one on. At the new Barratt development at Rosebank, 240 of the intended parking spaces will be accessed from Pilrig Gardens, not a happy prospect for those already living there. Up in East London Street, the cars parked around Europcar still obstruct the footway and - despite advice from the Police, Procurator Fiscal, Trading Standards and the City

Council Solicitor - look set to continue while Cllr Lazarowicz tries to sort it out and those responsible feel no more inclined to stop. Along at St Mary's Primary, especially during delivery of pupils at morning rush-hour on this busy road and again at collection, drivers still abuse the stopping regulations - despite the promotion of the "Safer Routes to School" campaign. Up the road around St Mary's Cathedral, cars park on lines or on the pavement. Here the authorities acknowledge the problem but - which authority? On roadways it's the Council's "parking enforcement contractor"; on pavements, the police. Of course it would all be much easier if we didn't all cause the problem in the first place.

And we haven't started on vehicles going the wrong way along one-way Hopetoun Crescent. But that's for another time. Tell **Spurtle** about your least favourite black-spot. You never know, we might get somewhere eventually.



Bad parking in Broughton!

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Contacts

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Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
Tam Hay 553 2306

Sovereign Court Residents Association
John Davies 478 4463

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Cllr Mark Lazarowicz
Broughton Ward
529 3283 fax 529 4764
e-mail: mark.lazarowicz@edinburgh.gov.uk
Surgery: Drummond Community High School on Wednesdays from 6 to 7pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street on Mondays from 6 to 6.45pm

Malcolm Chisholm MP and MSP
555 3636
Surgery on Saturdays at Drummond Community High School at 1pm.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

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February 2001

Is This What YOUR Street Is Like?



What Are YOU Doing About It?

These are the questions the Clean Up Broughton campaign are shortly going to be asking. CUB was launched by local residents only last November, but already they are determined that the vandalism which is the deteriorating state of our streets and buildings will be faced head on.

Alongside this, on 26 February the City Council will introduce Task Force Working to the Broughton area. A continuation of Clean Edinburgh 2000, area-based squads will have responsibility for litter removal and maintaining open spaces. They will address particular local problems, promote the need for improved standards of refuse disposal and enforce litter legislation. Local environmental wardens will tackle refuse bags put out wrongly, litter around shops and schools, dog fouling and fly-tipping - and will have the authority to take on those responsible.

The Clean Up Broughton campaigners are due to be seen on the streets on Saturday 10 March - watch out for them or, even better, join in, they don't intend to be ignored! In addition, their plans include local displays in public places, door-to-door contact, targeting particularly the black bag menace and getting on board local schools and traders to co-operate in making life better for everyone.

It's maybe more controversial but it's coming. In addition to all this, the introduction of "containerisation" will make clear, procedures for rubbish disposal especially for householders who presently have no regard for how they dump their trash. Local views will be sought on how best this can be done, but look out for it later in the year.

It's taken a long time coming, but at last it looks as if the Cleaning Up of Broughton may finally happen.

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

Houses To Go Up (and Up!) at Rosebank?

Plans for the extensive new housing development by Barratt's at Rosebank have raised fears particularly over the height and density of the new buildings.

The proposal is for 380 housing units on 8 levels 24 metres high, 7 metres more than the highest part of the existing buildings. Speaking at a recent meeting of the Community Council, Cllr Mark Lazarowicz's view was that this was excessive and becoming an increasing problem in the area. With the construction at McDonald Road/Hopetoun Crescent now taking shape - and taking aback most who encounter it - and plans for the development of Shrubhill still to come, residents groups are anxious that Rosebank should not be allowed to override those who object to plans which push the limits ever further.

The plans are available at the City Council's Planning Department at 1 Cockburn Street and consent has not yet been given. Objections can be made - and every submission counts.

Witness Service

A Witness Service is being set up by Victim Support Scotland in Edinburgh Sheriff Court. This aims to give practical advice and emotional support to witnesses and their families before, during and after the stressful process of giving evidence. Volunteers are needed - see the advert in this Issue.

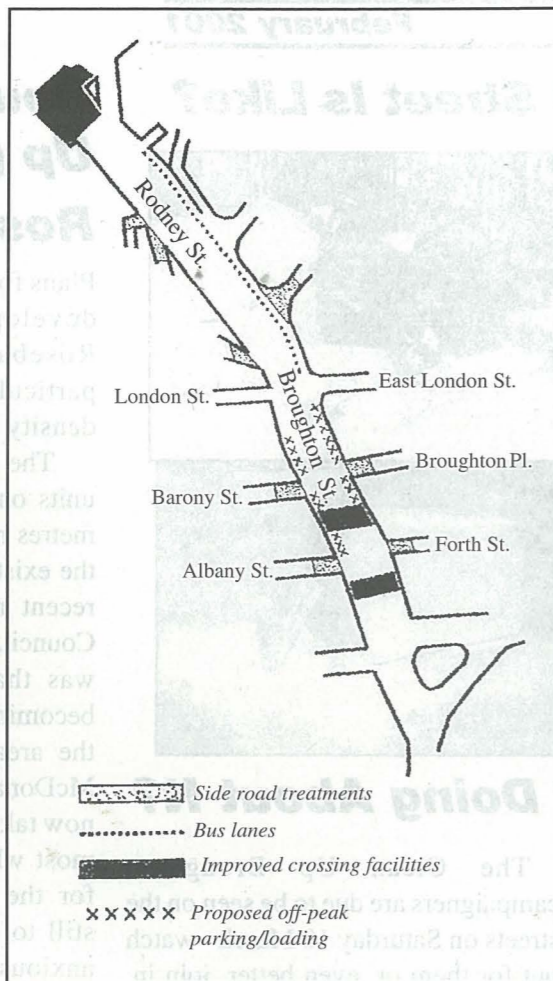
The RAP on the Streets

Back in August, **Spurtle** first gave a general, if cautious, welcome to the City Council's "Draft proposals for a Stockbridge to Broughton Route Action Plan" (RAP, for short). On 19 January, the Draft was approved. Even now, there will be further consultation - no bad thing given the controversial nature of the proposals - and, as local councillor Mark Lazarowicz told **Spurtle**, in view of everything else that's happening, "this will still be a little time off."

So, what is happening. First, local people are convinced that the proposals for managing traffic in the centre of Edinburgh will have a profound effect by traffic displaced into Broughton. The Plans for this are on display at the Planning Department, 1 Cockburn Street, comments or objections can now be made and after that the Council will consider how to take things on. When they do, improvements already sorely needed to the Broughton Street/Canonmills corridor will need to be significantly beefed up to take account of knock-on effects from the City-centre.

The diagram shows the outline design of intended changes, though it is unlikely that long-term phasing and funding will produce much immediate effect. Regrettably, an original plan to incorporate a controlled pedestrian

crossing below Albany Street has been dropped. Very serious consideration needs to be given to reinstatement. For the present, Cllr Lazarowicz states that "it is expected" that a pedestrian island will be installed there "at an



early stage". This is an assurance which was given long since - and dropped, in view of radical improvements promised in the RAP. It does little for a long-term solution to Broughton's traffic. It is to be hoped that continuing consultation will prove to be a deal more significant.

Stafford Centre

Broughton Street's Stafford Centre aims to provide "support and action for people affected by mental illness". And the four staff in the Centre have their work cut out. Trouble is, they face having to cut out more of it than they, or their users, would like. The reason, of course, is one we've all heard before - funding. While costs go on increasing and the needs of their vulnerable and deserving users remain, the Centre's budget has stayed the same for five years. And any of us on a low fixed income know what that's like. They're not talking frills; it's about affording essentials. The staff get on with the job somehow but when they can't all be there or existing services can't be paid for, the place closes or the service isn't provided.

That's why the users got together to Petition the Scottish Parliament. On 24 January, this went to the Public Petitions Committee who agreed to "seek comments from the Executive on whether the funding that was announced in the recently published Scottish health plan will have implications for centres such as the Stafford Centre".

What next? This is a vital provision which all too often is allowed to slip 'way down people's agenda. Except this time it's next door to us. And "the implications for centres such as the Stafford Centre" must be heeded. **Spurtle** hopes the Centre will keep the pressure up and that there will be something positive to report. We will keep in touch.

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** aims to:

- provide a contact point for local people who want to get together and change things
- help local action groups publicise their work
- make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton
- and generally stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We are not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, David Aitken, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh and Tim Puntis.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time.

PHONE - 556 7727 / 556 0903

Or FAX - 556 7727 / 557 6752

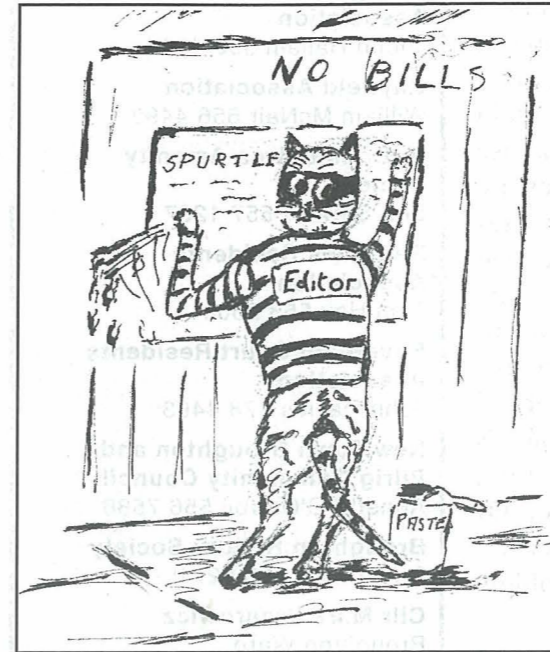
Broughton **Spurtle** is printed on recycled paper.

Mansfield Church - Trust Them!

At the end of last year, a useful Neighbourhood Meeting was held by the Mansfield Traquair Trust to give both them and the developers the

features like railings. Inside, the Phoebe Traquair murals are, meantime, being protected in their existing condition. Full restoration is yet to be funded, though the Trust is confident this will be achieved.

As the building is central to the local community, we were saddened to hear separately from the Trust that continued display of **Spurtle** on the perimeter of the site by fixing a properly designed notice board to the current hoarding is NOT to be allowed. They "were concerned that any form of notice board would attract other ephemera ... (and) In order to maintain a clean and tidy site" our request was



chance to respond to local people on the work in hand at this important site. A pity, then, that there were more "presenters" than there was audience. The managers are highly satisfied with general progress and the public were answered on many of the details, particularly of external appearance such as stonework, ground restoration, parking and reinstatement of original

turned down. We had rather hoped that entering our 8th year (this month!) of continuous publication we were something more than "ephemeral" and that, throughout, we had done our bit to keep Broughton "clean and tidy"!

But there we are. We aim still to be here long after the hoarding itself has been consigned to the

Drummond's Future

In the last edition of **Spurtle**, we reported that on 20 December bidding would close on which of two short-listed private contractors would join with the City Council in its Private Public Partnership (PPP) for refurbishment and maintenance of Edinburgh schools, including Drummond Community High.

In view of the imminent likely start date of May next, the many reasonable questions about just how it will all work and the impact it will have on the wider community, it was hoped "an announcement early in the new year" would reveal all. But it seems that, even now, "more clarification" is needed. Speaking to **Spurtle** at the

end of January, the Education Department's Gavin Milner hoped that it would all happen in about the next six weeks "if all goes according to plan."

Does that take us somewhere into March at the earliest? Does that bring us very close to a potential start date in May? All we can do for the moment is ask questions. Mr Milner gave assurance that community consultation remained part of the ongoing negotiation. Back in November, we hoped that "consultation and the availability of information and reports on progress will be meaningful and positive." We still hope that - but it's a long time coming.

unsightly ephemera of the past and a fine, newly-restored building emerges from beyond. We wish the Trust well in that and hope to continue giving them the space in **Spurtle** to report on progress - no matter how their news is made available to our readers.

BRIEFLY

Congratulations to Beverley McLaughlin, Head Teacher at Leith Walk Primary School. Eleven years into the post, Beverley was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours, for services to education. Following a recent outstanding report on the school from the Schools Inspectors, she was "excited at being recognised in a profession she enjoys so much".

Local residents should have received by now their copy of the *Hopetoun, Broughton and Bellevue Community Directory 2000/2001*. A new and indispensable guide to everything you need to know about the area, it should be to hand in every household! If you still haven't got a copy, pick one up at McDonald Road Library or at the City Council, 1 Cockburn Street.

The general public are welcome at meetings of the New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council held at 7.30pm in Drummond Community High School - upcoming dates 5 March, 2 and 30 April, 4 June. The Community Council represents all of us in many issues of importance to the area. **Get along to the meetings** or find out more on 556 7586.

Our Community Council will be represented at a Community Policing Seminar on 11 March aimed at producing a 5-year plan to involve police and public in the communities they serve. Local community police contribute regularly to the work of the Community Council - a chance for all local people to raise any concerns.