

Progress on traffic calming

At the suggestion of local councillor Mark Lazarowicz, the City Council has asked the developer at Powderhall to pay for installation of a 20 mph zone covering the development itself and some neighbouring streets.

Plans have also been drawn up for some traffic calming in East London Street – a £45,000 project funded 50/50 by the Council and developers

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Bryants. Pavements will be built out at various points along the street, including both sides outside the primary school – to discourage drivers from seeing the street as one long, straight racetrack; and there will be a raised surface at the junction with Gayfield Square. The work is scheduled to start in July (during the school holidays) and shouldn't take longer than five weeks.

The City Council has also agreed, in principle, that the primary school should be included in a 20 mph zone. But we're not there yet!

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Sandbags for Warriston

The City Council has agreed temporary flood prevention measures on Warriston Road, at the junction with Logie Green Road. These will consist of a combination of concrete barriers and sandbags, and will mean that the height of the river wall can be raised speedily with sandbags if there is a future flood emergency. These measures should be in place within a few months. They won't be very attractive to look at, but will be replaced by permanent measures once the Council has studied experts' reports and consulted local residents.

New office plan for Logie Green

Plans for a new office block at 67 Logie Green Road have been submitted to the Planning Department. Local councillor Mark Lazarowicz has had a look at them, and thinks it looks as if the office would tower over neighbouring property. He's put in an objection himself, on grounds of height, and suggests local residents also have a look at the plans – at the Planning Office, 1 Cockburn Street (Application number 01/01767/FUL).

Spartle team for this issue:

Ken McKay, David Aitken, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Norma McKendrick, 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

Deadline for July **Spartle** is Saturday 23rd June 2001

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

BROUGHTON Spartle

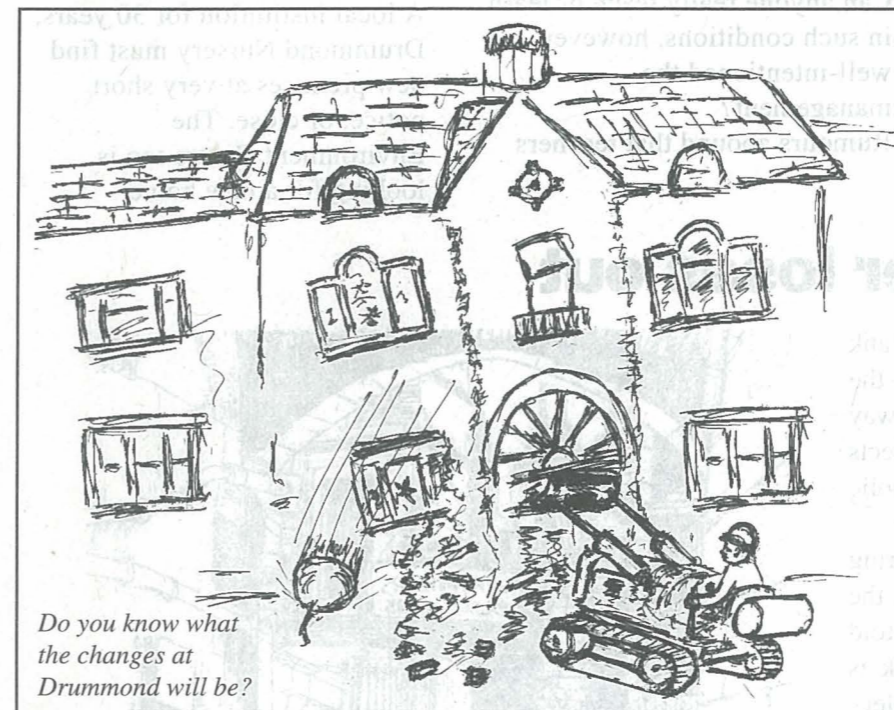
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June 2001

Happy about Drummond PPP?

Are you happy about the Edinburgh Schools Partnership plans for Drummond Community High School? Do you even know what they are?

Given the Council's shambolic public consultation exercise, many locals have been left confused. On page 2 we have a brief list of the main issues.



Do you know what the changes at Drummond will be?

June meetings for local residents

Monday, 4th June.

New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council.
Drummond Community High School.
All welcome. No meeting in July; next one on Monday 6th August.

Tuesday, 19th June.

Inaugural meeting of the Broughton Village Association.
7pm in Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, East Broughton Place.

A new organisation to represent residents of Broughton Street and streets off, East London Street, Cochran Terrace, Bellevue Crescent, Mansfield Place and London Street. Be in there at the beginning!

Thursday, 28th June.

AGM of Gayfield Association.
8pm in Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, East Broughton Place.

Broughton Spartle is **free** and completely independent

BRIEFLY

Drummond Nursery will not re-open in August after the summer break unless it can find new premises urgently. Staff learned in May that new plans for Drummond Community High School did not include a space for the nursery, which caters for around 20 pre-school children, mostly local. Can you think of a vacant or shareable space in the area? If so, phone Marion Ireland on 556 8291.

Is parking on yellow lines or zigzag lines outside schools an offence or not? At a recent Community Council meeting it was claimed that drivers had been penalised for doing so outside Morningside and Longstone primary schools; but it doesn't happen in our area. The Community Council has written to the Community Police Unit at Gayfield Square to clear up the confusion.

The Pilrig Residents Association has commissioned a feasibility study into modernisation costs and possible future uses for the listed redbrick building in Dryden Street. The final report is expected in September. Further information from – HaraldTobermann@PilrigRA.cjb.net.

Would you like to help out at Contact Point Drop-in, York Place? Busy schedule, challenging work, training available. Details from Jackie or Bernie, 556 9960.

After many decades in Broughton, we hear Hunter and Foulis the bookbinders are leaving their Brideside Works in McDonald Road in July or August, and heading for new premises out at Haddington.

Drummond PPP (continued)

Glass half full

- **Education in Edinburgh**
Injection of private sector funds to the city's schools, on a scale unimaginable from the public sector
- **Pupils and parents**
Major refurbishment of school, new gym, dining and indoor social areas, improved pedestrian routes within school, more logical lay-out of teaching and admin. areas, high security.
- **School fabric**
Long-term (30-year) maintenance of the building, with private management of janitorial, catering and cleaning staff.
- **Appearances**
Promise of improvements to school's 'external environmental impact'.

Glass half empty

- **Reduced traffic**
Parking provision for the school has been reduced in line with Council guidelines.
- **Who runs education?**
Do we really want private firms making money out of education? Couldn't we prioritise public spending rather than renting out schools? Who says the private sector manages things better?
- **Pupils and staff**
'Condemned' to at least 2 years of dust, noise and disruption. Can anyone really teach or learn in such conditions, however well-intentioned the management?
Rumours abound that teachers

at Drummond dislike the size of new classrooms – far too small.

- **Local residents**
They too must put up with the disruption, and with no chance of escape. Some object to the proposed height of the new gym.
- **Parking problems**
Will reduced spaces at the school cause local parking to become even more difficult? Will community learners from elsewhere in Edinburgh really take to their bikes and the buses, or not come at all?
- **No room for old friends**
A local institution for 30 years, Drummond Nursery must find new premises at very short notice, or close. The Environment Centre too is looking for a new home.

Local fundraiser loses out

Over the years Nancy Blaik of Claremont Bank has spent many hours standing alongside the National Gallery on the Mound, on the walkway up towards the Playfair Steps. There she collects for Children Living With Inherited Metabolic Diseases.

But probably not for much longer. During work on the Gallery starting this summer, the walkway will be closed. Nancy has been told she won't get back even when the work is completed: "Timothy Clifford (the Gallery director) wants rid of us"; and the City Council will only consider renewing a street trader's licence if any 'neighbours' agree. She's looking for a new stance, and has written to the Council asking if she could stand at a broad section of the pavement coming down the Mound; ideally, only until the walkway is opened again – if Mr Clifford can be persuaded to change his mind!

Contributors to her cause can choose a line drawing of Edinburgh in return. Artists Joan and Jimmy Milne have allowed her to make photocopies of 30 of their originals, free of charge, and they've proved very popular with locals and visitors to Edinburgh alike. You can make a donation and choose a drawing by visiting her at home in Broughton: just phone Nancy on 556 4919.



One of Jimmy Milne's drawings available from Nancy Blaik.

Who should we send to Westminster?

A personal view on the **Spurtle** election hustings from Richard Love of Bellevue Place

Is Westminster still relevant to the Scottish electorate? Voters of Broughton put their questions to candidates for the June 7th election at a well attended meeting in St Mary's Primary School on May 24th.

All candidates attended, except for Catriona Grant of the Scottish Socialist Party. John Dickie of the **Spurtle** chaired. Questions covered the price of fuel, entry into the EMU, personal tax allowances, the housing benefit system, the NHS and asylum seekers.

Inevitably local (ie council and Scottish Parliament) issues intruded: dirty hospitals, new use for the old GPO building and proposed developments at Shrubhill being among them. A couple of boorish hecklers, neither constructive nor funny, tried to put the speakers off their stride early on but common sense and courtesy prevailed.

Most candidates stuck to their manifesto script, SLP often reading it word for word. They were accused of not answering the question about the £6 gallon (what, politicians?) and confusing the audience about the Euro (more confused!). There was almost unanimity on asylum seekers' vouchers (scrap them!) and for simplifying the whole benefits system.



Mark Lazarowicz (Labour) was generally on top of his brief, given his previous local government experience, but only once stepped off the party line – to condemn the voucher scheme, citing his own family history.



Iain Mitchell (Conservative) had a softer stance on Europe than some of his Tory colleagues, but thought the bottomless pit of

Holyrood should be filled with the piles of Labour red tape.



Kaukab Stewart (SNP) gave more personal responses to some of the questions, and came up front with SNP's £4m specifically to target cleanliness of



our hospitals (Scotland-wide or locally?) Sebastian Tombs (Lib Dem) was honest enough to admit when he didn't know something, and said it would be a good idea for government to list where national taxes were going – as the Council does for local taxes.



David Jacobsen (Socialist Labour Party) wanted much better wealth distribution and withdrawal from the EU. His comment on the Tory NHS proposals: "Bring back Matron and take the cod liver oil".

Overall, this was heavy stuff, sometimes a bit abstract for the average voter, and short on humour and banter. The candidates stuck to their briefs and were uniformly polite. Local issues clearly generate more heat and some light. However, the choice is still yours. Go out and vote.

Play areas to be improved

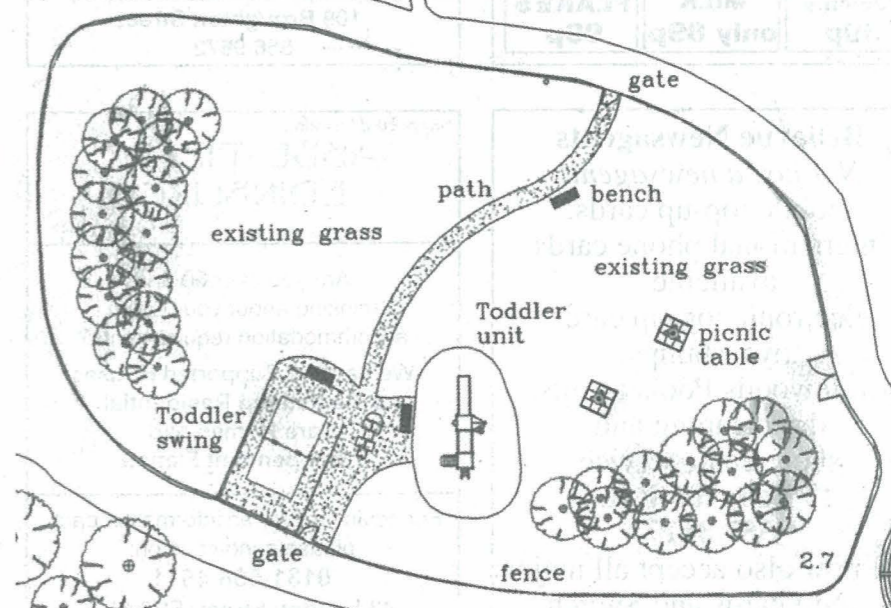
Many Broughton families use the play areas down in Scotland Yard and King George V Park. The City Council has now allocated money to improve them, and is inviting comments on the provisional plans they have drawn up.

Drummond Civic Association have already taken up the invitation and submitted detailed comments on the drawings. They question some of the changes in layout proposed; and they emphasise the overwhelming need for "more supervision and a far greater level of care and maintenance" – whatever physical improvements are made.

It's impossible to reproduce more than an extract from the plans – which doesn't give an idea of the overall layout. But other interested groups or

individuals are invited to find out more by contacting Ron Tulloch, the

Technical Manager for the project, on 529 7955.



Map of the proposed new toddler area.