

# PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

<b>MINUTES of a meeting of Paisley East &amp; Whitehaugh Community Council that was held via Zoom Technologies on Wednesday, 11th November 2020 at 7.00pm.</b>	<b>11/11/20</b>
<p>Present: John Bell; Gaynor Corry Margaret Cowie; Graham Paterson; Robert Moore; Andrew Ramsay; Jean Ramsay; Catherine Scally</p> <p>Attending: Councillor Jim Sharkey (Renfrewshire Council) and Christine McLellan (Paisley Grammar School Parents Council)</p> <p>Apologies: Catherine Scally; Diane Watt; Jhulia Watt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Andrew Ramsay</p>	<b>Outcome/Action</b>
<p><b>1. Chair's Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending this third virtual meeting of the Community Council</p> <p>Before proceeding with the rest of the agenda, the Chair went on to report that he had been in touch with Police Scotland regarding his concerns over lack of Police representation at meetings.</p> <p>Since having been in touch with the local Inspector, Tracy Harkins, it seems that the division rely on information about Community Council meeting from the Renfrewshire Council website, rather than any other source.</p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that having checked, details of the Community Council's meetings do not currently appear on the Council Website and that appears to be due to an oversight on his part. The Police do receive notifications of meetings at the same time as everyone else. However, he will liaise with Anne McNaughton to ensure that their website is updated for future reference</p> <p>Meanwhile, it seems that the Police still do engage with Community Councils using MS Teams rather than Zoom. However, Sgt Kevin Carter has also been in touch with a report on the recent crime figures, as follows:</p> <p>Since 11<sup>th</sup> October, there had been 47 crime reports raised in the area for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Violence - 6</li> <li>Vandalism - 2</li> <li>Disturbance &amp; Anti-social behaviour - 6</li> <li>Drugs - 3 (all possession)</li> <li>Theft by Housebreaking - 2</li> <li>Hate Crime - 1</li> <li>Road traffic offences - 4</li> <li>New Domestic Abuse legislation - 1</li> <li>Vehicle Crime - 2</li> <li>Theft - 14</li> <li>Misc. crimes - 4.</li> </ul> <p>There have been 15 detections so far and there are enquiries still ongoing into the rest</p> <p>There were 32 incidents of Anti-social behaviour which did not result in a crime report being submitted.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>In relation to a specific question raised regarding the issue of fixed penalty notices for COVID related offences, they are unable to provide an accurate figure at this time. However, Police Scotland are still robustly policing the COVID legislation set down by the Government and are progressing through to the enforcement action more quickly now than at the start of lockdown in March.</p> <p>Sgt Carter concludes by assuring members that Police Scotland continue to engage in initiatives in our local communities including Paisley East &amp; Whitehaugh, such as road traffic plans to address speeding and dangerous driving, bogus workmen crime and weekend Anti-social behaviour plans</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b></p> <p>In response to a question raised regarding the accuracy of the minute relating to Arrangements for Virtual Community Council Meetings, the Secretary confirmed that the Pro Subscription to Zoom is now in place until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and apologised for his inadvertent omission of the year.</p> <p>Subject to inclusion of the year '2021' in that instance, the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate record by John Bell and this was seconded by Jean Ramsay.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><b>3. Business arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b></p> <p>In relation to matters arising and his subsequent report, the Secretary referred members the papers that had been circulated electronically to members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p><b><i>Governance issues surrounding proposal to explore the formulation of a Renfrewshire Wide Strategy on HGV Movements</i></b></p> <p>As reported at the last meeting Cllr Nicolson had responded earlier that day to say that he has asked the service Director to investigate and provide a response as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Secretary explained that as no further feedback has been received, he has followed this up with the Council leader who had copied him in to an email subsequently sent to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure asking when there will be a response and the timescale.</p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that if no response is received in the next few weeks then he will prompt the officer concerned so that hopefully some feedback is available by the time of the next meeting in December.</p> <p><b><i>Changes to Roads Infrastructure to assist with COVID19 Distancing/ Concerns over implementation of Spaces for People Initiative</i></b></p> <p>Members were reminded that at the last meeting it was agreed to approach the local elected members who represent the Community Council area to seek their comments and observations in this regard and in particular: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How and to what extent funding under the initiative has been spent or committed on each of the projects for which it had been intended, i.e.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Footway widening around local food shops and pharmacies</li> <li>○ Temporary cycleways on commuter routes</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Noted pending further developments</p>

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<p>○ Active travel and road safety around schools</p> <p>2. In relation to the widening of footways, the overall costs involved in erecting the temporary bollards/barriers and subsequently removing those.</p> <p>3. Against which indicators the effectiveness of the measures implemented are being assessed</p> <p>As the funding had provided by the Scottish Government, it was agreed to include all local MSPs in this approach.</p> <p>The Secretary referred members to the responses so far received, summarised as follows: -</p> <p>1) Email from Cllr Neill Graham on behalf of himself and Maurice Golden MSP setting out their views on the issues raised. Explaining that they and their party colleagues are continually engaging with public bodies at all levels to assess how funding is allocated and what benefit the public derives from it. The same is true for these adaptation projects, and we will be looking to Renfrewshire Council to provide more information on both how funding has been used and what measurable outcomes have been recorded.</p> <p>2) Email from Rt Hon Ken McIntosh MSP explaining that as Presiding Officer this severely restricts the parliamentary action he can take on such matters. However, Mr McIntosh expresses his gratitude to the Community Council for keeping him abreast of local concerns.</p> <p>Councillor Sharkey advised members that he has taken the Community Council's concerns up with Gordon McNeill, the Director of Environment and Infrastructure and currently awaits a response. Hopefully, some feedback will be available by or before the next meeting.</p> <p>Members were disappointed to note that no feedback at all has yet been received from Councillors Adam-McGregor, Davidson, Mylet and McNaughtan and it was agreed that the Secretary should follow this up the elected members concerned.</p>	<p>Noted pending further developments</p>
<p><b>4. Secretary' Report</b></p> <p><b><i>Covid Protection Level 3</i></b></p> <p>Email from Anne McNaughton reminding Community Councils that with effect from Monday 2 November at 6am, Renfrewshire is in Covid Protection Level 3 and setting out a summary of the restrictions that this entails.</p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that the restrictions and a link to more detailed information had been posted on the Facebook page</p> <p>However, given speculation that Renfrewshire may soon be moved up to level 4 in the not-too-distant future, thereby giving rise to tighter restrictions, concern was expressed regarding the behaviours of people locally that are contributing to the ongoing increase in infections.</p> <p>A lively discussion took place regarding behaviours witnessed recently, such as a people boarding buses and then removing their masks or failing to observe social distancing while in supermarkets, which may offer some explanation.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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The general consensus was that the failure of some to observe guidelines has been disappointing and will inevitably result in everyone facing tighter restrictions

## ***The Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards 2021***

The My Place Awards celebrate community-led built environment projects that have transformed their locality. The Awards honour projects that have excelled in terms of design and community involvement/impact. These are coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust. The My Place Awards are a great opportunity to showcase a project's success to the community, stakeholders and funders by receiving much-deserved exposure and media attention. Shortlisted entries will feature in a My Place exhibition - the 2019 My Place exhibition hosted over 12.3k visitors and built environment stakeholders.

Noted

## ***Rubbish/Bin Issues at Whitehaugh Entrance to Barshaw Golf Course***

The Secretary reported that back in August a complaint had been received from a member of the public regarding issues in this connection. Feedback had been awaited from Renfrewshire Council before reporting to members on this issue

Members were referred to:

- 1) A copy of the initial complaint submitted via the Community Council Mailbox
- 2) Recent correspondence that has passed between the Secretary and the complainant, which includes a copy of the response received from Ken Gray, StreetScene Manager and the complainant's response to their position
- 3) Update from complainant.

Noted

It was noted that Ken Gray has met with the complainant and a solution has been agreed which will hopefully resolve the issues going forward. The complainant has been advised to contact the Secretary again if there is no improvement following that.

## ***Celebrating Renfrewshire / Invitation to Celebrating Renfrewshire announcement event on Friday 13th November @ 6pm***

Update re Celebrating Renfrewshire - a fund designed by and for young people, where young people aged 12-25 will have a direct say on which projects are funded in their local area. 86 Celebrating Renfrewshire applications were submitted by young people, youth groups and high schools between 24th August and 20th September. These applications have now progressed to stage 2 of the Celebrating Renfrewshire process. Progressing to a stage 2 of the process involves all applications that have met the Fund's criteria being uploaded to the Young Scot platform <http://voting.youngscot.org>. This will allow young people aged 12-25 years have a direct say on which projects should be funded. 2 A list of all applications (split by Local Partnership area) can be found on the Young Scot's campaign page for Renfrewshire. This page can be accessed here: <https://young.scot/campaigns/renfrewshire/celebrating-renfrewshire>

Noted

Community Planning have invited interested parties to attend the Celebrating Renfrewshire online announcement event which will be held on Microsoft Teams platform on Friday 13th November, 6pm – 7.30pm.

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The event will take place online via the Microsoft Teams platform because of the Scottish Government restrictions due to Covid-19. A separate instruction email will be sent to all registered event attendees with instructions on how to join the event. The event will be hosted by Renfrewshire Youth Voice, a youth-led charity representing the views of young people in Renfrewshire and nationally. Event attendees will meet the youth steering group, who designed Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund, reflect on outcomes of the last year's fund and find out voting results.

## ***The Circular Economy & the Planning System***

Forwarded email from Jenny Pendreigh, Manager – Support Services, PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) getting in touch to let you know about some free online training for community councils & elected members which PAS is planning, in collaboration with Zero Waste Scotland, for early next year.

These training events will help participants to understand how the planning system works, in particular how to be engaged and involved in shaping decision-making. It will also provide an introduction to the circular economy as Scotland moves towards its zero-carbon target by 2045. More details and sign up [here](#).

## ***Public Safety Message for 5<sup>th</sup> November***

Copy of message circulated by Anne McNaughton on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership in advance of Bonfire Night, outlining the preparations that the Council, in conjunction with their partners had taken to ensure that communities are as safe as possible at this time of year

The Wardens Service will be patrolling known hotspot areas in advance to remove any illegal bonfires being built, as well as working closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland on the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> to support their crews against any anti-social behaviour that they may encounter.

The StreetScene team will proactively address and remove reported fly tipping which may be used for bonfires and will liaise with Police Scotland to accommodate any requests to remove potential bonfires.

Trading Standards have been carrying out inspections of all premises licensed to store and sell fireworks and no concerns have been noted at this time, but the teams will continue to review this.

A discussion followed during which it was mentioned that despite these measures there had been a large bonfire of pallets in Seedhill Park, which had still been smouldering the following morning. Concern was also expressed regarding fireworks being set off for a period before and after 5<sup>th</sup> November and often very late at night.

The consensus was that on grounds of public safety, organised public firework displays were, on the whole, the preferable option.

Noted

Noted

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that while she is still trying to arrange access to RBS' Digital Banking, the balance on the account is forecast to be £5454.16. This reflects credit of the annual Administration Allowance amounting to £845 and a charge of £7 by the Bank of Scotland for the failed Direct Debit to the ICO due to there being insufficient funds after those were transferred to RBS

Noted

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<p>It was suggested by Jean Ramsay that perhaps some of the Community Council's funds could be used to help other local organisations who are providing direct support to those affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>Following the ensuing discussion, during which there was broad support for the idea, it was agreed that the matter be continued until the next meeting so that members could consider which local organisations should benefit from the proposal.</p> <p>For the purpose of those discussions, it was agreed <i>in principle</i> that the total sum to be disbursed should be £1500 so that the Community Council is left with adequate reserves so that it can continue to function in the medium to long term. Members were encouraged to come up with ideas for the next meeting which organisations should benefit and to what extent.</p>	<p>Continued until next meeting to allow members to nominate organisations that might benefit</p>
<p><b>6. Any other Business</b></p> <p><b><i>Paisley Grammar School</i></b></p> <p>Christine McLellan of Paisley Grammar School Parents Council provided a brief update regarding the proposed relocation of the school to the site in Renfrew Road. She explained that the Council has been very good in terms of consulting in relation to the proposal and the parents seem widely in favour of the move</p> <p>On a separate issue relating to the School, Ms. McLellan explained that help facilitate social distancing, the school has split the pupils' lunch break and wondered if this had made a noticeable difference</p> <p>It was commented that despite this move there still seem to be many groups of pupils congregating in Glasgow Road at lunchtime; especially outside shops such as the bakers. On one occasion, a pupil had also been seen leaving a shop to join his cohort outside, whereupon he removed his mask and handed it to his friend to enable them to enter the shop.</p> <p>These comments were noted by the Parents Council representative who went on to explain that all pupils at the School had been provided with masks, so this was somewhat disappointing.</p> <p><b><i>Crossing at Glasgow Road.</i></b></p> <p>It was pointed out that due to damage caused by a vehicle, the lights at the crossing on Glasgow Road at Greenlaw Avenue have been inoperative for some two weeks now. Clearly this poses a safety risk for pupils crossing to/from the school as well as others.</p> <p>Cllr Sharkey confirmed that he would follow this up with the department concerned</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><b>6. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Community Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.</p>	