

PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

<p>MINUTES of a meeting of Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council that was held via Zoom Technologies on Wednesday, 12th May 2021 at 7.00pm.</p>	<p>12/05/21</p>
<p>Present: John Bell; Gaynor Corry; Margaret Cowie; Robert Moore; Graham Paterson; Andrew Ramsay; Jean Ramsay</p> <p>Attending: Councillor Jim Sharkey; Gordon McNeil; Director of Environment & Infrastructure; Gerard Hannah, Infrastructure, Transportation & Change Manager (all Renfrewshire Council); Kumar Atram (Local Resident)</p> <p>Apologies: Catherine Scally Diane Watt; Jhulia Watt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Andrew Ramsay</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Outcome/Action</p>
<p>1. Chair's Opening Remarks</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending the May virtual meeting of the Community Council.</p> <p>Andrew Ramsay went on to reiterate his previously expressed hope that meetings will be able to take place in person sooner rather than later as the pandemic situation continues to improve.</p>	
<p>2. Police Scotland</p> <p>The Secretary reported that Sgt Carter had sent a report earlier in the day, which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. However, for the benefit of those who had not yet seen that email he went on to narrate the content of the officer's report.</p> <p>Over the past month there had been 325 police incidents resulting in 65 crime reports being raised. These were for a variety of incidents including road traffic contraventions, drugs, theft, assault, and disorder.</p> <p>Sgt Carter had gone on to say that there was nothing of immediate concern/risk to the local community. The most notable of the reported incidents included two separate instances of drivers arrested for driving whilst under the influence of drugs; a willful fire raising to a shop premises in Hawkhead Road, in relation to which an enquiry is still ongoing and a street robbery in respect of which two people had been arrested.</p> <p>Recent initiatives have involved speeding checks in response to local complaints in Glasgow Road and Hawkhead Road. There is also in place a dedicated weekend plan trying to combat to the disorder and anti-social behaviour around Barshaw Park and other areas where youth gather to drink alcohol. There are numerous areas in Paisley experiencing this sort of behaviour and the Police are working hard with the resources available to try to combat this.</p> <p>They are also monitoring premises selling alcohol to ensure that there is compliance with licensing laws that the outlets are not selling to juveniles or via "agent purchase". Two premises elsewhere in the Paisley have recently been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and the Licensing Board for selling alcohol to juveniles.</p> <p>Weekend plans will continue as the lighter nights and good weather returns.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>In relation to Sgt Carter's report, it was pointed out that the willful fire raising actually took place In Arkleston Road rather than Hawkhead Road earlier in the month at around 12.30am when the door of the <i>Bites 'n' Pieces</i> Tearoom had been set alight with use of an accelerant.</p> <p>On a separated but related issue, it was also mentioned that there had been a road traffic collision at the junction of Arkleston Road and Endrick Drive.</p> <p>In the absence of representatives from the Wardens Service, the Chair took the opportunity to mention that he had recently met Wardens in the vicinity of Arkleston Drive who had advised that some graffiti there was receiving attention. He took the opportunity to point out that there was also graffiti on a telecoms cabinet in Greenlaw Gardens that needs removal. That had been daubed with red paint, clearly applied with a brush rather than a spray can.</p> <p>That appears to be similar to the recent vandalism to the cabinet in Cyril Street.</p> <p>It was mentioned by the Wardens that the perpetrator has also been seen in the Glenburn area and the impression given was that they seem to know who he is.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th April 2021.</p> <p>he minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate record by Margaret Cowie, and this was seconded by Gaynor Corry.</p> <p>Those were formally approved without dissent.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>4. Governance issues surrounding proposal to explore the formulation of a Renfrewshire Wide Strategy on HGV Movements</p> <p>The Chair spoke briefly summarised the issues and also the recent telephone discussion that had taken place between him and Gordon McNeil, the Council's Director of Environment and Infrastructure. who had kindly come along to the meeting this evening with his colleague, Gerry Hannah, to try to resolve this longstanding matter.</p> <p>After concluding his overview, the Chair invited Mr. McNeil to address members regarding this issue.</p> <p>Mr. McNeil opened by acknowledging his recent discussions with the Chair and with Cllr Sharkey regarding this issue. This issue had arisen some considerable time before his appointment as Director and the senior officers forming the management team in place at that time were no longer in the service of the authority.</p> <p>The Director acknowledged and expressed regret that the Community Council had not been supported by the officers at that time and apologised that it had been necessary for the Community Council to take various attempts in the past to try to get officers to engage regarding these concerns.</p> <p>It is hoped that the matter can now be put to rest and that the Department and the Community Council can now move on together from this issue.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>5. Local Roads-Related Issues</p> <p>The Chair explained that following the constructive discussion that had taken place with the Director, he had raised several other local issues which he had set</p>	

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out in an email to Mr. McNeil.

A lively dialogue took place between members and officers regarding those various concerns as follows:

1. It was the Community Council's understanding that from contributions from the developers of the former Ciba site in Hawkhead Road that the junction of Seedhill Road and Hawkhead Road was to be changed from a mini roundabout to a traffic light-controlled junction and that the phasing of the lights at Arkleston Road/Glasgow Road/Hawkhead Road was to be altered to allow a better flow of traffic. Is this going to happen?

It was acknowledged that two sets of traffic lights have already been installed further south on Hawkhead Road but are not yet operational.

The officers confirmed that this was the new lights are in place but they were not aware of any plans to change the roundabout at the junction of Hawkhead Road and Seedhill Road to a light-controlled crossing.

It was pointed out that this was proposed during the planning consultation for the new development.

The department have looked at utilising the vacant land there to expand the roundabout with a view to improving traffic flow, though no firm decision has been reached regarding that. However, a set of lights have been installed on Seedhill Road on the approach to the roundabout.

It was pointed out that the new traffic lights have in fact been installed on Hawkhead Road and not Seedhill Road. Accordingly, the officers agreed to look into that.

With regard to improving traffic flow at the Arkleston Road/ Glasgow Road/Hawkhead Road junction, the Council has secured funding to carry out design work and the Department will return to the Community Council once this work is at a more advanced stage. It was also agreed that this would include looking at provision for cyclists at the junction.

2. Successive resurfacing works in Arkleston Road have rendered ineffectual the speed tables that were put in place as a traffic management measure. There has not been any new traffic management scheme/system put in place to control the speed of vehicles using the road.

During the ensuing discussion. it was also pointed out by Mr. Atram, a local resident in attendance, that the speed of vehicles on Hawkhead Road is also a major concern for people living there. Added to that is the excessive vibration caused by heavy vehicles using this route.

It was explained that speed of vehicles using the Arkleston Road/Hawkhead Road corridor as well as the vibration caused by heavy vehicles has been a concern of the Community Council for some considerable time.

The officers acknowledged that on Arkleston Road the speed tables no longer serve their intended purpose. Those had been designed to be fairly shallow at the outset to minimise the vibration from heavier vehicles as they crossed those.

Accordingly, the Department are now looking at alternative traffic calming measures, which might possibly include build-outs or chicanes. However, their intention is to come back to the Community Council at an early stage to discuss viable alternatives before any firm decisions are reached.

Noted and continued pending further developments.

Noted and continued pending further developments.

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The officers were asked to look at including Hawkhead Road when considering potential traffic calming measures.

3. Rerouting of the No 20 McGills bus service will mean that part of its inward journey will be along Arkleston Road. Two new bus stops are being proposed - one at No 11/13 where the road narrows and a second at No 75 which is in close proximity to the junction with Avondale Drive. The blind bend makes this a dangerous enough junction already without the added complication of a bus stop. It is questionable whether these bus stops are in fact needed at all.

Prior to this discussion, the Chair explained that this would be confined to the proposed siting of the new bus stops rather than the merits or otherwise of the proposed re-routing.

It was pointed out that the Chief Executive of McGills seems to be rather confused regarding the current route of the No 20 service through Whitehaugh and Arkleston.

The officers explained that McGills had in fact asked for three new stops, which the Department felt were too many. Apart from taking into account the proposed rerouting, the additional stops had been requested to help improve patronage of the service.

It was pointed out that given the high proportion of households in and around Arkleston Road that possess one or more cars, it seems unlikely that these new stops would help boost use of the service to any extent.

It is felt that the existing infrastructure adequately caters for the proposed re-routing.

Cllr Sharkey also pointed out that the stop at the bottom of the hill in Greenlaw Drive was not suitable for elderly people returning to Hanover Court in Kelburne Gardens, especially carrying shopping.

The consensus of members was that if new stops are required, the proposed sites are less than suitable.

It was suggested that a representative of the Community Council meet with a Road officer and Cllr Sharkey to look at possible alternative sites for the new stops.

It was agreed that the Community Council would be represented by the Chair and Mr. Hannah confirmed that he would be in touch to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for the site visit.

4. At a previous meeting, the Community Council had asked what pressure could be brought to bear on the householders to improve the quality of the unadopted stretches of footway for which they are responsible. This is particularly important at the bottom of Kingsburgh Drive where the footpaths are unusable thereby forcing all pedestrians, including children going to school, to walk on the road. In response, the Community Council had been informed which stretches of footway were adopted and the Renfrewshire Council did not have funds to bring those up to a standard suitable so that they can be adopted for public maintenance.

The officers explained that the issue is a complex one and that some householders have taken steps in the past to improve the standard of the unadopted footways outside their homes.

Cllr Sharkey cited the case of the constituent who had brought their stretch of

Noted and continued pending further the site visit.

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footpath up to a reasonable standard but was told that before it could be adopted they would have to drill into it to check its integrity.

The officers explained that now a more pragmatic approach is taken and footways of a suitable standard can be adopted with a 12-month defects liability clause. If no issues come to light within that period, then the footway can be fully adopted for public maintenance going forward.

They also explained that in relation to the streets in question, they are currently in the process of information-gathering with a view to determining how best to engage with the householders in relation to their responsibilities.

In general, what tends to happen is a group of householders who have an unadopted stretch of footway outside their home, approach the Council to say that they intend to bring it up to standard so that it can be adopted. However, in these circumstances the Department can offer householders a quote for the cost of bringing their stretch of footway up to an adoptable standard.

Cllr Sharkey expressed the hope that the area in question could at least be addressed in an incremental manner and the officers agreed that they would decide how best to approach this issue once they have collated all the information that they require.

5. The Community Council recognise that there is a difference of opinion between Network Rail and Renfrewshire Council as to the safety standards that should be applied and who will pay for any modifications to the rail bridge to bring it up to the safety standard.

There are five points at which vehicles can cross the Glasgow Paisley railway line between Glasgow city boundary and Paisley Town Centre, i.e., Penilee Road with its weight restriction; Arkleston Road; Incle Street- leading on to the one-way system; Smithills Street - into which there is no right turn from Glasgow Road. Gilmour Street which is pedestrianised. Of these five crossing points only two are what may be described as fully functional/accessible.

The officers explained that traffic movements are certainly issue that will be addressed as part of the review of the Local Transport Strategy. The review of the Local Transport Strategy will be informed by the National and Regional transport Strategies; the latter of which is under review and consultations are taking place. It is expected that this will be completed by 2022.

6. Road grit is piling up in the gutters in Arkleston Road; also the concave bends at the double roundabout which are inaccessible to the mechanical road sweepers. It would need operatives to clear this manually.

The officers confirmed that this problem has been looked and should be addressed this week.

7. A number of the gully drains in and around the Whitehaugh area are totally choked and this causes flooding of the road surface following heavy rainfall.

The officers suggested that during the forthcoming site visit it would be helpful if the specific drains could be identified so that this can be attended to

During this discussion it was pointed out that there is a similar issue affecting drains in Cyril Street

[Gordon McNeil and Gerry Hannah left the meeting at this point]

Noted and continued pending further developments.

Noted and continued pending further developments.

Noted

Noted and continued pending the site visit at which the relevant drains can be identified.

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6. Business arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 14th April 2021.

In relation to matters arising and his subsequent report, the Secretary referred members the papers that had been circulated electronically in advance of the meeting.

Liquor - Provisional Premises Licence - Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005- - The Ladyburn Cafe, 53 Kilnside Road.

It was reported that following Margaret Cowie's attendance before members of the Licensing Board on Friday 23rd April, it was decided to grant the application subject to the mandatory conditions for On Sales premises.

Noted

Abandoned Box Trailer in Clarence Street, Paisley

It was reported that since the last meeting the trailer in question has been removed from the road.

Noted

Renewal Premium for Community Council Insurance 2021/2022

Members noted that shortly after the last meeting, the Treasurer had contacted Keegan & Pennykid to pay the renewal premium of £79.47 approved at the last meeting.

Noted

A copy of the Broker's receipt had been circulated to members for information.

McGills Buses – Rerouting on Service 20

Further to the earlier discussion regarding the siting of the bus stops, a further brief discussion took place regarding the substantive proposal to reroute the service.

Members were referred to correspondence that had passed between the Secretary, the Bus operator and Cllr Sharkey.

Members were still not convinced that the proposed re-routing was necessary.

It was reiterated that Ralph Roberts at McGills does not appear to fully understand the existing route taken by the Service 20.

The Chair took the opportunity to mention that he had written to all six Councillors imploring them to come along to the meeting to let their members know their views on this issue. However, he had not realised at that time Councillors McNaughton, Mylet and Davidson had not been copied into the previous correspondence as the service does not impact on their ward. He therefore extended apologies to the elected members concerned.

Noted pending further developments.

Finally, Cllr Sharkey confirmed that he has a motion* going before full Council tomorrow morning asking McGills to reconsider this effective cut to the service 20 and he will report back to the next meeting regarding the outcome.

*"Council opposes the change in service proposed by McGills to the No 20 bus route. The Whitehaugh portion of the route serves many elderly residents who need a better service not a reduced one and Arkleston Road was never intended to sustain such heavy traffic. The proposed infrastructure changes are judged as dangerous by local people and as such are totally unacceptable. The termination of the route at Johnstone Town Centre and the subsequent need to change buses for the people of Johnstone Castle increases journey time and will discourage bus travel when we should be doing all we can to encourage bus use."

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<p>Vandalism – Graffiti on Telecoms Cabinet in Cyril Street</p> <p>The Secretary reported that the cabinet has been identified as belonging to Virgin Media so the graffiti has been reported to them for attention.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>7. Secretary’s Report</p> <p><i>Letter from Fiona Knighton, Planning Officer Renfrewshire Council Appeal by Developer Consortium in relation to the refusal of application to build houses with associated access, parking and landscaping in the grounds of Dykebar Hospital.</i></p> <p>Notification of Planning Appeal in terms of The Town & Country Planning (Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2008</p> <p>A copy of the notice of appeal and other documents related to the appeal may be inspected at the Customer Contact Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley or online at www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Email from Sandra Black Scottish Parliamentary Election 2021 - results from Renfrewshire</i></p> <p>Email from Sandra Black in her capacity as Regional Returning Officer for the West Scotland Region and Returning Officer for Paisley, Renfrewshire North and West and Renfrewshire South constituencies, providing an overview of the results.</p> <p>George Adam, Scottish National Party (SNP), was elected as MSP in the Paisley constituency. In the Paisley constituency, 35,108 people cast their vote, representing a 62.6% turnout.</p> <p>In the Renfrewshire North and West constituency, a 67.9% turnout saw 38,367 votes cast, with Natalie Don, Scottish National Party (SNP), the winning candidate.</p> <p>A total of 34,821 votes were cast in the Renfrewshire South constituency, representing a 65.7% turnout, with Tom Arthur, Scottish National Party (SNP) elected MSP for Renfrewshire South.</p> <p>Seven MSPs were also elected through the West Scotland Region ballot. Across the region, 378,389 votes were cast, representing a 67.2% turnout.</p> <p>Candidates elected to serve in the Scottish Parliament for the West Scotland Region were: - Neil Bibby, Scottish Labour Party • Russell Findlay, Scottish Conservative and Unionist • Katy Clark, Scottish Labour Party • Jamie Greene, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party • Ross Greer, Scottish Green Party • Paul O’Kane, Scottish Labour Party • Pam Gosal, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party</p> <p><i>Email from Bruce Kiloh Head of Policy and Planning Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) SPT Regional Transport Strategy Case for Change Consultation</i></p> <p>Email with update on the progress of the development of the new Regional Transport Strategy for the west of Scotland.</p> <p>SPT has published their draft ‘Case for Change’ report along with associated</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

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<p>background reports and statutory assessments, which can be accessed at their website www.spt.co.uk/vision.</p> <p>The 'Case for Change' report sets out a new Vision and proposed Targets, outlines the key transport problems (the 'Key Issues') that they believe the new strategy needs to help tackle, and sets out a long list of 'high level' options of the types of interventions, policies and actions that will be considered further in the next stage of the strategy development.</p> <p>Comments on the report are invited at this time. Interested parties may respond to the consultation using the questionnaire available here:</p> <p>https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SPTCaseForChange</p> <p>This consultation is open until Friday 11 June 2021</p>	Noted
<p>8. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that the balance at the bank now stands at £3874.08, following application of the debit card payment of £79.47 for the insurance premium.</p>	Noted
<p>9. Any other Business</p> <p><i>Review of Meeting</i></p> <p>Several members expressed the view that the earlier meeting with the officers had been very constructive and hopefully this augurs well for future relations with the Roads Service.</p> <p><i>Completion of Works at Seedhill Road</i></p> <p>It was reported that the Scottish Water works at Seedhill Road are now complete and the contractors are in the course of reinstating the park. Hopefully, this will now allow Langs access to remove the graffiti from the wall outside the tannery and for the Council to attend to the foliage encroaching on to the footway at the junction with Mill Street.</p>	Noted Noted
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Community Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 9th June 2021 at 7pm.</p>	