

PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

<p>MINUTES of a meeting of Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council that was held at Sherwood-Greenlaw church on Wednesday, 8th June 2022 at 7.00pm.</p>	<p>08/06/2022</p>
<p>Present: Gaynor Corry; Margaret Cowie; Christine McLellan; Robert Moore; Graham Paterson; Jean Ramsay; Andrew Ramsay; Diane Watt</p> <p>Attending: Councillor Graeme Clark; Councillor John McNaughtan (both Renfrewshire Council); Sgt Kevin Carter (Police Scotland) (to end of item 2 only); Kevin Price (Renfrewshire Community Wardens) (to end of Item 3 only); Gillian Thomson & Lesley Drummond (Roar – Connections for Life)</p> <p>Apologies: John Bell; Jhulia Watt; Councillor Carolann Davidson (Renfrewshire Council)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Andrew Ramsay</p>	<p>Outcome/Action</p>
<p>1. Chair's Opening Remarks</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending the latest meeting of the current session of the Community Council.</p>	
<p>2. Police Scotland</p> <p>The Chair invited Sgt Carter to address members.</p> <p>Sgt Carter briefly introduced himself and provided an overview of local crime statistics/trends in the area.</p> <p>Over the past month, Police had been alerted to 209 incidents, which had given rise to 59 crime reports.</p> <p>Much of the activity had related to thefts; assaults; disorder; carrying knives; burglary and bail breaches. However, there were no major issues at a local level that residents need be concerned about.</p> <p>It was highlighted by a member that there had been media coverage of a fairly serious incident Arkleston Drive where a resident ended up with a crossbow bolt embedded in their front window. It was pointed out that there appears to be some confusion as the Police had been reporting the incident as occurring in Gallowhill rather than Arkleston. Sgt Carter mentioned that he was not aware of this but would look into it further when returning to the station.</p> <p>There is also an ongoing summer campaign to raise awareness of cyber-crime, which includes financial fraud. Police are keen to increase engagement with the public to arise awareness of these crimes; especially with increasingly sophisticated scams being used to extort payments from people.</p> <p>Sgt Carter also mentioned the increasing nuisance being caused by people on quad/trail bikes and they are looking to use legislation designed to tackle anti-social behaviour to address this problem.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion, concern was raised about waiting times of or in excess of 15 minutes on the Police 101 number.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>The Chair thanked Sgt Carter for his helpful report and his participation in the ensuing discussion</p> <p><i>[Sgt Carter left the meeting at this point]</i></p>	
<p>3. Renfrewshire Warden Service</p> <p>The Chair invited Kevin Price of Renfrewshire Wardens Service to address members</p> <p>Mr. Price went on to provide an overview of the issues tackled by the Wardens over the past four weeks.</p> <p>This included a number of instances of fly tipping at various locations, from Unstead Place over to Arkleston Road; Dog fouling and instance involving Control of dogs; one instance of youth congregating; discovery of drugs paraphernalia and an abandoned vehicle.</p> <p>He went on to report that the Wardens Service have been trying to patrol the area as often as resources permit. Between 11th May and 7th June there had been additional Community Safety Patrols, both mobile and on foot conducted across Ward 3 as a whole. A total of six patrols have been recorded in the ward.</p> <p>Additional Focused Patrols have been conducted at various locations. These can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Clean-Ups/Litter Pick • School Patrols • Dog Fouling Targeted Enforcement • Community safety and Crime stoppers Leaflet Drops. <p>A discussion then took place regarding various issues arising from the report and the area generally, during that it was noted that the new Speed Warning Signs at both ends of Arkleston Road are now functional</p> <p>Following conclusion of that discussion the Chair thanked Mr. Price for his informative input.</p> <p><i>[Kevin Price left the meeting at this point]</i></p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>4. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>As the Treasurer had intimated that she would have to leave the meeting by 8pm, the Chair invited her to deliver her report earlier than as scheduled in the published agenda. Accordingly, she reported that the balance at the bank still stands at £3494.55.</p> <p>It was suggested that in view of the current cost of living crisis and the growing need for help from Renfrewshire Foodbank by members of the local community and beyond, the Community Council might want to look at making a further</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>donation to that organisation. A discussion took place during which it was acknowledged that while the Community Council is not intended to be a funding or grant-making body, in view of the prevailing situation it was agreed that it may be appropriate to consider offering further support to the Foodbank in these circumstances</p> <p>It was therefore moved by Jean Ramsay and seconded by Graham Paterson that the Community Council make a donation to Renfrewshire Foodbank in the sum of £200. There being no dissent expressed to this proposal, it was duly carried and delegated to the Treasurer and Secretary to organise the payment of the agreed sum.</p>	<p>Agreed to contribute £200 to support Renfrewshire Foodbank</p>
<p>5. Update from representatives from Roar - Connections for Life</p> <p>The Chair invited the representatives from Roar to address members</p> <p>Gillian Thomson briefly introduce herself and her colleague, Lesley Drummond.</p> <p>This was a follow up to the virtual meeting attended by Cassie Forbes and Gregor Smart last year. Gregor has recently left the organisation and Gillian, has been appointed as the Club & Volunteer Coordinator. Gillian also job-shares with Lesley on the Isolation & Loneliness Project.</p> <p>Gillian and Lesley then provided members with an overview of some developments with Roar's activities, which were stalled earlier in the year due to COVID restrictions that were in place.</p> <p>Most notably, Roar recruit 8 'Community Connectors' within the Whitehaugh & Seedhill area. It was suggested to the representatives that if any Connectors might be interested in joining the Community Council, they would be welcome to come along or to contact the Secretary in the first instance.</p> <p>Six weeks of sessional Zumba is currently underway, which is being housed in Paisley Grammar but moving into Sherwood Church at the end of June. The age of participants has varied from 8 years old to 83 years young.</p> <p>Funding has been applied for the Walking Football group</p> <p>The Lunch Group and Photography Group have had to relocate from being based at the café in Ladyburn Street as that is currently out of commission following a fire. Those are presently located in the Williamsburgh Housing Association's Community Hub.</p> <p>Members of the Photography Group have been very active taking images around the area with a view to collating those into an exhibition/portfolio representing a social commentary.</p> <p>A lively discussion followed at the conclusion of which the Chair thanked Gillian and Lesley for their informative contribution to the meeting. As they expressed an interest in doing so, it was agreed that they would be most welcome to stay on for the remainder of the meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>Friends of Barshaw Park group were just awaiting person to occupy the designated space, whereupon construction of the Community Garden can be rescheduled.</p> <p>While discussing the park, Cllr Clark also mentioned that the work on the pond had been completed and that had been partially refilled. The fish will be rehomed once the water in the pond reaches the necessary level</p> <p><i>Email from Local Resident</i> <i>Concerns over removal/closure of Bus Stops in Seedhill Road</i></p> <p>Following the discussion that had taken place at the last meeting, the Secretary referred members to an email received from SPT on 13th May as previously circulated.</p> <p>That had followed a call from their Tom Baily that morning, in which he explained this situation in a bit more detail. From what the Secretary could gather, the sign for the bus stop featured in the image had been relocated as it was in the way of the pedestrian crossing that was being installed. However, it seems that the Council had moved the signs without consulting or informing SPT, as they should. Seemingly, simply relocating the sign on its own is not sufficient as it affects the “bus box” road markings on the road surface and also means that the bus stops are not spaced correctly.</p> <p>Following the response from SPT, the Secretary had received a further call from Mr. Baily on Monday, 30th May) in which he mentioned that following a meeting with Renfrewshire Council, the relocated bus stops are remaining in situ for now while the Council carry out a consultation with nearby residents. It seems that the solution may be to install build-outs or bus boarders at the stops in question to facilitate boarding and disembarking.</p> <p>However, Cllr Clark reported that this information was somewhat at odds with the information that was imparted to him, i.e. that the stops were to be removed as there were enough already in the street.</p> <p>In view of this, he would seek clarification and get back to the Secretary once the position is clearer.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted pending further developments</p>
<p>8. Secretary’s Report</p> <p><i>Dates of meetings for the 2022/2023 Session</i></p> <p>The Secretary explained with the new session approaching that he would not be available for either the second Wednesday of September this year and June next year. While obviously, there is nothing to preclude meetings being held in his absence, he suggested that for practical purposes it might be worth bringing those meetings forward to the first Wednesday: After discussion, it was agreed that rescheduling both meetings to the first Wednesday of those months would be appropriate so the schedule of meetings for the 2022/2023 session will be as follows:</p>	

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<p>2022</p> <p>7th September 12th October (AGM) 9th November 14th December</p> <p>2023</p> <p>11 January 8th February 8th March 12th April 10th May 7th June</p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that he would pass a copy of those dates to Anne McNaughton, the Police, etc .</p> <p><i>Email from Stuart Miller</i> <i>Community Regeneration Co-ordinator</i> <i>Williamsburgh Housing Association</i> <i>Funding for provisions of Dog Bins</i></p> <p>Stuart has written to say that he has been looking at the provision of dog fouling bins in the area and thinking about potential funders. On checking with Renfrewshire Council, they have explained that an application could be submitted to the Green Spaces Fund as dog fouling is a recurring issue. Perhaps having a look at this fund, it might be an idea to consider bins, posters, leaflets and some media campaigns? There are some other issues that need to be clarified surrounding the emptying of the bins, replacing free bags and repair and maintenance. He confirmed that he will investigate those and get back to the Secretary with some further feedback</p> <p><i>Email from Graeme Crawford</i> <i>Renfrewshire Council</i> <i>Update on Not far? Leave the Car</i></p> <p>The Council's active travel campaign Not Far? Leave the Car is well underway now, with more than 650 people signed up.</p> <p>It's free and rewards people in Renfrewshire for walking, cycling or using public transport with points, and these can be redeemed for discounts and money off at more than 100 local businesses.</p> <p>More information and the free app can be found at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/leavethecar.</p> <p>The campaign has been promoted via the Community Council's FB page.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Schedule of meetings for 2022/2023 agreed – to be to other parties as appropriate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noted pending further feedback</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noted</p>

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<p><i>Email from Local Resident</i> <i>Suggestions for development of East End Park</i></p> <p>Following an initial contact via Facebook Messenger an email was received from a local resident who has put forward a number of interesting and valid observations regarding the park, in the following terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Grass and mud has been growing over the paths for a number of years. Aside from generally looking poor; it's causing water and mud to pool at the mouths of walking paths. These paths need cut back and the build-up mud removed.</i> <i>2. We have heard through the Renfrewshire Council Facebook that money had been granted for park upgrades. We're wondering if anyone from the community has been consulted about the design and requirements of the park? For example, the current entrance over wire grates is not accessible for individuals with walking aids or mobility scooters. I'm sure there are more vital concerns that would be raised through a consultation.</i> <i>3. Over lockdown, the number of dog owners which use the park has skyrocketed. There is a very real need for a fenced-off dog park. This would be an enormous help for the local senior citizens and residents with mobility issues who struggle to provide their dogs with off-lead exercise. Dog owners are also the main users of the current children park; many of us use it to introduce our dogs and socialise as a community.</i> <i>4. There is enormous potential for developing East End park's woodland and flora. NatureScot's "Wee Forests" initiative would work perfectly in East End Park and, if planted strategically, could have a massive impact in reducing noise and light pollution from Mill Street. We have been pleased to see new wildflowers cropping up around the corners of the park including Welsh poppies and wild clematis. We would like to see areas of the park left to grow wild to encourage more nature to return. A further strategy to rewind areas of the park with wildflowers and naturalising bulbs could make a massive impact on the biodiversity of what essentially a town centre green dessert.</i> <i>5. There are some security issues with the park. Whilst I am aware that the cost of installing CCTV is inhibitive, there is a question about using the council existing assets; Renfrewshire House and the Social work. In addition, we would like a review of the street lighting; I'm sure you are aware that at night, the park is pitch black, which certainly doesn't create a community atmosphere.</i> <i>6. We would love to see if there's an opportunity to develop some community growing grounds or allotments in the park.</i> <p>The resident goes on to say that "...it is the will from the local residents to get involved in developing the park but establishing a "Friends of" group is currently outside of our commitments. We would love to see if the community council shares our ambitions and could become the vehicle for our enthusiasm."</p> <p>The Secretary reported that he had sent an acknowledgment to the resident acknowledging the issues that had been raised and that those would be tabled</p>	<p>Secretary to raise these issues with Environment & Infrastructure</p>

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<p>for discussion at this meeting with a view to raising those with the local authority.</p> <p>It had also been explained to the resident that as the Community Council has a wider remit, it would not be possible to assume the mantle of a Friends Group for the park, which, undoubtedly, would be the most appropriate vehicle for their ambitions.</p> <p>It was agreed that in the first instance the Secretary should send these representations to Environment & Infrastructure to seek a response from the relevant officer.</p> <p><i>Disruption to Refuse Collections/ Disposal of Surplus Paint</i></p> <p>The Secretary referred members to communications that had been circulated in relation to disruption to waste collections in some areas on Thursday and Friday. There since has been an update insofar as the Council is now able to bring forward some of the planned recovery of bins missed the previous week due to staff shortages.</p> <p>Cllr Clark spoke briefly regarding this issue, explaining that recently situation had developed into an absolute shambles.</p> <p>While on the subject of waste disposal, Graham Paterson asked the Councillors present if there had been any explanation as to why there is a problem surrounding the disposal of paint tins at the supposed state-of-the-art facility at Underwood Road. While no reason has been provided, the advice offered is that when disposing of surplus paint, sand or cat litter should be added to the tin to absorb the residue, thereby minimising the risk from spillage.</p> <p>It had also been pointed out that paint tins can be taken to Glasgow City Council's disposal facility at their recycling plant in Govan</p>	Noted
<p>8. Any other Business</p> <p><i>Lack of Toilet Facilities Hawkhead Cemetery</i></p> <p>Concern was again expressed regarding the lack of toilet facilities at Hawkhead Cemetery; an issue that the Community Council had raised previously.</p> <p>The Secretary explained that when this was brought to his attention recently, he has since approached Environment and Infrastructure to raise this concern and to find out if there are any plans to remedy this situation.</p> <p>A response is awaited and once received will be circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr Clark suggested that subject to the subject to the response to that enquiry, the Community Council might wish to ask Cllr Davidson to take this up with officers following her return from holiday.</p>	Noted pending further developments

