

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting September 2016 **Ref.:** HCC 09/2016
Location: Carrick Centre, Main Street, Houston **Date:** 21/09/16
Time: 7.30 p.m. **Sheet** 1 of 4

Present:	Representing:	HCC Position:
John McEvoy (jmc)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	Chair
David Dunlop (dd)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	Treasurer
Janet Mason (jm)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Jake Fulton (jf)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Sandy Bulloch (sb)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Mark Arthur (ma)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	

In Attendance:	Representing:
Gavin Newlands (gn)	Member of Parliament (MP)
Councillor Allan Noon (an)	Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Sergeant Alan Mack (am)	Police Scotland (PS)

Apologies:	Representing:	
Helen Parker (hp)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	Vice Chair
Sandra Brown (sb)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Carol Murray (cm)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Councillor Ann Hall (ah)	Renfrewshire Council (RC)	

Distribution: HCC members and uploaded to the HCC website and issued to Renfrewshire Council

Minutes taken by: Mark Arthur Chaired by: John McEvoy

Item		Action	Date Due
1.00	Apologies		
	Apologies were extended by the above noted people.	Note	
2.00	Approval of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of HCC meeting held on 15 th June were agreed as a true record of that meeting (proposed Gordon Wright and seconded by John Chambers) and can subsequently be issued to Renfrewshire Council and uploaded to the HCC website.	Note	
3.00	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes		
	Refer to the HCC action list attached.	Note	
4.00	Police Report (Sergeant Alan Mack left the meeting after giving the Police Report)		

Item		Action	Date Due
4.01	Refer to Appendix A for Sergeant Mack's report with 30 No. incidents leading to 14 No. criminal offences reported in the period between 14 th June and 21 st September. Sergeant Mack explained the circumstances behind each offence with no further actions required by HCC and no further questions raised by HCC.	Note	
5.00	Councillor's / MP's Report		
	Councillor Noon gave the following verbal report and left the meeting thereafter.		
5.01	Waste Recycling Amenity Depots Recently Closed or Downgraded – Cllr Noon confirmed the Council are reverting back to the previous set up.	Note	
5.02	Green Food Bins – Cllr Noon confirmed the Council shall stop the green food waste bins with waste back to the brown bins.	Note	
5.03	The North Street Steps to Cricket Fields – Cllr Noon confirmed the Council shall be replacing these soon.	Note	
5.04	Streetlighting Repairs and Dog Sign for Crosslee Park – Cllr Noon confirmed he has raised both issues with the Council.	Note	
5.05	Residential Planning Applications at Branchcroft and Sandholes – Cllr Noon confirmed both applications have been rejected however it would appear both developers are challenging this decision.	Note	
	Gavin Newlands, MP, attended the HCC meeting as part of his proposal to visit all Community Councils within his constituency and raised the following points after saying hello and explain his role at Westminster.		
5.06	Dungavel Detention Centre – Gavin would like to listen to the Community Council's views on Dungavel closing with a replacement detention centre being located adjacent to Glasgow Airport. In general the HCC members had no objection about the new (7 day) holding facility being located within the Paisley and Renfrewshire North Constituency however did agree with Gavin's concerns re smaller size / capacity when compared with Dungavel and also the fairly quick turnaround before potential refugees being transported south to the large detection centre at Heathrow Airport.	Note	
5.07	Paisley 2021 City of Culture Bid – Gavin would like to understand the Community Council's views on Paisley's bid. John McEvoy confirmed that the general opinion of most locals he had discussed the bid with was of wanting to feel involved as a rural community and therefore not left behind with any potential benefits the winning of the bid may bring.	Note	
5.08	McGills Bus Meeting – Gavin confirmed he shall be meeting McGills buses and asked if we had any concerns at the Community Council which he could raise.		
	After lengthy discussion speeding was raised along with the relatively high cost for short journeys i.e. Houston to Linwood. Also suggested "real time" information would be good at bus stops regarding arrival of next bus etc.	Note	

Item		Action	Date Due
6.00	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix B for the Chairman's report with the following items noted.</p>		
6.01	<p>Yew Tree – Agreed Janet to deal with all matters associated with the Yew Tree.</p>	Note	
6.02	<p>Virgin media Meeting – Agreed no meeting with HCC required but happy to review their plans.</p>	Note	
6.03	<p>Locher and Gryfebank Footpaths – All agreed this adoption by RC as good news and could now close this matter.</p>	Note	
6.04	<p>Flower Displays – It was agreed, after lengthy debate, that Jenny Cowan could set up a group of volunteers to manage the forthcoming floral displays under her direction, however this would need to be reinforced via HCC and a Floral Sub Committee. The persons on the sub-committee shall be agreed at the next HCC Meeting along with roles and responsibilities.</p>	Note	
6.05	<p>Community Council Forum More Annual Funding – Agreed John should write to local MP's.</p>	HCC/jmc	ASAP
6.06	<p>Ice Cream Vans / Mobile Catering Vans Adjacent Schools – Agreed, after discussion, John McEvoy would support this proposal to restrict ice cream vans from parking outside schools.</p>	HCC/jmc	ASAP
7.00	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix C for the Treasurers Report with the following items noted.</p>		
7.01	<p>The account balance sits at £13,365.54.</p>	Note	
8.00	<p>Matters to be Discussed at June's HCC Meeting</p>		
8.01	<p>Floral Displays / Proposal – Gordon Wright went through his proposals and after lengthy debate it was agreed this can be progressed on the premise the final locations of planters etc. are agreed by the Floral Display Sub-Committee.</p>	HCC/gw & HCC/jc	ASAP
8.02	<p>Christmas Light Display – Mark Arthur tabled his proposals and if approved subject to receiving a quote within the allocated budget. Furthermore the two winning school motifs were agreed after review of all shortlisted drawings. All agreed the drawings were all excellent and it was difficult to select two winners. Mark to inform both schools and also explore a potential date for the switch on of the lights along with a potential street closure on Main Street to stage the event.</p>	HCC/ma	ASAP

Item		Action	Date Due
8.03	Proposal to Establish Micro-Hydro Scheme in Houston – John McEvoy confirmed he has a proposal to carry out a “free of charge” feasibility study for a micro hydro scheme by a company called Sonas Energy. Should the scheme progress to development a fee would be payable to Sonas Energy. Agreed to proceed with John to inform / instruct the company.	HCC/jmc	ASAP
9.00	Any Other Business		
9.01	Constituency Drop in Surgery – Gavin confirmed the Houston Surgery every second Friday of the month at 12.30pm (Carrick Centre) is very quiet. It was agreed to add this to the HCC website and facebook page.	HCC/km	ASAP
9.02	Litter Pickers – Agreed Jake can get additional litter pickers.	Note	

Next Meeting: HCC October Meeting (AGM)

Date / Time: Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed by Chairperson, John McEvoy, at 9.40pm

Houston Community Council Meeting

Action List / Log

ID No.	Description	Owner	Date Due	Status
1.0	<p>Police Report</p> <p>John McEvoy asked about SMART Water project. Police says it is being trialled in Langbank. Smart water is basically property marking. Police offered to discuss this with the committee at a separate meeting if they wished. Feeling of committee was to wait and see how it fairs in Langbank.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – WIP and Sgt Mack shall give HCC feedback in due course)</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – Insp Glass confirmed the smart water kits have been ordered for Langbank and feedback / progress shall be reported in due course.)</p> <p>(Update 20/04/16 – WIP)</p> <p>(Update 18/05/16 – WIP)</p> <p>(Update 15/06/16 – PS confirmed launched last week in Langbank).</p> <p>(Update 21/09/16 – No update at meeting)</p>	PS	ASAP	
2.0	<p>Replacement lights required on big roundabout near shops, Allan Noon is trying to get them replaced.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – Cllr Noon shall give an update at March's meeting)</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – Cllr Noon was not present to give an update)</p> <p>(Update 20/04/16 – Cllr Noon was not present to give an update.)</p> <p>(Update 18/05/16 – WIP)</p> <p>(Update 15/06/16 – Cllr Noon confirmed still ongoing)</p> <p>(Update 21/09/16 – Still ongoing)</p>	RC/an	Oct 2016	
3.0	<p>Update on walk bridge over River Gryffe - Taylor Woodrow own wooden bridge over River Gryffe – Renfrewshire Council are in talks with Taylor Woodrow about maintenance and repair. However it has been repaired by Taylor Woodrow recently. It is a safe walking route to school and was erected 30 years ago. It was noted that the main road is very busy and not a desirable route for children to use to go to School. Hence there is a definite need for the bridge to get kids to school safely. Councillor Noon said children might be bussed.</p> <p>J McEvoy asked how we could help. It was suggested HCC write to Taylor Woodrow. This could be covered by Corporate Social Liability. Stuart Clark</p>	HC/jmc	Reviewed at October's HCC Meeting	

Status Key

Action

Outstanding
and Behind
Programme

Action

in Progress
and on
Programme

Action

Closed

	<p>says he will send contact details for Taylor Woodrow. (Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jmc confirmed he has sent an email to Taylor Woodrow and they have replied confirming they are currently in ongoing discussions with Renfrewshire Council. Agreed HCC to monitor progress and chase up if no formal response to maintenance of the bridge is confirmed in the near future) (Update 16/03/16 – No update from Messrs Taylor Woodrow. WIP) (Update 20/04/16 – No update. WIP) (Update 18/05/16 – No update from Taylor Woodrow. WIP) (Update 15/06/16 – John confirmed no change) (Update 21/09/16 – Certain works have been carried out. Agreed to keep open until established all repairs have been carried out)</p>			
4.0	<p>3 remote footpaths, Gryffebank Resident Association, not adopted by Council – drains in some of these. There is also lighting – Council will look after lighting. Paths from Gryffebank through to Locher will not be maintained by the Council. Janet Mason will attend the Woodside residents Association meeting on the 2nd February to give a HCC point of view. (Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jm confirmed the residents are looking out their title deeds and agreed in the interim HCC/jmc shall write to Renfrewshire Council noting our concerns. HCC/cm to confirm the exact names of all affected paths so John can capture in his letter) (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report a letter has been sent to Mr Scott Allan RC Roads Department with no response to date. Furthermore Cllr Clark shall write to Mr Allan to try and help resolve this matter.) (Update 20/04/16 – As per the Chairman’s report the Council would appear to be willing to take ownership of the paths after repairs are made by the local residents. WIP) (Update 18/05/16 – The chairman of the Locher Residents Association confirmed at the meeting that Renfrewshire Council have replied to him in writing confirming they shall not adopt the footpath. Agreed John McEvoy shall write to the Council requesting a 3 way meeting between all parties.)</p>	Closed	Closed	

Status Key

Action
 Outstanding
 and Behind
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 in Progress
 and on
 Programme

Action
 Closed

	(Update 15/06/16 – No change.) (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)			
5.0	Waste Disposal Mark Arthur suggested requesting statistics on flytipping just now and then 6 months later. (Update 17/02/16 – Agreed HCC/jmc to issue a FOI request covering the last 12 months) (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairperson’s report a FOI request to RC has confirmed 372 No. incidents of fly-tipping occurred in Renfrewshire over the 12 month period ending 31 st January 2016. Agreed to do a further FOI request on 6 monthly or annual basis.) (Update 20/04/16 – WIP) (Update 18/05/16 – WIP) (Update 15/06/16 – Agreed to submit another FOI for the period up to 31 st July) (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
6.0	Yew Tree Janet Mason – Janet will set up a sub-committee to investigate current state of Yew Tree and how best to proceed to protect this Houston attraction. (Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jm confirmed she awaits a response from the Forestry Commission regarding their plans to maintain this tree and the surrounding areas / grounds.) (Update 16/03/16 – Forestry Commission have been in touch and shall confirm a date to meet at the tree in the near future.) (Update 20/04/16 – Janet confirmed the Forestry Commission have visited the site and are also showing interest in an old walnut tree. Janet also mentioned a funding opportunity may be possible via the Big Lottery Fund.) (Update 18/05/16 – Janet confirmed a second grant funding application has been submitted for the Yew Tree via the Big Lottery Fund) (Update 15/06/16 – No update / change in funding status). (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
7.0	Farmers Market Caroline Wengel will investigate possibility of HCC hosting a farmers market, possibly in Carrick Centre Car Park. (Update 17/02/16 – Agreed HCC/cw to give an update regarding process at next month’s HCC Meeting.)	Closed	Closed	

Status Key

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Closed

	<p>(Update 16/03/16 – No update available. WIP.) (Update 20/04/16 – No update available. WIP) (Update 18/05/16 – Agreed to target spring/summer 2017 and progress discussions with the farmers market in the interim) (Update 15/06/16 – Agreed to discuss at September’s HCC Meeting) (Update 21/09/16 – Agreed closed)</p>			
8.0	<p>Design of Christmas Lights – HCC/ma confirmed the company he works for shall do the design and tender documents free of charge and shall liaise with Renfrewshire Council to agree consultation, approvals and procurement issues. Agreed the design shall require HCC approval and potentially a wider community engagement via a consultation at the Carrick Centre. (Update 16/03/16 – Mark confirmed RC do not need a competitive tender process therefore might be best to get Blachere illuminations to do a design and install contract. Agreed Mark to get quote based on this.) (Update 20/04/16 – WIP with quote due early May.) (Update 18/05/16 – Quote awaited from Messrs Blachere Illumination and Janet Mason handed Mark Arthur a brochure from another potential supplier.) (Update 15/06/16 – Mark confirmed the Fox and Hounds and Houston Inn shall part fund the school's competition and Mark is in discussions with a contractor regarding the install Cllr Clark confirmed we may get a similar deal as per Linwood whereupon RC erected free of charge for 3 years. MA to progress and provide update to HCC in September) (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)</p>	Closed	Closed	
9.0	<p>Yearly Calendar – HCC/ma proposed a yearly calendar is adopted to ensure we capture important matters at the correct time / period during the year. All agreed in principle and planner to be developed and discussed at the next meeting. (Update 16/03/16 – No progress made in the month.) (Update 20/04/16 – No progress made in the month.) (Update 18/05/16 – No progress made in the month. Items for decision / calendar</p>	HCC/jmc & HCC/ma	ASAP/Urgent	

Status Key

Action
Outstanding and Behind Programme

Action
in Progress and on Programme

Action
Closed

	to be closed out ASAP) (Update 15/06/16 – No progress) (Update 21/09/16 – No progress)			
10.0	Asset Register – Mark suggested creating an Asset register to keep track of existing and new assets. Agreed to discuss at April's HCC meeting. (Update 20/04/16 – No progress made.) (Update 18/05/16 – WIP) (Update 15/06/16 – No change /progress made) (Update 21/09/16 – No progress made)	All	October's HCC Meeting	
11.0	Lack of Bins – Agreed Cllr Clark shall speak to the Council to see if additional bins could be strategically sited to prevent litter build up happening / occurring after clean ups. (Update 18/05/16 – No update at meeting. WIP) (Update 15/06/16 – Cllr Clark confirmed RC reverted back stating sufficient provision of bins and therefore he has requested a meeting with RC to discuss further). (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
12.0	Fence at River Inn in Poor Condition – Agreed Cllr Clark to speak off line after meeting with Jenny to establish exact problem. (Update 18/05/16 – Jenny confirmed Taylor Woodrow fence. Agreed to discuss at June's HCC meeting) (Update 15/06/16 – Cllr Clark confirmed RC have contacted Taylor Woodrow and await a response.) (Update 21/09/16 – No update)	RC/sc	Update October's HCC Meeting	
13.0	Drains – John confirmed he has received no satisfactory closure to his phone calls and it was agreed that should the repair works not be carried out within the next week John should write to the Council. (Update 15/06/16 – WIP) (Update 21/09/16 – FOI request submitted)	HCC/jmc	Update at October's HCC Meeting	
14.0	Gryffe high Assembly and litter pick up initiative – John shall be happy to speak to the pupils at assembly. (Update 15/06/16 – No change. WIP) (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
15.0	Burn clean up at Main Street Stone Bridge – Mark confirmed he has authority from the Housing Inn and Fox and Hounds to arrange a litter clean up around the burn at the bottom of the carparks including tree pruning. Agreed	Closed	Closed	

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	to proceed with this on Sunday 12 th June at 10.00am. Mark to arrange. (Update 15/06/16 – Mark confirmed it went well and next clean up to be scheduled for the summer and put on the HCC facebook page) (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)			
16.0	Grant Funding Application Matrix – Agreed Mark and John McEvoy shall draft a matrix to cover other funding opportunities. (Update 15/06/16 – No change. WIP) (Update 21/09/16 – No change)	HCC/ma & JCC/jmc	ASAP	
17.0	Anti-Social Behaviour at Co-op – Cllr Clark asked Police Scotland to look into the increased anti-social behaviour at the Co-op. (Update 21/09/16 – No update)	PS	ASAP	
18.0	Houston Field Quadrant – Cllr Noon mentioned the traffic issues at Houston Field Quadrant and this should be considered by HCC traffic sub-committee. (Update 21/09/16 – Closed after recent survey)	Closed	Closed	
19.0	Drains – John confirmed he will chase up the Council regarding drainage and street lighting. if he has not received a satisfactory response by late June / early July. (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
20.0	Joint project with Bridge of Weir Community Council to establish cycle path / heritage trail – Sandy Clark and Tom Fulton from BofW Community Council attended the meeting to discuss the potential opportunity to incorporate a cycle route into the previous plan by BofW CC to create a heritage trail. After lengthy debate it was agreed Sandy and / or Tom shall liaise with the consultant to be appointed to looking into the heritage trail feasibility study requesting a fee to increase the study to cover a potential cycle path. If a minimal uplift it was agreed in principle HCC would pay any on cost from their available funds and John McEvoy shall be the main contact at HCC. (Update 21/09/16 – John to drop BoW CC an email for an update)	HCC/jmc	ASAP	
21.0	Volunteer Maintenance Group for Plants – Agreed to add the volunteer maintenance group for plants / flower displays on the HCC facebook page. (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
22.0	Traffic Subcommittee Update – John	Closed	Closed	

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	McEvoy confirmed a subcommittee meeting was held and shall email the outcome / notes from the meeting to all HCC members for their review. (Update 21/09/16 – Closed after recent survey)			
23.0	Craigends Yew Update – Janet confirmed all the ground around the base of the tree has been cleared and that she is in discussion with the Craigend's Residents Association about the possibility of the Land Trust taking over ownership of the land directly adjacent and surrounding the tree. Janet to keep the HCC updated regarding these ongoing discussions. (Update 21/09/16 – WIP)	HCC/jm	ASAP	
24.0	Letter from Community Council Forum – No matters discussed with item deferred to September's HCC meeting. (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
25.0	Liaising with Neighbouring Community Councils on Housing Development Issues – Agreed we should support other Community Council's on residential development issues with Bridge of Weir applications currently open to Public Consultation / Planning Application. David Dunlop to take lead as previously agreed. (Update 21/09/16 – Closed)	Closed	Closed	
26.0	New Community Council Act – Mark emailed previously the new Act the Scottish government have introduced ultimately given more powers to Community Councils. All HCC members to review and bring forward any suitable projects after the summer break / recess. (Update 21/09/16 – RC have arranged a seminar on this matter)	Closed	Closed	
27.0	Potential Community Council Hydro Scheme – Mark confirmed he has explored this in detail and believes there may be an opportunity for a Community Hydro Scheme in Housing. He shall develop his thoughts over the summer and issue a paper at September's HCC meeting. This could potentially bring a long term revenue stream to the HCC. (Update 21/09/16 – Feasibility study to be instructed. Closed)	Closed	Closed	
28.0	Dam / Pond Nearby Strathgryffe Tennis Club – Mark confirmed there may be an opportunity to create a public path to this pond and create a new leisure area for the community. Mark to explore in	HCC/ma	ASAP	

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	greater detail. (Update 21/09/16 – No real progress made. WIP)			
29.0	Johnstone on PA6 Postcode – Cllr Clark confirmed he has corresponded with Royal Mail regarding why Johnstone is on a Houston Postcode as it is confusing. Cllr Clark awaits a reply. (Update 21/09/16 – No update)	RC/sc	ASAP	
30.0	Community Council Forum More Annual Funding – Agreed John should write to local MP's.	HCC/jmc	ASAP	
31.0	Ice Cream Vans / Mobile Catering Vans Adjacent Schools – Agreed, after discussion, John McEvoy would support this proposal to restrict ice cream vans from parking outside schools.	HCC/jmc	ASAP	
32.0	Floral Displays / Proposal – Gordon Wright went through his proposals and after lengthy debate it was agreed this can be progressed on the premise the final locations of planters etc. are agreed by the Floral Display Sub-Committee.	HCC/gw & HCC/jc	ASAP	
33.0	Christmas Light Display – Mark Arthur tabled his proposals and if approved subject to receiving a quote within the allocated budget. Furthermore the two winning school motifs were agreed after review of all shortlisted drawings. All agreed the drawings were all excellent and it was difficult to select two winners. Mark to inform both schools and also explore a potential date for the switch on of the lights along with a potential street closure on Main Street to stage the event.	HCC/ma	ASAP	
34.0	Proposal to Establish Micro-Hydro Scheme in Houston – John McEvoy confirmed he has a proposal to carry out a “free of charge” feasibility study for a micro hydro scheme by a company called Sonas Energy. Should the scheme progress to development a fee would be payable to Sonas Energy. Agreed to proceed with John to inform / instruct the company.	HCC/jmc	ASAP	
35.0	Constituency Drop in Surgery – Gavin confirmed the Houston Surgery every second Friday of the month at 12.30pm (Carrick Centre) is very quiet. It was agreed to add this to the HCC website and facebook page.	HCC/km	ASAP	

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APPENDIX A

SGT. ALAN MACK

RESTRICTED

HOUSTON/CROSSLEE BEAT 34/35 - 14/06/2016-21/09/2016

CRIME/OFFENCE	NUMBER	DETECTED	ADDITIONAL NOTES
Serious Assault	0	0	
Common Assault	2	1	1 with other offences, 1 x domestic
Robbery	0	0	
Theft X HB /Attempt Theft x hb	0	0	
HBWI/Attempt HBWI	0	0	
Theft x OLP/Att. Theft x olp	0	0	
Theft of motor vehicle/Attempt	3	0	1 x car[recovered], 1 x car, 1 x motorcycle
Theft from m.v./olp to m.v	0	0	
Theft by shoplifting	2	0	2 x alcohol
Theft/Attempted theft	3	0	2 x mobile phone [1 no crimed], 1 x magazines
C.J.L.s38/BofP	4	4	2 x domestic bop, 1 x bop in street, 1 x bop&police assault
Vandalism	4	1	1 x windows, 1 x car, 1 x fencing, 1 x high value machinery
RTA offences	3	3	2 x various offences, 1 x careless driving
Street drinking	1	1	1 x open alcohol in street
MDA offences	2	2	1 x cannabis production, 1 x ecstasy
Breach of bail	0	0	
Fraud	1	0	1 x bank account
wilful fireraising	1	0	1 x derelict house
Other	4	2	2 x communications act, 1 x housing repair order, 1 x civ.govt.section 57
TOTAL	30	14	

Please Note that the statistics above may not include crimes still to be processed at the time of collation. Also, any crimes listed under "Other" may be listed this way for anonymity

APPENDIX B

Houston Community Council Chairman's Report Wednesday 21 September 2016

1. Represented H.C.C. at two meetings with Mark Macmillan, Leader of Renfrewshire Council, & one meeting with Alan Russell, Director of Finance and Resources.
2. Held meetings with Derek Mackay MSP (along with Helen Parker) and Tom Arthur MSP to discuss road safety. An update is scheduled in the agenda.
3. Made three Freedom of Information requests to Renfrewshire Council
 1. number of fly-tipping incidents for period 1st January 2016 to 29th June 2016, which was the date on which the local amenity sites were downgraded. Number was 312, which represented a 68% increase over the 12 month period ending 31st January 2016.
 2. Populations of all Community Council Districts within our LAC area. This is because there is a proposal to delegate funding of LAC projects to Community Councils and one possible way of allocating funds is by population.
 3. Details of gully clearing programme in both Houston and Renfrewshire. R.C. have repeatedly ignored my requests to discuss having our gullies cleared or has given me answers that are obviously untrue.
4. Applied for and took delivery of two pre-filled planters from Renfrewshire Council which are now placed on the roundabout on Main Street. Have written to Renfrewshire Council requesting further planters.
5. Have met with office bearers and Mark Arthur to progress our plans for flower displays and Christmas lights. Proposals for approval will be made at this meeting.
6. Spoke to Laura Forsyth of the Gazette after seeing her post on our FB page about the Craighends Yew. Suggested that if the CC agreed, the Gazette should join our campaign to have the Craighends Yew named Scotland's Tree of the Year or at the minimum get 1000 votes and £500 prize. She would be very happy to do this and would like a photograph of CC member(s) at the tree. I suggested Janet but without naming her.

Correspondence

Email from Kyle Dodd of Virgin Media asking to attend one of our meetings to share further plans of their expansion. They are also to hold an information day in Bridge of Weir soon. Suggest that we respond saying that our upcoming agendas are busy, but if he emails us a copy of their plans we will note them and respond as necessary.

Had a thank you email from Raymond Laing saying that Locher and Gryfebank Residents Associations had held a site meeting with representatives of Renfrewshire

Council. The Council will be happy to adopt the footpaths once the 4 drain outlets have been changed to "footpath gullies" and will supply the names of 4 contractors whom they use. I understand this work is now well under way

Anne McNaughton wrote to offer two new training courses: Chairperson skills Mon 3 October 12.30pm - 4.30 pm, Community Empowerment Act Mon 24 Oct 6.00 -8.00 pm

Jenny Cowan emailed me after we were awarded the LAC grant for flowers and suggested she set up a group under her direction to manage the plants. Consulted with other office bearers and concluded that since we had signed personal accountability forms to guarantee the proper use of the funds it would not be possible to pass on the responsibility to somebody outside the community council.

APPENDIX C

Houston Community Council

Treasurer's Report

03 June to 18 August 2016

Opening Balance	£2360.58
Period Income	
Grant Funding	£11,000
Houston Show	£394.60
Total	£13755.18
Expenditure	
Plants/equipment etc.	£328.14
Plants/equipment etc.	£18.55
Plants/equipment etc.	£32.00
Insurance	£10.95
Closing Balance (18 Aug)	£13365.54

Notes; Period dates to suit bank statements.