

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting October 2018

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:00pm

Ref: HCC/10/2018

Date: 17/10/18

Sheet: 1 of 3

Present

John McEvoy (jmc)
David Dunlop (dd)
John Chambers (jc)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Mark Arthur (ma)
Janet Mason (jm)
Kathy McFall
Elizabeth Dalgetty
Jake Fulton (jf)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Nigel Hobbs
Carol Murray
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)
Councillor Nicolson (in)
Cllr. James Sheridan

Representing

Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)

HCC position

Chair
Vice-Chair
Treasurer

In Attendance

PC Martin Norwood
PC Brian Dick
Dr Sheila McArthur
Patrick Devlin

Representing

Police Scotland (PS)
Police Scotland (PS)
Resident representing 16 others Crosslee Rd
Resident

Apologies

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)
Cllr Alison Dowling
Jill Jack (jj)

Representing

Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)

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

Minutes taken by: David Dunlop

Meeting chaired by: John McEvoy

1.0 Apologies

Apologies noted by the people above.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Gordon Wright approved September minutes and seconded by John Chambers.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to HCC action log.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

A cheque had been received from a Mr Melrose in support of the defibrillator cabinet. JC had also recommended internet banking be introduced.

5.0 Police Report

PC Dick and PC Norwood reported three crimes (1) vehicle theft (1) incident vandalism (1) theft of JCB. Regarding littering Police advised they went out with school representatives and wardens to highlight the key issues. Police advise Houston PS had won their local football tournament.

6.0 Councillor Report

AD noted there had been a number of complaints regarding the lighting sequences at the A737 and Johnstone and these issues remained under consideration by the Council. Particularly concerned about this given that Aldi and BM Bargains had not yet opened.

Council had also agreed their events team would in future be taking a more supportive, proactive role in supporting community events both within and outwith Paisley.

JS advised he had written to Mark Higginbottom about the bus shelters and also to Cllr McGurk.

JMcE then welcomed Councillor Nicolson to the meeting. There then followed a short presentation and discussion regarding the ongoing pressures of housing development within Renfrewshire's villages with recent proposals emerging from Gladman, Persimmon and at Woodend House and how under the present legislation communities had very little capacity to defend important green spaces, local character and ensure there remained long term capacity of local infrastructure. Although there had been a recent improvement it would be helpful to have a single point of contact. IN indicated the Council had been working on a number of improvements, including delegation of greater authority to 'resolve issues' by heads of service. A common email had also been now introduced.

IN noted the community had made significant observations on the Main Issues Report for Renfrewshire and urged the group to get involved in the next Local Development Plan once the draft is published in 2019. IN advised the group Taylor Wimpey had put their Johnstone Hospital proposal on hold as they awaited greater clarity about the market re sales of the Barratt homes. One of the challenges the Council faced however was one of falling population, maintaining services and also meeting the Scottish Government affordable homes strategy. IN then outlined the updated new arrangements for LACs at the start of the new year and the participatory budgeting.

7.0 Resident discussion re Crosslee Rd

JMcE welcomed SM to the meeting. SM represented 16 residents from Crosslee Road who are concerned about the speed limit for the road. 60mph was not appropriate for the conditions given its role as a core path and gateway to the cycle track. JMcE asked what she would like to see happen? SM asked if the Community Council could formerly write to Renfrewshire Council to request the speed limit be reduced to 30mph and its role as a leisure lane is developed.

8.0 General Issues and Action Log

- JMcE advised Main Street was currently with Building Control and was expected to be converted into an Indian Restaurant.
- A Big Sing was proposed by the church to commemorate Remembrance Day on Sunday 11th November 10:00am. All were welcome.
- HCC had written to the Council re the poorly maintained vehicle parked on Bogstonhill Rd. The Council had advised there was nothing that could be done.
- HCC had formally written to the local MSP and Scottish Government Ministers about trying to improve legislation at a strategic level re littering and fly tipping in Scotland and our experience in Houston.

Ministers were advised we were treating the symptoms rather than the underlying causes and potential deterrence.

- A letter had been written to Anna Newman of Elderslie Estates re appropriate access and rights of way across their land.
- HCC had written a formal FOI re developer contributions to public realm and community benefit in Renfrewshire and best practice across Scotland.
- It was agreed to invite LEAP to a future meeting –DD to organise
- Carol et al had made good initial progress on trying to improve cycle linkages and paths around the Houston community and connecting our village to the wider cycle track network. It was an important emerging form of sustainable transport and with a community of 6500 was an important future opportunity.
- Christmas lighting arrangements were and Mark would continue to update the group on this.
- There was a discussion on the micro-hydro scheme and consideration was being given to a possible location for charging points Crosslee Shops were unsuitable as it the infrastructure needed to be on public land.
- On Community Asset Transfer – Council has proposed to open up its books to communities considering proposals to take on underperforming assets
- There was an update on the benches and plants. Plants had been ordered and the benches were in process. Re Tree & Flower Planting extension to Glenartney beds proposed, GHS proposed to undertake green space enhancement s adjacent to the school
- Democracy in Action meeting held -35 attendees re participatory budgeting.

9.0 Any Other Business

There followed a general discussion regarding the Gladman proposal and ongoing challenges to the greenbelt and infrastructure capacity of local villages and West Renfrewshire Housing Sub Market. It was agreed as per its detailed comments on the emerging LDP HCC would oppose this and continue to support the renewal of brownfield sustainable sites. HCC would continue to support the housing element of the North Renfrew regeneration and the renewal of Paisley in addressing social exclusion, rebuilding its population, core housing offer and restoring footfall to Paisley town centre. This could not be achieved if development investment was diverted to protected greenbelt sites

Next Meeting 3rd Wednesday November 2018