

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
May 2019

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC/05/2019

Date: 15/05/19

Sheet: 1 of 4

Present

John McEvoy (jmc)

David Dunlop (dd)

John Chambers (jc)

Sharon Chambers (sc)

Kathy McFall (kmf)

Jake Fulton (jf)

Gordon Wright (gw)

Carol Murray (cm)

Nigel Hobbs (nh)

Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)

Janet Mason (jm)

Mark Arthur (ma)

Representing

Houston Community Council

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HCC position

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

In Attendance

PC Dick

Ken Lyons

Susan Lyons

Sue Campbell

Fiona Calvert

Sophie Reynolds

Isabella Muir

Sharon Marklow

Kevin Dalrymple

Representing

Police Scotland (ps)

Resident

Resident

Resident

Resident

Resident

Resident

Renfrewshire Council – Local Development Plan

Renfrewshire Council – Local Development Plan

Apologies

Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)

Representatives from

Representing

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

Gryffe High School

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

Minutes taken by: David Dunlop

1.0 Apologies

Apologies noted by the people above.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

March minutes approved by Nigel Hobbs and Sharon Chambers

3.0 Police Report

3.1 Between the 17th April and 15th May there have been a total of 7 recorded crime reports, 1 has so far been detected. The crime summary is:

2 x Theft bike & heaters, lead from roof

2 x Domestic Assault

1 x Common Assault

1X Anti-Social (breach of the peace/vandalism/street drinking), 1 x damage to lighting wires

0 x Road Traffic Offences

2X suspicious activity at building & 1 historical assault

3.2 The Police held a Speedwatch meeting with NH to explore speeding solutions. There followed a discussion regarding potential kit that might be required and it was agreed in principal to fund speed a test kit at cost of approx. £500. Police advised the suspect for the Coop and poly tunnel had now been formally charged.

Land Adjacent to Manse Crescent Planning Application

4.1 Six residents from Manse Crescent were welcomed to the meeting along with Sharon Marklow and Kevin Dalrymple of Renfrewshire Council Local Development Plan Team. There was some concern that only a small number of residents (those immediately adjoining) had been formally notified and there was surprise and disappointment that Mansefield had been put forward again for development of 10 self- build plots when the key barriers to change of use had been aired extensively in 2009 and 2014. In the view of residents the key issues had not materially changed. Moreover, the fact the Council had grant funded the creation of an orchard in the middle of the site suggested at least one arm of the Council agreed with the community aspiration to enhance the biodiversity of the site. Residents advised they were seeking political and wider political support and would be formally objecting to this within the Draft LDP.

4.2 SM then spoke about the proposed LDP. Key points below:-

- Current Plan published in 2014 and since then the Council has been delivering this and monitoring trends, development and progress.
- Statutorily R.C is required to publish an LDP every 5 years
- Additionally, they published the Main Issues Report in 2017 along with Housing Needs & Demand Assessment based on Clydeplan objectives
- This distilled down into the Local Housing Strategy which requires the Council to provide enough land for the next 5-10 years. The Scottish Govt require R.C to provide a generous supply to maintain supply and to ensure affordability
- The Council also undertook a variety of assessments including environmental and infrastructure.

- RC priority is Brownfield 1st, Open Space 2nd, Greenbelt 3rd.
- Woodend House it was felt did not present significant infrastructure issues. SEPA had not formally objected re 10 Mansefield and 70 Woodend.

4.3 ED commented a key issue was the lack of provision for elderly residents. RC was ignoring the demographics of the community. KL commented in his opinion it was a money and capital receipt issue. JMCE agreed as the meeting with R.C Property team they advised their role was to maximise income. There was disappointment as the Head of Planning had indicated at the last Forum meeting the Council do not build on greenbelt, yet Woodend House was green belt. In regard to Mansefield it had been referred to as white land but its role and purpose was the same thing as green space. KMcF raised her concerns about numbers creep as the Cala development revised numbers up significantly once they gained permission.

4.4 JMCE asked about the West Renfrewshire Housing Sub-Market and exactly how many homes for older residents, downsizers and amenity were proposed, if any? SM did not have the information available at that point. He questioned the apparent policy of addressing the needs of elderly residents with large unaffordable family homes for which there was little evidence of demand in household projections. MA asked about the potential of expanding the Conservation Area to include Woodend House and Houston House. GW asked how much each plot on Mansefield was likely to sell for? SL asked why the Council continued to advocate house building in the community when the infrastructure was inadequate? SM advised the community of the closing date for comments of 10th June and urged the community to share their views on the plan.

4.5 There then followed a discussion regarding sustainable transport within Renfrewshire, Town Centre priorities and why developers were reluctant to build on brownfield sites. ED commented – it was by making easy to build on the greenbelt that developers did not favour brownfield.

4.6 JMCE advised the group of HCCs decision to pursue an asset transfer request for Mansefield and asked the objectors if they were supportive of this. Residents attending endorsed this proposal. GW asked SM why the Council do not insist on planning gain from developers. SM advised this was not possible under the present system. JMCA thanked everyone who attended and SM for her informative presentation.

Councillor's Report

5.1 JS commended the community on playing its part in absorbing housing demand and noted their position on further land release. He advised following consideration the Scottish Govt had rejected the Safer Streets Policy to reduce speeds in residential streets to 20mph. Regarding the sports pitch request at Gryffe High, the Council had considered this and was now looking at the specific sports needs of all secondary schools.

Treasurer's Report

6.1 JC tabled an update on the income and expenditure within the previous period. A copy of this is available on request. This included a discussion on the latest position in relation to the micro-hydro scheme. M.A suggested a potential sub group meeting to agree the next steps.

Chairman's Report

7.1 JMcE reported the asset transfer request to take on either a long lease or outright ownership of Mansefield for the benefit and enjoyment of the Houston and Crosslee community had been made. It was noted Taylor Wimpey proposed to remove a significant number of trees at Craighends as part of their maintenance requirement. HCC had written to advise whilst it recognised whilst trees required to be maintained ideally compensatory tree planting should take place elsewhere in the community. JMcE advised HCC had been approached by a resident on South Street regarding the removal of trees by the burn. He advised 5 trees were in the process of removal due to fungus. It was suggested the community should explore the possibility of replacement trees elsewhere.

Action Log

8.1 NH advised the Action Log was in the process of review and it was proposed this would be streamlined to maintain a balance providing HCC with clear forward actions and to avoid duplication of discussion within each meeting.

8.2 JM updated the group on the forthcoming Agricultural Show. It was agreed we would run the bottle stall again and would invite contributions towards this from the community. SC offered to take donations via the shop. It was also agreed to donate £50 to the show

Grant Applications

9.1 There was a discussion regarding the potential for fresh grant applications. This included further planting, Christmas light switch on and a continuation of many of the projects delivered in 2018/2019. MA suggested a possible light projection using the Carrick Centre. GW updated the Community Council on the bench installation and advised they were now on order along with materials for the concrete base. MA suggested a short life sub- committee should be formed to progress the pond/micro hydro project.

10.0 AOCB the Council were advised the Agricultural Show would be taking place on 1st June and members of the Council were invited to attend if available. Next meeting 19th June 2019 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Carrick Centre.