

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
September 2019

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC/18/09/2019

Date: 18/09/19

Sheet: 1 of 4

Present

John McEvoy (jmc)

David Dunlop (dd)

John Chambers (jc)

Nigel Hobbs (nh)

Sharon Chambers (sc)

Carol Murray (cm)

Janet Mason (jm)

Mark Arthur (ma)

Kathy McFall (kmf)

Gordon Wright (gw)

Representing

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

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HCC position

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

Ex Officio

Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)

Cllr Audrey Doig (ad)

Gavin Newlands MP

Representing

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

In Attendance

PC Brian Dick

Sue Campbell

Ken Lyons

Sophie Reynolds

Fiona Campbell

Alaister Muir

Lewis Da Silva (lds)

Craig Ross (cr)

Mirren Murray (mm)

Representing

Police Scotland (ps)

Resident

Resident

Resident

Resident

Resident

GHS Pupil

GHS Pupil

GHS Pupil

Apologies

Jake Fulton (jk)

Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)

Cllr Allison Dowling (ald)

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)

Colin Johnson (cj)

Representing

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

GHS Headmaster

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

Minutes taken by: David Dunlop

1) Previous Minutes Noted. Approved by Janet Mason and Gordon Wright

2) School Update

Apologies were noted from H.T and three senior pupils were welcomed to the meeting.

LDS advised GHS had launched a 6th year tie to help highlight the role of senior pupils in terms of leadership and guidance. CR informed the group of their determination to set an example and how they now lead regular litter picks during non-teaching sessions. They had also secured an eco-flag and were negotiating more recycling bins on the campus. They had also set up a wellbeing ambassador scheme and a buddy system for new pupils. MM advised the school show would take place in June 2020 and would be Oliver. They had also visited a care home and participated in the Rainbow Run with all proceeds going to LGBT Youth Scotland. GHS are also exploring the repainting of the underpass. JMcE thanked the students for their informative presentation and welcomed Gavin Newlands MP who provided a short update on his recent parliamentary activities.

3) Update on Mansefield and Woodend

JMcE welcomed a group of Manse Crescent residents to the meeting who were concerned about the proposed change of use. He advised HCC had been in touch with COSS and they had been extremely helpful on advising on a possible community asset transfer approach. An alternative would also be a lease arrangement. This would require to be negotiated with Renfrewshire Council with adjacent residents forming a suitable constituted body or potential trust. The wider community could also act as stakeholders sharing a formal interest thereafter.

Stage 1- has been to formally object to the LDP and provide commentary and modifications.

Stage 2- the LDP commentary would be discussed by the Councillors on 29th October

Stage 3 – the agreed LDP would then be submitted to the Scottish Government.

There then followed a brief discussion around groups that had successfully embarked on community asset transfer. Those in particular were highlighted – Erskine Boys Club and Linwood Active. Additionally Brookfield residents had strategically acquired land to protect a vital area of woodland.

4) Police Report

Police officers reported for 21/8 to 18/09 the following incidents, Theft (2) Anti-Social Behaviour (1). Officers reported they had carried out speed checks in the village and found no significant issue during the survey period. It was noted the Police/community sponsored football tournament had gone well and had been won by Houston Primary!!

Finally officers confirmed they would be in attendance at the lights switch on at 5.00pm on 1st December.

5) Councillors Report s

JMcE advised he had received an e mail report from Cllr Dowling and would circulate this to the members.

AD reported on a Council initiative to spray weeds throughout Houston and to pursue the issue of overgrown hedges. She advised the Paisley Fire Works display would go ahead this year and there would also be a major Halloween event in Paisley. Regarding the suggested 20mph speed limit, officers were continuing to work on this. JS informed the Council of the roll out of the Cultural Heritage Investment Fund (CHEF) and this could be a significant opportunity for historic villages such as Houston. He advised Renfrewshire Council was also rolling out a major service restructuring programme.

6) Treasurers Report

JC tabled an update on income and expenditure for the previous month. A copy of this is available on request.

7) Chairman's Report

JMcE advised HCC had submitted comments on the Woodend House POAN. Whilst it was agreeable to providing detailed comments when required the fundamental issue was that the proposal was contrary to the currently approved Local Development Plan. Given that 200 + comments were submitted to the new plan and that it had yet to be approved by the Council and Scottish Government the proposal was presumptuous and premature.

On social media it was agreed to limit official posts during the HCC election period.

The Chair had been updated by Peter Lesley re Community Links. This had now changed to Spaces for Everyone and Sustrans had moved towards the idea of segregated cycle paths. JMcE had advised PL had now submitted the application to them for 5K development funding and it was anticipated a concept design would be ready by April 2020. All seemed to be going well and if successful improved cycle infrastructure could in theory commence in 2022.

8) Action Log

NH took the group through the Action Log and this would be available for the next meeting. All projects were progressing successfully

9) Christmas Lights & Festive Event

MA advised everything remained on track with the organisation of this. The sub group intended to meet with the two pubs to discuss the coordination of their activities. Unfortunately the Council was not supportive of additional power sources this year but it was agreed this was something we could address potentially with points sharing.

The group then scrutinised the school submissions for new designs for this year and after considerable debate it was agreed the 'Santa Hat' and 'Sock with Presents' were the strongest designs this year.

10) AOCB

The group was advised by GW the Ardgryffe bench was currently awaiting a suitable run of weather but would be installed shortly. JM advised the works around the Yew Tree were now well underway. There was a brief discussion about the future role of the secretary. It was agreed to await the appointment of the new Council to establish if there were any volunteers. Failing this the group recommended a part time secretary be recruited.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 7.30pm in the Carrick Centre.