

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
November 2019

Ref: HCC/20/11/2019

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Date: 20/11/19

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 5

Present

Nigel Hobbs (nh)
John Chambers (jc)
Ian Andrew (ia)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Bill Haddow (bh)
Debbie Hobbs (dh)
Jake Fulton (jk)
Janet Mason (jm)
John McEvoy (jmc)
Kathy McFall (km)
Graeme Richardson (gr)

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

HCC position

Chair
Treasurer

Ex Officio

Representing

In Attendance

PC Brian Dick
PC Martin Norwood
Colin Johnson
Craig Ross (cr)
Mirren Murray (mm)

Representing

Police Scotland (ps)
Police Scotland (ps)
GHS Headmaster
GHS Pupil
GHS Pupil

Apologies

David Dunlop (dd)
Mark Arthur (ma)
Pauline Purcell (pp)
Marion McEvoy (mm)
Carol Murray (cm)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Cllr Audrey Doig
Cllr Allison Dowling (ald)
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)
Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)

Representing

Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Renfrewshire Council (rc)
Renfrewshire Council (rc)
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Vice Chair

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

Minutes taken by: Kathy McFall

1) Previous Minutes Noted. Approved by Sharon Chambers and Ian Andrew.

2) Police Report

Police officers reported for 16/10 to 20/11 the following incidents:

Theft by housebreaking (1 garage)

Theft (1 cash, 1 lead)

Common assault (1 child)

Anti-Social Behaviour (1 slash tyres)

Road traffic offences (1 hit and run, 1 speeding no insurance, 1 use motor vehicle to cause damage)

Other (1 communication offence, 2 breach of bail, 1 telephone fraud, 1 suspicious activity at garage).

Officers reported they had carried out speed checks in the village between 12-25th October on 8 separate one-hour occasions. The outcome as follows:

58 speeding vehicles, 34 warnings issued, 24 referred for prosecution, max speed detected 51mph in a 30mph zone with 71% of the 58 stopped being local residents.

3) School Update

Colin Johnson and two senior pupils were welcomed to the meeting. CR advised that the pupil litter picking after lunchtimes continued covering South St and the Co-Op, and after a resident request, were now also covering Burnlea Crescent. Those that took part in the litter picks earned points towards their Saltire award, and the school had racked up a total of 3700 hours in volunteering so far this year. He also reported that over 100 pupils were involved in the upcoming charity sleep-out, alongside other local groups, to be held on 7th December within the school grounds. MM advised that the MADD show due to be presented that evening had had to be postponed due to staff illness; it will be rescheduled after the New Year. An open invite was extended to all HCC members for all upcoming events. A successful anti-bullying event had also taken place with pupils across all years engaging, and it provided a real pupil-teacher focus. MM also encouraged those present to visit a mural at the Showcase Cinema which had been created by pupils doing Advanced Higher Art. Finally CJ proudly wore and displayed the new S6 school tie, which had arrived from the suppliers after a delay with the order!

The Community Council members thanked the pupils and CJ for their report.

4) Update from Pentland Communication on the Proposed Residential Development at Woodend

Barrie Cunning (Pentland Communications), Andrew Duncan (Land Director Cala Homes) and Paul Houghton (DM Hall Chartered Surveyors) attended the meeting to update on the above proposals. They advised that 57 homes were planned as part of the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (LDP), which included 43 4/5 bedroom houses and 14 2 bedroom cottage-style flats that met Renfrewshire Council's guidance for affordable housing (a total of 25% of overall build). As this was the first time that RC had included affordable housing in their plans, final details were not yet available. They advised that the initial consultation on the LDP had ended, and that they (Cala) had commissioned reports from RC and other relevant authorities on schooling, roads, SEPA, environmental health (noise impact), Forestry Scotland etc., all accepting of the proposed development. A Economic Benefits Summary had also been undertaken and presented, alongside drawings of the proposed development. In terms of timescales, there would be no progress until the LDP examination was concluded, which was likely to be in the first quarter of 2020. Cala therefore did not expect any response until early summer 2020, though advised that RC appeared to be supportive of the proposal and had encouraged the submission of an early planning application. There were a few questions from the floor which the team responded too, and NH thanked Cala for attending and providing the update.

5) Councillors Report

None.

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

1. Andrea Lambrou of the Paisley Express is looking for comments on the Woodend House Development. John has forwarded me the comments he sent to the Paisley Gazette back in August 2019. It was agreed these comments would be sent to the Paisley Express along with details of the Cala update.
2. Community Speedwatch – Gordon and I attended. Representatives from Renfrew and Glasgow Police Force along with Chris Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager, Renfrewshire Council. Positive meeting. Summary is:
 - Pilot to run from 29 March to 25 October 2020
 - Police to provide a Unipar speed gun
 - We need to provide high visibility vests (ideally printed with Houston Community Speedwatch)
 - Renfrewshire Council are going to put up signage around all the major routes in and out of Houston/Crosslee promoting the Speedwatch campaign.(Glasgow CC have offered to produce the artwork FOC).
 - 8 volunteers required with vetting submitted prior to Christmas

- Activity to be carried out only in 20 & 30 mph zones, all training to be completed by the police
 - No media publicity prior to one month before launch, Police Scotland will be liaising with local media
3. Planning application for a temporary street traders licence in South Street Houston. A Phillip McIntyre T/A Catering & Italian Street Food, operation on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 16.00 to 23.00. Objected on the grounds of it taking business from local businesses, noise pollution and smell.
 4. Notification of the councils planned works to raise kerbs at the bus stops in Magnus Rd/Gryfebank Av, Fulton Dr/Beatrice Gds and Fulton Dr/Locher Cresc.
 5. John McEvoy attended the Villages Local Partnerships meeting. He reported that the focus of the meeting was on participatory budgeting, and in particular those present were asked to vote on 12 applications for funding of youth groups. Sadly, there were no applications from Houston & Crosslee, and it was felt that HCC could promote and encourage local youth groups to apply for any future funding. Other funding would look favourably on those that focussed on enhancement projects (such as gardening projects) and those that maintained the character of the villages.

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) HCC Communications / PR

NH opened discussions on how we could improve our communication with residents, including the website, social media pages, and reports to The Advertiser. KMF had recently created a Facebook page to sit alongside the Facebook group, which although growing from strength to strength, had lost its focus in terms of HCC announcements and updates. The Facebook page, although it would take a while to establish, would provide us with that focus. IA volunteered to join the social media team, and KMF agreed to discuss outwith the meeting.

10) HCC 4-year Plan

To be discussed in more detail at next meeting included ideas to enhance the War Memorial, sculpture at small roundabout / empty space in that area, a Houston Heritage Trail, memorial benches in parks, a mini woodland in empty wasteland near cemetery, picnic area at Houston dam (above Strathgryffe Tennis Club), and biodiverse corridors within village.

11) Christmas Lights & Festive Event

The subcommittee had met on 17th November and all was in hand. Flyers and posters had been printed and would be distributed this week. DH requested that HCC consider silent fireworks for next year's event. This will be costed in due course.

12) AOCB

- JF had received a query from a resident in relation to junction of Manse Crescent and Old Houston Road – it was agreed the resident should contact NH outlining the details and these will be passed on to the relevant department within Renfrewshire Council.
- Purchase of a trailer for Bee Happy was discussed and approved (cost of £630.00). Insurance to be considered.
- NH reported that a note of interest from GHS student Harry Manley for the secretary role. This was supported in general from Council members, and NH agreed to meet with Harry to discuss further.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Carrick Centre.