

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting

**Ref:** HCC/15/1/2020

**Location:** Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

**Date:** 15/1/20

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Sheet:** 1 of 4

### Present

Nigel Hobbs (nh)  
Kathy McFall (km)  
Graeme Richardson (gr)  
Jake Fulton (jf)  
Ian Andrew (ia)  
Bill Haddow (bh)  
David Dunlop (dd)  
John McEvoy (jm)  
Harry Manley (hm)

### 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  
Minutes Secretary

### HCC Position

Chair  
  
  
  
  
  
Vice Chair

### Ex-Officio

CLlr Audrey Doig (ad)  
CLlr Jim Sheridan (js)  
PC Brian Dick (ps)

### Representing

Renfrewshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Police Scotland

### In Attendance

Elizabeth Lindsay  
Sam Love  
Peter Leslie (pl)

### Representing

Resident  
HPIG  
Resident

### Apologies

Carol Murray  
Pauline Purcell  
Sharon Chambers  
Debbie Hobbs  
CLlr Scott Kerr  
John Chambers  
Mark Arthur  
Gordon Wright

### Representing

Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council

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

**Minutes taken by:** Harry Manley

1) **Previous Minutes** Noted. Approved by Janet Mason and Jake Fulton

2) **Police Report**

Police Officer reported for 20/11/19 to 15/1/20 the following incidents:

- Theft by housebreaking (1 attempt to house and other offences)
- Theft (1 parts of car)
- Robbery (1 in street [car])
- Common assault (1 domestic assault & breach of peace)
- Drug offences (2 possession of drugs)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (1 threats [letter], 1 break window)
- Road traffic offences (1 speeding, 1 careless driving)
- Other (1 credit card fraud, 1 attempted fraud and communications offence)

3) **School Update**

No report for this meeting.

4) **Houston Residents**

**Campaign for crossing on Main Street:** Elizabeth Lindsay attended the meeting to request support from HCC and ask advice on how to proceed given that RC had refused the request after a traffic review. Suggestions included reducing request from a lollipop man to zebra crossing, painted 'slow' signs on road or coordinated parent walks to school. It was also hoped that the upcoming community speedwatch initiative would provide evidence of the need for speed restrictions in the area. Both HCC and councillors confirmed their support for Elizabeth's ongoing campaign.

5) **South Street Play Park Committee**

Sam Love updated those present that the fundraising group was formally established having taken over from the former Houston Playpark Improvement Group (HPIG). The group had lots of fundraising ideas and were looking for available grants to support their initiative. The two primary school and Gryffe High School voted on the name, 'Helicopter Park', for fundraising purposes. A community cookbook to raise funds is underway. Access issues is one of the main concerns of the development.

6) **Houston Pathways**

Peter Leslie reported that £5000 had been awarded to develop the first stage of the project plan – Connecting Houston. This will be done through community engagement (social media and drop-in event), further research by the sub-group, is to be completed by the end of May. There were discussions on how best to do this and PL agreed to draft a summary statement on the proposals that could be shared with residents. Other potential stakeholders include schools and Johnstone Jets Cycling Club.

7) **Councillors' Reports**

JS updated on work around the metal bridge and the bus stops, and asked that any issues on environmental waste uplifts be reported to him.

AD reminded HCC members that the LAP applications had to be in by the end of March and advised caution on requests for additional Christmas lighting. RC 2020/21 budgets should be confirmed by 11<sup>th</sup> of March, dependent on Westminster. Changes also imminent around pupil allocation to denominational schools by Education Board, limited impact on Houston at this point in time.

#### 8) Treasurer's Report

NH tabled an update on income and expenditure for the previous two months. A copy of this is available on request.

#### 9) Chairman's Report

- I. Firstly, can I formally announce that Marion McEvoy has resigned from HCC.
- II. Christmas Light Switch On event on the 1st December 2019 appeared to be a great success, thanks go out to all those involved and in particular Mark Arthur for his planning and co-ordination.
- III. Renfrewshire Council have recommended that the area of South Street/Houstonfield Road be re-surfaced, and consideration is being given for inclusion in their 2020/21 resurfacing program.
- IV. Following on from Jake's conversation with a Manse Crescent resident, the resident contacted me about what they and their neighbours considered the increasing accident risk in entering/exiting Manse Crescent due to the blind bend just down from Manse Crescent and speeding traffic. After some discussion with Renfrewshire Council and a site visit, Renfrewshire Council have decided to paint SLOW markings on the road and erect 'side road ahead' signs in an attempt to improve safety on the junction.
- V. As part of our continuing efforts to improve bus infrastructure we intend to install high access kerbs at the following stops on the dates shown. There will also be additional footway constructed and a slight stop relocation at stop 61401004 to resolve current access issues.
  - a. Magnus Rd after Piper Rd, 3 to 5 February
  - b. Magnus Rd after Forties Rd, 5 to 7 February
- VI. Scottish Government Planning Performance and Fees Consultation - 18 December 2019 to 14 February 2020 has been published. The consultation reflects Scottish Ministers commitment to the principle that any increases to planning fees must be linked to improved performance. The consultation seeks to move planning fees towards covering the costs of determining applications for planning permission as well as seeking views on what additional services which planning authorities provide should be subject to a fee, the circumstances whereby an authority may reduce or waive a planning fee and the introduction of charges for appealing planning decisions.
- VII. From Renfrewshire Council:

We have been asked by Scottish Government if you would consider sharing the information below in relation to the early engagement period for the development of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) with community councils in your area

Please note that the early engagement period for the development of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is now underway. <https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/2020/01/09/national-planning-framework-4-npf4-early-engagement-now-underway/>.

NPF4 will be a long-term plan for Scotland setting out where development and infrastructure is needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth. Forming part of the development plan, it will be key in day-to-day decisions at all levels of planning in Scotland.

The early engagement programme provides people an opportunity to set out their aspirations for a future Scotland and sets out how the planning system can help deliver those aspirations.

The Government's Programme for Engagement explains and highlights the package of engagement opportunities over the coming months to help gather ideas to inform the draft NPF4 that will be published for consultation in September 2020.

The Scottish Government has also opened a Call for Ideas – the Government wants to hear about your priorities for NPF4. It is inviting any comments within the scope of the NPF by 31 March. You can find more information at [www.transformingplanning.scot](http://www.transformingplanning.scot).

**Action:** DD to respond on behalf of HCC.

VIII. THE SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST, MY PLACE AWARDS 2020 - NOMINATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS OPEN

The My Place Awards celebrate community-led built environment projects that have transformed their locality. The Awards honour projects that have excelled in terms of design and community involvement/impact.

10) **Action Log**

NH took the group through the Action Log which will be updated for the next meeting. All projects were progressing successfully.

11) **HCC 4 Year Plan**

NH reminded all to consider future plans and agreed to circulate items already proposed for 4 Year Plan.

12) **A.O.C.B.**

BH raised concerns on the safety of GHS pupils walking down Main Street at lunch time; to be discussed at next meeting with Mr Johnson. BH advised on increase in rental charges for Carrick Centre and asked that all 2020 meeting dates are confirmed.

NH had received communication from Houston TX historical society and had linked them in with local groups.

JM passed on a resident's concern about a missing stone from the wall on the east side of the bridge over the Houston Burn. NH & Cllr to follow up.