

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting

Ref: HCC/17/11/2021

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Date: 17/11/21

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 5

Present

Barry Walker (bw)
David Dunlop (dd)
John Chambers (jc)
Janet Mason (jm)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Jake Fulton (jf)
Kathy McFall (km)
Bill Haddow (bh)
John McEvoy (jmc)
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

Ex-Officio

Councillor Audrey Doig

Representing

Renfrewshire Council

In Attendance

Harry Manley

Representing

Minutes Secretary

Apologies

Ian Andrew
Gordon Wright
Mark Arthur
John Chambers

Representing

Houston Community 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 John McEvoy and David Dunlop.

2) **Police Report**

Police Officer reported for 21/10/21 to 17/11/21 the following incidents:

- Theft (1x Mobile Phone)
- Common Assault (1x assault on Police officer)
- Anti-social (1x disturbance, 1x Breach of the Peace)
- Other (1x extortion, 1x air navigation offence, 1x fraud)

Community Police Report: The community police officers are still seconded to COP-26.

3) **Chairman's Report**

BW received a report from Councillor Kerr advising that the timber bridge is now fully repaired, and there will be a series of meetings in November with Renfrewshire Council and architects to look at the metal bridge and draw up plans for its repair.

BW was contacted by a local resident Asking what Houston Community Council response to the Boundary Commission would be as they are planning on moving Houston to Inverclyde council area

BW reported that he had received correspondence from Renfrewshire Council to advise that they are going to start enforcing the twenty's plenty speed limit. It is currently only advisory.

There was also a complaint about overhanging trees at the Gryffe Nursery, NH contacted Elderslie estates who were looking into who was responsible for the area. BW will get in touch with NH to find out what Elderslie Estates reported.

A further complaint was received regarding the cycle route asking why we couldn't use farmers land in Bridge of Weir for the You Decide campaign.

BW reported that Mark Arthur has made no progress on the micro hydro scheme, as he is currently waiting to meet with the minister. It was also reported that the primary school projectors have arrived and are waiting to be installed, MA is also looking for volunteers to help put up the Christmas lights on Sunday morning.

4) **Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Doig reported that the Boundary Commission looking at allocating seats to the Westminster Parliament was recommending that the Houston Community Council area be split in half, with Craighends falling into a different constituency to Houston Village and Craighends. She asked that as many people as possible write to the Boundary Commission for Scotland asking for the split not to happen.

JMC said that he had looked at the proposal and that the suggested boundary ran along Craighends Road, so Craighends would actually be in the same constituency as the rest of the community council area. He asked Councillor Doig to confirm the situation.

Councillor Doig asked about the cycle path from Bridge of Weir to Houston, what were Sustrans suggesting. DD answered saying Elderslie estates will give some farmland between Houston and Bridge of Weir to construct the cycle path. She asked if the meeting between Sustrans and

Renfrewshire Council had been set up yet. DD advised that there was an ongoing discussion between Peter Leslie and Council Officer. Councillor Doig offered her assistance if required.

Councillor Doig advised she had received a number of emails about kids egging houses. she reported that she has been in contact with the police who will set up patrols around the areas once released from COP-26 duties. Any future incidents should be reported to the police. It is not just been happening in Houston but also in Linwood. Both the Co-op and Spar have refused to sell eggs to teenagers.

5) Treasurer's Report

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

6) Action Log

BW took the group through the Action Log which will be updated for the next meeting

Action 139.0- JF has handwritten text for the leaflet and will meet with KM soon to decide the format and design.

Action 142.0- Gryffe Manor Nursery are angry at people walking through to the back gate of Houston House. KM said we must find out whether people have right of way through Houston House's grounds, before asking Elderslie Estates to provide a pathway through the grounds. DD suggested getting a small group together to meet with Mark Creighton Maitland to discuss this and other matters further. Councillor Audrey Doig said "right of way" applies even on private property.

Action 143.0- Michael Fowles RDC. confirmed to JF that RDC preferred location for planting trees is behind the nursery in Houston.

Action 151.0- still waiting for Cala to set up their Community Liaison Group.

Action 155.0- a number of individuals have made submissions. DD made some suggestions tied in with what we already know is planned for the Connecting Houston project. JF asked if every community was going to get some money from campaign. Councillor Audrey Doig responded saying yes, every community in Renfrewshire will get a share of the money.

All other actions were progressing successfully.

7) Outdoor Gym Update

JMC reported that the RC Board meeting that will decide on the Green Spaces grant to fund the gym has been delayed to 18th January. Some local residents objected to the location of the gym saying that it was too close to their back gardens. Nicola Drummond, JMC, Matt Delaney of the Great Outdoor Gym Company, Graham Ternent of RC parks Department and Louis Jeffrey of Houston United met with the residents. They agreed on an alternative location within Ardgyffe Park which suited everybody and was technically possible from the gym supplier's perspective. Nicola Drummond has allocated an additional £5000 of funding to help with access for disabled people in view of the revised location.

8) Connecting Houston Update

DD met with consultants and Peter Leslie. he reported that the project is going very well but he feels that it is lacking clarity in terms of priorities. The project needs more graphics to help visualise the

plans. The consultants asked us about our community engagement strategy DD said we need to finish the plan first, before contacting local agencies and the wider community.

9) **Queens Jubilee**

HCC needs to speak to Elderslie Estates to see what they have planned. JF suggested the roundabout location to plant the trees, however Renfrewshire Council will not allow trees to be planted in the roundabout. BW suggested planting them at the cenotaph. North Mound was also suggested as a possible location.

10) **HCC 4 Year Plan**

Craigends Grounds- DD suggested that it could help with the connecting Houston project and should be investigated further.

War Memorial Silhouette- SC will pick this back up and move forward with it.

Develop/enhance area behind wall at main roundabout- BW suggested putting a sign to showing the trail around the village as outlined in the leaflet to be produced.

Woodland adjacent to cemetery- JF advised that we are unable to plant trees there but alternative sites have been identified.

Wildflower planting- Renfrewshire Council have dropped wildflower planting project as there was too much objection. It is also too much for Be Happy to take on by themselves.

20 mph speed limit- to be adopted by Renfrewshire Council in all residential areas.

Community Speed watch Initiative- Police have not been in contact and there is no need in view of the above.

Traffic Calming - JMC said HCC must have significant input so that any traffic calming will be appropriate to the nature of the village.

BW asked members to submit any ideas they had for the plan and for projects within Houston to be added to the 4-year plan.

KM suggested looking at what we can do to improve Houston's chances of getting conservation village status.

JMC suggested implementing a 30-mph speed limit on some leisure lanes in Renfrewshire as it is currently 60-mph.

JMC also suggested that we ask Cala Homes to pay for street lighting on Kirk Road between Houston Road and the kirk and from the Georgetown Road to the existing street lighting on Houston Road

JMC also suggested that we ask Renfrewshire Council to improve surface on Barrochan Road from Crosslee to the Deafhillock Roundabout including indentations and flooding problem.

He also suggested putting pressure on the owners of the old Cross Keys building as it is currently sitting empty. Councillor Audrey Doig said that we can only put pressure on the owners of a building if it is unsafe and/or poses a health and safety risk.

11) **A.O.C.B.**

BH asked if there is any news on the phone mast. Cllr Audrey Doig said no. KM suggested asking Renfrewshire Council formally for an update.

JF mentioned that the decorative lamp post that reads 'Houston' has broken and asked Renfrewshire Council to fix the light bulb. He also asked if Renfrewshire Council could repair the "give way" road markings on Fleming Rd going onto South St. Councillor Audrey Doig said she will enquire about both concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.11pm.

Date of next meeting: 19th January 2022.