

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting

**Ref:** HCC/17/05/2023

**Location:** Carrick Centre, Houston

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Sheet:** 1 of 7

### **Present**

Mark Arthur (MA)  
Ian Andrew (IA)  
Kathy McFall (KM)  
Janet Mason (JM)  
John McEvoy (JMc)  
Trevor Hillman (TH)  
Bill Haddow (BA)  
Cllr Alison Ann-Dowling (AAD)  
Cllr Audrey Doig (AD)  
Johnpaul Cassidy (JC)

### **Representing**

Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Renfrewshire Council (RC)  
Renfrewshire Council (RC)  
Resident (R)

### **Apologies**

Cllr David McGonigle (DM)  
Gordon Wright (GW)  
PC Martin Norwood (MN)  
PC Brian Dick (BD)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)  
Houston Community Council (HCC)  
Police Scotland (PS)  
Police Scotland (PS)

Distribution: HCC Members, uploaded onto HCC Website, issued to Renfrewshire Council.

### **Chaired By**

Mark Arthur

### **Representing**

Houston Community Council (HCC)

### **Minutes taken by**

Lucy James

### **Representing**

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
1.0	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>All were welcomed to this month's meeting with all apologies noted above.</p>	Note	
2.0	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of Meeting from 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b></p>		
2.1	<p>HCC/ia highlighted that the minutes incorrectly state that no apologies were received. He agreed to amend the minutes, noting the apology that was received.</p>	HCC/ia	
2.2	<p>HCC/jmc requested a re-amendment to Item 5.3 of the minutes of the March meeting, which was agreed to be made.</p> <p>The minutes will now state that it is in the budget for 20mph limits to be introduced in all residential roads in Renfrewshire, rather than entrances to Houston only.</p> <p>The remainder of the minutes were agreed as a true record of that meeting.</p> <p>Approved by Janet Mason and seconded by Cllr Audrey Doig.</p> <p>No further matters arising / raised.</p>	Note	
3.0	<p><b>Police Report</b></p>		
3.1	<p>PS/mn issued his and PS/bd's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person due to shift pattern and issued his formal report (refer to Appendix A) for review at the meeting.</p> <p>HCC/ma went through the report with the following raised:</p>	Note	
3.2	<p>Children drinking and congregating –It was concluded that this is not a pressing issue if no harm was caused, as it only happens once/twice a year. It was agreed that an eye would be kept on it nevertheless.</p> <p>No further matters arising / raised.</p>	Note	
4.0	<p><b>Councillor's Reports</b></p> <p><u>Councillor Audrey Doig</u> Cllr/AD gave a verbal report at the meeting as noted below.</p>		
4.1	<p>RC/ad confirmed that she has dealt with issues regarding road repairs on Barochan road, which she was informed finished on the day of the meeting. There may be more</p>		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	due to fixing of drainage systems on North and South Street.	Note	
4.2	RC/ad warned of scam letters telling recipients that they owe a false parking fine. She advises residents to contact the police should they receive one.	Note	
4.3	<u>Stewart Milne Planning Application Barochan Road, Houston</u>		
4.3.1	RC/ad confirmed that there is no movement on the development, with nothing put to planning department.	Note	
4.3.2	HCC/ma confirmed he sent David Love an email with concerns regarding the war memorial. He received a response confirming that external parties are contacted as part of planning. The war memorial foundation requested more detail as part of the submission.	Note	
4.3.3	HCC/ma recalled the date 25 <sup>th</sup> May mentioned, but RC/aad confirmed that there has been no papers issued indicating a start date of the development. HCC/ma to follow this up to confirm the relevance of the 25 <sup>th</sup> May.	HCC/ma	
4.3.4	RC/aad confirmed that there is an interim step between submission of application and reviewing by council boards, where officers undergo a review and check for potential issues. The council is not privy to this process. Due diligence is also underway.	Note	
4.3.5	It was concluded that little can be done by HCC at this stage, as even when the application reaches the planning board it will take time before a decision is made. It is likely that the planning stage will last for a long time, with it being impossible to put a timeline on the interim step.	Note	
4.4	RC/ad confirmed that she has received enquiries from people moving into Cala Homes about access to GHS. Her advice is to directly contact the schools that residents would like their children to enter. She confirmed children are only guaranteed access into 1 <sup>st</sup> year of GHS, but there will be spaces in 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> year due to pupils leaving. Both Houston and Bridge of Weir Primary are full.	Note	
4.5	RC/ad does not know why the kerb had been dropped at the Cala Homes development. HCC/km confirmed that all homes on the development are reserved. HCC/ma stated that Strathgryffe Medical Practice put in a supporting email as part of HCC's letter, as a new development will impact the number of GPs required.		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
4.6	R/jc noted that the stretch of Bridge of Weir Road between the big roundabout and St Fillain's has had small patches redone, but the main area with ruts remains an issue. RC/ad confirmed that this will be done on a different occasion as there are 3 different stages of road repair. RC/aad has already raised this to RC, and will follow it up.	Note	
4.7	HCC/th highlighted the lack of notification about road closure in the area. RC/ad confirmed that she sends all information she receives onto HCC. HCC/km highlighted that there is nobody monitoring the admin email address, so it was agreed that this will need to be discussed.  <u>Councillor Allison Ann-Dowling</u> RC/aad gave a verbal report at the meeting as noted below.	RC/aad	
4.8	RC/aad confirmed that buses are a major issue, but most of the issues were covered in the McGills meeting. She commended HCC for prompting McGills to look at a new route, which is something they have never before agreed to do.	Note	
4.9	RC/aad confirmed that as part of the Better Buses Renfrewshire campaign, there will be a public meeting in Tweedie Hall on the 6 <sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. SPT, the minister for transport and a former MSP spokesperson will be attending with other speakers still to be finalised. The aim of the meeting is to start a non-political party staining group, recruiting members of the public to lay out ideas to improve the transport system. A petition will be made, which RC/aad will send on to HCC. She encourages HCC members to attend if they can.	Note	
4.10	RC/aad confirmed that she has dealt with several road safety concerns including the recent hit and run crash on Barochan Road, as well as speeding on Houston Road where there was a near-miss incident with a toddler running onto the road.	RC/aad	
4.10.1	She has a meeting arranged on Monday with one of the senior officers to find out what is happening on Main Street specifically. She has been told it is being reviewed at present and an update will be sent over afterwards. She agreed to pass this onto HCC when she receives it.	Note	
4.10.2	RC/aad confirmed that in the area of the dangerous shortcut often taken by GHS children, a safe and more direct route is being considered.	RC/aad	
4.10.3	RC/aad confirmed that she is starting a campaign to apply pressure on council with traffic calming, as		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	measures have been approved no action has been taken.	Note	
4.10.4	HCC/ia requested to be involved with this as he has been trying to get a meeting with parties from Connecting Houston about the topic.	Note	
4.10.5	HCC/ia confirmed that the Connecting Houston project has plans for all of Houston, and has agreed to take it to next stage with Peter Leslie and reach out to Sustrans for further funding. They are in Stage 2 of production of the Bridge of Weir cycle path.	Note	
4.10.6	With elections coming up, it was proposed that ex-HCC member David Dunlop could be asked to help with only Connecting Houston subject matter to move forward with the plans.	Note	
4.11	RC/aad confirmed that constituents in the area have reported problems when children with support needs are placed in mainstream schools. This is something that she is working on as a long-term aim with councils and elective members. It can take years in a queue for diagnosis and treatment, improvement for this is ongoing.	Note	
4.11.1	RC/aad confirmed that council is under financial stress due to the bill for extra primary school and extension to Park Mains at around £75 million. She confirmed that there is no current suggestion of a school consultation in the Dargavel area. Investment will go to Park Mains.	Note	
4.11.2	There are hopes that the Scottish Government will donate but most of this will fall to RC, with a sum of it needing to be paid upfront. This means that if a larger estate is approved funding for additional infrastructure to accommodate this will not be bountiful.	Note	
4.11.3	Stage 75 of a planning application states that council have got to commit to community benefit, such as building of a school, when an estate is built.	Note	
5.0	<p><b>Action Log Review / Update</b></p> <p>HCC/ia gave a verbal update regarding the progress made over the month. Please refer to the updates on the attached action log for further details.</p> <p>No further matters arising / raised.</p>	Note	
6.0	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>HCC/km gave a verbal treasurer's report for the month of April prior to the meeting and confirmed a current balance of £12,976.44 (Refer to Appendix B).</p>	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	No further matters / items raised.		
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Chair's Report</b>		
<b>7.1</b>	HCC/ma issued a copy of his report prior to the meeting (refer to Appendix C) and went through the report at the meeting. The following was raised:	Note	
<b>7.2</b>	Coronation – the coronation plaque will be organised. Six oak trees from last year have died, so once a quote has been received from Bee Happy it will be sent to Houston Farms who will pay for them to be hopefully replaced.	Note	
<b>7.3</b>	Café at the Carrick – HCC/ma confirmed that the café refurbishment is almost complete, with furniture still to be ordered. Someone to take over the café is required. HCC/ma will speak to Angus about addition of a ramp directly accessing the café under a future project.	HCC/ma	
<b>7.4</b>	Lights Switch-On – HCC/ma admitted that he missed the deadline of 2 applications for £1,500-£2,000 for fireworks and school motifs. There should be an Events RC fund coming out after the summer. HCC/ma will do the application in August. HCC/km suggested set up of sub-committee. HCC/ma will chair with HCC/ia, HCC/th and HCC/jm as members.	Note	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>HCC Matters Arising / Correspondence since the previous meeting for Discussion / Decision</b>		
<b>8.1</b>	<u>Stewart Milne Planning Application Barochan Road, Houston.</u> <u>Case Ref RE30259 (raised by HCC/ma)</u> This item was discussed earlier in the meeting (see item 4.3)	Note	
<b>8.2</b>	<u>Carrick Centre Café Refurbishment (raised by HCC/ma)</u> This item was discussed earlier in the meeting (see item 7.3)	Note	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Review of Houston and Crosslee Ward Residents Emails / Communications in the Period by</b>		
<b>9.1</b>	<u>Exception (review by HCC/ma)</u> HCC/ma to respond to 2 residents' emails regarding coronation bunting. Where it will be stored depends on its condition when it comes down. Flags will be recycled, but some of bunting will hopefully be kept.	Note	
<b>9.2</b>	It was previously agreed that Michelle would be invited to the next meeting due to full agenda of the current meeting. She's coming to talk about different environmental issues such as cycle lanes etc.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
9.3	HCC/ma confirmed that he received an email from Nicola Drummond informing that RC will deliver training sessions to increase biodiversity in the area and she asked HCC/ma to attend. He responded by copying in Jake from Bee Happy explaining that this is now their role.	Note	
10.0	<b>AOB</b>  Trophy for tug of war at Houston Show started by HCC – It was agreed that this could be taken back up this year. HCC/bh to investigate getting the trophy re-silvered. HCC/km will speak to Mo Lyle about running the competition.	HCC/bh HCC/km	
11.0	Date and Time of next meeting 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm		
12.0	Distribution HCC members and uploaded onto HCC website and issued to Renfrewshire Council.		
	The meeting was closed by HCC/ma at 9.10pm		

## APPENDIX A

**OFFICIAL**



### HOUSTON & CROSSLEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MAY2023

#### Update from Previous Meeting

#### Crime Summary

Between 19<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May there have been a total of 10 recorded crimes, 5 have so far been detected.

CRIME/OFFENCES OF NOTE	NUMBER	DETECTED	CONTEXT
Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt	0	0	
Theft	2	0	1 x tower batteries, 1 x car & hit and run
Robbery	0	0	
Serious Assault	0	0	
Common Assault	2	2	1 in house, 1 in street
Drug Offences	0	0	
Anti-Social (breach of the peace/vandalism/street drinking)	4	2	1 x breach of the peace towards police officers, 1 x break windows on equipment, 1 x shout/swear/make threats, 1 x cause fear & alarm/suspicious behaviour
Road Traffic Offences	1	1	1 x drink driving
Other	1	0	1 bogus workman fraud

#### Crime Trends and Policing Priorities

#### Community Police Report

(Include focus of activity, any initiatives, partnership working)

**OFFICIAL**



**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Title:** Houston Community Council Monthly Meeting  
**Report Purpose:** Chair's Report  
**Issue Date:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
**Author:** Mark Arthur

---

**1.00 Activities completed since last meeting attended (15<sup>th</sup> March 2023)**

1.01 King's Coronation – I would like to thank the HCC sub committee and particularly Trevor for organising the baking competition in conjunction with the River Inn. Also, a big thank you to Jason and his team at the River Inn.

The three main activities led by HCC were

- Bunting and Coronation flags in the village and Crosslee
- Coronation baking competition at the River Inn.
- Planting of oak tree and commemorative plaque just below the Bee Happy Houston orchard.

1.02 Supported Houston Old School Trust to complete the refurbishment of the Carrick Centre Café.

**2.00 Activities to be carried out before the next meeting that I can attend in person (16<sup>th</sup> August 2023)**

2.01 Commence with planning this years Xmas lights switch on and liaise with the schools regarding their usual participation with motif competition winners and festive window displays in Carrick Centre.

**3.00 Urgent Matters to Raise**

3.01 None

End of Report



Mark Arthur  
on behalf of Houston Community Council