

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 14 June 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths

Betty Logan

Jim Logan

Donald Macdonald (Chair)

Jackie Mullin (Vice Chair)

Anne Mullin

Marlene Niblock

Jack Scott

Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Mhorag Murphy (Resident – Menteith Avenue)

Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)

Community Police Officers

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present.

AOCB

Wilma asked that an item on lets for the forthcoming year be included and this was agreed.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2010 was proposed by Jack and seconded by Jackie.

Matters arising

Donald intimated matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 17 May 2010 were as follows:-

- Menteith Avenue
- Caterpillar Corridors
- Family Fun Day.

Chair's Report

Donald report the following undertaken by him since the last meeting.

- Attended meeting in capacity of Town Centre Development Community Representative (Champion).
- Attended Bishopbriggs Community Council.
- Provided information to Bishopbriggs Herald in connection with query raised at Community Council meeting regarding Bishopbriggs Academy Section 75 agreement.
- Conducted correspondence regarding another infringement of planning conditions by developers at Bishopbriggs Academy.
- Attended a series of meetings regarding Group participation Bishopbriggs Cycle Festival in Etive Park.
- Contacted Menteith Avenue residents regarding proposed resurfacing work.
- Met with Police Constable Peter McNicol regarding Section 75 money for facilities to support cycle journeys to the Bishopbriggs Academy development.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma indicated that there had been no income received during the past month. Expenditure had, in the main, been in connection with the additional invoices received in connection with the Rock Concert and the Hustings events, both of which had been held in April. Donald emphasised that it should be remembered that monies had been received from outside sources to cover the security for the event and the purchase of equipment. Also it should also be remembered that the Group now has now accumulated extremely good quality equipment, all of which could be hired out to other groups thus bringing in some modest revenue for

the Group. Wilma asked that a list of the equipment now owned by the Group be made available for information at the next meeting. Donald agreed to do this.

Returning to the report Wilma intimated that all other expenses are those incurred on a regular monthly basis ie public liability insurance, lets, etc. Concluding her report Wilma informed the Group had she had passed to the auditor the Group's Income and Expenditure for the year April 2009 to March 2010. This had been passed and approved: the paperwork is now available for members of the Group to view.

Police Report

As there were no Police representatives, it was decided to leave this item in abeyance until the next meeting.

However, Wilma informed the Group that during a telephone conversation that afternoon with Inspector John O'Neill he had conveyed his apologies for the lack of police presence at the meetings. He had gone on to say that, given sufficient notice, he would endeavour to organise the shifts of his Community Police Officers in order that one or both could attend a meeting. When the date for the September meeting had been confirmed Wilma agreed to contact Inspector O'Neill.

Menteith Avenue – Traffic

Donald reported that EDC intended to resurface the Menteith Avenue week beginning Monday 21 June: the work would take place over a period of five days. He went on to say that this news had been received with dismay by the residents as it was felt to resurface the road, this removing all the potholes would only encourage cars to speed even more. They felt also that, following resurfacing, it was less likely that any vehicle calming measures would be put in place, for example, "humps" on the road. Following a lengthy discussion it was apparent that the consensus was that EDC should use part of the money set aside for resurfacing to "patch up" the avenue, using the balance remaining to put in place an effective traffic management system.

It was agreed Donald would make approaches both to the Evening Times and Bishopbriggs Herald informing them of the plight of the residents in the hope that EDC would reconsider/change their plan or at least delay the work taking place until further discussions could take place.

Wilma informed the Group that during her conversation with Inspector O'Neill he had indicated that he and his officers had recently received the latest "laser speed camera" for use in the area. At the moment he and his officers are awaiting training on the use of this equipment. He also said that this equipment is regarded as being more effective in bringing prosecutions in speed cases and, in his opinion, would be particularly useful in Menteith Avenue. Once more he had indicated his willingness to have Menteith Avenue residents accompany his officers when using this type of equipment, although he did indicate the response to his last invitation to do so had been disappointing.

Woodhill Road - Parking Bays

Following a recent conversation with Community Support Officers regarding the inconsiderate and dangerous vehicular parking in Woodhill Road, Donald had asked Robert Lowe to investigate the ownership of the pavement surrounding the shops, together with the land at the rear of the shops. It should be noted that this item had been visited in the past and a plan to overcome the parking problems and congestion drawn up, but it had not been possible to progress the item at that time. It may be that this would be even more difficult to address following the location of the pedestrian crossing. However, Donald would report further on this item when this information is available.

Bishopbriggs Academy - Infringement (including Woodhill Primary School)

Donald intimated that further correspondence had taken place between himself, Nigel Hooper, Planning Manager and Alan Aitken, Senior Planner EDC in connection with bank holiday working carried out without notification to residents. He had also made mention of the apparent "unsafe" practice of lorries moving around the site close to the "mound" of earth which had been created (and being added to on a daily basis) on Wester Cleddens Road whilst school children are in the close vicinity. This correspondence had proved rather frustrating and to date had not reached a satisfactory conclusion on either count. Donald would report further on this at the next meeting.

However, whilst researching the planning conditions associated with the so-called surplus land, Donald had discovered that a sum of £50500.00 had been attached to it for “play” facilities to be located nearby. It is important, he felt, that this sum of money should be used for its designated purpose and not instead become part of an amount used for another project, for example, the bus turning circle. The Group should monitor this situation once planning permission is granted for this area.

Donald asked if progress had been made regarding the height of the earth now level with the upper floors of the properties in Thrums Avenue. Marlene and Wilma were able to report that a meeting with representatives from Morgan Ashurst plc, EDC, Ms Lorna Kenney (Head Teacher Woodhill Primary School) and Councillor Alan Moir had taken place on Wednesday 2 June.

Following a site meeting, it was agreed that the earth would be taken back some 50 per cent with a gradual slope from this new point to the fence being created. The earth which will be removed to do this would then be used to construct a raised bed and “Telly Tubby” type mounds of earth (requested by the children) put in place as an additional play area for the children.

The preferred option would, of course, for the earth not to be there in the first place, but the compromise offered by the Morgan Ashurst plc and EDC was accepted by Marlene.

There had been other problems raised by Wilma at the meeting. It is hoped that the responses/promises received by her on the day would be carried out in the spirit in which they had been accepted by her. Some element of doubt was cast on Wilma’s faith and optimism. Time alone would tell if this had been misplaced.

Caterpillar Corridors

As indicated at the previous meeting plants are still not available to pass out to those who have requested them. Donald would continue to monitor the situation. In the event that it was not possible to acquire/distribute the plants, Donald was confident that Wylie Lochhead would be amenable to the money donated by them to be used for another project within the community. Donald would report on this at the next meeting.

Community Support Officers

As far as the Group is aware, the situation appears unchanged at the time of the meeting.

Concert in the Courtyard

Donald indicated that he intended to proceed with the Concert in the Courtyard and had requested a let for the afternoon of Saturday 28 August 2010. He would take total responsibility for the organising the event and would only ask for help on the day in the following areas.

- Purchasing stock for the tuck shop.
- Staffing the tuck shop on the day.
- Help advertising/promoting the event through lunch clubs, etc.

All of the above was acceptable to the Group and members agreed to help when and where required.

Family Fun Day 2010

Donald intimated that unfortunately the proposed meeting between himself and Wilma had not take place since the last meeting, commitments on both sides had prevented this. However, as the date of the event was fast approaching it was intended that this should take place in the very near future. Final details of the event would be notified to all members of the Group as soon as they were available.

Town Centre

As a town centre Champion he had met recently with Thomas Glen, Head of Development and Enterprise, EDC. Mr Glen’s background is working with the community and it was apparent during their meeting that he is keen that there is real consultation in the hope that the community is provided with something more acceptable than what is currently on offer. Regrettably, however, it may be that at the end of the day it will simply come down to money.

However, not to be discouraged it is intended to hold a “workshop” in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 24 June to which all members of the community will be invited to attend and to make their thoughts and aspirations known. Although planners and elected members can attend, they will do so only in the capacity as observers. The event will be advertised in the local paper. It is hoped the local paper will also carry an article by Dominic Notarangelo, Chair of the Champions, providing more historical and current detail.

Lets for 2010 – 2011

Wilma intimated that she had applied to EDC for next year’s lets. However, at the time of the meeting she is still awaiting confirmation, but, as soon as this is received she will e-mail/mail a note of these to all members of the Group.

The meeting ended at 09.00 pm.