

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 7 December 2009

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths

William Jerrett

Councillor Gordan Low

Donald Macdonald (Chairman)

Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)

Anne Mullin

Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)

Tom Russell

Jack Scott

Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

David Watson (Resident -
Menteith Avenue)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Alan Moir

Welcome

Donald welcomed those present.

Wilma asked that a possible social event for Group members be considered.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of previous meeting was proposed by Jackie and seconded by Jack.

Matters arising

There were no "matters arising" from last month's minutes.

Chair's Report

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

- Held electronic meeting with Gillian Telfer, Bio-Diversity Officer, East Dunbartonshire Council regarding funding opportunities for Caterpillar Corridors
- Provided comment to Bishopbriggs Herald regarding the incident at the Woodhill Shops.
- Contacted Bishopbriggs Herald regarding non-publication of photographs for Briggs in Bloom bulb planting and presentation of cheque from Wylie Lochhead.
- Secured agreement from East Dunbartonshire Taxi Operators Association for £100 charity prize for Christmas Light Competition
- Updated website with Santa Contact details.
- Confirmed free let with Woodhill Evangelical Church for screening of "It's a Wonderful Life"
- Set up shops and library to distribute free tickets for "It's a Wonderful Life".
- Visited shops, etc to check uptake of "free" tickets for "It's a Wonderful Life".
- Along with Vice Chair secured vintage car for photo shoot for "It's a Wonderful Life"
- Raised Menteith Avenue speeding problem with Inspector O'Neill at Bishopbriggs Community Council.
- Drafted letter for publication in Bishopbriggs Herald regarding Town Centre Master Plan.
- Offered advice to South Crosshill Residents regarding Town Centre Master Plan.
- Bought gifts for Santa's Lucky Dip at Farmers' Market.
- Attended Farmers' Market along with Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer (and husband).

- Attended Torrance “Christmas Light Switch On” with Group’s PA equipment.

Treasurer’s Report

Wilma reported that during the past month income had exceeded expenditure, due entirely to the cheque received from Wylie Lochhead to be used for the Catterpillar Corridors project. The funds of the Group continue to remain in a healthy position.

As Peter had another engagement to attend it was decided to set aside the agenda and invite Peter to speak.

Incident – Woodhill Road

Peter referred to the incident which had occurred on Wednesday 2 December in Woodhill Road, providing as much detail as he was permitted to do. The safety of school children, residents, shopkeepers etc had been paramount and he was happy to report that there had been no problems resulting from the “lockdown” of the area. It was evident that his being in post within Bishopbriggs Academy had greatly assisted the smooth evacuation and return of pupils, who would normally go to the shops in Woodhill Road. All children in Woodhill Primary School and Bishopbriggs Academy had been contained within the safety of the school building for the duration of the incident.

Peter confirmed that although St Helen’s Primary School had been informed of the situation, it was not felt necessary for any action to be taken, for example, to keep the children confined to the school building during their lunch break.

Charlie referred to a recent incident involving a vehicle reversing towards children at the corner of Kirriemuir Road: the incident had involved his daughter. Peter responded by saying that the driver in this particular incident had been spoken to. He went on to say that he regularly warned drivers at this corner who park on the wide pavement outside the dentists’ surgery as well as those who park on the double yellow lines. Despite the fact that tickets have been issued on many occasions problems persist.

It was suggested that designated parking bays be created outside the shops on Woodhill Road with a set “short” time allocated to them.

Mention was made of the drivers who continue to use the “disabled” bay. Although currently it is not possible to penalise drivers who use such bays, Cllr Low confirmed that a list was being drawn up of all such bays in EDC with the intention of making them enforceable.

Concluding discussion on this item, Peter confirmed that he would speak with the local police officers and the traffic warden with the hope of tightening up the situation in the area.

Menteith Avenue – Traffic

Once more a lengthy discussion began on the overall traffic problems within the Woodhill area. Also raised were the problems experienced by residents in Pentland caused by inconsiderate drivers blocking driveways.

Returning in particular to the request for speed bumps in Mentelth Avenue, Cllr Low read out to the Group the criteria developed by the Traffic and Transportation Team used to assess and prioritise traffic management schemes. Such schemes are reviewed and prioritised annually and when appropriate proposals are subsequently submitted for funding approval. If traffic calming measures such as road humps are identified then, the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order

would be required. This is a legal process which is open to objection by any member of the public and can take up to a year to complete.

When the results of the recent survey carried out on Menteith Avenue have been collated and analysed, the road will be assessed and prioritised for future traffic management measures using the criteria enumerated earlier to the Group.

Once more the speed bumps on Angus Avenue were raised and the criteria used for these. Peter was able to confirm that on this particular occasion the bumps were sited there due to the number and regularity of vehicular accidents in the area, particularly when exiting onto Woodhill Road.

Returning once more to Menteith Avenue, it was noted that the variable speed sign had been out of action for a considerable time. Cllr Low agreed to look into this and report back when possible. Mention was also made on the positioning of the sign which is directly in line with the front window of the property where it is located. Indeed it was also felt that it would have been better placed further down the avenue at a point at which it is more likely that vehicles will have built up speed.

David intimated that there were only two properties at which he had not been able to gain a signature for the petition. One of these was currently unoccupied and at the other he was confident that he would have “signed up” over the next couple of days. Donald looked forward to receiving the fully completed petition either before or at the next meeting of the Group on 18 January.

Peter agreed to take the petition to Inspector O’Neil to add weight to the offer made by him at the recent Community Council meeting on 17 November 2009. On this occasion he had offered to bring along a speed camera to demonstrate to the residents the actual speeds at which vehicles were driven on the road as he felt that the “perception” of speed was not always the “actual” speed.

Donald then proposed the following.

- The completed survey should be returned either before or at the next meeting of the Group.
- When available, Peter will take a copy of this to Inspector O’Neil.
- A meeting set up with Inspector O’Neil to pursue a demonstration of the speed camera.
- The variable sign to be repaired and, if possible, re-located.
- Invite along to the next meeting a member of the Traffic and Transportation Team.

Concluding discussion on this item it was suggested that an “extraordinary” meeting of the Group should be held to discuss this matter at which Councillors Low, Moir and O’Donnell would be invited along with David Whitton MSP and Jo Swinson MP. Cllr Low agreed to this in principle.

Peter left the meeting at this point.

Referring back to the recent situation in Woodhill Road, it was felt that the efficient and effective manner in which Peter had dealt with this event should be recorded and mention of this passed through to his superiors. Donald agreed to do this.

Gatso Speed Camera

A suitable location for this was yet to be identified.

Caterpillar Corridors

As already indicated in Chair’s report, Donald had an informative “electronic” meeting with Gillian Telfer, Biodiversity Officer within EDC regarding funding for this project. Although no useful

conclusions had been reached it was clear that a further meeting was required and it was agreed that this should take place early in the New Year.

With regard to the stand of trees it proposed for Etive Park Donald informed the Group that he was currently speaking with Scottish Water to establish a suitable area for planting which would not affect Board infrastructure.

Woodhill Primary School – Wild Flower Planting

Donald confirmed that David, Jackie and himself along a member of the Morgan Ashurst plc had gone along to Woodhill Primary School to assist the “senior” pupils to cut away turf to allow the planting of the wild flowers which had been provided by EDC and CSFT. It did not take long to realise that this was an impractical task which was then abandoned. The following Sunday armed with a “turf cutter” kindly supplied and paid for by David, Charlie, Jack, Richard Scott and Donald made quick work of turning back the turf in the area, leaving it for the children to plant the flowers. It was hoped to report further on this in the future.

Thomas Muir Building

Donald indicated that there had been two occasions on which he had needed to contact Morgan Ashurst, both of which were in connection with the fence between the Thomas Muir Building and Woodhill Primary School which had been pulled down. On each occasions the fence had been re-erected without delay.

Bishopbriggs Academy

Torr Road: Unfortunately there had been a further delay in setting up the promised meeting with John Simmons, Corporate Director (Community) of EDC and Councillors. Following a brief discussion, Gordon agreed to approach his fellow Councillors in the hope of setting up a meeting early January 2010.

Amphitheatre: Donald indicated that it would appear that an impasse has been reached in this regard and as a consequence he intended to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Community Council due to be held on Tuesday 15 December.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald informed the Group that residents in and around South Crosshill Road were to hold a meeting on Monday 14 December to air their concerns regarding the plans for the Town Centre. The meeting will be held in the Leven Room, Woodhill Evangelical Church. He also indicated that he had been advising the residents and had been invited to speak at the event.

He went on to say that if there is a “real” master plan, all residents should have an input into this. At the end of the development Bishopbriggs should not simply be left with a “bigger supermarket and bigger car park”. To this end he has composed a letter intended for publication in the Bishopbriggs Herald.

Concluding his comments he stressed the need for the Community Council to take a lead on this. It may be that a steering group should be created comprising all interested groups. This is an opportunity for Muse Developments to engage with the community and in so doing prove their credibility.

Boundary Issue

Donald indicated that he had not yet written to the Boundary Commission supporting the “revising” of the proposal that the properties in Princes Gate remain within EDC. Cllr Low confirmed that

there was still time to do so before the deadline and Donald confirmed that he would contact the Commission without delay.

Bands in the Briggs

Donald confirmed that there was nothing further to report on this event at this time.

Cycling Initiative – “Peddle the Parks”

At the point there was nothing further to report on this event.

Adobe Connect

Donald confirmed that a response was still awaited from the Community Chest for the purchase of Adobe Connect. He understood that this would occur some time in February. He would report further at that time.

Awards for All

Donald reported that the Group’s application to Awards for All in connection with next September’s Family Fun Day had been unsuccessful on the basis that the Group had already received a grant and next year’s event was not significantly different to the event for which a grant had been received. Although this was not entirely unexpected, it was a little disappointing. However, it was intended to make a further application for funding for the forthcoming “Bands in the Briggs” event and it was hoped to report more positively on this in the future..

Farmers’ Market

Donald confirmed that Jack, Wilma and himself had attended the Farmers’ Market on Saturday 5 December. Following an invitation from the Group, Santa Claus had also come along which made several children very happy. The opportunity had also been taken to promote the forthcoming showing of “It’s a wonderful life”.

“It’s a wonderful life”

Donald confirmed that tickets had been distributed around various outlets throughout the area: it was also promoted at the recent Farmers’ Market as indicated above. He also confirmed that the DVD had been tested in location and the picture and sound qualities were incredible. Members of staff and friends of the Hub will be providing festive fare. Although the event will be completely free of charge, it is intended to make available facilities for people to make donations if they so wish.

Dropped Kerbs

Cllr Low confirmed that since the last meeting he had heard from the Director of Development and Infrastructure which indicated that work will be undertaken to drop the kerbs at the junction of Kirriemuir and Woodhill Roads. He also confirmed that it was intended to include this in the programme of works to be carried out within the current financial year.

Crossing – Woodhill Road

Cllr Low confirmed that he had received a response from the Traffic and Transportation Roads Service within EDC which indicated that a quotation had been received from Scottish Power to carry out the work necessary to provide power to the traffic lights at Woodhill Road. It was hoped that this work would be programmed in as soon as practically possible: EDC would monitor the position and “speed up” the process when required.

Notice was also taken of remedial works required at the site.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in English English Classroom (F014) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 18 January 2010.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.