

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 15 March 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Constable Paul Docherty
(Community Police Officer)
Charlie Griffiths
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
Constable Peter McNicol
(Campus Cop, Bishopbriggs Academy)

Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)
Mhorag Murphy (Resident – Menteith Avenue)
Jack Scott
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Gordan Low
Councillor Alan Moir
Councillor Michael O'Donnell

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present and in particular Mhorag Murphy, a member of the Menteith Avenue "Local Resident Group".

AOCB

Jack asked for the behaviour of the school children to be raised and Donald agreed to include this under the "Bishopbriggs Academy – update".

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2010 was proposed by Jackie and seconded by Jack.

Matters arising

There were no "matters arising" from the meeting on 15 February 2010.

Chair's Report

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

- Completed and submitted funding application for Bands in the Briggs.
- Conducted various communications with Lets Department within East Dunbartonshire Council.
- Set up meeting with bands.
- Received funding confirmation for Adobe Connect project.
- Attended various meetings in connection with "champion role" in connection with the Town Centre.
- Assisted Cleddens Resident Group with leaflet distribution.
- Obtained information regarding fulfillment of Section 75 legal agreement for Bishopbriggs Academy.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma confirmed that the grant from Voluntary Action had been received. Since the last meeting there was only one withdrawal ie the direct payment for the Group's public liability insurance.

Caterpillar Corridors

Donald was disappointed to report that it seemed unlikely that the Group would be able to progress this item as far as originally thought. Instead he suggested that the monies which had been received from Wylie Lochhead should be used to purchase plants to be given “free of charge” to local gardeners. It was hoped to have an article in the local press and on the Group’s website to this effect. A brief discussion took place on suitable plants, at the end of which Jackie agreed to source plants appropriate for the Scottish climate and to report back to the next meeting.

It was also suggested that plants more suitable for planting at the back end of the year, could be handed out at the Family Fun Day and this was agreed.

Woodhill Primary School – Wild Flower Planting

Donald reported with regret that the ground which had been prepared by removing and setting aside the turf had been bulldozed over. However, he was able to report that it was intended to reinstate this at the conclusion of the work currently being carried out in the school grounds to establish play/sports facilities for the local primary/senior school children.

Menteith Avenue – Traffic/ Police report – Parking/Parking Bays

Donald opened discussion on this item by asking Mhorag and Charlie if there had been any improvement in the traffic situation in Menteith Avenue. Mhorag intimated that vehicles parking on the pavement continue to cause problems both to pedestrians and residents who live nearby. In response both officers indicated that although it is acknowledged this is not ideal, there are instances where it is expedient to allow this.

With regard to the siting of the new vehicle activated sign, both Charlie and Mhorag felt that it could have been placed in a more strategic position. However they accepted that due to the fact that it is solar powered, the new location is perhaps the only suitable one in the circumstances.

Charlie agreed to continue corresponding with David Devine, Head of Roads and Neighbourhood Services and David Russell, Technician – Traffic within East Dunbartonshire Council. He would do so with particular regard to the items referred to in the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2010 and which to date had not been addressed.

Constable Docherty intimated that the police presence in Menteith Avenue with a radar gun had not yielded any particular surprises with regard to “speeding”. With high viz jackets it does not take long for word to spread and for everyone to keep to the speed limit. However, motorists who regularly use this route are now aware that there may from time to time be a police presence in the area and this in itself may be a deterrent to those wishing to speed.

He also intimated that several individuals had been spoken with following complaints received from residents. This was in response to Inspector O’Neill’s promise to follow up any evidence of dangerous vehicle movements on the avenue.

Police Report

Constable McNicol intimated that reports had been received regarding pupil behaviour in the streets and lanes surrounding the Academy. These are now being addressed both by himself and the Senior Management Team within the Academy. In most instances this relates to dropping litter and general “high spirits”. In defence of the pupils with regard to litter, Constable McNicol stated that the lack of litter bins did no help the situation.

Concluding his remarks he indicated that he felt that there were more positive aspects regarding pupil behaviour on which to focus and promised to pass on information to this effect so that it might be recorded.

Donald referred to the wall which is now in place adjacent to the lane between Ochil and Clair Roads which is presently an ideal background for graffiti. Referring to the anticipated cutback to the Council’s graffiti team, he asked if either office knew who would pay for the removal of this were it to appear. Both officers anticipated that since this was within school grounds, it would fall to Spie Matthew Hall who currently provide support of all aspects of building services within the Academy.

Bishopbriggs Academy

Donald referred Section 75 agreement for Bishopbriggs Academy with regard to the financial contribution of £10000.00 which had been given by the developers for the expansion/upgrading of associated surrounding cycle-path networks. On enquiring about this he was informed that following a report from the Energy Savings Trust, it had been recommended that this money should be used to upgrade the crossing point opposite the pedestrian entrance on Angus Avenue and although not a cycle path it could be utilised as a toucan crossing. Furthermore following consideration of possible cycle routes around the school, it was decided that this sum of money would make no substantive difference to the quality of any paths. Finally it was decided that the school children should be given the opportunity to suggest ideas as to how this money should be spent and carried out in the next financial year.

Donald has requested a copy of the report from the Energy Savings Trust and in the meantime would raise this matter at the meeting of the Community Council due to be held on the following evening.

Adobe Connect

Donald referred once more to the money received from Voluntary Action which is intended for use to set up a "video conferencing system" to be used in conjunction with the Group's meetings. This will be used to purchase web cameras and microphones. It is hoped to set a "trial" in the very near and he would report further at the next meeting.

Community Support Officers

After a brief update, it was agreed that the Group should continue to monitor the situation and offer whatever help possible when appropriate.

General Election 2010 - Hustings

Donald indicated that the Bishopbriggs Churches Together were willing to work alongside the Group to organise a hustings. He added that he was poised to organise a suitable let and contact the various candidates/parties whenever the date of the forthcoming election was announced. The Group's PA system and microphones as referred to above would be used at this event.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald gave a brief background to this item and the part being played by him in his "champion role" as referred to in previous minutes. He concluded by reminding those present of the proposed meeting to be held in the Eagle Lodge Oregano Suite at 7.00 pm on Thursday 18 March to which all members of the community had been invited.

Mhorag left the meeting at this point.

Community Cinema

Donald acknowledged that this item had not progressed since the last meeting. He did, however, inform the Group that permission had been received from Woodhill Evangelical Church to hold the cinema evenings there. The Church also indicated their willingness to offer catering facilities with Hub at the conclusion of the evening, any profit from this rightly going to the Church funds.

Further discussion on this item would take place at a future time as the Group was currently involved in two other projects.

Concert

Donald updated the meeting on the current position regarding the forthcoming Bands in the Briggs concert to be held in Bishopbriggs Academy on Friday 23 April 2010. He concluded by informing the Group that, along with Wilma, he would be meeting with the bands the following evening to discuss the various details.

There were currently two bands "signed up" and it was hoped to add a third. Donald was actively pursuing this and would confirm details of the proposed event at the next meeting.

Family Fun Day 2010

Donald reported that a booking had been placed and confirmed to supply bouncy castles for this year's Family Fun Day to be held on Sunday 19 September 2010. He was also pleased to report that this was at a reduced rate from that paid last year.

Although he would be applying to various sources for help towards the cost of the event, he felt in the current climate that this may not be possible and that the Group would have to finance the entire event. Since the Group currently has a relatively healthy bank balance it was not thought that this would be unreasonable.

Boundary Issue

Donald was pleased to report that a satisfactory outcome had been achieved for the residents of Princes Gate.

Dropped Kerbs

Jackie reported that to date the promised work had not yet been carried out, although there was still time remaining before the conclusion of the current financial year. In the meantime, using Anne's scooter he agreed to "attempt" various exit routes from his home thereby anticipating the pavements/kerbs which might be designated by East Dunbartonshire Council.

Crossing – Woodhill Road

Donald was pleased to report that the crossing on Woodhill Road was now operational. As well as offering a safer crossing route for pedestrians on Woodhill Road, it is anticipated that this will alleviate the problems experienced by residents exiting the feeder roads.

History Project

Donald reported that due to other pressing commitments he had been unable to progress this matter further, but would try to do so over the next few weeks and to report further at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in English English Classroom (or other venue designated on the evening) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 19 April 2010

The meeting ended at 08.55 pm.