

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 17 May 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths

Betty Logan

Jim Logan

Donald Macdonald (Chair)

Jackie Mullin (Vice Chair)

Anne Mullin

Mhorag Murphy (Resident – Menteith Avenue)

Marlene Niblock (Resident – Thrums Avenue)

Jack Scott

Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Alan Moir

Councillor Michael O'Donnell

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present.

AOCB

There were no matters to be raised under this item.

Minutes

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

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 19 April 2010.

Chair's Report

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

- Along with Matthew Lamb and Wilma Scott he had managed the "Bands in the Briggs" event on Friday 23 April 2010.
- Along with Matthew Lamb and Wilma Scott he had managed and chaired the "General Elections Hustings" on Monday 26 April 2010.
- Contacted Bishopbriggs Academy Support Services/Janitors and EDC Lets Department regarding the proposed "Concert in the Courtyard".
- Contacted EDC Music Service regarding the provision of a Big Bank for the "Concert in the Courtyard".
- Currently in contact with EDC Planning Department regarding Planning Condition Infringement.
- Contacted Jupiter Plants regarding the supplying of plants for the "Caterpillar Corridors".
- Attended Bishopbriggs Community Council.
- Attended meeting in relation to Bishopbriggs Town Centre.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma indicated that during the past month the Group's expenditure had exceeded the income partly due to the payment for the additional equipment purchased as an addition to the existing PA system and partly due to the monies spent hosting the Bands in the Briggs and the General Election Hustings. However, it should be remembered that money had been received East Dunbartonshire Council Quality of Life Fund to cover the cost of this additional equipment. With regard to the money spent on hospitality and a tuck shop, a modest stock remained which could be used at future fund raising events. All other expenses are those incurred on a regular monthly basis.

Police Report

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

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

A in depth discussion on the traffic management issues within Menteith Avenue took place during which disappointment was expressed by residents who live in this avenue at the lack of involvement and follow up both by the Police and EDC. Several questions remained unanswered despite approaches being made both by residents and by the Group following the last meeting. It was also pointed out that the promised vehicle activated sign is still not in place, only the pole is in situ. The “slow down” strips on the road were also completely rubbed away, rendering them now unfit for purpose.

It was suggested that signs showing 30 miles an hour should be put in each garden in the avenue. Jackie was asked to investigate the feasibility of this by creating wooden posts on to which a printed paper sign could be attached. A sum of £50.00 will be set aside for this. It was felt that this would be an excellent “photo opportunity” with an invitation to attend proffered to the Evening Times as well as the local press.

It was suggested that some benefit might be achieved by approach David Whitton MSP and Jo Swinson MP.

Donald agreed, in the first instance, to approach Inspector O’Neill and at the same time informing him of the possible “poster” campaign.

Bishopbriggs Academy - Infringement (including Woodhill Primary School)

Donald reported on an “infringement of planning conditions” which took place during the recent holiday weekend. Although residents had been informed that it was intended to carry out work in Woodhill Primary School, work had also taken place within the grounds of Bishopbriggs Academy location. Following an approach to Nigel Hooper in which he expressed his concerns on this the following e-mail had been received in reply from the planning department:

All breaches of Conditions are treated very seriously by the Planning Service and as such the Planning Enforcement Officer has formally written to the developer reminding them of the requirements of Conditions 37, 38 & 41 of the consent. It has been established that the works at the school on the bank holiday were carried out by sub-contractors. This fact is however irrelevant for the purposes of the planning consent and Morgan Ashurst have been advised to remind their contractors of the obligations placed by Condition 41. The developer has also been advised that further incidents will expose them to risk of formal enforcement action being pursued. In such an event a measured decision on the most appropriate course of action would be taken at that time depending on the circumstances. It would therefore be premature to comment further at this stage on the type of action which could be taken.

Bishopbriggs Academy (including Woodhill Primary School)

Despite meetings with EDC officers and coverage in the local press regrettably there is no good news to report on the height of the earth now level with the upper floor of the properties in Thrums Avenue. Indeed recent workings in the field had seen a workman, who was following a “raking” machine, throw all the large stones and boulders down the hill towards the property fences. When asked what was to happen to the stones/boulders he said that the landscapers would deal with them when landscaping and seeding the mound. Without being overly cynical it was agreed by everyone present that this was probably highly unlikely. On other matters approaches to officers within EDC had proved entirely without benefit.

It was decided that a further approach should be made to councillors in the hope that some satisfactory progress could be made on this matter.

In concluding discussion on this item, the unacceptable behaviour of some pupils in the streets adjacent to Academy was once more raised. Donald agreed to raise this with the Head Teacher.

Caterpillar Corridors

As indicated at the previous meeting, information has now appeared on the Group’s website offering “butterfly and bumble bee friendly” plants free of charge. Several residents, together with a local school and nursery, had asked for plants. Donald has approached Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre who deal primarily with variety of plant suitable for the Scottish climate, and was informed that all plants are at least one month

behind and are not available meantime. Donald would approach the company again within the next few weeks.

Charlie offered to uplift the plants when they are available and this offer was gratefully accepted.

Community Support Officers

It would appear that the situation remains unchanged meantime.

General Election 2010 - Hustings

Donald confirmed that the Hustings had taken place on Monday 26 April with four of the prospective candidates in attendance. The event was well supported and the feedback has been extremely positive. Unfortunately the "broadcast" had not been as successful as had been hoped, but it was intended to improve on this for the next event.

Band Concert

Donald reported that the "Rock Concert" held on Friday 23 April had been well attended and enjoyed by all. There was only one minor incident which had occurred at the entrance and this was quickly dealt with amicably between both parties. 140 people had attended the event.

Concert in the Courtyard

Donald indicated that he had taken a provisional let for Saturday 19 June (2.00 pm to 4.00 pm) for a concert to be held in Courtyard of Bishopbriggs Academy which offers a wonder venue to hold a "big band" concert. While giving his support to the event, the Head Teacher of the Academy, Mr Gordon Mouldsdales had felt that it would be appropriate if the entertainment was provided by local school bands. Unfortunately after an approach to the EDC Music Department with such a request, this had not been possible as the date coincided with a residential event which will be attended by many of the band players. However, there had been a positive reaction to doing a similar event next year, given sufficient time.

Donald was, therefore, now looking for a suitable band. Wilma suggested the Kirkintilloch Brass Band and indicated that she would pass on the contacts details to Donald.

Family Fun Day 2010

Although some detail regarding this event was now in place, Donald felt that it would be useful to meet with Wilma to compile the "to do" list. This would take place over the next couple of weeks.

Town Centre

For those already unaware Donald informed the Group had the Sports Hall had been demolished, apparently without the appropriate demolition warrant in place.

Donald then gave an update on the progress (or lack of it) being made by the "Champions" who will be now be known as Community Representatives. The Community Representatives had now been reduced to four following the departure of Ruth Box who is moving on to a new position within Glasgow. A young man by the name of Jonathan Ashworth has joined the representatives in a "youth advisory" role. Jonathan, who is thirteen, is currently raising a petition for a skate park to replace the proposed supermarket.

Donald then informed the Group that Colin Smith, a Consultant with Kirkintilloch Initiative had now been appointed to help East Dunbartonshire Council. Discussion is still ongoing regarding the "terms of reference" of the Community Representatives.

Concluding discussion on this item Donald said that ideally all members of the Bishopbriggs community should be surveyed to ascertain their views on a large supermarket and indeed how they would wish the town centre to be shaped for the future. Care should be taken to ensure that the questions included in the survey are fair and unambiguous and should not be "loaded" as had occurred in the past.

Donald would report further on this item 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 21 June 2010

The meeting ended at 09.00 pm.