

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 19 April 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths
Donald Macdonald
Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin

Marlene Niblock (Resident – Thrums Avenue)
Jack Scott
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)
David Watson (Resident – Menteith Avenue)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Gordan Low
Councillor Alan Moir

Mhorag Murphy (Resident – Menteith Avenue)

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present and in particular Marlene Niblock a resident from Thrums Avenue. Marlene explained that she had come along to bring to the attention of the Group the problems being experienced by many of the residents in Thrums Avenue resulting from the construction of the MUGA in Woodhill Primary School. It was decided to include this under “Bishopbriggs Academy – update”.

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

Donald referred to the Adobe Connect video conferencing system which had been purchased from monies received from Voluntary Action. To date the equipment had been used to hold two “on line” meetings, both in connection with the forthcoming Band Concert. The first meeting had a limited number who could enter the “conference room” ie 5. However, the second meeting had offered the opportunity of up to 100 individuals to join in and it was hoped to utilise this system in the future when holding Group meetings. It was also intended to use the system at the Hustings being held by the Group in Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 26 April. Details of how to access the system could be found on the Group’s website.

There were no other “matters arising” from the meeting on 15 March 2010.

Chair’s Report

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

- Held on-line meetings with bands regarding “Bands in the Briggs” Rock Concert.
- Met with Staff at Bishopbriggs Academy regarding arrangements for Rock Concert.
- Corresponded with East Dunbartonshire Council regarding Section 75 Agreement for Bishopbriggs Academy.
- Held various meetings regarding Hustings.
- Provided information to Bishopbriggs Herald to promote Concert and Hustings.
- Designed and distributed tickets to Bands for Rock Concert.
- Updated website for events.
- Purchased equipment for Concert from EDC Quality of Life Grant.
- Prepared update leaflet for distribution.

- Met with Muse Developments as Community Champion for Bishopbriggs Town Centre re-development plans.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma confirmed that the grant from East Dunbartonshire Council Quality of Life Fund referred to by Donald in his report had been received: this money will be used to purchase additional sound equipment. The Group's outgoings for the month comprised payment for school lets and liability insurance. The Group's funds continue to be in a healthy position.

Police Report

As Constable McNicol was not in attendance, it was decided to leave this item in abeyance until the next meeting.

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

Donald read to the Group an e-mail received from Mhorag following a note distributed to members of the Group and residents in Menteith Avenue (ie those where contact information was available). This had provided additional information on the following.

- The criteria used for scoring purposes and which had put Menteith Avenue in seventh place
- A list of the locations which currently rank higher than Menteith Avenue within the Traffic Management database within EDC.

Following a lengthy discussion on the items raised by Mhorag, it was decided that the contents of her e-mail should be passed on the David Devine, Head of Roads and Neighbourhood Services and David Russell, Technician – Traffic within East Dunbartonshire Council. Wilma was asked to do this on behalf of the Group.

Wilma was also asked to contact Inspector John O'Neill of Strathclyde Police to enquire if there are any further operations to be carried out in Menteith Avenue in the near future. This she agreed to do.

Bishopbriggs Academy (including Woodhill Primary School)

Donald referred to the large "depression" in the Academy grounds which had been created in the centre of the turning circle. Concern for the safety of children had been raised regarding this in the event of it having a dangerous level of water within. Following a short discussion, it was decided that Donald should write to Nigel Hooper, Planning Manager in EDC to seek clarification on this and hopefully report further at the next meeting.

Marlene outlined the problems being experienced by her and some of her neighbours following the work being carried out behind properties in Thrums Avenue to construct the MUGA within Woodhill Primary School. The problems were two fold ie the height of the earth which is now level with the upper floor of the properties and the continuing ingress of water to her property and that of her neighbours.

Following a lengthy discussion it was suggested that a letter should be drawn up and signed by all affected residents seeking a meeting with Councillors Low, Moir and O'Donnell at which they could outline their concerns. The Group would hope to offer support similar to that provided to the residents of Menteith Avenue. It was hoped to discuss this matter further at the next meeting following response from the residents.

Tom asked for a contact within EDC to whom he could report his concerns regarding "light pollution from Woodhill Primary School. Wilma agreed to send to him details of Joe Wilson, Resources Adviser within EDC.

Caterpillar Corridors

As had been intimated at the last meeting the Group is not able to progress this item as far as originally thought. It is hoped that Bishopbriggs Herald will shortly carry an article informing local residents that they

can order, free of charge, plants designed for the Scottish climate and which are “butterfly and bumble bee friendly”. Information to this effect will be carried on the Group’s website.

It is intended in the article to give credit for this to the Wylie and Lochhead who had given the original donation towards Caterpillar Corridors.

Woodhill Primary School – Wild Flower Planting

David expressed his dismay over the fact that area which had been prepared for the wild flower planting in Woodhill Primary School at had been bulldozed over. He was disappointed that the time and energy of the Group members and himself in undertaking this work, notwithstanding his personal cost, had been to no avail. He was, however, somewhat mollified to learn that at the conclusion of the work the contractors intended to reinstate this area and to provide suitable plants.

Community Support Officers

It would appear that there has been no change to the situation as previously outlined. Final details are still to be confirmed.

General Election 2010 - Hustings

Donald intimated that all candidates had confirmed their attendance with the exception of the Labour candidate. However, he had been assured that this was merely a formality and that she would be in attendance. Donald understood that there may be a UKIP candidate standing and he is awaiting confirmation on this. As indicated earlier it was hoped to utilise the Adobe Connect equipment. The Group’s PA system and microphones would also be used.

Following a request for “helpers” at the event the following individuals Charlie, David, Jack, Marlene and Wilma indicated their willingness to attend and help on the night.

Town Centre

Donald intimated that the Community Champions had met with Muse Developments at which they were given a remit to which they had to work. This remit concerned only one item ie the Community Hub. However, the “champions” are currently redrafting this to include the multiple areas in which they wish to have influence. Donald hoped to report further on this at the next meeting.

Community Cinema

Donald was pleased to inform the Group that enthusiastic co-operation had been received from members of the Woodhill Evangelical Church in connection with this item. However, he felt that to progress this item meantime when the Group was involved with two/three other events was perhaps unwise. Also summertime was maybe not the time when people wished to attend the cinema. However, it was intended to return to this item in the early part of the Group’s next session.

Band Concert

Donald updated the meeting on the forthcoming Bands in the Briggs concert to be held in Bishopbriggs Academy on Friday 23 April 2010. He brought to their attention a copy of a short leaflet to be distributed in the locality of the school informing residents of the event and assuring them that there would be adequate support services available on the night. Residents were also given the option of contacting Donald directly if they had any concerns.

Concluding discussion on this item Donald asked for help to circulate the leaflet. Charlie, David, Jack, Jackie, Tom and Wilma indicated their willingness.

General Election 2010 - Hustings

Returning briefly to the above item, Donald intimated that included on the leaflet was a notice regarding the General Election Hustings, inviting local residents to attend and to have the opportunity to ask prospective MPs about their policies.

Caterpillar Corridors

As referred to earlier the leaflet would also include information on the free plants which can be ordered from the Group's website at www.woodhillresidentsgroup.org.uk/caterpillarcorridors.html.

Family Fun Day 2010

Donald intimated that there was nothing further to report on this item meantime.

Dropped Kerbs

The installation of dropped kerbs at the junction of Kirriemuir Road and Woodhill Road had been completed, albeit a day or so later than previously intimated due to other tasks resulting from poor weather conditions. It was acknowledged by Anne that this was a welcome improvement, giving access to local shops. However, following a "trial" journey carried out by Jackie using a mobility scooter and attempting to reach the town centre, he was able to confirm that the pavements and kerbs were very far from user friendly. In fact he described his journey as a "bone shaking experience and not to be repeated".

History Project

Donald reported that there was nothing further to report on this item meantime.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in English English Classroom (or other venue designated on the evening) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 17 May 2010

The meeting ended at 09.00 pm.