

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 20 September 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths

Betty Logan

Jim Logan

Constable Andrew Lowrie

(Community Police Officer)

Donald Macdonald (Chair)

Jackie Mullin (Vice Chair)

Anne Mullin

Marlene Niblock

Dominic Notarangelo

Tom Russell

Jack Scott

Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Gordan Low

Councillor Alan Moir

Mhorag Murphy (Resident – Menteith Avenue)

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present, and in particular Constable Andy Lowrie who was attending in his capacity as Community Police Officer.

AOCB

Donald asked that the proposed siting of a Mobile Telephone Mast at the corner of Wester Cleddens Road and Angus Avenue be included for discussion and this was agreed.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2010 was proposed by Jackie and seconded by Marlene.

Matters arising

Donald intimated matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 14 June 2010 were as follows:-

Menteith Avenue This would be covered within the agenda.

Bishopbriggs Academy – Infringement (including Woodhill Primary School) Donald gave a brief background to this item. In conclusion he intimated that planning permission had not been granted for the so-called “surplus land” and, as a consequence, the amount of £50500.00 would not be available for play facilities to be located nearby.

Woodhill Primary School Donald asked if the situation with regard to the height of the earth level with the upper floors of the properties in Thrums Avenue had been resolved. Marlene intimated that the ground had been taken back slightly, a gradual slope created from the new point down to the fence and the area seeded. However, the area behind the properties remained in a very poor state.

Concert in the Court Yard This has been postponed meantime as there had been difficulties in getting together at the same time, all the various secondary pupils involved in Bands in the Briggs.. This item would be revisited in the future.

Caterpillar Corridors Donald confirmed that the plants uplifted by Charlie had been distributed within the local area.

Chair's Report

Donald intimated that his report would be brief as his only focus since the last meeting in June had been to organise the Family Fun Day. Regrettably the weather had not been in the Group's favour,

but despite this he felt that the event was the best it could be on the day. In conclusion he gave a special thanks to Wilma who, due to his work commitments, had done some of the work normally carried out by him. Wilma thanked Donald for his remarks.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma had completed a balance sheet showing the income and expenditure in relation to the Family Fun Day which she made available to the Group for information. Although the monies taken in on the day were down on last year due to the drop in attendance resulting from the bad weather, it had been possible to meet the expenses on the day for the generator, the bouncy castles and face painter. The amount outstanding was insufficient to pay for the ski/sledge slope and since the agreement had been for payment in cash, Wilma had given a temporary advance to the Group to pay this. This had now been repaid.

She also pointed out that this year for the first time, the Group had not received any outside funding for the event, other the very welcome sponsorship received from Four Squares and Delights, both of Woodhill Road. Although she was aware that there were other expenses yet to be deducted, she was confident that the finances of the Group, although depleted, would remain in a relatively healthy position.

A brief discussion followed on certain aspects of the expenditure, in particular with regard to financial return in relation to the expenditure, with particular regard to the ski/sledge slope. Wilma accepted that the amount paid was not reflected by ticket sales, but this was again partly due to the fall in numbers attending. It was accepted that each year the Group had to build on the previous year with something new, and preferably something which would appeal to a wider age group and to this end a climbing wall had been booked: publicity for this being carried in the local press. Three days before the event, following a site visit by the providers of the wall they pulled out. At the very last minute Easyski had stepped in. Unfortunately due to the shortage of time it had not been possible to advertise this in the same way as the climbing wall. Although the amount paid to Easyski may seem on the expensive side at the time it was the best, indeed the only option available. In so saying it should be noted that the children loved it and Easyski stayed well beyond the time for which payment had been made to clear the long queue. They had also provided "Olympic" style medals for each child who participated in the slope, free of charge.

Donald intimated that although quantities of toys, drinks and sweets remained unsold, this was stock which could be used at future events such as a further Rock Concert and the Fire Station Open Day.

Police Report

Constable Andy Lowrie began his report by updating the Group on the proposed restructuring which would see the number of Community Police Officers in the area increase from 6 to 10. There would also be significant changes to shift patterns which would provide longer hours of policing over the entire week. As a consequence of the latter there should always be a police officer in attendance at future meetings of the Group. This decision was warmly received.

Before proceeding further Constable Lowrie confirmed to Charlie that the additional zig zag lines which had been placed over and including the entrance to his property in Menteith Avenue had in fact been wrongly situated there. These had now been burned off and the crossing returned to its original size and position.

A brief discussion took place regarding the speed of motorists in Menteith Avenue. Despite visits from the Police, residents continued to be concerned by this. Indeed although the road has been resurfaced, the promised calming measures ie "raised strips" to slow down vehicles have yet to be put in place. Likewise the "long awaited" camera has still not appeared. Constable Lowrie confirmed that officers had been in the area with speed cameras (including himself

Concluding discussion on that item he then provided a breakdown of "crime figures" in the area, noting that this was for both the north and south wards. Following this he invited any questions on these figures and offered clarification when asked.

A brief discussion then followed on the various traffic issues within the area as a whole, particularly with regard to roads around the primary and secondary schools. Constable Lowrie took note of these and assured the Group that their concerns would be passed up the line in order that reasonable action may be considered and if appropriate acted upon.

Having concluded his report Donald thanked him for his attendance at which time Constable Lowrie left the meeting.

Mobile Telephone Mast

Paperwork had been passed to Donald by the Secretary of the Community Council concerning the proposal to locate a mobile telephone mast at the corner of Wester Cleddens Road and Angus Avenue: this would be located a short distance from the fence surrounding Bishopbriggs Academy. It would appear that this location is particularly useful as it is adjacent to an NTL main hub. The need for the mast, or indeed any mast, is to cope with the existing and increasing demand for 3G Technology.

A lengthy discussion followed during which many negative points were raised, not least of which the possible health risks to the pupils and staff within the Academy as well as local residents. On this aspect, it was felt that further research was required and any planning objection on this basis should be "rock solid". It was clear that before proceeding further more research and information was required.

In the meantime, if there was a significant ground swell of opposition, the Group would hope to hold a similar meeting to that held on behalf of the residents of Menteith Avenue.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

As everyone is aware the Sports Hall is no more and it has been confirmed that there is no intention to pursue those who carried out its unauthorised demolition.

With regard to the proposed changes to the Town Centre, the Champions Group formed to have "input" into the decision-making process had now reluctantly accepted the inevitable namely that the siting of the proposed supermarket would go ahead. Indeed this had been announced later on the same day on which the petition, bearing in excess of 3000 residents' signatures, had been handed to EDC.

A brief discussion followed on this item during which Donald and Dominic referred to the workshop which had been held in the Memorial Hall in June and which had been well attended. From the workshop an abundance of ideas had resulted but the Champions have yet to be given the opportunity to put any of these forward to the developers, etc.

Concluding discussion on this item, it was hoped by those present that there would still be opportunities for dialogue with regard to some aspects of the Town Centre. Donald would report further on this item at the next meeting if any progress in this regard had been made.

Community Support Officers

As far as the Group is aware, the situation appears unchanged at the time of the meeting. However, on behalf of the Group, Donald thanked the Officers who had attended the Family Fun Day.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Bishopbriggs Academy, English Classroom 1 (F006) (or other venue designated on the evening) at 7.00 pm on Monday 18 October 2010. Wilma reminded the Group that the AGM of the Group would also be held on that evening.

The meeting ended at 08.55 pm.