

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 16 November 2009

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Caroline Cartwright (Resident – Menteith Avenue)
Charlie Griffiths
James K Knox (Resident – Menteith Avenue)
Mary Lafferty (Resident – Menteith Avenue)
Councillor Gordan Low
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
James McNeil (Resident – Menteith Avenue)

Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)
Jack Scott
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)
Christopher Shepherd (Resident -
Menteith Avenue)
David Watson (Resident -
Menteith Avenue)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)

Councillor Alan Moir
Councillor Michael O'Donnell

Welcome

Donald welcomed those present and in particular residents from Menteith Avenue who had come along in response to a leaflet distributed in connection with road traffic issues in the avenue.

Before commencing the business of the meeting, Donald intimated two additional items he wished included ie “It’s a Wonderful Life” and Farmers’ Market.

Minutes

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

Matters arising

Donald asked that “Menteith Avenue” be included under matters arising from the previous minutes and not included in the agenda.

Regarding the replacement of trees at the back of Brechin Road, Gordan then informed the Group that at the request of David Devine, Head of Roads and Neighbourhood Services, an officer from Greenspace had inspected the area and confirmed that, subject to finance, there would be some new trees planted this winter. The Officer also advised that, although there had been requests to remove some of the existing trees at this location, these had been denied. Concluding his comments the officer had confirmed that any replacement planting would be away from adjoining properties.

Gordan then referred to the last sentence in the penultimate paragraph of the item “Town Centre/Sports Hall” and asked that it be noted that the “surplus” land referred to formed “**part**” of the Council’s contribution towards the building of the new schools rather than the “**whole**” as was inferred in the minute.

Chair’s Report

The chair reported the numerous meeting he had had over the past month.

Caterpillar Corridors

- Greenspace- Bio-Diversity Officer
- Wylie and Lochhead - £200 Donation (accompanied by Treasurer)

Wonderful Life Free Film

- Woodhill Evangelical Church
Thomas Muir Building
- Morgan Ashurst
Countdown 2010
- United Nations Application Form
Concert
- Meeting with EDC – Abby Boulstridge
- Funding application to GAC
Adobe Connect Video Conferencing
- Application to Community Chest
Family Fun Day 2010
- Application to Awards for All

Following a question raised on “Caterpillar Corridors” Donald gave a brief background, but indicated that this item would be discussed further during the meeting.

Donald then informed the Group that £300.00 had been received by Woodhill Primary School to plant a wild flower meadow in the school grounds. Although it was hoped that the older children would be able to do much of the planting, it was felt that some help with the spade work would be helpful. Following a request for volunteers to assist with this task, David and Jackie indicated their willingness to take part. It was anticipated that the exercise would take no more than one hour to complete and David and Jackie were asked to present themselves to the school at 1.15 pm on Friday 20 November.

James then asked why Menteith Park as he knew it had been renamed Etive Park. Gordon then explained the background to this. Although James did not, however, accept that sufficient local opinion had been sought on this matter before the change became confirmed, he reluctantly accepted the name change.

A brief discussion took place once more regarding signage for the park and Donald reiterated the view which had been expressed by council officers that as there were many parks in EDC, if signage were put in Etive, this would have to be carried out throughout the area and that this was not viable. This view had been reaffirmed early in the evening during a conversation between Wilma and Councillor Michael O’Donnell.

Treasurer’s Report

Wilma informed the Group that although since last month there had been several withdrawals all of which had been anticipated. These were in connection with the payment for the PA system, the money for which had been received from O2, a late cheque cashed following the Family Fun Day. The final withdrawal had been in connection with the Group’s website. Despite these withdrawals, the funds of the Group remain in a healthy position.

Menteith Avenue – Traffic

Before opening discussion on this item Donald explained what had prompted him to distribute the leaflets on Menteith Avenue. The incident to which he referred had been witnessed by Caroline who confirmed his account. Donald went on to refer to the Vehicle Speed Camera currently on Menteith Avenue and to the “raw” data on speeds which had been supplied by this camera. Although many of the speeds recorded were within acceptable limits, many were in excess of 60/70 and even 80 mph.

Following a prolonged and often very heated discussion, it became apparent that all present were in agreement that the speeds were totally unacceptable and that action required to be taken before a serious or fatal accident occurred.

Reference was made to the speed bumps currently in place in Angus Avenue and Gordan was asked what criteria had been required for these to be put in place. Following Gordan's explanation it was apparent that the consensus was to ask for similar traffic calming to be put in place in the Avenue. When asked, Gordan confirmed that any such decision in this regard may take some time, but any evidence gathered by residents would be considered along with that collected by Council officers.

It was agreed that a petition should be drawn up and taken round all the houses in Menteith Avenue. Donald agreed to draw this up on behalf of the residents: David indicated that he would be willing to go round with the petition.

Along with the petition, Donald referred to the impact which can be created by the press. It was hoped to create press interest by making use of the Group's Gatso Speed Camera by installing it in one of the gardens on the avenue. David indicated his willingness to have the camera in his garden and will liaise with Jackie to collect and install this.

It was also suggested and agreed that a letter be sent to Jo Swinson MP, David Whitten MSP and the councillors responsible for the ward ie Councillors Low, Moir and O'Donnell (Councillor Low was present) inviting them to attend the next meeting of the Group so that this matter could be discussed further and hopefully moved forward. Donald agreed to do this following receipt of the completed petition.

Discussion concluded on this item at 8.20 pm at which time several of the residents left the meeting.

Returning to the agenda and for the benefit of those residents remaining, Donald gave a brief background on items where necessary.

Gatso Speed Camera

This item was covered in the item on Menteith Avenue.

Vehicle Activity Speed Sign

Data provided by the above was included in the item on Menteith Avenue.

Briggs in Bloom - 2009

This item was briefly covered under Treasurer's report.

Caterpillar Corridors

Returning to this item Donald confirmed that it was intended to launch the Caterpillar Corridors in the press next week, accompanied by a photograph showing the presentation of the cheque received from Wylie Lochhead at the recent Briggs in Bloom event. It was hoped also to record details of the wild meadow in Woodhill Primary School.

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.

The Group also hopes to be involved in the Commonwealth Orchard Project 2014 and it is intended to approach the Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT) for funding.

Thomas Muir Building

There had been a minor “scare” with regard to the removal of asbestos from this building which had proved unfounded. All appropriate procedures were being following and this had been supported by photographs received from the contractors, Morgan Ashurst PLC showing the stringent methods applied on site to safeguard the health and safety both of the workforce and the general public.

Bishopbriggs Academy

Academy pupils: There had been a positive feedback regarding the behaviour of the children, particularly in and around the shops on Woodhill Road. However, some children did spoil the reputation of the majority by dropping litter in Kirriemuir Road once out of sight of teachers. Donald agreed to contact the academy to relay both the positive/negative information.

Transport: Parents on the Balmuirdy/Meadowburn side of Bishopbriggs had organised transport mornings only to take their to children to the academy. This action was commended as it has reduced considerably the number of vehicles on the already heavily congested roads leading to the academy.

Torr Road: There has been some movement on a number of areas and it is hoped that it will be possible to hold the promised meeting with John Simmons, Corporate Director (Community) of EDC.

Amphitheatre: This matter has now gone “legal” and it is hoped to report further at a future date.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald expected this matter to be raised once more at the meeting of the Community Council scheduled for the following evening and which he would be attending. Depending on what he heard, he intended to ask for a public meeting or that a survey be conducted of all Bishopbriggs residents to gauge their opinion on the planned “new” town centre.

Boundary Issue

Donald invited Gordan to update the Group on the current position. Gordan confirmed that the Boundary Commission were revising their original plans from which it would appear that the properties in Princes Gate would remain within EDC. The residents involved were justifiably relieved by this decision. However, Gordan emphasised that the Commission were “revising” the proposals and it was important that those individuals/groups who had “objected” to the original proposal write once more to “support” the revision. This was duly noted.

Bus Turning Circle

Donald confirmed that at the moment an alternative site for the circle was still unknown.

Child Protection

Donald confirmed that Wilma, Jackie and himself were currently awaiting confirmation of approval for a “basic disclosure check” under Disclosure Scotland.

Bands in the Briggs

Donald confirmed that the outcome of funding applications was awaited.

Cycling Initiative – “Peddle the Parks”

Donald intimated that although it was hoped to expand this event, details were not yet complete.

Countdown to Declaration 2010

Donald confirmed that the Group had signed up to the above.

Adobe Connect

The Group is awaiting an application for funding to implement this.

Tree Replacement

This item was covered earlier in the meeting under “Matters arising”.

Awards for All

As indicated in Chair’s report a further application has been made regarding next year’s Family Fun Day.

Farmers’ Market

Confirmed that it was hoped to attend the next event due to be held on Saturday 5 December.

It’s a wonderful life

Donald is proposing to hold a “cinema” evening in Woodhill Evangelical Church some time in the run up to Christmas when it is hoped to show the above film classic.

Dropped Kerbs

Gordan confirmed that he had written to David Devine, Head of Roads and Neighbourhood Services on this matter and was awaiting his reply.

Crossing – Woodhill Road

This crossing remained unfinished whilst further information was awaited from Scottish Power.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in English English Classroom (F014) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 7 December 2009.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.