

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 21 September 2009

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Josie Chamberlain (Cleddens Park
Residents Association [CPRA])
Councillor Gordan Low
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
Janet Macniven
Leroy Macniven
Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)

Tom Russell
Jack Scott
Lesley Scott (Greenspace Officer,
East Dunbartonshire Council)
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)
Andrea Smith (Cleddens Park
Residents Association [CPRA])
Laryna E Wappermann

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths
Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)

Councillor Alan Moir

Welcome

Donald welcomed those present and in particular Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer, EDC, representatives from Cleddens Park Association Josie Chamberlain and Andrea Smith and Janet and Leroy Macniven local residents.

Before commencing the business of the meeting, Donald referred to the penultimate paragraph in Section 5 of the Group's constitution ie "Executive Committee members will only be able to hold office for a maximum of three years". Since those "three years" have now passed and it seems unlikely that the membership of the Executive Committee will change in the foreseeable future it was proposed by Donald that this sentence be removed from the constitution. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the members present.

Election of Executive Committee

In order to facilitate the election of office bearers Donald asked Gordan if he would take control of the meeting and this he agreed to do. He then asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Tom proposed that Donald be re-elected and this was seconded by Jack. Since no other nominations were received Donald was duly re-elected to the position of Chair. Donald then proposed Jackie for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Tom. No other nominations were received and Jackie was duly re-elected to the position of Vice Chair. Anne proposed that Wilma be re-elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Tom. Again no other nominations were received and Wilma was duly re-elected. All three were happy to accept their re-election. Thanking Gordan Donald resumed his position.

Minutes

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

Matters arising

Donald informed the Group that Gillian Telfer, Biodiversity Officer within EDC who had been invited to the last meeting had been unable to attend as she was on annual leave. However, it is hoped that

although Ms Telfer works jointly between East and West Dunbartonshire Councils, it is hoped that it will be possible to have a meeting with her before the November meeting of the Group.

Chair's Report

Donald referred to the continuing vandalism of the Thomas Muir building. Following a recent incident when the fencing came down between the two schools he had contacted the headquarters of Morgan in London in an effort to have the fencing repaired. Although the repair took several days to complete the Group now have a mobile number to contact in the event of future problems. It would appear that Morgan Ashurst now take security of the building more seriously evidenced by personnel on site at all times.

Donald then asked Gordon if he could confirm that there was an electrical sub-station below the building which might affect the demolition of the building. Although he was unable to confirm this he went on to say that the proposed date given by Morgan Ashurst for the demolition of the building was Monday 9 November. It should be noted; however, that adherence to this date would depend on the removal of all of the asbestos present in the building prior to this date.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma informed the Group that there had been significant deposits made to the bank account following on from the Family Fun Day and from the last meeting which continued to place the Group in a healthy position to carry out its projects for the coming year. She was happy to report that the outgoing from the account had been minimal.

Briggs in Bloom - 2009

Donald then asked Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer from EDC to speak to the meeting.

Lesley began by confirming that she had ordered some 1000 bulbs for the Group and the main purpose in her attendance was to establish where these should be planted. From conversations with members of the Group it had appeared to her that Etive Park was the chosen location and to this end she had brought with her a drawing of the area. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a scalloped swathe around the play park was the preferred choice. Although the full number of the bulbs would not be required for this area, any remaining would be passed on to the local primary school and nursery.

Lesley went on to say that as there were several groups wishing to use the planters it was important to set a date for the planting as soon as possible. After a brief discussion it was decided to hold Briggs in Bloom 2009 from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm on Sunday 15 November. Depending on the weather it was hoped to erect the Group's marquee in Etive Park and to enjoy hot chocolate and biscuits after the planting was completed.

Donald asked Josie and Andrea from CPRA if they would like to have share of the Group's bulbs to plant. They agreed to enquire on the feasibility of this and to get back to Donald in due course.

Jack agreed to contact Lesley nearer the time regarding the collection of the bulbs and the planters.

Caterpillar Corridors

Opening discussion on this item, Lesley reminded the Group that on the Family Fun Day some 300 wild flowers had been provided by the Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT) and along with a representative from the Trust these had been planted adjacent to the RNIB building. The area would now be taken out of the grass cutting cycle and over the winter these plants would put down roots and hopefully next year would provide a colourful display in this area. It had also been suggested that a stand of trees could also be added to the park and it was possible that this could be paid for by a grant from the Community

Project Fund supported by the Scottish Natural Heritage; an application form could be downloaded from the CSFT website.

When asked if this was only for the Etive Park site, Lesley replied that the park was, in fact, outwith the Trust's area and an exception had been made to include it with the wild flowers.

A short discussion followed regarding a location for the stand of trees. It was concluded that the other side of Menteith Avenue might be a suitable location. A final decision on this would be made if an application for the necessary funding was successful.

Lesley reminded the Group that there was also money available from EDC's Biodiversity Grants Scheme, application for which could be downloaded from the Council's site.

Donald spoke briefly on the Group's aspiration to increase the biodiversity in the lanes within Woodhill by removing the starkness of the area, introducing instead colourful plants and insects. It had been his intention initially to restrict this solely to the lanes, but now he hoped to expand this into the gardens by offering "free" plants. It was hoped to provide some signage for gardens wishing to be involved in the project.

As a consequence of the article which recently appeared in the local press, the Group had been approached by Wylie Lochhead, Funeral Undertakers in Bishopbriggs offering financial support to allow the Group to pursue its biodiversity project. Donald and Wilma had met with Iain McGovern of Wylie Lochhead at the conclusion of which Ian agreed to approach his Head Office requesting a donation towards this project. It has since been confirmed that a cheque for £200.00 will be forthcoming.

In response to a question from Jackie regarding plants to be introduced, Lesley replied that EDC currently source their plants from various sustainable sources, specialising in wild flowers.

It was imperative that the Group have an idea of funding needed and it was hoped that Ms Telfer would be able to assist with this. Concluding discussion on this item Donald said that the notion of Caterpillar Corridors had sparked the imagination of the local primary school who intended to plant a wild flower area within the school grounds. Similarly, the local nursery has been inspired to join in.

A question was then asked if there were plans to replace the trees at the back of Brechin Road. At one time there were fifteen or so trees in this area, but this number had now been sadly depleted. It was felt that the grass cutting in the vicinity of the tree had led to the bark at the base being damaged with the consequence demise of the trees. Lesley replied that there was a modest budget for planting trees and she would enquire if it was intended to replace trees in the area described.

Concluding discussion on this item by remind the Group of the valuable information to be found on the CSFS site, particularly with regard to the worrying extinction of many species of bumble bees.

Etive Park

Gordan referred to the confusion which had existed regarding name of the park on Menteith Avenue. He was able to confirm that following a recent Council meeting he was able to confirm the in future the park will be known as Etive Park.

Donald had spoken with Councillor O'Donnell regarding signage for the park. Councillor O'Donnell felt that it would not be prudent to have signage for this park in isolation and therefore for the foreseeable future there would be no signage. The Group accepted this decision in the hope that the future may bring a change to this decision.

Thomas Muir Building

Although this item was mentioned earlier, Donald made reference to the note received regarding the “preparatory work” some of which would be carried out at the weekend. Hours of work had been laid down and it was hoped that Morgan Ashurst employees would adhere to these. Similarly it was hoped that Morgan Ashurst would abide by the condition to notify local residents of the impending demolition and how it may impinge on them.

Gatso Speed Camera

Donald made brief reference to the “wooden” Gatso Speed Camera which had been constructed by Jackie. It was hoped to place this in a garden in Menteith Avenue. Donald would arrange for this to be installed and would report further at the next meeting.

Vehicle Activity Speed Sign

Donald gave a brief background to this item which had resulted from an earlier enquiry. It would appear that although the equipment should be able to record speeds, currently due to technical problems it is not possible to download the related data. Gordon then referred to the survey which had taken place in September 2008 which had provided some average speeds. Further data was still awaited from this.

Bishopbriggs Academy

Donald reported that the issues between the Council and the residents of Torr Road are still ongoing. However, he understands that following correspondence from John Simmons, Corporate Director (Community) there will be a meeting between residents and the Council. There also seems to be a measure of progress on obscuring the windows in the stairwell. However, the problem regarding the amphitheatre has gone “legal” and involves the enforcement of the planning conditions.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald said that he had nothing further to add on this matter that had appeared in the local press. He understood that the Local Plan was to be discussed at the Community Council meeting the following night which included the Sports Hall. He also understood that the business plan being compiled by Ruth Box, Chair of ACT (Academy Community Trust) is now reaching its final stages and it is hoped that this will satisfy the developers and deter them from knocking down the Sports Hall.

Gordan added that the retention of the Sports Hall is a planning issue. A planning application which had excluded the retention of the Sports Hall had been considered by the Planning Board last month. As a consequence of this it is intended to hold a site meeting after which a decision will be made. He went on to say that when the new school was taken over by EDC the land then deemed surplus was taken over by the developers. This practice was repeated throughout East Dunbartonshire. All pieces of “surplus” land owned by the council then became the Council’s contribution towards the building of the new schools.

Donald would report further on this when information became available.

Bus Turning Circle

Gordan confirmed that the planning permission for the site on which the bus turning circle currently stands had been turned down as it did not show where the new turning circle was to be located.

Returning to the surplus land on South Crosshill Road, the possibility of including the nursery in the new town centre site was raised. However, it was confirmed that this was owned by the nursery and would not therefore be included.

The Careers Office adjacent to the Library is, however, owned by the Council and as such is part of the outline planning application. Similarly St Matthews Church will become part of this if the developers can come to a private agreement with the Church.

Boundary Issue

Gordan confirmed that the deadline for submissions had now passed and the Boundary Commission decision was now awaited.

Child Protection

Donald gave a brief background to this item. Following a short discussion, Wilma was asked to put in place arrangements for a “basic disclosure check” for Donald, Jackie and herself at a cost of £23.00 per person and this she agreed to do.

All Day Concert renamed “Concert”

After some deliberation Donald felt that the format of this event should be changed, hence the removal of “all day” from the title. He had approached Gordon Mouldsdale, Head Teacher, and Bishopbriggs Academy who had agreed in principle to this event being held in the school. Donald is currently seeking financial support from EDC for the event and at the same time pulling together details which will include security for the event, provision of a “soft” bar, various bands etc. The newly acquired PA system courtesy of O2 will, of course, be used for this event.

Cycling Initiative – “Peddle the Parks”

Donald is continuing his discussions with Mark Kiehlmann to organise a “Peddle the Parks” event in the spring of next year. The idea is that, in the company of trained cyclist leaders, groups of children and their parents will cycle around the various parks in Bishopbriggs. Donald will report further on this at a future meeting.

Countdown to Declaration 2010

In conjunction with the Group’s involvement with local biodiversity Donald feels that it would be appropriate to register with “Countdown to Declaration 2010”. This was agreed. Further information on this is available on the website www.countdown2010.org.

Santa - 2009

Jackie felt that it was unfair that families who did not have access to computers were denied access to a “Santa Visit” on Christmas Eve. He suggested that on the board used to advertise the event, his telephone number should be included. This was agreed.

Donald added that Wylie Lochhead had expressed their willingness to supply one of their “corporate” limousines to transport Santa and his helper(s). This offer had been gratefully accepted.

Adobe Connect

Donald intimated that he would be applying for a grant from the Community Chest to support the purchase of Adobe Connect at a cost of £350.00. This is a “video conferencing system” which it may be possible to use in conjunction with the Group’s meetings. Donald would report further on this at a future meeting.

Awards for All

It was intended to submit an application form to the Big Lottery "Awards for All" for next year's Family Fun Day on which it was hoped to expand. This was duly noted.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in English English Classroom (F014) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 16 November 2009.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

