

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy

Monday 21 September 2009

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
Lynsey MacMillan
(Community Development Worker,
East Dunbartonshire Council
Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)

Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)
Tom Russell
Jack Scott
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Gordan Low
Councillor Alan Moir

Ian and Michelle Tyldesley

Welcome

Donald welcomed those present to the first meeting in the new Bishopbriggs Academy. In particular he welcomed Lynsey MacMillan, Community Development Worker from East Dunbartonshire and the newly appointed Academy Campus Cop, Constable Peter McNicol.

Since Peter had another event to attend, it was agreed to bring forward any matters which related specifically to his post.

Thomas Muir - Donald reported that the derelict building on the Thomas Muir site was now attracting groups of youths, vandalising the site by breaking windows. They were able to access the site via Woodhill Primary School playground and then through the broken fence. As they will shortly run out of windows to break, he was concerned that they would turn their attention to the windows in Woodhill Primary School and the new Academy. He had reported his concerns to the appropriate officer within EDC. He had also informed Strathclyde Police, so that his concerns would be recorded appropriately. Apart from the vandalism there was also the potential for fire-raising which would not only impact on the new academy building, but also on the properties adjacent to the site.

In response to questions, Peter confirmed that if caught they could not be charged with vandalism as the building was set for demolition, nor indeed with trespass as there was no such offence in Scot's Law. He felt that this was more of a "health and safety" issue and should be dealt with accordingly. Since Morgan Ashurst had now taken possession of the building and were therefore liable, he agreed to speak to their on site representative with regard to the fence. He would confirm directly to Donald when this had been done.

Gatso Speed Camera - Donald informed Peter that it was hoped to locate the "wooden" Gatso Speed Camera, constructed by Jackie, in a suitable location. Peter had no objection to this and a brief discussion took place over the most suitable spot. It was decided that Menteith Avenue seemed the most likely and Donald agreed to arrange for this to be sited in the near future.

Parking – Charlie raised the issue of the inconsiderate and dangerous driving and parking which takes place in and around Kirriemuir Road. Indeed the recent accident which had been reported in the press had involved his daughter who thankfully was unhurt, although very badly shaken. Peter confirmed that the driver in question had been spoken with. He also confirmed that tickets had been issued to drivers in and around the school and shop area when examples of bad driving and inconsiderate and dangerous parking had been witnessed by him and his colleagues.

Minutes

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

Before commencing Chair's Report, Donald asked if there were any items to be raised under AOCB. He then asked that the following be noted (a) Child Protection, (b) All Day Concert, (c) Cycle Initiative, (d) Halloween and (e) a meal.

Chair's Report

Over the course of the summer the Executive had met to discuss and plan for the "Family Fun Day". At this point Donald took the opportunity to thank everyone who helped on the day and on the run up. He also mentioned the support received from local businesses who supplied raffle prizes and the generous sponsorship given by Delights and Four Squares. He was

happy to report that a photographer from the Bishopbriggs Herald had been sent to the event with a remit to take several photographs to appear in this week's edition of the paper.

He reported that members of the Group had attended the recent Farmers' Market held in Huntershill Village. The event had been well attended despite extremely bad weather and a small amount of money was raised by the Group.

He then confirmed that some 2500 copies of the Annual Report had been distributed and thanked those who had helped make this possible.

Donald had approached O2 requesting funding to hire a PA system. In response they indicated that although they would not support the "hiring" of equipment, they would, however, finance the "purchase" of equipment. Consequently the Group became the owners of a superb system which can not only be used by the Group, but can also be hired out to other groups in the community. The fine details of doing this have yet to be ascertained and he would report further on this at a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma reported that the money to be banked following the "Family Fun Day" was some 20 per cent up on that lodged in 2008. This was achieved despite substantial increases in expenditure ie the purchase of a marquee, gazebos and the doubling of the provision of bouncy castles, along with many other incidental expenses. This additional money added to balance already in the bank would, hopefully, allow the Group to pursue many other ideas during the coming year.

Caterpillar Corridors

Returning to the first item on the agenda, it would appear that Gillian Telfer, Biodiversity Officer within East Dunbartonshire had been unable to attend the meeting as intended. Hopefully it would be possible to re-schedule a visit for another time. In the meantime Donald spoke briefly on the need to increase the biodiversity in the lanes within the area. He also intimated that he had tried unsuccessfully so far to "recruit" a local garden to assist with this project.

He would report further on this subject at a future meeting.

Lynsey MacMillan

Donald introduced Lynsey, Community Development Worker within East Dunbartonshire Council and invited her to speak to the Group.

Lynsey began by informing the Group that there was still one round of grant funding remaining, with a deadline of early November. Within East Dunbartonshire Council there are some 800 community groups and her role is to support all of them and in so doing to encourage intergeneration involvement between young and old. The event held in Auchinairn Community Hall in July had been extremely successful. As a result of this a 12 week programme of events has been organised, running Monday to Friday and Saturday afternoon: Lynsey will send through a copy of the flyer for this when available. When Lynsey asked confirmed that Gordon Strain, with whom Donald and Wilma had dealt in the past, now dealt with larger funding applications whilst Lynsey deals with the smaller applications. Lynsey spoke briefly on the Quality of Life Fund which makes available to every local authority within Scotland a share of £100 million to address local quality of life issues.

Donald referred to the proposed All Day Concert later in the year. He had already spoken to Abbi Boulstridge asking for funding to support this thus encouraging youth diversion. Match funding from the Community Wardens and O2 may be available. Lynsey confirmed that a decision on round 4 funding would not be available until January.

Donald then spoke on funding required to upgrade the cycling paths under the Academy's Planning Section 75. He referred to the £10,000 set aside by the council for this purpose. He went on to suggest that the funneling of this amount into residents' groups/cycling groups might be a conduit to use this amount as a way to gain match funding.

Donald thanked Lynsey for coming along and for giving the group the benefit of her expertise.

Traffic Woodhill

Donald made brief mention once more about the Gatso Speed Camera and the need to find a suitable location. He would report further on this at the next meeting.

Bishopbriggs Academy

It was agreed that now the words "Travel Plan" should be dropped from this item. The official opening of the academy took place on Wednesday 16 September but there continued to be problems for the residents in Torr and Clair Roads, specifically from loss of privacy caused by children waving and peering from the stair well windows. Local residents have not asked for the windows to be "blacked out", but rather some form of film sheeting to be put on the windows, but to date their reasonable requests have met a stone wall.

Similarly there is a problem with the maintenance of the “no man’s land” which has been created between the boundaries of the school and the properties. Likewise there is a problem with intrusive CCTV.

Running in tandem are the problems created by the relocating of the amphitheatre as mentioned in previous minutes, together with the issue of flooding.

Regrettably to date the Council has made no attempt to address any of the residents’ concerns.

With regard to the crossing on Woodhill Road, it is understood that the delay has been caused by Scottish Power. Although members of the Group were skeptical of this, Charlie confirm that this could be the case as he has experienced similar delays created by Scottish Power. Charlie asked what had happened with the “consultation”. Donald confirmed that the Group had complained.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

A conclusion to this matter has, as yet, not been reached. It would appear that the planners are awaiting the completion of the business plan being drawn up by Ruth Box. In the meantime, plans have been submitted to the Council which do not include the Sports Hall. Donald will report further on this at a later date.

“Family Fun Day” – 20 September 2009

Although this item was covered in Chair’s report a brief discussion followed during which several items were raised. These were duly noted by Wilma and would be raised for further discussion when planning began for next year’s event which will be held on Sunday 18 September.

Menteith/Etive Play Park

There was nothing further to report on the park regarding a “change of name”. However, Donald was happy to report that it had recently been re-painted and seemed to be much used by the local community. This was particularly evidenced on the “Family Fun Day” when all the equipment in the park was being used.

Boundary Issue

Donald reported that closing date for appeals on this issue had been extended. He would report further on this at a future meeting.

Annual Report – 2008-09

This was covered in Chair’s Report.

Bus Turning Circle

Donald reported that planning permission for housing on the site of the bus turning circle had been refused until an alternative site for the circle had been identified and approved.

Bulbs

Wilma confirmed that following a request from Lesley Scott 1000 bulbs had been ordered for planting this November. A location for the planting was, as yet, undecided but it was felt that around the play area in Menteith Park should be considered. A final decision on this will be made at the next meeting of the Group in October which will be attended by Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer in East Dunbartonshire Council.

Child Protection

Donald felt that due to the community events in which the Group was now involved, he felt that members should have apply for Basic Disclosure from Disclosure Scotland. It may be that this would be too costly for all members to apply, but at least members of the Executive should have this. It was hoped to report further on this at the next meeting.

All Day Concert

Although this item had been touched on earlier, Donald added that considerable planning would be required, for most of which he would take responsibility. The proposed venue was the Memorial Hall in Balmuildy Road. The new PA system would be utilised and the Group would run a “soft” bar. All of this would, of course, require funding which will be pursued by Donald.

Cycling Initiative

Along with Mark Kiehlmann it was hoped to organise a “family peddling run” around the local parks around February/March of next year. Donald would report further on this at a future meeting.

Halloween.

Tentative plans were being drawn up to hold an outdoor Halloween Party and Donald would report further on this at the next meeting. However, shortage of time might dictate that decisions be made by the Executive.

Meal

Donald suggested that the Group and its helpers should get together for a meal. It was unanimously agreed to do this and a date would be arranged at the next meeting. A modest charge per head was envisaged.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Conference Room at Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 19 October.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.