

MINUTE

of

NEILSTON, UPLAWMOOR AND NEWTON MEARNS NORTH AND BARRHEAD AREA FORUM

**Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead on
29 May 2014.**

Present:

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair)

Councillor Tony Buchanan

John Divers (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); David Jesner (Mearns Community Council);
and Rosaleen Reilly (Barrhead Community Council).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

Attending:

Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Betty Cunningham, Elaine Green and Paul O'Kane; Grace Brookmyre (East
Renfrewshire Faith Forum); Rita Connelly (Auchenback Tenants and Residents
Association), Linda McCullagh (Hillside Tenants and Residents Association) and Alan
Walker (Neilston Development Trust).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 27 February
2014.

POLICE/FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – UPDATE

2. Councillor Hay invited Station Commander Divers to give an update on the activities
of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the forum's area since the date of the last
meeting.

Station Commander Divers advised that he was now the station manager for Barrhead and
Clarkston following introduction of the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in April and that
Local Area Liaison Officers had been appointed. He reported on local fire and rescue
statistics advising that these had improved since the last report partly due to the Shanks
Business Park site being secured. He thanked East Renfrewshire Council for their
assistance in securing this site and hoped that this would lead to a further reduction in fire
raising incidents at that location.

Station Commander Divers advised that fire safety awareness raising events had taken place at the Tesco supermarket in Barrhead and that these events would continue to take place approximately quarterly throughout the year. In order to encourage participation at these events, Tesco had arranged for a prize draw to take place with the winner receiving a Tesco hamper. As 2014 was the 50th Anniversary of Barrhead Fire Station a number of events would take place to mark the occasion throughout the year including an open day to be held in October.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Station Commander Divers clarified a number of operational issues in the forum's area.

The forum noted the position.

NEW SOUTH GLASGOW HOSPITALS CAMPUS

3. Councillor Hay welcomed to the meeting Kate Munro, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, who had been invited to give the forum an update on progress in the development of the new South Glasgow hospitals campus.

Thanking the forum for the opportunity to address the meeting and explaining that NHS staff were happy to visit any community groups to discuss the project, Ms Munro explained the background to the creation of the campus site which was an £842 million project comprising 4 hospitals on a single site along with associated infrastructure.

She explained that on completion, there would be 2 major hospitals on the south side of Glasgow: the new south Glasgow hospital and the Victoria. The new hospital would be for unplanned care such as A&E services and would also be the main inpatient site for south Glasgow as well as providing some "national" services such as for spinal injuries, whilst the Victoria would mostly deal with planned visits such as appointments and GP referrals, with a small number of beds for patients undergoing day surgery.

Full details of all the services to be provided on the new campus were outlined, it being explained that the buildings were now complete and wind and watertight. A number of rooms had already been fitted out and sealed pending hand over which would take place in January 2015 with the anticipated moves taking place between April and June 2015.

It was explained that patients had been heavily involved in room design and all bedrooms would be single rooms with ensuite facilities. There had also been significant patient involvement in the design of A&E facilities.

Further details on the new children's hospital were outlined. In particular it was explained that family support facilities such as Ronald McDonald House would be opening at the same time as the hospital.

Full details of the laboratory services to be provided having been outlined, Ms Munro provided more information relating to the supporting infrastructure, particularly in respect of the arrangements for attending hospital either by car or public transport, and car parking.

She explained that the health board had invested in a number of public transport routes and was also investing in public transport interchanges at various locations. £1.5 million was also being invested in Fastlink bus routes from the city centre.

Concerns were expressed regarding the number of beds available at the new hospital when compared to the beds available currently as it appeared there would be a significant reduction in the number of beds available in future. Ms Munro explained that there were different categories of beds within a hospital and that, for example, beds in A&E were not counted as they were used by many people throughout the day and were not used to accommodate people overnight. However, she advised that she would provide clarification on bed number to members in due course. In response to further questions, Ms Munro advised that she would also seek clarification regarding ambulance response times and the helipad at the new campus.

On behalf of the forum, Councillor Hay thanked Ms Munro for her presentation

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2013/14

4. Under reference to the Minute of meeting of 27 February 2014 (Item 3 refers) when organisations were encouraged to submit project proposals to be considered before the end of the financial year, the forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive providing details of projects approved in 2013/14, including those approved under delegated powers.

The forum noted the report.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2014/15

5. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the general services budget allocation for 2014/15 and advising that no project proposals were available for consideration.

The forum noted the report.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

6. The following issue was raised:-

Abandoned Property – Newton Mearns

Mr Jesner referred to an abandoned house in Newton Mearns which had been subject to vandalism, and sought clarification regarding whether or not the Council could take appropriate action to protect the property. Councillor Buchanan advised that the Council would need to find out who owned the property before taking any action. Mr Jesner intimated that he would forward the property details to Councillors Buchanan and Hay to allow the matter to be investigated.

The forum noted the position.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

7. It was reported that the next meeting of the forum would be held in the Council Offices, Main Street, Barrhead on Thursday 11 September 2014 at 7.00pm.