

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 11 December 2014.

Present:

Councillor Kenny Hay

Grace Brookmyre, (East Renfrewshire Faith Forum); Inspector Alan Dickson, (Police Scotland); Steven Healy, (Neilston Community Council) (Vice Chair); Gordon Steel, Uplawmoor Community Council; and Alan Walker, (Neilston Development Trust).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

Attending:

Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Elaine Green; David Jesner (Mearns Community Council); Linda McCullagh (Hillside Tenants and Residents Association); and Rena McGuire (Barrhead Community Council).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 11 September 2014, subject to Rena McGuire (Barrhead Community Council) being added to the list of attendees.

POLICE/FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – UPDATE

2. Councillor Hay invited Inspector Dickson to update members on the activities of Police Scotland in the forum's area since the date of the last meeting.

Inspector Dickson provided an update on the Community Policing Plan 2014 which outlined the priorities for local communities and how Police Scotland planned to address these throughout the year. Inspector Dickson advised that, although violent crime statistics had increased in 2014, the number of common assaults had decreased and officers remained focussed on tackling violence and antisocial behaviour. The supply and manufacture of

controlled drugs had been targeted in the area and the number of offenders arrested had increased, disrupting the activities of individuals involved in this type of crime. He further advised that Police Scotland would continue to target violent crime and dangerous driving throughout East Renfrewshire in the coming months and increased police patrols had been deployed in shopping areas across East Renfrewshire to provide public reassurance and act as a deterrent against thefts and disorder.

Councillor Hay highlighted that a recent day of action, known as Operation Relay, had been held in Barrhead and this had received a very positive reaction from members of the public. Inspector Dickson advised that Operation Relay would continue across the Greater Glasgow area in 2015 and communities could expect to see high profile police activity with operations targeting drugs, street drinking and youth disorder, bogus callers, proceeds of crime and businesses connected to serious and organised crime, amongst other things.

Having heard Councillor Hay thank Inspector Dickson for his presentation, the forum noted the position.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2014/15

3. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the budget allocation for 2014/15 and submitting proposals for consideration.

Under reference to the minute of the previous meeting (Item 3(c) refers), when it was agreed that consideration of provision of a notice board near Barrhead Police office would be continued to allow clarification to be sought from Police Scotland, the Committee Services Officer reported that a response had been received from Police Scotland advising that they would not allow noticeboards to be erected on police property to ensure that, amongst other things, a corporate appearance was retained across the force.

In response to a question regarding the availability of funds from Neilston Community Wind Farm to support local projects, Mr Walker advised that the initial profits generated by the wind farm would be used to pay back loans and no funds would be available for community projects in the next few years. He added that no money had yet been received by local communities from Middleton Wind Farm which had been established 3 years previously and he requested further information on this.

Following full and detailed discussion on the proposals submitted, the forum agreed:-

(a) that the following projects be approved:-

Opening Balance £14,748

| PROJECT | COSTS/COMMENTS |
|---|-----------------------|
| Provision of bench at entrance to new car park on Kingston Road | £860 |
| Provision of 2 seat benches at basketball area, Kingston Playing Fields | £1,150 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Cycle Friendly Village Initiative (Neilston) – Signage | £4,000 |
| Total | £6,010 |
| Remaining Balance | £8,738 |

- (b) that the project to provide a bench, notice board and bin at Glen Halls, Neilston be continued to allow further discussion to take place with the appropriate department regarding a suitable location for the items requested;
- (c) to note the response from Police Scotland regarding erection of a notice board;
- (d) that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services in consultation with the Chair to approve any projects up to the end of the current financial year;
- (e) that further information would be requested on community funds from Middleton Wind Farm; and
- (f) otherwise, to note the report.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

4. The following issue was raised:-

Skateboard Facility – Cowan Park

In response to Mr Healy, who had requested clarification regarding the future of the skateboard facility at Cowan Park, Councillor Hay confirmed that, if planning permission for the new school was approved, the skateboard facility would be moved to another location within Cowan Park.

The forum noted the position.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

5. It was reported that the next meeting of the forum would be held in the Council Offices, Main Street, Barrhead on Thursday, 26 February 2015.