

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 10 September 2015.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan

Sergeant Jim Boyle (Police Scotland); Grace Brookmyre (East Renfrewshire Faith Forum); Steven Healy (Neilston Community Council); David Jesner (Newton Mearns Community Council); and Gordon Steel (Uplawmoor Community Council).

Mr Healy in the Chair

Attending:

Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair); Station Manager David Fothergill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); Joyce Miller (Uplawmoor Community Council); and Alan Walker (Neilston Development Trust).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 28 May 2015.

Sergeant Boyle, supported by others, confirmed that supplies of "cold caller" stickers had been placed in local libraries, the main Council offices in Giffnock and Barrhead, and Auchenback Resource Centre.

Mr Jesner confirmed that the advertising trailer which had been situated at Greenlaw Village had been removed and Councillor Buchanan reported that final tenders had been issued for work relating to the area at the front of the Foundry. As a result of this it was anticipated that work would begin soon on the formation of the walkway between the Foundry and the adjacent Asda carpark which it was hoped would relieve the difficulties presently experienced by users of the Foundry seeking to park their cars.

POLICE UPDATE

2. Mr Healy invited Sergeant Boyle to update members on the activities of Police Scotland locally since the last meeting.

Sergeant Boyle reported that a recent Glasgow-wide initiative, *Operation Neighbourhood*, aimed at reducing housebreaking, had seen great success in East Renfrewshire with in excess of 40 offences being detected. He explained that a small number of people tended to be responsible for multiple offences and the arrest of 1 person had seen a significant fall in the subsequent number of housebreakings in the area.

He went on to report that funding had been made available to enable the campus police officers to remain in post until at least the end of the 2015/16 school session and that Constable Karen Searle had been appointed as the new campus officer for Eastwood High School. He also reported on the recent successful "Safety in the Park" event in Arthurlie Park which had again been well received and in respect of which an outcome report would be produced in due course.

Following brief discussion Mr Healy thanked Sergeant Boyle for his presentation.

PROJECT PROPOSALS 2015/16

3. The Forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the budget allocation for 2015/16 and submitting proposals for consideration.

Members expressed concern regarding the request for additional funding for noise reduction work at the Uplawmoor skate park. As a result and following extended discussion, it was agreed that the Committee Services officer would contact the Parks Service with a view to ascertaining if there were any alternative solutions to the problem or if an alternative contractor could be found to carry out the work.

The Committee Services Officer requested that any further project proposals be submitted in advance of the next meeting on 10 December in order that any approved work could be completed and invoiced prior to the end of the financial year.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

4. The following issue was raised:-

- (i) Mr Jesner raised the matter of the current replacement programme for street lighting columns, associated power cables and lamps. In response, Councillor Buchanan outlined some of the background to the decision to establish the programme including the need to replace damaged or corroded columns, move the columns to the back of the footpath where feasible, upgrade the associated power cables, and replace the current sodium lamps with modern LED lamps. He also explained that the Council had taken advantage of an innovative funding mechanism that had been made available for this work and that the anticipated savings would quickly outweigh the capital cost of renewal.

The forum noted the position.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4. It was reported that the next meeting of the Forum would be held in the Council Offices, Main Street, Barrhead on Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 7.00pm.