

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
28 May 2015.**

Present:

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan

Councillor Elaine Green

Rita Connelly (Auchenback Tenants and Residents Association); Steven Healy (Neilston Community Council); Sergeant David Higgins (Police Scotland); David Jesner (Mearns Community Council); Joyce Miller (Uplawmoor Community Council); Rosaleen Reilly (Barrhead Community Council); and Alan Walker (Neilston Development Trust).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

Attending:

Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillors Danny Devlin and Paul O’Kane.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 26 February 2015.

POLICE UPDATE

2. Councillor Hay invited Sergeant Higgins to update Members on the activities of Police Scotland locally since the last meeting.

Sergeant Higgins advised that there had been a spate of house breakings in the Neilston area and that entry to most of the properties had been gained through patio doors which had been left unlocked by householders. Police Scotland had arranged for extra patrols in the area during the early hours of the morning and householders were being advised to ensure that all doors, including patio doors, were securely locked at night.

During discussion Mrs Connelly requested further information on where members of the public could pick up “cold caller” stickers and it was suggested that a supply of these stickers should be placed in all libraries and the main Council offices in Barrhead and Giffnock. Mrs Connelly also requested that a supply be forwarded to Auchenback Resource Centre.

Having heard Councillor Hay thank Sergeant Higgins for his presentation, the Forum:-

- (a) agreed that a request be made for a supply of “cold caller” stickers to be placed in local libraries, the main Council offices in Giffnock and Barrhead, and Auchenback Resource Centre; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the position.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2014/15

3. The Forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive giving details of the projects approved in 2014/15.

The forum noted the report.

PROJECT PROPOSALS 2015/16

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

In addition to the projects which had been issued with the meeting papers, Councillor Hay advised that a further project proposal had been received to supply and fit 2 bespoke memorial benches at the Neilston War Memorial. A copy of the application and photograph of the bench were circulated to members. A full discussion took place on this proposal in the course of which it was suggested that other areas may also wish to receive this type of bench and that further investigation regarding funding and levels of interest in local communities would be required. Referring to recent improvements to the Barrhead War Memorial which had been undertaken using Area Forum funding, Ms Reilly asked if anything could be done to improve the faint lettering on the war memorial. Councillor Hay advised that recent improvements had been made to the Neilston War Memorial and he would discuss funding options with Councillor O’Kane who had been involved in the project.

Referring to the project to provide a bench with attached planters at Double Hedges Road, Neilston, Mr Healy requested that this item be continued to allow discussion to take place regarding alternative sources of funding. Having heard that Yes Academy had been approached to provide a quote for this project, Councillor Buchanan highlighted that Yes Academy could provide community councils, and other local organisations, with competitive quotes for work in local communities, including bricklaying, horticultural and woodwork projects, amongst other things.

The Forum agreed:-

- (a) that the following projects be approved:-

Opening Balance £7,500

PROJECT	COSTS/COMMENTS
Noise reduction for skate ramp at park in Uplawmoor	£1,500
Notice board at Broadlie Road, Neilston (adjacent to St Thomas’s Primary School)	£800

TOTAL	£2,300
REMAINING BALANCE	£5,200

- (b) that the following projects be continued:-

PROJECT	COSTS/COMMENTS
Bench and attached planters at Double Hedges Road, Neilston	Other funding options to be pursued
Provision of 2 bespoke memorial benches at Neilston War Memorial	£1,548. Further discussion on alternative funding opportunities and additional benches to take place.

- (c) to note that the project to install two floodlights at the war memorial, Cowan Park, Barrhead could not be funded by the Area Forum due to ongoing maintenance costs relating to the required energy supply;
- (d) to note that Councillor Hay would discuss funding for improvements at war memorials with Councillor O’Kane in the first instance;
- (e) otherwise, to note the report and comments made.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

5. The following issues were raised:-

- (i) Warranty conditions relating to notice board supplied to community councils

Under reference to the Minute of the previous meeting (Item 6(i) refers), Ms Reilly asked for an update on warranties for new notice boards. The Committee Services Officer undertook to clarify this position and report back to members of the Area Forum in due course.

- (ii) Future of Area Forums

Under reference to the Minute of the previous meeting (Item 4(c) refers), Councillor Hay confirmed that he had spoken to the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services regarding the future of Area Forums but that no update had yet been received. He advised that he would pursue this again with the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services.

- (iii) Advertising Trailer at Greenlaw Village

Under reference to the Minute of the previous meeting (Item 6(ii) refers), it was reported that there were no restrictions on this type of advertising as long as the vehicle was taxed and parked appropriately. Sergeant Higgins asked if permission was required from the Council to advertise on a public road,

following which Councillor Buchanan advised that he would investigate further and report back in due course.

(iv) Large Commercial Bins

Mrs Connelly advised that she had received a number of complaints about a commercial bin which had been placed on the pavement outside a hot food outlet in the centre of Barrhead and asked if anything could be done to remove the bin from that location. Councillor Hay advised that there was often no other suitable location for the siting of commercial bins due to access arrangements and that, as long as the bins were being emptied regularly and were not causing an obstruction, the Council was unable to take any action.

(v) Car Parking at Barrhead Foundry

Having heard Mr Jesner ask if more parking spaces would be made available at Barrhead Foundry in due course, Councillor Buchanan advised that more spaces would be made available when landscaping work had been completed but that the number of spaces overall had been reduced in this area. As part of the landscaping work, a new walkway would be established between Barrhead Foundry and the Asda car park and an agreement had been made with Asda that Foundry users would be able to park there. Councillor Buchanan also advised that there would be an area in front of the Foundry for public events on completion of the landscaping work.

The Forum agreed:-

- (a) that the Committee Services Officer would request information on warranties for new notice boards;
- (b) that Councillor Hay would again contact the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services for an update on the future of Area Forums;
- (c) that Councillor Buchanan would seek clarification regarding advertising on public roads; and
- (d) otherwise, to note the comments made.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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