

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 21st October 2019

Present: Jack Powell (JP, Chair), Cindy Berry (CB), Bill Crawford (BC), Janey Floyd (JF), Jabbar Ghafar (JG), Shamielah Ghafar (SG), Tony Halifax (TH), Douglas Lawson (DL), Alex Mackie (AM), Morag McLaughlin (MM), Maureen Powell (MP)

In attendance: Cllr Com Merrick; Ten members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Dorothy Crawford, Cllr Jim Fletcher

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 16th September 2019 were approved by Bill Crawford and Alex Mackie.

Chair's opening

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting including the members of the public attending.

Police report

Officer Andy Wilson attended the meeting. A police report for the period 14th September to 16th October had previously been circulated.

TH asked about the number of drugs cases in the same location – why? AW indicated they were apprehended in cars in the GHA car park. Drug users typically meet in cars in remote parts of car parks.

DL asked about the number of instances of car crime. AW replied most car crime is now from unlocked vehicles. AW advised don't leave valuables in vehicles; ensure vehicles are properly secured when parked; park vehicles in well-lit areas; to consider investing in CCTV cameras and any suspicions to be reported on 101.

DL asked about the timescale of police enquires. AW replied 2 weeks is not unusual for local enquiries or door to door enquiries.

DL asked why the police station was closed during times when it was advertised as being open. This can happen when there is a serious incident as there is insufficient staff available at such times to man the public desk.

DL asked about an abandoned car that has been on a public road for some time, displaying a SORN certificate – who is responsible for dealing with this. It is only a crime if it is uninsured. SORN is a matter for the DVLA.

JP passed information to AW concerning a van that has been reported on social media by a number of residents. The occupants approach houses where they see equipment Etc. in driveways or gardens and can become very insistent when refused. Other residents have reported equipment being taken from their properties without permission. AW indicated that this will be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.

Planning/Licensing Issues

Local Development Plan

ERC have published the second version of the Local Development (LDP2) outlining their planning strategy for the next 10 years and opened an 8 week period of consultation, finishing on 13th December. This includes their general intentions regarding Braidbar Quarry and Huntly Park and residents in the vicinity of these areas have received letters inviting them to make submissions.

JP suggested that the community council should appoint a short-term working group to examine LDP2 and formulate issues to communicate to ERC. This was agreed and CB, BC, JF and Kirsty Duncan from the Friends of Huntly Park agreed to form the group. Community Council members agreed that Kirsty Duncan should be adopted as a temporary associate member to facilitate her membership of the group.

JP referred to the objections to the development of the quarry area and Huntly Park that have been noted in previous community council minutes, particularly in the minute of 19th November 2018, and to the results of the survey conducted by the community council earlier this year, which showed strong opposition to developing these areas as a housing estate. Commenting on LDP2 gave both residents and the community council the opportunity to

put such objections to ERC again. He also stressed that as many individual residents as possible should make submissions to ERC so that they are left in no doubt about the community's views.

Consultation with ERC

A paper, referring to the Community Councils' scheme of establishment, which was prepared by ERC, stating that 'Community Councils have a statutory right to be consulted on planning applications' was previously circulated.

JP stated that the community council received weekly digests of planning applications submitted to ERC, but that there were no mechanisms for the community council to engage with the planning department on these applications. The Scheme of Establishment also states that 'there should be mutual engagement in the establishment of community councils' working relationships with ERC and other agencies.

It was generally felt that the current arrangements regarding planning applications did not constitute consultation, and that a formal submission should be made to the Chief Executive and Director of Environment in ERC, seeking to establish 'mutual engagement' in accordance with the statement in the Scheme of Establishment.

Planning Digests on ERC Website

JF stated that she had found it difficult to find the weekly planning digests on the ERC website. ERC should be asked to provide more direct links to this information.

MP stated that there is an initial plan to have Eastwood Care Home turned into Luxury flats. This is a 19th Century historic building which is beside the Eastwood toll and there will be substantial re-decoration. There are proposals made in relation to re-roofing and window changes - however the architectural features will remain. There will be approximately 60 flats built and will be called villas. Each flat will have a garage. However there may be traffic problems in the future, in particular affecting Berryhill Drive and Fenwick Road. Traffic control may be needed.

Cllr Merrick asked if there is another trafficking report with planning.

CB stated that there are schools nearby and that Orchard drive is already busy with traffic and pedestrians.

Community Engagement

JP stated that, while the community council was seeking more meaningful engagement with ERC, it also had a responsibility to actively engage with the local community to find out what issues were of general concern to the community at large.

TH stated that he had looked at the existing website, facebook and twitter pages and found them to be dull, with low levels of engagement. How could this situation be improved?

MM expressed concern about how the community council could engage with residents who didn't have access to, or simply didn't use social media – how could such people be reached?

It was agreed that these were not simple issues, and that a sub-group should be formed to examine them.

(JP to follow this up)

Refuse Collection

ERC proposals to discontinue public refuse collection sites

Cllr Merrick indicated that ERC had made this decision to achieve economies, as ERC is now achieving over 60% of waste being re-cycled and that the system of residential bin collections is now bedded in.

Overflowing bins in certain locations

Concern had been expressed by some residents that some refuse bins, particularly one opposite the Orchard Park Hotel, regularly overflowed. This appeared to be because they were near to fast food takeaway outlets, which are used by significant numbers of school pupils during lunch breaks. Concerns were expressed over the design of refuse bins, allowing refuse to be blown out of bins that were filled above the level of the actual containers. Some bins in other areas had different designs and also indicators to show when they were full. Could ERC look at investing in bins of a similar design?

Disposal of food refuse

DL asked if food refuse that is put in brown bins was sent to landfill. If so it would release quantities of methane, which was not environmentally friendly.

JP reported that he had seen a documentary in which food waste was processed so that methane could be collected and used to provide energy for homes. Could ERC look into this?

Parking on Pavements

The Scottish Government passed a law on 10th October, making parking on pavements illegal. Local Authorities will be expected to implement and enforce this new law.

Concerns were expressed regarding:-

Could local authorities actually enforce this law?

Would they be given any discretionary powers (e.g. to allow pavement parking in certain areas)

Knock on effects (e.g reducing the amount of available parking on streets)

It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue to see what effects the new law has.

AOCB

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting - Monday November 18th at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library.