

**MINUTE**

**of**

**NEWTON MEARNS SOUTH, BUSBY CLARKSTON AND EAGLESHAM AREA FORUM**

**Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School on 2 December 2014.**

**Present:**

Provost Alastair Carmichael  
Councillor Barbara Grant

Councillor Stewart Miller

Sergeant Jim Boyle (Police Scotland); Bill Duguid, (Eaglesham and Waterfoot Community Council); George McLachlan (Busby Community Council); and John Seenan (East Renfrewshire Neighbourhood Watch Association).

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

**Attending:**

Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Alan Lafferty, Ian McAlpine and Jim Swift and John Divers (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting of 9 September 2014.

**PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2014/15**

2. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive giving details of the expenditure and projects associated with the allocated General Services budget for 2014/15.

Mr McLachlan referred to comments made by local residents regarding the size of the slide that had been installed at the play area on Cartsbridge Road, Busby, and enquired if it would be possible for a breakdown of the costs to be provided. In reply, Mr Daly explained that with most projects of this type a large proportion of the total project cost went towards the cost of the associated safety surfacing. He undertook to obtain a breakdown of the costs as requested.

The forum noted the report and that Mr Daly would request a breakdown of the cost of the project to install a small slide and matting at the playpark on Cartside Road, Busby.

## **POLICE UPDATE**

3. Sergeant Boyle reported that the police annual winter initiative was just about to start. This would see a high visibility police presence in the main shopping areas in East Renfrewshire. He reported that with regard to housebreakings in the area, arrests had been made and this had resulted in a significant reduction in crimes of this type.

He further reported that the annual public consultation exercise conducted by the police had taken place recently. And that this had helped to inform the community policing plan updates for the Newton Mearns South and the Busby, Clarkston & Eaglesham wards. Copies of the updates for both wards were tabled.

Sergeant Boyle then commented further on the local priorities that had been identified in both wards and the steps being taken to address these.

In the course of discussion on the information provided, Councillor Grant referred to information in the press the previous week suggesting that crime detection rates were poor in East Renfrewshire. She explained that at the recent meeting of the Council's Cabinet (Police & Fire) Mr Bates, the Divisional Commander had clarified that the figures quoted in the press related to a particular issue and that overall detection rates in East Renfrewshire were very high. In support Sergeant Boyle emphasised that due to the low base figures in East Renfrewshire and the use of percentages, a small rise in terms of actual crimes or incidents could lead to what appeared to be a significant increase in percentage terms.

In response to Mr Seenan, Sergeant Boyle explained the mechanisms used by the police to carry out their consultation to ensure that the responses were reflective of the population makeup. He also provided clarification on advisory and mandatory speed signs, with particular regard to 20's Plenty areas around schools and 20mph signs in these areas, and on some of the collaborative work between the police and community wardens to tackle in appropriate parking around schools.

The forum noted the information.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

4. Mr Seenan referred to the challenging financial situation facing the Council and sought clarification of the position regarding property revaluation, suggesting this was an area where potentially the Council could increase the amount of Council Tax it received if properties were revalued and moved into higher Council Tax bands. He sought clarification of the when revaluation of properties took place, particularly whether revaluation took place when houses were sold.

Mr Daly undertook to raise this matter with the Assessor at the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

5. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 3 March 2015 at 7pm in Mearns Castle High School.