

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 November 2013**

Present:

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair)

Heather Anderson (Uplawmoor Community Council); Station Commander Cameron Black (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); Rita Connelly (Auchenback Tenants and Residents Association); Sergeant Matt Gemmell (Police Scotland); Steven Healy (Neilston Community Council); David Jesner (Newton Mearns Community Council); and Linda McCullagh (Hillside Tenants and Residents Association).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

Attending:

Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Cath Close, Neilston and Uplawmoor First Responders.

Apologies:

Councillors Betty Cunningham, Danny Devlin, Elaine Green, Paul O'Kane and Tommy Reilly; Grace Brookmyre (East Renfrewshire Faith Forum) and John Divers (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 29 August 2013.

CCTV

2. Under reference to the previous Minute (Item 4(a) refers) when Councillor Hay undertook to contact the appropriate officers with a view to them contacting Mr Jesner to discuss CCTV, Mr Jesner advised that he had not been contacted in this regard. Councillor Hay advised that he would send a further request to the appropriate officers to contact Mr Jesner.

The forum noted that Councillor Hay would contact the appropriate officers.

POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE MATTERS

3. Councillor Hay invited Station Commander Black and Sergeant Gemmell to give an update on any activities in the forum area.

Station Commander Black was heard on local fire and rescue statistics advising that most figures had decreased, including for primary and secondary fires, and the only increase had been in respect of unwanted fire alarm signals (e.g. false alarms). He advised that Station Commander Divers and his staff would visit Barrhead Health Centre during December to encourage local people to sign up for home fire safety visits and he would ask Station Commander Divers to advertise this initiative by sending information leaflets to local groups.

Thereafter, Sergeant Gemmell advised that local police offices would only open during office hours as a result of a national footfall survey which had taken place. The Barrhead Police Office would open from 8am to 6pm daily and would continue to be manned during these hours. He further advised that both Stewart Street and Govan Police Stations in Glasgow would continue to be open to the public twenty four hours a day. Public satisfaction surveys had been completed and it was expected that the results would be available in Spring 2014. He further advised that police officers were attending a number of youth meetings in Neilston during November and December, in conjunction with Alcohol Scotland, to discuss local issues and concerns.

Mr Healy advised that 14 young people had recently attended the Neilston Community Council meeting and had requested further information about "proceeds of crime" funds and whether or not they could be used to fund local initiatives. In response, Ms McCullagh advised that new funding was available and she would pass the appropriate information to Mr Healy.

Mr Jesner advised that a large galvanised tank on a local farm had recently been covered in graffiti and referred to an initiative in Cardiff where billboards were erected to allow young people to use these for graffiti instead of private property. He asked if a similar initiative would work in this area. Sergeant Gemmell advised that such an initiative may not be required in this area as graffiti incidents had declined in East Renfrewshire in recent years.

Having heard Councillor Hay advise that he had received a number of compliments from members of the public regarding recent days of action undertaken by the Police, the forum noted the position.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2013/14

4. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive giving details of the allocated general services budget for 2013/14 and submitting proposals for consideration.

The Committee Services Officer provided an update on previously approved projects. Referring to the project to resurface the access road to the Scout Hall in Barrhead, which had been approved subject to match funding by the Roads and Transportation Service and satisfactory conclusion of legal investigations, she advised that the land was held within the Council's Housing Revenue Account. Having discussed this matter with officers from both the Housing Service and Roads and Transportation Service, she advised that match funding could not be provided due to budgetary constraints. An inspection of the road had recently been undertaken and it was reported that there were no safety defects on the access road and it was unsuitable for extensive patching. She further advised that the project to fund a pensioner's Christmas dinner in Neilston, which had been approved at the meeting on 13 June 2013, had now been withdrawn and the funds returned to the General Services budget.

A further project proposal was tabled requesting funding for a public access defibrillator in Uplawmoor. Mrs Close from Neilston First Responders was in attendance to answer questions from members regarding the project. During discussion, in the course of which Mr Jesner indicated that this excellent project should be replicated in other areas, Mrs Close advised that she would obtain further information regarding a cost for the defibrillator casing and would submit this in due course. Members of the forum advised that they would be keen to support the additional funding if the cost was not prohibitive.

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

- (a) that the following projects be approved

General Services Budget - Balance £7,352

PROJECT	COSTS/COMMENTS
Relocation and repair of notice board from Hillside Road to Kirkstyle Lane, Neilston	£253.30
Replacement of air conditioning unit at Auchenback Resource Centre	Up to £2,000.00
Public access defibrillator in Uplawmoor	£400.00
TOTAL	£2,653.30
REMAINING BALANCE	£4,698.70

- (b) that the following project be refused

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
Provision of electricity supply at former public toilets, Kirkstyle Lane, Neilston	£2,550.00

- (c) that funding of £4,000 to resurface the access at the Barrhead Scout Hall, approved at the previous meeting, be withdrawn as no match funding could be found;
- (d) to note that the remaining balance would now be £8,698.70 to take account of the decision at (c) above;

- (e) to note that Mrs Close would provide information on the cost of the defibrillator casing to the Committee Services Officer who would forward this to the Chair for consideration regarding funding;
- (f) 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; and
- (g) otherwise, to note the report.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

5. The following issue was raised:-

Council Consultations

Referring to a number of consultations which were currently taking place in respect of modifications to the Local Development Plan, Mr Jesner requested a breakdown of the responses received by the Council to these consultations. Councillor Hay advised that this information was not yet available but confirmed that a report would be submitted to the Council for consideration in early 2014. Having heard Mr Jesner advise that local groups had not received a breakdown of the responses submitted during the original Local Development Plan consultation earlier this year, Councillor Hay advised that he would raise this matter at a Members' Working Group which was taking place the following week.

Referring to plans for a new Barrhead High School at Cowan Park, Councillor Hay advised that invitations to comment on the proposals had been issued to local groups but a number of groups had decided not to respond. The responses received to all of the consultations would form part of the report to Council at the beginning of 2014 and would thereafter be submitted to the Scottish Government for examination.

Mr Jesner referred to developer contributions received by the Council and requested clarification regarding whether or not some of this funding could be used to widen the road at Hillfield. Councillor Hay advised that he would seek clarification in this regard.

Following discussion, the forum noted that Councillor Hay would seek clarification on a breakdown of responses to the original Local Development Plan consultation and developer contributions for Hillfield and report back to Mr Jesner in due course.

DATE AND VENUE FOR 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, 27 February 2014.