



# NeSt Community Council

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting – May 2022

### Report of Acting Chairperson

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Well, after previous attempts to re-establish a community council for Netherlee and Stamperland not having taken off due to insufficient volunteers, I am delighted that we managed to get ourselves formed in August 2021 with (by lucky coincidence!) precisely the number of members as spaces available on the community council!

With the covid-19 situation, it was a challenging time to get things going and we were a couple of months in before we were even able to meet each other in person but our members have demonstrated admirable commitment and we now find ourselves at our first Annual General Meeting.

There has been some shifting of office bearers since we set up, having lost our initial Treasurer when he moved out of the area (very grateful to our interim replacement Graham!) and I have only just stepped in at our last meeting to cover the role of Chair.

Nevertheless, our team have gotten the ball rolling and made some positive achievements and we haven't even been going a year yet! Our group quickly agreed upon the appropriate acronym "NeSt" and selected our colourful logo, with special thanks to our Secretary. Our social media team have hit the ground running, setting up Facebook and Twitter and our website is underway. For those not online, we have a community council mobile phone as an alternative way to contact us.

Some of our members did a fantastic job in cleaning up the old Stamperland notice board we have inherited which belonged to the previous community council (the Netherlee notice board, on the other hand, has mysteriously vanished!). We have been working on leaflets for distribution and hope to have these with residents of our community in the coming months.

We participated in tree planting at Netherlee Park in November 2021 as part of East Renfrewshire Council's initiatives linked to COP26. We were kindly invited by our neighbours Clarkston Community Council to take up a stall with them at Clarkston Christmas market in December 2021 where we sought to raise awareness within the community that NeSt is up and running.

We have commented on planning and licensing applications of community interest, which is one of our key functions. We have begun to build relationships with local police and East Renfrewshire Council officers and thank them for their engagement with us. We hope to develop these links further and to positively influence decision-making affecting our community, as well as partnering with other agencies and groups to achieve common aims. We already have a fantastic and very technically knowledgeable team specifically focussed on roads and transport issues.

We recently conducted our first litterpick within Overlee Park and I would love to see us arrange another one soon, perhaps putting it out to our community to see what parts of Netherlee and Stamperland are most in need of this!

I believe that community engagement should be our top priority in the year ahead and we are fortunate to have some excellent members to take this forward. I really hope now that covid restrictions have eased that we will start to welcome more new faces along to our meetings and community activities.

Thanks to all our members, elected representatives and others who have supported us so far, including our ERC community council liaison officer Vincent for all his help and guidance. Very special thanks must also go out to O'Haras Accountants, Clarkston for carrying out an independent examination of our accounts free of charge!

**Victoria Pearson**

**Vice Chair of Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council**