

# Neilston Community Council

Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 30 August 2022, 7pm

## In attendance

Janice Connery, Ronnie Junner, Malcolm Briggs, Tony Buchanan (Councillor), Colin McLeish, Owen O'Donnell (Councillor), Gail Squires. Two members of Police Scotland (part meeting).

## 1. Apologies

Vincent McCulloch (Community Council Liaison Officer).

Scott Montgomery has tendered resignation from the Community council

## 2. Police Scotland

The two officers in attendance submitted their report for 30/7/22 - 30/8/22 and provided a hard copy. Amongst subjects discussed were:

- Issues of cars speeding and racing in and around the village. Speeding on the hill down to Barrhead on Neilston Road is a particular and ever-present problem and it was agreed that the only effective calming device would be speed cameras as the road is not suitable for other forms of interventions. [Action: Police and Councillors Buchanan and O'Donnell]
- Youngsters racing each other in cars on certain specific routes was also highlighted as an ongoing problem that takes place generally after 10pm or so until the early hours sometimes. The Police were unaware of this and will highlight it. [Action: Police]
- Parking issues around Duncarnock were discussed - this is becoming a major problem for residents while the work is going on at the school and the car park opposite is out of use. [Action: Police]
- Drug use and supplying in the village is rife despite the Police reporting no incidents this month. Mobile phones facilitate changing locations easily. Police were unaware and requested that these sightings should always be reported. [Action: Police]

The Police officers left the meeting at this point.

## 3. Linking Communities

This is due again in October, however Cllr O'Donnell clarified that it could and should occur when it was most convenient and practical, therefore the date could be moved to suit. It was also acknowledged that those that benefitted last year were not eligible this year. There was discussion around advertising it and ensuring all groups that could benefit would be aware of the event in plenty of time. Margaret Pettigrew who ran this last year has indicated that she would be willing to do so again and will be approached to confirm. **[Action: Janice Connery will speak to Margaret to confirm.]**

## 4. Dareduff Quarry traffic issues

There was discussion around the numbers of lorries expected to use the route through the village; safety - particularly for prams, children and elderly; noise and other pollution. Suggestions and expectations included limiting lorries in terms of the times they could use the route (e.g. avoiding school entrance/exit times); **or** that they should be re-routed entirely via Lugton (A736 & A735) **avoiding the village altogether** as it is a traffic pinch point. **[Action: Councillors to investigate and update]**

## 5. The Parish Church grounds

Issues are the crumbling wall and grass cutting. Members of the congregation have been kindly taking grass (uncollected by the council gardeners) home to put in their own brown bins, which is clearly unsustainable. There seems to be some dubiety about who owns the land and therefore who is responsible. **[Action: Cllrs Buchanan and O'Donnell will investigate and report back]**

## 6. Opening of the new school campus

The Councillors confirmed that the school would be open before the end of 2023 without fail.

## **7. Planning to ensure community spaces are taken into account**

The fencing off the small car park across from the school for the use of the school contractors was discussed as it blocks access to the community green space behind it from the Kingston Road side. The only other access is awkward, not obvious and impossible for the disabled and elderly. The contractors have put in 'windows' in the fencing which helps the planting at Incredible Edible and is of course welcome, however access to the community green space behind it is still compromised and moving the perimeter fencing a couple of feet (wheelchair width perhaps) away from the wall of the planter would be all it would take to resolve this.

This issue was raised to highlight the importance of advocating for the protection of community spaces at the planning stage of developments in the village and not just when they become a reality. [Action: Cllr Buchanan and O'Donnell will check out the situation.

## **8. Collaboration with other village organisations**

It was agreed that it would be mutually beneficial for the Community Council and other village organisations, such as Neilston Development Trust, War Memorial Fund etc., to work collaboratively. This could possibly be achieved by being members of each other's committees. To be considered.

## **9. Overgrown hedges**

The lane between High Street and Main Street is badly overgrown by garden hedges and, as the gardens are privately owned, is a difficult issue to address. It is also tricky for ERC should it go ahead and cut them without permission.

## **10. Doctor's surgery**

The surgery is now too small for purpose and available sites to build on is scarce. Sites such as St.Thomas' school grounds when it closes, the grass area in front of the library etc., were suggested. It is thought that the GP practice owns the building and would therefore be buying a new site.

## **11. Support during the upcoming fuel crisis**

It was discussed that vulnerable people in the village should have warm and safe community spaces (such as the Bank) available to them during the coming winter months to help those likely to be struggling with their fuel bills and having difficulty affording to heat their homes. This again led to discussion of how village organisations could try to collaborate on such issues.

For those struggling to make ends meet in the fuel crisis, other help, such as the school uniform bank and grants etc., were mentioned by the Councillors.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 27 September 2022