

Forgewood Community Council

Minute of the meeting of Forgewood Community Council held on Wednesday 26 November 2008 in Braidhurst High School, Motherwell

Present: T. Hughes (Chair) F. Dowdells (Secretary) Jackie Bentley (Treasurer)
L. Law

In Attendance: Janice McDougal, Paul Smith, Ewan Towie from Woodville Rise Phase 1

Agenda Item No.

Action Required By

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and advised that there was a lot of business to get through.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Paul Kelly (LAB), Cllr Annette Valentine (SNP), Marion Craig, Michael Ross, Shirley Bean

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting of September 2008

The Minute was agreed as a true record of the meeting on September 2008. Proposed by LL.
Seconded by FD

4. Councillors Round Up

Nothing of note in absence of the Elected Members for the Ward, although CC remain in regular contact with the Councillors for the Ward. Working closely with them in driving forward change on the Estate.

5. Estate Management and Community Safety

a. Forgewood Housing Management Group (FHMG)

The Chair reported from the recent meeting of the FHMG. The FHMG meeting had been given over to a discussion around the pre-launch of the Area Action Plan. FCC is to take a close look at this document with a view to getting back to the Regeneration Manager for the Motherwell Area with any gaps/omissions in the current plan from a neighbourhood perspective. There is concern that FHMG has become little more than a talking shop in recent times.

b. Woodville Rise

I. Removal of overgrown shrubbery and vegetation

The Local Area Partnership agreed a proposal submitted by the Community Safety Partnership to award £50K for the removal of shrubbery from the communal areas in all areas of Woodville Rise.

Work is to begin shortly to remove the overgrown shrubbery and vegetation from the communal areas on this part of the Estate. The local Residents Committee will report back on progress at the next meeting of FCC.

II. Woodville Rise – Phase 1

- The Phase 1 Residents Committee continues to make great inroads to tackling the problems in their area. There is though growing unease at the lack of news on progress of appointing a Factor for the Estate.

- Representatives of Phase 1 are arranging a tour of the estate with the Elected Members to show them the extent of the problems facing the estate. We hope to receive a report on the tour at our next meeting.
- FCC continue to support and work closely with the Resident Committees for Woodville Rise and shall continue to campaign with them to have the issues arising on this estate brought to the attention of the relevant authorities and decision makers.
- Getting to grips with the management of the private lets in the area is key to turning around the fortunes of this part of the estate.

c. Community Safety

- I. PC Rob Brown and his colleague Scott joined the meeting at this point. The officers delay due to the fact that they had been caught up dealing with an incident on the Estate. The Chair took this opportunity to apologise to both Officers for comments he made earlier in the meeting bemoaning their apparent no show. There followed a frank discussion on all aspects of policing of the estate.
- II. There is growing disquiet among residents that the police statistics for the area do not accurately reflect the extent and seriousness of the problems residents face daily. Rob encouraged residents to report all incidents of anti-social behaviour as soon as it happens.
- III. Residents have reported that a group of 20 or so young people have been seen running through the closes and back gardens leading onto the Greenlink Cyclepath. Based on the reports received it seems these youths are not residents of the Estate.
- IV. Rob commented on the new Community Police Model that is to be rolled out in North Lanarkshire in the New Year. The Police believe the new model will greatly improve on policing in our communities. FCC shall contact the Police with a view to arranging a public event that will enable the Police to tell residents what they can expect from the new system and how this will improve Community Safety in the area.
- V. FCC is keen to see the new system put in place and will monitor the situation closely for evidence the new system is being to deliver the improvements we are told to expect.

d. Planning

The Chair reported that FCC has submitted objections against a planning submission which if accepted will see another telephone mast placed on the estate. The other objection is against the change of use of a shop to a fast food outlet on the Bellshill Rd. The Chair will monitor the outcome of both applications and report back on the final decision at a future meeting.

6. Correspondence

Nothing of note

7. Finance – Treasurer’s Report

Unable to give treasurers report due to the meeting running over.

8. Transport

Following First Groups decision to cut bus services in the area. FCC took the matter to the Motherwell Community Forum who it turned out has been looking at the wider issues of bus regulation/service provision in the Motherwell Area. The Forum is calling for re-regulation of bus operators. FCC will support the Forum in their campaign and shall write to our MSP to raise the matter with him at the earliest opportunity.

9. AOCB

Nothing of note

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17 December 2008 at 7pm

T Hughes

T Hughes

For and on behalf of Forgewood Community Council