



PLAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Council Meeting held Tuesday 9th October, 2012

at 7.30 pm. within Plains Community Centre Ante-room

Present: Lilian Geurts, Fay Kerr, Anne Marshall, Bob Summerhill, Anne Summerhill, Margaret Waddell, Mary Doris.

Attending: Councillor Morgan, Councillor Beveridge, Councillor Spowart, S McDonald, J Walker, PC Bannister, PC Bone, PC Cooke, J Wright, F Kearney, I Grier, M Dais, H. Boyle (non-resident, Plains Womens' Health Group)

NB: note on post distribution of agenda, and pre meeting change to agenda. S Mc Donald belatedly asked if she might address meeting on Item 2 below. Since CC member, E Wright, who represents the community of Plains on the Community Liaison Panel (CLP), had given her apologies, discussion on this item was not possible, and since this item was expected to take up a fair slot of meeting time, which was now freed up, S McDonald was accommodated in her request.

1. Apologies: E Wright

2. Reshaping Care for Older People-New Scottish Govt policy:

Presentation given by S McDonald, Local Partnership Development Worker, North Lanarkshire Council. Presentation notes were distributed to meeting. Information given that people aged Seventy-five plus population projection for North Lanarkshire was : 2016 -**25,599**/2031 -**38,010**. The new NLC Partnership (with NHS Lanarkshire and other organisations) will provide opportunities to develop our communities and provide services that people want and need. The role of the Community Capacity Building Group was explained. S McDonald also explained what is needed in our local communities, what has been done so far, and new and proposed services. Questionnaire, **Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan**, was distributed to meeting with the request to complete and return. Assistance is also to be extended to community groups in Plains e.g development of Women's Group Lunch Club, Allotment Group, and Community Garden Project.

3. Previous Minutes – Tuesday 11th September, 2012.

Accepted as an accurate record. Proposed: Lilian Geurts, Seconded: Fay Kerr.

4. Matters Arising :

Meeting will now start 7 pm. and finish at 8.30 pm.

Draft copy of minutes to be sent to all CC members. Comments, if necessary, to M Doris.

5. Police Report:

9th September, 2012 to date: 98 calls received from members of public in Plains. This resulted in 24 crime reports and 14 detections. Trail bikes, which are mainly a seasonal problem, are causing major concern. There have been four incidents in last month, resulting in one male being charged under the Road Traffic Act.

Police confirmed that due to the non-pursuit policy(dynamic risk assessment based) they were unable to pursue for safety reasons . It was agreed the most problematic area in Plains for this activity is the landfill site, Saturday/Sunday afternoon and after school. Police advised apathy of public was a major issue - only 4 calls in last month.

Inspector Balfour had been contacted by a concerned resident. However, residents still felt that more official leadership was required. An attempt at a petition failed as villagers are reluctant to put pen to paper for fear of reprisal. Police confirmed that no details given to police would ever be made public. Police are to put an Action Plan forward when resources become available. The possible use of CCTV was discussed. Letter from Police to be distributed throughout village. Invitation to be extended to Inspector Balfour to attend CC Meeting. A BMX track, like the one in Harthill ,was put forward as a possible solution for Plains.

Community Council expressed pleasure re U-turn on reducing Airdrie Police Station opening hours.

6. NLC Report:

Financial Situation – NLC need to save £73.3m. Saving options total more than £105m.

Though NLC have reduced budget by £55m over the last two years, they estimate the need to save a further £73.3m between 2013/14 and 2015/2016.

Nothing has yet been decided by Council. Mid -December, budget will be set for next three years. All North Lanarkshire households to receive booklet requesting opinion on saving options.

Significant response has already been received via Council Web Site.

Railway –NLC Local Plan does not include any plans for further housing development in Plains– it is a Greenbelt area. Since this is now a major requisite for providing a locality with a station, as announced by the Scottish Government, there is clearly little chance of a station for Plains. Since only £5 million of the £30 million Scottish Government funding towards the improvement of rail infrastructure is for new stations. At a probable cost of £5m for one station, it is unlikely this money will be allocated to provide a station in Plains.

Public Sector Housing Stock Upgrade – 1970's top area and Victor Street area – internal kitchen upgrade.

Airdrie Police Station – Councillors and Police were concerned that the retention of existing opening hours might just be a 'stay of execution'. M Doris stated that Intended CC letter of objection on this issue was no longer necessary.

Local Area Partnership – budget presentation, Wednesday 10th October, 2012.

Stanrigg Memorial - £10,000 Grant – plans completed, will be upgraded this financial year.

Wellwynd Centre – 10th October, 2012 – NLC budget cuts presentation.

Friday 12th October – Housing Committee Impact Meeting.

Welfare Reform – The great cost of these reforms to NLC, along with the £73, 3 million in NLC budget cuts presents NLC with the problem of ensuring that people aren't hit twice with Welfare Housing Benefit reform and/ NLC budget cuts in the same area.

7. Network Rail – station, cycle track :

Councillor Beveridge, in reference to previous statements made by Councillor Morgan in his Council report, advised the £5m funding for further new stations was not yet released and that the £30 million funding from the Scottish Government was for the upgrade of 29 stations in Scotland. He further added that a £40 thousand spend by NLC on a feasibility study, was a small price to pay for the potential provision of a station in Plains. Councillor Morgan responded that a feasibility study for a station at Plains had already been submitted when the initial Airdrie/Bathgate Bill invited requests from local authorities for the provision of stations, based on deprivation in communities, and not potential economic growth, and therefore £40,000 spent on work already done will not guarantee success, given that Network Rail now 'changing the goalposts to economic growth as the main justifying factor for the provision of stations to communities.

Councillor Morgan stated that the Labour group were united in supporting a railway station in Plains, and stated that the Scottish Government was responsible for stations, not NLC which is now required, not only to provide housing/construction development, in a locality where this is impossible, but also substantial financial input towards a station in Plains.

M Doris, as Chair, pointed out, on behalf of other CC members and community residents present, that Plains had been promised a station by their representative MSP, Alex Neil. Councillor Beveridge to contact Alex Neil on the matter. CC also to issue invitation to A Neil to next CC Meeting.

Cycle Track

Letter update from Alex Neil on this ongoing issue, indicating that he plans to organize another meeting with NR and NLC concerning the safety issue of the Cycle Path entrance at Ford Bridge. Sustrans willing to fund 50% plus of footbridge at this site, but Graham MacKay, NLC, Head of Roads and Transportation, asserts that NLC are unable to fund the 'substantial shortfall' for a problem which Network Rail were initially responsible for.

M Doris reminded members that Network Rail had reassured CC in Feb 2012 that all areas designated for landscaping, but left unfinished, would be eventually landscaped. M Doris informed meeting that an initiative by Plains Junior Youth Club has now resulted in an agreement with NR to work with the children on the agreed chosen area(for safety reasons) of Station Road area. Junior Youth Cluborganisers, , are Fay Kearney and Denise Fromberg to meet with E Brown, Community Officer, Network Rail, on Thursday 11th October.

8. Covanta/CLP (Community Liaison Panel)

Change of Conditions response (1 deletion/2 changes). Objections – draft letter to be e-mailed by M Doris to CC members for comments.

Councillor Spowart , re proposed Incinerator at Shawhead, advised of article in 'Herald' concerning this facility as an over-provision of waste recycling in Clyde Valley which doesn't equate to needs. He intimated that a similar line of argument could possibly be raised in the future, in objection to the Covanta incinerator.

Data Centre – M Doris informed meeting that Airdrie North Ltd were now in administration, and that the development would go out to tender if/when planning application was granted.

NB: CLP(Community Liaison Panel) ,set up by Covanta- no discussion took place since the PLains CC representative on this panel was not in attendance at the meeting.

9. Funding Accessed by CC:

To be held over to next meeting.

10.Treasurer's Report:

As of last month.

11. Correspondence:

Relevant details to be passed to CC member by M Doris.

12. AOCB :

None

13. Next Meeting:

Tuesday 13th November, 2012 at 7 pm.