



**Plains Community Council  
Meeting held Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 7.00pm  
in Plains Community Centre**

**Present:** Mary Doris (MD), Fay Kerr (FK), Eileen Grier (EG), Allan Jaap (AJ), Catherine Doris (CD)

**Attending:** Cllr. T Morgan, Cllr. Beveridge, J Wright (JW), M Waddell (MW), Inspector Linda Russell (LR), PC Chris McErlain (CMcE) from Police Scotland

**1. Apologies:** Fay Kearney (FKY), Annette McGlynn (AM), Lilian Geurts (LG)

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Approved - FK  
Seconded – EG

**3. Matters Arising:**

PCC Bank account now active. Correspondence is still being sent to Margaret Waddell. MD to remind bank/NLC yet again of changes

Parking of heavy vehicles outside 'Pantry' outlet on Main St - Local police to speak to shopkeeper on Main Street re assisting with this problem and to keep watch on the situation.

**4. Police Report:**

Introductions from Inspector Russell and PC McErlain.

Inspector Russell has served 25 years in the Police Force. She informed CC of her various experiences in planning for the Olympics; as Coatbridge Response Inspector; as a Firearms Officer; and as a Mountie. She believes that Plains is a priority Ward.

LR reported:

	Sep	Oct
Calls	94	25
Incidents	17	5

LR advised that Monthly liaison meetings are to be held with staff of St. Phillips, who are keen to commence meetings with the Police.

CMcE continued report:

2 Quad bikes stolen and recovered in the village (CID and Community Police)

Certain families are high priority for monitoring.

Increasing theft of power tools and high value cars. The latter difficult to trace because broken up into costly parts which are then sold on.

LR encouraged the public and members of CC to report any incidents either by calling 101 or emailing the Community Police with any details they can provide.

LR also reported that no issues were raised at the recent yearly Walk/Parade that was held.

**Questions raised:**

➤ **The volume of calls made to the Police**

LR informed that there was a high volume of calls, but much lower recorded incidents because Police arrival to take statements/details, results often in the callers' refusals in further pursuing the issues.

➤ **Speeding Drivers on Ballochney Road**

CMcE advised that the speed limit on this road was 60mph, but volunteered to monitor the speed by use of a Falcon Gun.

➤ **Closure of Airdrie Police Station**

LR advised that there is a Consultation process running till 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013. This will involve:-

- a. Public Counter review.
- b. Grading police offices in terms of requiring 24/7 front counter service.

LR advised that most people are now directly calling 101 or 999 rather than having to attend a Police Front Counter. A Counter graph display showed that Front Counter was most busy from 1100 hrs to 1200 hrs. She advised that the Airdrie Station will remain a 24/7 Office, but that front counter may close.

**Plains Community Police Contacts:**

Group 2        Chris McErlain & Emma Queen  
Group 3        Pamela Bannister & David Milano

Inspector Russell - [lindarussell@scotland.pn.police.uk](mailto:lindarussell@scotland.pn.police.uk) or direct dial 01236 505120

MD thanked both Inspector Russell and PC McErlain for their detailed and informative report.

**5. NLC Report:**

- **Bruce Street Development** - Councillor Beveridge advised that some residents had raised concerns re inadequate consultation regarding the Community Garden and the cost involved. He expressed his disappointment at this, as did Councillor Morgan who felt the garden was beneficial to the community and a good use of former waste ground. MD added that similar complaints had been made during the recent whole village consultation.

- **New Housing** - Plans to complete construction on existing foundations of 3 to 4 houses at Killearn Crescent. Builder not confirmed yet.
- **Housing** - 'Bedroom Tax' - 6000 people have been contacted, with advice being given on how to maximize their income and to ensure they are receiving all due benefits. NLC advise no eviction as long as people correspond with NLC on their personal situation. Councillor Morgan expressed great concerns regarding money management in relation to the new Single Direct Payment scheme. NLC have the largest numbers of Council Housing in Scotland, so the problem of inability to manage reduced housing benefit is significant.
- **Ballochney Road** - Reported incidents of Fly Tipping. Police have caught and prosecuted a few people fly tipping in this area.
- **Schools & Centres** - Councillor Morgan advised that there would be no funding for new schools. Funding will be given for former sites so that they are maintained and tidied. Councillor Morgan, in response to a request from organisers of Plains Lunch Club for funding for food provision, stated that, as a local councilor, he received a funding budget of only £3700 per annum, and since we are well into the finance year, the money he has left from this amount would be used for old folks' outing & Christmas parties. MD, as Chair of Plains Senior Residents Club, fully understood and accepted this.
- **Community Repairs** - Many people in the private sector are not aware of the availability of assistance for housing repairs/adaptations. Councillor Morgan distributed leaflet on help available.
- **Train Station** - MD reported the response from Transport Minister Keith Brown. He stated that another appraisal was required to consider other methods of public transport e.g. Buses. There was general agreement that this reply was inadequate and evasive since the CC has for years been trying to attain better bus services for the village in the face of ongoing reduced bus services.
- **Cycle Path** - Councillor Beveridge had contacted D Mc Dove with proposal of a cycle path between Connor Street in Clarkston and Meadowhead Road in Plains. D Mc Dove is considering this proposal.
- **Soil Works at Whiterigg/Drumshangie** - Councillor Morgan reported that Bartletts have purchased this land. He will keep us informed of future developments at this site.

## 6. Planning Applications:

### AES Greengairs East Wind Farm

Newly formed Community Liaison Panel met for the first time on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep 2013, made up of representatives from surrounding communities - chaired by AES representative, Claire Addison.

Aviation problem is ongoing. Planning application likely to be delayed until Feb 2015, possibly later.

Community Benefit Fund has risen from £48k to £80k to be shared by the affected surrounding communities. This will not be available until the wind farm is fully operational - Spring 2016 at the earliest.

It was agreed that **Foundation Scotland** will undertake the setting up and administration of fund

applications and payments, but that all grant-making decisions will be taken by the panel of local community representatives, who would have ample time to meet, discuss, and agree the individual needs of communities before the fund becomes available.

Claire Addison also confirmed that AES would pay Foundation Scotland's administration fees. Foundation Scotland is also a separate funding body which can 'match fund' community projects.

A Greengairs East Wind Farm Public Event will be held in Plains Community Centre, on Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November from 4-8pm. This is a 'meet the contractor' and contracting policy event. AES maintain that contractors offering substantial community and local employment opportunities will be given priority rating, and that they are committed to hiring local sub-contractors, as far as is possible. AES will letter local businesses about the event and provide CC and local councillors with posters to publicise the event.

#### **Green Hills Incinerator - Waste Management contracts:**

EG contacted Tom Woods, former Chair of the now disbanded Covanta Community Liaison Panel, to ask why Covanta is still on bidding list for the Clyde Valley Waste Management Project contract. Response was that it was a historic bid. EG to contact Paul Dukes of NL Planning to clarify this. Bidding finishes 2015.

**Action: Councillor Morgan/CC to invite Ken Wilson to give a presentation on waste management.**

#### **7. Plains Lunch Club:**

MD gave update on Lunch club - progressing well. Airdrie Consortium Steering Group has granted funding for hall lets and transport for the disabled. Many of the goods for refurbishment of the Community Centre kitchen furniture have already been delivered.

MD praised Social Services Locality Link Officer, Fiona Wright, for her sterling efforts in supporting and financing this project. Attendance figures - 41 confirmed, but over 25 pensioners still to be revisited to confirm interest in attending. Also interest from Support Living Complex in Caldercruix to act as an aid to independent living through travelling to social events.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report**

Bank balance is £3,226.72. This includes the NLC grant of £639 for 2013-2014.

MD to send AJ copy of Expenses form.

#### **9. Correspondence:**

Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland.

Airdrie Town Centre Framework & Action Plan Workshop 2

#### **10. A.O.C.B**

**Fracking:** Councillor Morgan advised that there are no applications in under 'Call for Sites' for "Fracking".

#### **Community Newsletter**

Discussion took place regarding funding for a Community Council Newsletter. Councillors advised seeking support from local businesses, councillors' surgeries etc.

#### **11. D.O.N.M : 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013**