

Cumbernauld Village Community Council

Minutes 11th October 2012 Village Hall 7.30pm

Present

Norman Egan, Richard Cartwright (NLC), John Gibb, Elizabeth Sneddon, Nancy McEwan, Uli Hudak, Wilma Shepherd, Ann McLeish, Alan Downie, Sandra Brady, Sheila McGhee, Adam Irvine, Gillian Connolly (Treasurer), Alan Russell, Margaret Hunter, Pat Churches, Brenda Morgan-Klein (Secretary), Adam Smith (Cumbernauld House Trust), Paula McCrae, Philip Morgan-Klein (Chair).

Apologies

Jim McLean (Vice Chair)

1. Police Report

There were no officers in attendance

2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record. It was noted that John Ashcroft of the Roads Operations Team had accepted a request to attend the 8th November meeting of the VCC. Noted that NLC has been reminded that grit bins need replacing/topped up. NLC confirms that grit bins should be available at: Wigtoun Place, Smithyends car park, 2 on Roadside, 1 at button roundabout at Dullatur Road, Rigghead Avenue, Mainhead Terrace, Springfield Rd. A new one may be placed at Main Street/Wynd junction. The tree at the memorial has been pruned and NLC has agreed to slab the area under the notice board. It was noted that Beautiful Scotland Judges had commented negatively on the state of lampposts in Roadside and Baronhill where the paint was peeling and/or the posts were green with algae.

3. Treasurer's report

Bank account - £2,491.78

Cash - £77

Total - £2,569.03

Noted that this year's administrative budget had not been received. Chair to follow up.

4. Secretary's report

The secretary reported that most of the month's business is on the agenda. A few minor items were tabled without discussion;

Noted that a planning application requests house type conversion from 2.5 to 2 storey in Bluebell Walk

Scottish Water's winter code tabled

Invitation to Citizen's Advice Bureau AGM tabled

Formal Notification of Adoption of NLC local Plan (operative from 28th September)

Community Council Short Life Working group report and Recommendations

September 2012 tabled (main points to be discussed at November meeting)

5. CARS Project

Richard Cartwright briefed the VCC on progress:

- **Shopfront Improvements**
Works to 22 premises due to complete next week ie by 19 October, 6 shops still to have metal grilles added, most other works now complete- new signage, repair work, some new doors & windows, repainting. £175,000 of Historic Scotland CARS grant spent.
- **Householder Grants**
Works to approx 20 premises done- mostly on new & refurbished windows in Main St and The Wynd, a few properties roof work. Approx £70,000 of Historic Scotland CARS grant spent.
- **Priority Buildings**
Approx £50,000 of Historic Scotland CARS grant allocated.

Primary School- support for CH Trust/ CVAC proposals, £7000 of CARS grant used towards Feasibility Studies now completed; NLC offered to sell to Trust for £40,000 subject to planning permission and funding being secured.

Ardenlea House- being repaired without a grant, new timber sash windows and cast iron rainwater goods now installed.

Circle and Spur PH's- grants still available for roof repair work, subject to quotations/ specifications being received and supervision by conservation architect.

- **Other Elements to CARS**
Training Project –RC hopes to arrange repair of Smithyends Car Park wall as a training project, also repairs to Cemetery Gateposts inc replacement of finials.

RC requested any ideas for groups or firms to contact who may be interested in receiving training. *(Nancy suggested the Trust for Conservation Volunteers may wish to send people)*

Public Realm – in addition to the Lang Riggs work (£25,000 HS CARS grant); Notice Board, Street Lighting Enhancements & Bus Shelters (NLC budget), it is hoped there will be some residual NLC budget money for some further work eg litter bins, seats, more info boards inc at Lang Riggs and Gateways by Spur PH and Old Parish Church, perhaps also in future lighting of Village Hall Tower.

PMK offered to host a small group to input on public realm project detailed ideas & priorities.

Support was expressed at the meeting for litter bins and feature lighting (possibly also at the Old Parish Church- which will be raised at OPC mtg next week)

Signs to the Lang Riggs were suggested and signage from the bus stop area towards Village facilities, perhaps also including chargeable advertising in a new cased notice board there.

Publicity – RC noted that there will be another CARS Newsletter and other opportunities for publicity for the improved Village- including its businesses- will be sought eg North Lanarkshire News, Cumbernauld News features, and perhaps a Heritage Trail leaflet combined with some business advertising.

Input was invited, perhaps from PMK group as above, into the Heritage Trail.

PMK noted that the Lang Riggs project had had publicity on a recent Radio 4 programme.

RC noted that putting the Village CARS up for any suitable awards, and also the Primary School project as it goes forward, can also help to 'put the Village on the map.'

- **Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan**
RC noted that responses were due to the Cumbernauld Village CAAMP (with other Supplementary Planning Guidance out for consultation) by Fri 12 October, and that very few responses had so far been received. RC encouraged any responses from the VCC or individual members by Fri 19th October and left 3 hard copies of the document, which can be found on the Council website www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk under Planning.
- **Other Issues Raised in Discussion**
Vacant Sites – RC noted the idea of seeking money for good screening of the 2 sites with artwork, but the meeting wanted permanent solution through Compulsory Purchase (36 Baronhill likewise).

Childrens House Wall – a member expressed concern at condition; RC to check its as approved.

Signing from Trunk Roads – Beautiful Scotland judges in commending the work in the Village had suggested this was needed but NL Council would need to request this.

Car Parking – the VCC are concerned at inadequacy of Village parking & NLC Roads rep is to attend VCC on 8th Nov; PMK suggested a need for more signage to existing parking.

6. Feasibility Reports on the Primary School and briefing from Adam Smith

Key points were:

- The full proposals including a new build multi purpose hall wing would cost £3.5million (inclusive of fees and VAT).
- CHT are confident the scheme is viable and it is hoped BLF will fund interior works and HLF the exterior works. Maximum grant awards from these two bodies would provide sufficient funding. Two options for HLF funding are being considered- the old scheme has a 07 Dec deadline but a new scheme offers scope for higher funding.
- Castlemilk Stables, a similar project costing £4million, was referred to; this used a ground source heat pump, and to a question AS said the Village School project will seek to use renewable energy.
- To a suggestion for another consultation event, AS said this would be best after funding decisions were received.
- PMK suggested letters of support be sought and added to the grant bids.
- To questions from a Brownie Group Leader, AS said that storage will be incorporated; and it was also suggested that any multi purpose hall divider should operate smoothly and may need to be sound insulated.

7. Winter service Policy and Procedures

Received current Winter Service Policy and Procedures report. Chair to attend severe weather preparedness forum meeting – report at November meeting.

8. Town Centre Survey

A copy of this survey was tabled for information. Town centre survey available online to give feedback on Town Centre

9. Consultation on NLC cuts agenda

Copies of the consultation document The Way Ahead were made available and some limited discussion took place of key points with members agreeing to respond as individuals.

10. Proposed amalgamation of Abronhill High School and Cumbernauld High School.

Key points of the proposals in the consultation document were discussed. The proposals would result in the closure of Abronhill High School buildings and the building of a new school in the grounds of Cumbernauld High School to open in August 2013. The following response on the part of VCC was agreed:

On discussing the proposals Cumbernauld Village Community Council are concerned that should the amalgamation of schools be agreed, the time scales given are completely unrealistic. In particular this would be likely to disrupt the transition of P7 to first year when both educational research and practice is clear that such transitions must be carefully managed to ensure smooth educational progress particularly for vulnerable pupils. Pupils at Abronhill high School would not know where they were going until late in the day and this poses an unacceptable educational risk. A second concern is that the closure of the school would have a highly negative environmental and social impact on the community in Abronhill. In Cumbernauld Village we have experience of being left with a defunct, sometimes vandalised building at the heart of the community and know that this is extremely demoralising and disempowering. If the proposals go ahead, we would strongly urge NLC to have a strategy for managing and redeploying the building working with the community concerned.

11. CVAC Report

An application has been made to Fields in Trust for a grant of £9,300 for allotment pathways.

12. AOB

There was no other business

13. Date of next meeting

November 8th 7.30 pm Village hall