

**Minutes of Meeting of
Westerwood Community Council
held at St Andrews and Cumbernauld Primary School
Tuesday 20th March 2007**

Present:-

G. Wright; K. Brunton; W. Smith; W. Cunningham, H Macindoe, Cllr Gordon Murray

Apologies:

J Brady, N Crichton

Chairmen welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

1. Reviewed previous minutes

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed at the end with Mr Neilson's points addressed – see AOB as we had 2 guest speakers.

2. Kenny Foy – Constable Community Safety Department

Kenny discussed with the residents some crime prevention tips and warnings but did stress that there were no real concerns reported of crimes in our area. Kenny is happy to visit your home and complete a crime prevention survey which is free of charge– you can contact him Tel 01236 503910

- British Summer time starts this weekend – and this increase crime rates with the longer light nights and early mornings. The prime time for break ins and car snatches is between 5.30am and 6.00am
- High value cars are a prime target – if you can use your garage
- Don't leave your car keys on a table or near your door – thieves use powerful magnets on fishing rods
- Don't leave keys in your door – they can be pushed out and again lifted off the floor with magnets
- Be observant – any unusual vehicles – or neighbours cars leaving not at the usual time – take a second look
- Alarms – they don't recommend – but you do get what you pay for. If installing an alarm it should be connected to a control room or police station
- Set up a Neighbourhood Watch – it will lower your house insurance premium – you only need a minimum of 5 houses
- Door alarms – strips can be bought from the £Pound Shop – great for when you are in the garden or if you have small children
- Hopper windows – remember to close and lock at night – thieves only need a small gap to crawl through
- Untidy garages and sheds – are better! If a thief might knock over something it will put them off. Or use bike locks to padlock lawnmower etc together

- Mark your property with the ultra violet pens – put down your postcode and house number – in particular cameras, sat nav systems, laptops, bikes and mobiles
- Mobile phones – keep a note of your IMEI number it is unique to your phone – key in *#06# - and the number will appear on your phone
- Buy a safe to keep insurance documents, passports, bank books
- Photograph your jewellery on a black cloth with a ruler next to it – much easier to then identify if recovered or if making an insurance claim
- Shred all junk mail and bank statements etc to prevent identity fraud (one resident suggested – rip off your address and post back the item in the prepaid envelope – it costs them money!)
- Ladies – in purses or handbags only carry the cards you require
- Driving licence – you don't need to carry this – if you are stopped by the Police you have 7 days to present your documents. Licences are a prime target for identity fraud – they have your name, address, date of birth
- Don't put car and house keys on the same key fob
- If you hear an intruder – just dial 999 – try to stay calm – make as much noise as possible – most intruders are just snatch and grab – looking for cash, mobile phones and car keys
- Sat nav systems are the new car stereo theft – don't leave them in sight and remember to remove the window holder

Good news – at last months meeting a resident brought to the Police attention – a charity hoax – requesting old clothes etc for collection. Polish charity with blue and yellow flyer. Two people have been arrested.

3. Recycling – Andy McKenzie – Customer Service Manager

Andy gave a brief update on NLC progress to date with the recycling programme. Scotland was fined £240m for sending too much to the land fill sites – hence recycling must be increased. Good news was that 18months ago – NLC was the 2nd lowest in performance with only 1.3% being recycled – this figure has increased to 28%. NLC have concentrated on paper and garden waste as these are bio-degradable. Ward Park was one of the first “tips” to be upgraded to include more recycling facilities. The residents unanimously agreed that the site was excellent and the staff most helpful. The Scottish Executive is pushing for local authorities to change to fortnightly general refuse collection – this is being continually reviewed by NLC but no proposed plans at present. All residents appeared to be pleased with the recycling facilities – in fact one resident did express that when people were educated in recycling – then a fortnightly bin collection would not be so onerous. Some residents did feel that the recycling vehicles did leave a mess when collecting – this was addressed with Andy and he asked if any further complaints please contact them on 01698 403110

Brown bin – residents felt that with the size of some of our gardens they were not big enough – Andy said they would be happy to replace them with bigger bins contact them on 01698 403110. **Update since meeting – this information is incorrect –**

they will happily issue you with a second bin – but do not have larger brown bins! (sorry!)

Finally, Andy confirmed by email that the following charities had benefited from our recycling £26,500 in total to British Heart Foundation, Help the Aged, St Andrews Hospice, Children 1st

4. Local Plan

Gordon Murray confirmed that the plan had still not been finalised and any objections should be posted in June. Bill Cunningham has written to Planning Department, on behalf of the council, objecting to the proposal for more housing at the Links. (this has been noted to be re-submitted again in June).

Mr Murray also left copies of letters that he has recently issued for the residents perusal.

5. AOB

- Craigmarnock Community Council – are holding a public meeting on Thursday 19th April at the school – to give residents the opportunity to question election candidates on “what they will do for Cumbernauld” – all residents were urged to attend.
- Sign at entrance to Queens Drive has been fixed but not replaced – email to be sent to request new sign and large sign at roundabout to be cleaned
- Spina Bifida Charity Night – Westerwood Hotel have kindly agreed to host a Buffet evening with Disco – Tickets cost £10 – please contact Helen 733977 – to purchase **Many thanks to W Smith for gaining some sales already!!!**

Due to time constraints at our last meeting Mr A Neilson wished to raise the following points – they were addressed as follows:-

- When Mr Murray suggested the building of Flats within the area, which he has done so previously. Mr Neilson was most annoyed that he had previously heard rumour of this while on holiday (with two other residents) in Jersey. It was suggested to him that the Dullatur road would be closed between Queens & Kings Drive to allow flats to be built within the waste land between the two roads – **NLC planning department deny any knowledge of this plan – therefore until it is proposed no action can be taken**
- Anti-skid surface should be laid down at the mini roundabout on the Carrickstone Road – **Chair will send letter to NLC**
- Supervision is required of the “Lollipop” personnel at the Dullatur roundabout as he felt they were often standing “blethering” rather than getting on with the job – **there is currently now only 1 Lollipop person as the roundabout – Chair will send letter to NLC**

- Re-surface and apply skid surface at the garden centre roundabout and cut back entrance bushes as they obstruct vision – **Mr Neilson discussed with police – however Chair will send letter to NLC**
- Environmental recycling uplift vehicles – leave mess behind and make no effort to clean up their spills – **discussed with Andy McKenzie and any further problems should be reported by residents**
- Street names signs need to be repaired – **Secretary will send email to NLC**
- Dog mess – becoming a big problem again – need more signs – **Chair will send letter to NLC**
- Speed signs within estates on lamp-posts – **this has been addressed by committee previously and we were told that NLC will not provide “repeater” signs – Gordon Murray said “that they will put painted 20 road signs on the road – again will address in letter to NLC**
- Incorrect parking on footpaths causing damage to tarmac – **specific areas will need to be confirmed before action can be taken**
- Hamilton College drop off /pick up – unsuitable and unsafe that it is done right on the roundabout – **Police again did not respond to this query with Mr Neilson – will include within letter**
- More info in the Cumbernauld News as well as website – **Cumbernauld notice has been input and diary note set for future reminders – website upgrade in progress**

6. Next Meeting

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 15th May 2007 – starting at 7.30pm at St Andrews and Cumbernauld Primary