



Plains Community Council
Meeting held Tuesday 9th November, 2014 at 7.00pm
in Plains Community Centre

Present:

Mary Doris (MD), Eileen Grier (EG), Lilian Geurts (LG), Fay Kerr (FK), Cathy Doris (CD), Cllr. Beveridge, Cllr. Spowart

Attending:

PC Gary McDade,(GMD) PC Julie Davidson(JD), Jim Walker (JW), Elaine Tennant(ET), John Grant(JG), Jack Wright(JW)

1. Apologies: Cllr. Morgan, Annette McGlynn, Anne Patricia Kane

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed: FK Seconded: LG

3. Matters Arising:

Chair made apologies to members re cancellation of October meeting due to sudden critical family illness and lack of time to discuss agenda content with vice chair.

4. Police Report:

72 reported calls from 1st Oct - 1st Nov, compared to 176 reported calls in Thrashbush.

St.Philip's figures not included. Calls included domestic abuse, theft, road traffic offences.

Kintyre Crescent 18th October - anti-social behaviour arising from a house party causing alarm to neighbours and residents further afield in village as police gave chase to absconding offenders. 6 arrests but all released the following day pending court appearance – not likely to receive a custodial sentence. CC members concerned from crime reports in the local paper that punishments imposed seldom match the crimes committed and enquired whether this was connected to lack of custodial facilities to hold offenders. Police response was that they have to work within the judicial system, and matters outwith their hands after arrest.

A discussion followed on local media responsibility for distorting public view of Plains by giving such an incident front page headline space. Consensus of opinion of those present was that good news doesn't sell papers.

Resident, JW, raised the question of heavy work vehicles parking on wide pavement areas outside shops on Main St. Police response was, although it was legally wrong, it was a safer alternative to parking, and thus causing blockage of traffic, on the busy main road

NLC Report:

Disabled Access to Community Centre:

Disabled access granted to the other side of community centre. Members questioned plans to make access to top hall accessible given the stair separating top hall and kitchen from bottom hall – possible problems with catering/delivering hot food to bottom hall for events booked. MD also stated problem with disabled

access at the opposite end of the building which was long and steep and too much of a challenge to disabled people who needed stabilising facility of a handrail construction. Cllr Spowart to look into this.

a. Asbestos containing construction material:

Cllr Spowart expressed concern re asbestos containing demolished construction material from Cunbernauld going to Greengairs landfill for recycling. CC stated awareness of FCC, owners and operators of the landfill site also being a global construction company.

b. Fracking:

AS also informed CC of the new drive for fracking in the Central Valley region and informed members that Plains and surrounding communities were within the line of central valley coalfields where fracking might be planned. He is to attend a public meeting at the end of Nov. led by Friends of the Earth. He will report to CC on his findings, and he will also approach this organisation to invite a rep to attend a CC meeting to talk on the subject. MD informed councillors that Friends of the Earth had contacted CC last year on this subject but rep had not responded to two invitations to attend CC meeting to speak on the subject and no further correspondence from rep since late last year. MD also informed those present that the latest info sent to CC on the subject of planning stages from Planning on NLCLDP, was that no applications had been received for fracking near local communities.

c. Greenhills Incinerator –Amey Cespa Community Panel:

EG, CC rep on this panel, expressed her frustration at Amey Cespa's experts use of childish practical scientific displays to clarify how the incinerator will operate. EG felt this was patronising and insulting to panel members present who, due to much long term research, are well versed in how the incinerator is intended to operate. MD also commented on plans for a 'Greenhills Park Area' mentioned on NLC website. CC would like to know what plans are.

d. FCC Planning applications:

Cllr Spowart told those present that NLC Planning had granted both applications by FCC to construct a new mechanical biological waste treatment facility to treat/recycle 25,000 tons of waste, and another application to treat likewise another 25,000 tons of waste already being received. MD expressed disappointment at this since she had been informed by NLC Planning Officer that the planning application had been put on hold for further consideration until 20th November. CC objection not quite finished but CC will submit it anyway as a statement of disapproval.

e. LAP Quarterly Meetings - Planning Dept Representative:

Question was put to councillors present about the presence of a Planning Dept representative at these meetings to answer questions on concerns outlined above. Only Planning Dept rep present is in fact solely concerned with town centre planning /regeneration.

Given points **a. to e.**, above, CC members expressed their frustration in the lack of accessibility of appropriate Planning Officers to listen to their concerns, and given the lack of available CC members outwith monthly meetings, and therefore practical time and accessibility problems, to reach all villagers on these concerns, members requested that Cllr Spowart request a senior officer from the Planning Dept to attend a CC meeting and discuss the concerns/issues we have.

Attending police officer suggested CC might also consider setting up a Facebook/Twitter page to advertise village problems/issues. CC to take this forward.

Cllr. Beveridge extended an invitation to members to attend a presentation on 12th Nov. which will inform residents of a planning application for reopening of quarry work at Caldercruix, with the attendant noise, pollution, health concerns, which will impact on the community. He reported on the valid concerns expressed to him by irate residents in the village. He also reminded members of a public presentation by Bartlett's on 20th Nov.

6. Treasurer's Report:

EG reported amount in CC bank account as £2897.71. As yet she has had no correspondence from NLC regarding annual CC Admin Grant. She will pursue this.

7. Correspondence:

Mainly received via email – VANL courses on offer and funding opportunities from Ellen Archibald. Correspondence from Cllr Morgan dealt with in NLC Report. Report on previous, and Invitation to next LAP quarterly meeting.

8 AOCB:

Resident JW complained that cleaning up/maintenance of school grounds adjacent to his property, as promised by NLC, had not been done.

Councillor Spowart concurred that NLC obliged to clean/maintain these areas twice a year and would follow up this matter.

Resident JG also complained about fly tipping on another Meadowhead Rd. resident's property.

EG requested that dog bin be put in place at north east side of the village where many dog owners walked their dogs, but failed to clean after them. Cllr Beveridge to look into this.

New CC Members:

Two residents, after previously expressing their interest in co-option as members of CC, affirmed their decision to request proposed and approved membership.

Mr. James Walker: Proposed- LG Seconded-FK

Elaine Tennant: Proposed- EG Seconded – FK

Both were warmly welcomed by all as new members.

Local bus services:

Cllr Beveridge had already met with SPT and put to CC the offer of a link service to hospital for Plains/Caldercruix residents. This was unanimously rejected by all present. CC to send objection to this decision under social deprivation status and already existing poor local transport worsened by the fact that services by Henderson's, a local bus company, now bankrupt, had ceased. Cllr Beveridge stated that SPT subsidy given to this company may go to one of remaining two companies serving both villages with an additional hospital stop as a requirement of subsidisation. Cllr Beveridge has another meeting with SPT and will present this concern to them and report back to CC.

Post Office for Plains:

MD informed those present that Cllr Morgan had eventually received a disappointing response (copied to MD) from the Post Office that no post office facility would be considered for Plains as access to post offices in other communities and town centre post office was deemed acceptable. Judgement also made that a post office in Plains would take business away from existing post offices

CC to object to decision on the grounds that no post office is within walking distance for Plains' residents whereas facilities were within walking distance for residents of other communities, both within their own communities and main Post Office in Airdrie. Furthermore main post office in town centre cannot cope on busy days/times with the volume of customers it gets, with only five counter staff replacing 13/14 counter staff in the previous town centre post office facility.

Cycle Path/Bridge Reconstruction:

FK reported on another recent presentation by David McDove to local P7 Primary school pupils regarding the ongoing progress of cycle path and bridge/pavement reconstruction public safety improvements. As always, David did a first class job in simplifying technical details and raising interest and involving pupils. CC yet again extends its sincere thanks to David in involving and informing, at every stage in this procedure, both the young people of the community, and the CC in an important community issue originally raised by Plains CC.

Broadband Facility for Community Centre:

LG asked about the possibility of NLC providing Broadband for the community centre. Cllr Spowart to look into this.

9. D.O.N.M.: Tuesday 9th Dec 2014