

**CALDERCRUIX COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER
2016**

IN ATTENDANCE

Billy Main (BM) (Chair), Cllr Alan Beveridge (AB), Colin McLeod (CM), Iris Abraham (IA), Daniel Lafferty (DL), Peter Marshall (PM) and Laura MacIntyre (LM) (both Muirhall Energy).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (3 NOV 2016)

Proposed by BM
Seconded by CM

MATTERS ARISING

1. Local bus service. BM advised that he has contacted McGills Buses regarding numerous service complaints covering a range of matters including buses running past stops where passengers are waiting to board. Plains Community Council have similar complaints on hand and BM has been invited to their meeting on the 12th Dec to question McGills representatives who will be in attendance there.

2. Wellwynd Surgery. BM advised the Practice Manager has denied receiving any complaints. AB confirmed he has received numerous complaints from constituents regarding the surgery including various matters including the failure to run surgeries and drop-in surgeries in Caldercruix as promised, and patients being unable to get through on the surgery telephone line. He raised these concerns with the Practice Manager who maintains that people in Caldercruix are given the choice as to whether to be treated in Caldercruix or Airdrie and are happy to go to Airdrie, meaning less

requirement for the local surgery to open as it is on a “need basis””. The problems with getting through on the phone were attributed to the NHS phone lines.

A discussion followed where several anecdotal instances that challenged the accuracy of the Practice Manager`s comments were cited.

AB agreed to draft an official letter of complaint to the practice and request from them a written summary of available surgery services and appropriate contact details for Caldercruix residents.

PROPOSED WINDFARM

PM and LM provided details of the windfarm that Muirhall Energy propose to build north of Caldercruix, adjacent to the consented but not as yet built Greengairs windfarm. Proposed installed energy capacity of 24MW meaning that planning permission will be determined by the local authority, NLC, and not the Scottish Government. Construction period would be around 12 months with construction proceeding in 2018 in the developer`s best case scenario and the site would have a 25 year lifespan with decommission taking a further 12 months.

They confirmed that the proposed windfarm would have visual impacts for Caldercruix, most notably Moss Avenue. Traffic impacts were also discussed with most construction traffic accessing the Caldercruix and the site from an easterly (Bathgate) direction via the A89.

They stressed that they are keen to engage with the local community on this project, build relationships with local suppliers and enter into a voluntary arrangement with the community council to set up a community benefit fund to be distributed locally to eligible causes in Caldercruix. Funds would be distributed to the community council to determine worthwhile causes and not NLC. They advised that the community council entering into such an arrangement with

them would not affect the community council's right to object to the project and that they foresee local community funds being split 5 ways between the affected communities of Greengairs, Longriggend, Upperton, Plains and Caldercruix. They advised voluntary arrangements have already been set up with Greengairs and Upperton.

At present Glasgow Airport have objected to the windfarm due to impacts on radar systems. Plains Community Council also object due to hydrological and geological issues.

The Community Council agreed to reserve their position on this issue.

POLICE REPORT

Sgt Murray sent advance apologies, having provided BM with the following verbal update in advance of the meeting:- “8 recorded crimes in Caldercruix in the period 8 Nov – 8 Dec (Theft – 3; Assault – 2; Serious Assault – 1; Disorder – 1; Sending abusive/ offensive telecommunications messages – 1).”

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

BM advised the council of a meeting that he and DL attended with Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Planning and Local Government at the Scottish Parliament in November. Following this meeting, the Minister has written to Shirley Linton asking how NLC intends to police this development and enforce their planning conditions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Not present.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

AB advised that in relation to addressing speeding on the A89, NLC Roads Dept intend to introduce vehicle activation

signs in Plains and Clarkston reminding drivers of the 30 mph speed limit. The Roads Dept also made a tentative proposal to increase the speed limit to 40 mph between the Fair Bridge railway bridge and the Drumbow Roundabout to allow them to introduce increased speed limit signage and repeaters on that stretch of road and the community council were asked to discuss this.

The community council agreed they were not minded to agree to an increase in the speed limit on this section of road and asked that Councillor Beveridge feed this back to the Roads Dept.

AB gave an update on the Local Area Development Project and the proposal to improve the old road from the A89 to the church.

The Community Council agreed that they would support this.

AB gave an update on various other matters:

- A diffusion tube measuring NO2 levels is being installed at the Drumbow Housing Estate;
- Police are liaising with a specialist team from Birmingham re complaints about off-road cycling;
- Gowan Brae trees will be felled in March 2017;
- Drumbow Estate neighbourhood watch scheme;

COUNCIL UPDATE

NLC will be launching a major drive early in the New Year to promote Airdrie town centre.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Covered above.

AOB

None.

NEXT MEETING

Second Thursday in March (9 March).

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