



## Dennistoun Community Council

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### MINUTES OF MEETING AT MILNBANK COMMUNITY FLAT 14/2/17

- Present:** Lauren Bennie, Jane Clarke, Sean Kelly, Katie McKenna, Jacq Munro, Frank Plowright, Chrstine Quinn, Claire Rennie, Wesley Wright (DCC); Councillors Jennifer Dunn and Elaine McDougall; Amy Campbell and Peter Stewart (Police Scotland); Lorna Finn representing Anne McLaughlin MP and Ivan McKee MSP, Amanda Blake and Calum Gordon (Co-Op), Ann Brown, Jim Watson
- Apologies:** Lauren Amazeen, Stephen Birrell, John Bones, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Ruairi Kelly (DCC), Alison Thewlis MP, John Mason MSP, Councillors Greg Hepburn, George Redmond and Russell Robertson

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER:** As DCC currently has no Chairperson, Jane Clarke chaired the meeting. Sean Kelly was elected as a new member as per advised procedure, and all meeting attendees introduced themselves.
2. **POLICE REPORT:** Area statistics from January 10<sup>th</sup> include five assaults, 1 detected, theft (18/6), vandalism (5/2), drug offences (1/1). There was an undetected house break-in, but to a shed. Two people have been jailed for house break-ins occurring last year, and the problem has all-but ceased. There are no noticeable trends, but bike thefts are a continuing problem. Lauren asked about a lesser crime rate, which is seasonal and may have been due to colder weather. There was considerable discussion of parking problems and what constitutes obstruction. It's defined by police as when a vehicle prevents a pedestrian from passing without walking into the road, or blocks vehicle access. It needs a civilian to complain as police don't monitor. Parking in disabled bays is obstruction. Licensed premises cordoning off the street for deliveries is obstruction. Any complaint may affect licence renewal, so bearing in mind personal safety, the public can move the obstructions. The council deal with illegal parking on double yellow lines, although these have worn off in places. A team has been out in the drives ticketing offenders. Matchday parking is only a police problem if the above conditions are breached. It was mentioned that objections are still being submitted to the current consultation. Ann Brown preferred the chicanes to the new speed bumps, some not yet painted, as this permits parking everywhere. The police considered chicanes ineffective in slowing traffic. Sean noted witnessing drug trades when walking in the area. He'll be passed the list of police contact numbers supplied to DCC so he can report in future. Frank was unhappy at police response when his wife phoned 101 about a car driving through red lights and almost knocking her over. The response was poor communication and she should have been told complaints aren't taken over the phone, and have to be made in person. What Frank believed to be CCTV at the Alexandra Parade school traffic lights are actually sensors, but there is CCTV at the Meadowpark St junction.
3. **ELECTED MEMBER UPDATES:** a) Councillor Jennifer Dunn announced she'll be stepping down in April after ten years. She was at the November committee meeting at which it was decided not to consult on traffic and parking problems in Dennistoun. Frank mentioned his surprise as we've been trying to get information about a promised and continually postponed consultation for almost a year. Lauren noted that Dennistoun missed out by a single point required to generate consultation, and better community engagement would have rectified that. Councillor McDougall mentioned the consultation taken ten years ago in which residents rejected parking charges. City Park not having weekend parking for staff is a problem, and Lorna said both Anne McLaughlin MP and Ivan McKee MSP have written to the manager about this. Wesley mentioned that an inclusive transport policy for the area should involve Co-Wheels. He also mentioned the Glasgow bike hire system is proposing to double the size of the scheme. b) Councillor McDougall announced proposals that much of Dennistoun will become a 20mph zone. An environmental task

force is operating in the area and is making minor repairs as well as deep cleaning. There are website links and they can be contacted. Jim mentioned the old Haghill School could be considered. More LED lighting is to replace current street lights. Objections have been lodged to a proposal for 574 Alexandra Parade to become a fast food outlet. It would require a large flue on the rear of the building, would encourage litter and there are already youth dispersal problems in the area.

c) Lorna passed reports from Anne McLaughlin MP and Ivan McKee MSP, appended to the minutes. Ivan has been involved with the campaign to save the Lightburn hospital. It's been declared transfer of services is a major change and must go to public consultation. He's also been investigating issues around rough sleeping. His Hillfoot Street premises are now open.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT:** Jim Watson has been very active in progressing his idea of a Dennistoun war memorial, producing a written update. He's identified possible funding sources and the Co-Op representatives encouraged an application to the next round of funding for local causes. Other suggestions were made, and Jim's next stage is to hold a meeting of interested parties. Lauren is happy to liaise as an individual.
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** January minutes proposed as accurate by Wesley and seconded by Lauren pending extra apologies.
6. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) 5 Westercraigs planning application: Sean was surprised at no objections as flat owners have issues with the owner refurbishing the former dental practice. b) Day Out In Dennistoun reprint: Project outlined for new members. ECAP funding bid for £1344 submitted, but no response as yet. If successful the project will have to be completed before April. c) Potholes & footpaths: Frank asked in January for update on defects reported via RALF in May, directly by list to Land and Environmental Services in October, re-submitted in December. Reminder in early Feb. No response. Various solutions suggested, but Lorna agreed Ivan McKee would ask if Frank passed on details.
7. **ACTION PLAN:** Stephen supplied new list, but it still includes projects noted as defunct at previous meetings. Suggested as additional projects were encouraging an East End festival as a regular monthly event, and a street food festival. Lauren wondered if the Farmer's Market duplicated the Drygate's Food Assembly. The Co-Op refit from March will include a dedicated community noticeboard, but Jacq will investigate other possibilities also. Sean and Lauren were interested in being involved with the traffic management plan.
8. **FINANCE:** Jane gave account total as £1679.66, with £16.99 in petty cash. The admin grant for the year hasn't been received, and Jane stressed cash is available if needed, and Wesley noted an invoice for the website hosting has been received. As RBS still hasn't changed signatories on DCC account only two signatories were present, one of whom was Wesley. He raised if it was legitimate to sign a cheque to refund his own expenses, and the meeting had no objection.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Planning: See table A below. There was discussion of residents objecting to new takeaway at 574 Alexandra Parade on several grounds as outlined above. There were further concerns about over-provision, but it was also noted that it brought business into the area. By a majority of 6 to 1 with one abstention it was voted to support residents and submit an objection. b) Licensing: Application for licensing for former Bank of Scotland premises at 575 Duke St from 11am to 8pm. No objections. c) Correspondence: Stephen left notes mentioning free Aye Write tickets available, a consultation on rehabilitation for elderly and questionnaire about Glasgow fire services. Katie mentioned Twitter correspondence about dog fouling, and about the damaged trees on Annfield Place. These are the collective responsibility of property owners on Annfield Place.
10. **REPORTS:** East Centre Area Partnership: Next meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

11. **A.O.B:** a) The Co-Op on Alexandra Parade will be considerably refurbished with work starting in early March. This will be an 8 week process, although it's hoped the shop will only be closed for a week. Among facilities being added is a community room with a capacity of 20 people. There has been considerable discussion about trees occupying places in the car park and breaking the surface with roots, and this will be treated. b) Frank noted the passing of long-time Bridgeton and Dalmarnock Community Council member John Henderson in October. He's sent his own letter of condolence. c) Frank raised an idea of decorative paving at Bellgrove station, but as time was running short he'll circulate notes instead to discuss in March.

**NEXT MEETING:** At 7pm on March 14<sup>th</sup>, at Whitehill School Library. Please notify Stephen if unable to attend.

#### Planning applications

Detail	Location	Concern
Alterations to shop front of what was formerly McDonald's Butcher shop	350 Duke St	No
Installation of ramp to flatted property	10 Armadale Place	No
Use of retail premises as hot food takeaway and erection of flue to rear	574 Alexandra Parade	Yes

#### Matter outstanding

Matter outstanding	Minuted	Responsible
Response about bins South of Duke St where dog fouling is frequent	Nov	Ivan McKee

#### Actions

Action to be taken	Responsible
Supply Police phone contacts to Sean	Frank
Act as DCC liaison on war memorial project	Lauren
Supply pothole list submitted to Land Services in Sept to Ivan McKee via Lorna	Frank
Contact David Frew at Land Services for information on pothole reports outstanding	Ivan McKee via Lorna
Submit objection to planning application for 574 Alexandra Parade by Feb 20th	Brian? Stephen?
Circulate notes about possible decorative paving at Bellgrove station	Frank



## Report from Anne McLaughlin MP to Dennistoun Community Council

Date of Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### Parliamentary Activity since last meeting

As many of you will be aware Westminster had a very busy couple of weeks debating the bill to give Theresa May complete authority over the triggering of Brexit.

Some of the key issues I've personally raised recently have been spousal visas and the real difficulties these are causing for married couples who don't meet the financial thresholds.

I also tabled written questions, spoken in debates and met with the Employment Minister regarding the closures of half of Glasgow's Jobcentres. One of things that the written questions uncovered was that the DWP can sublet additional space in their office to other agencies – but are not willing to consider doing so. It's important to note that the campaign has been cross party (except for the Tories) right across Glasgow. Although no jobcentres in Glasgow North East are closing, many of my constituents use jobcentres outwith the constituency and will be negatively impacted.

Glasgow North East has the highest numbers of West Africans of any Scottish constituency and I am the West African lead on the Africa All-Party Parliamentary Group on Africa. This led to some questions of the Foreign Office earlier in the month as I looked to support Gambian constituents worried about the possibility of bloodshed as their country transitioned to democracy. Fortunately, thanks to skilled negotiations between numerous West African countries, this was avoided and what is happening in Gambia right now is inspirational. I hope it continues to be so.

I also had a useful tour of a regeneration project at Kings Cross in London – which looked at encouraging preserving and celebrating the industrial heritage of an area using brown field sites, integrating Victorian heritage buildings into regeneration planning and using regeneration to improve connectivity for existing residents. Many of these issues will be familiar to residents in Glasgow North East and it will help inform my thinking on possibilities for the constituency going forward.

### Glasgow North East Constituency Activity since last meeting

This week we have an event in the Drygate to promote networking amongst local businesses. I will be working alongside MSP Ivan McKee and East End Connections to achieve this. We have nearly 'sold' out our free tickets to local businesses so that is a welcome indication of the interest locally. Alongside Ivan I am keen to promote locally owned enterprises and their contribution to our communities.

Other local initiatives elsewhere in the constituency which may be of interest have been the opening of the National Theatre for Scotland's new premises at Speirs Wharf. This is tied into Scottish Canals plans for regeneration right along the waterway, including large scale redevelopment at Port Dundas. We've also been supporting Friends of Springburn Park in their attempts to restore the Winter Gardens, and along with Bob Doris MSP we have set up the Springburn Strategy Action Group, which is modelled on the successful approach already being implemented in Royston and is getting the area regenerated. That has its public launch on 9 March.

### Surgeries

In addition to the 4 fixed surgeries and 3 decant days per month, I have 4-6 surgeries which rotate around different venues. This ensures that there is nowhere in the constituency that doesn't get a surgery at some stage. The decant days are all day advice clinics primarily managed by my team although I attend when not needed in London. Anyone can attend these as long as they live in Glasgow North East. Please check my website for details.

The next surgery in Dennistoun is on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 5pm in Dennistoun Library.

### Action Points from last meeting

Graham Campbell from my office attended the last meeting and mentioned circulating my annual report. We don't yet have a date for this because Westminster won't fund such scurrilous activities as passing on contact details to all constituents ☺ We will have an online version and possibly a printed one but there is no date set as yet.

### Contact details

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## **Ivan McKee MSP - Report**

### **Parliament**

I have spoken on debates in the Parliament on Climate Change (about how the Scottish Government in supporting the renewables industry), in a Tory debate about Taxation, on the Scottish Government plans to support Enterprise, on Brexit and on the Budget. I have also asked questions to Ministers in the Parliament: \* On Glasgow City Councils plans to privatise its IT services, supporting Unison's campaign against this misguided policy, \* On supporting Provan constituents who face significant problems due to the demise of home insulation provider HELMS (more on this campaign below) \* On the Scottish Government's plans to introduce the Trauma Network across Scotland, to help save lives of those in major accidents, \* And on the subject of shared parenting, helping children spend time with both parents in cases of divorce or separation. I have had several media appearances on TV and Radio this month, mainly in connection with the Budget, which was passed through the Parliament at Stage 1 last week. Committees The Health and Sport Committee has been taking evidence from the Scottish Health Council, Health Improvement Scotland and Sport Scotland and has also considered the Organ Donation Bill which is coming forward again for debate. The Finance Committee has been working on the Budget, and has also started to take evidence on the Bill for Air Departure Tax (ADT) which is now devolved to the Scottish Parliament. All recordings of Parliamentary debates and Committees are available on the Scottish Parliament TV which anyone can access on-line. I am also involved in several Cross Party Groups in the Parliament. These allow Members from different Parties to meet together with outside organisations to discuss the subject and, where relevant, to make some input to the Parliamentary process. This month I attended the CPG on Poland, due to the high number of Polish citizens in Provan and my personal connections to Poland.

### **Constituency**

The office at 12 Hillfoot St is now open and fully operational. Our full schedule of surgeries is now underway with 13 surgeries each month in all parts of the constituency in addition to our 'decant days' in Ruchazie and Easterhouse where we move the whole office into a community for the day. As I promised when elected we are working hard to make sure we are accessible to constituents in all parts of Provan. My website is now live at [www.ivanmckee.scot](http://www.ivanmckee.scot) My Annual Report has also been delivered to constituents over the past month, you should have received a copy. I am continuing with my program of meeting local Community Groups, Schools and businesses. This month I met with

- \* Quarriers in Ruchazie, to see the great work they are doing to provide Childcare in the area.
- \* Action on Hearing Loss, who are providing a regular free service in Cranhill to maintain hearing aids.
- \* Cranhill Community Council, where the main issue is around GHA's plans to build new housing in the area.
- \* City Building, as a guest of the Joint Trade Union group, to see the great work they do at their Queenslie Training Centre giving high quality training to local apprentices.
- \* Street League, who although they are based just outside our constituency support many young people from Provan with employability skills, and do this using sport as a means to engage with the young people.
- \* I attended the opening of Legal Spark's offices. This is a great initiative. A Social Enterprise law firm set up by Dennistoun constituent Daniel Donaldson. Focussed on representing helping those who cannot afford legal services.



\* Abellio Scotrail, to question them on their Performance Improvement plan as it relates to train services in the East End. \* I also met with Mothers Against Drugs to support them in their campaign against the closure of the New Horizons drug rehabilitation centre in Queenslie.

### **Campaigns**

1. Lightburn: The campaign against the Health Boards plans to close Lightburn Hospital continues. The Health Board met in December and made the decision that the plans to close Lightburn was a Major Service Change (rather than a minor one as they had originally claimed). This means that a 3 month consultation process will now start. I will send out more details later on how to take part in this process. I know some members have expressed concern about the state of Lightburn hospital and the services it provides. Our case is that this is a consequence of lack of investment in the site and it is important to maintain services in the East End and that the Health Boards needs to invest to improve those services.

2. Rough Sleeping : Myself and Anne McLaughlin MP have continues to work with organisations including the Invisibles and Glasgow City Mission to provide what support we can in their work to provide emergency shelter for rough sleepers. A key part of this is also of course to ensure that the processes are in place to move Rough Sleepers into accommodation. We have met with staff from Glasgow City Council who are working to provide these services and to help rough sleepers secure their rights.

3. HELMS. When the company HELMS ceased trading this left many constituents in Provan (and beyond) with a problem as they had had work done by HELMS to insulate their homes but Building Warrants weren't provided which means that they couldn't claim back the cost from the Green Deal scheme. This has left many significantly out of pocket. Allan Casey and Joe Brady are working hard to support these constituents and have had some success in this campaign. We also managed to get a Resolution on this onto the agenda for SNP conference in March.

4. Broadband provision. This is a concern in many parts of Provan and there is a particular problem in the Myreside / Rigby area with the new house build going on there. I have met with Digital Scotland and BT Openreach on this to ensure that their plans to expand capacity meet local requirements and we are having some success here with upgrades planned over the next few weeks.

5. Parking Issue across Dennistoun: this issue has been raised by a number of constituents and I am e working alongside my Westminster and council colleagues to see how we can tackle this. I have written to the City Park building manager and will provide a further update when I have received a response.

### **Donations**

I continue to donate half my salary to local good causes. Recent donations have been to the **Sunshine Club in Easterhouse** who work with children with disabilities to help with transport costs so that children can continue to take part in the clubs activities. As I said before I am looking for opportunities in particular to support local groups with community business ideas where I can make a difference. If you know of such please get in touch.