



Dennistoun Community Council

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Dennistoun Community Council

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

7 - 9:30pm, Tuesday 12 May 2020

Online, via Zoom

CCllrs Present Angela Bretherton (AB) [*Chair*]; Jonathan Deans (JD); Elaine Docherty (ED); Deborah Hamilton (DH); Brian Johnston (BJ); Ruth Johnston (RJ); Valery Tough (VT); Mary Wallace (MW); David Williams (DW); Wesley Wright (WW) [*Minute taker*].

Others Present: Cllr Casey. 1 x member of the public (D York). Police.

ACTION

1 Welcome / Introductions / Attendance / Apologies

Welcome and thanks for attending.

Apologies: CCllrs Lauren Bennie (LB); Stephen Birrell (SB); Sean Kelly (SK); Paul Lavery (PL). Cllr Kim Long. Anne McLaughlin MP.

Absent: CCllrs Stephen Campbell (SC).

2 Police Update

- Lockdown enforcement discussed.
 - Cllr Casey noted vandalism as a main correspondence item.
 - Vandalism around Haghill/Cumbernauld Road the due to a known group is a focus of attention.
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3 Input from CCllrs: DCC support and community issues & concerns around COVID-19

- AB noted LB's involvement with the Covid-19 Support Glasgow North East group, leading to input from Ivan McKee. Further input may now not be required. AB to check. AB
 - Cllr Casey has been involved with acquiring three fridges for the Everlasting Food Bank.
 - DH/AB spoke about identifying gaps in provision that we might be able to assist with.
 - Cllr Casey suggested there would be merit in setting up a Zoom conference/meeting for enabling co-ordination, or at least discussion, between local groups. DH will action. DH
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4 Public Input

- ED noted correspondence regarding Golfhill Care Home.
 - Finlay Drive flats on north side at west end of street have been fenced off in response to GCC Building Standards agreeing with a survey commissioned by the factor which identified potential risk associated with the facade (wall ties?).
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5 Elected Members

Cllr Casey

- Noted that all committees have been stood down, with an Emergency Committee set up to deal with key and pressing matters.
 - Has been focused on front line assistance to local groups, delivering food parcels and activity packs for kids, etc.
 - City Park/Sky down to ~30% staff, with the remainder working from home.
 - On-street bins replacing back court bins: where there are issues with risks arising due to the replacement programme, residents will be notified. Over 100 closes in Dennistoun requiring large on-street metal bins as an alternative to back court wheelie bins due to risks arising from transporting new wheelie bins through the closes where, previously, dustbins would be
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decanted into red wheelie bins. This is a more prevalent problem than other areas in the city. Cllr Casey recently contacted the Head of Service expressing concerns about the impact, but bins were nonetheless introduced on to Armadale Street the next day. They were taken away later that day following a further intervention by Cllr Casey. This matter will require further dialogue with residents, but this is more difficult in the Drives area, where private ownership is higher, in comparison to areas where more properties are maintained by housing associations.

- Will investigate the Craigpark roadworks which have been in place for two months, with work currently suspended.

- Acknowledged the issue of overgrown/overhanging vegetation encroachment onto footways.

- Temporary active travel provision: Suggested that there would be no formal consultation on this due to the emergency arrangements in place. Schemes to be inherently temporary as emergency measures can't automatically be converted into permanent schemes. Verbal comments given by CCllrs noted that, as well as east-west provision for all active travel along Alexandra Parade/Cumbernauld Road and Duke Street it would be good to see north-south cycling provision along Bellgrove Street and Abercrombie Street (to connect Dennistoun with the Broomielaw/Clyde Street/Glasgow Green corridor). Also, Castle Street/High Street, to properly connect the north of Dennistoun (around the Alexandra Parade/Cumbernauld Road axis) with the city centre. Cllr Casey requested that suggestions be submitted via email. Noted that On Bikes (a St Pauls Youth Forum project covering Milnbank and beyond in the north east of Glasgow) have written a letter to GCC regarding this, and suggested that DCC may wish to endorse it.

WW

- Cllr Casey has requested a pause on proceedings in relation to the golf course, to allow plans for future provision to get back up to speed accounting for the impact of the Covid-19 measures. It is noted that the value of the park and its associated facilities is more evident than ever.

Cllr Long

Written input, as attached.

Anne McLaughlin MP

Written input, as attached.

6 Any Other Business

- Signature change info has been sent to the bank (with a request for an acknowledgement, not yet forthcoming).

- Changes to the admin process for area partnership budgets, as per RJ's email.

- Discussion regarding how best to accommodate deafness at future meetings, especially online via Zoom.

AB

7 Note of Next Meeting

Ordinary meeting, 7-9pm, Tuesday 9th June 2020, online via Zoom.

Agenda for Ordinary meeting will be circulated, and published to Dennistouncc.org.uk/dates.

Apologies to be submitted to secretary via hello@dennistouncc.org.uk.

ATTACHED:

- **PRELIMINARY RESPONSE FROM CLLR KIM LONG RE: FOOTWAY ACCESS AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROVISION**
- **UPDATE FROM ANNE McLAUGHLIN MP – 12TH MAY 2020**

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE FROM CLLR KIM LONG RE: FOOTWAY ACCESS AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROVISION

Date: Tue, 12 May 2020

Dear DCC

I'm afraid I'm not able to join the meeting, apologies from me.

Thank you for your very comprehensive email which I received this morning - I trust you weren't expecting full answers before the next meeting given the timescale. In any case I would advise that because Council systems are on an emergency footing, normal liaison between departments and Cllrs is off and so I do not have access to the information you are seeking in a number of cases. I will deal with each matter in turn:

a) Large bins on footways

It was most unhelpful that changes to bin storage policy were proposed to be made out of the blue with no previous notification, never mind discussion, with Cllrs or residents. I am glad the sensible decision to hold off on changes has been made

It is my own view that even if absolutely necessary to have large bins, putting these on the pavement would be unacceptable

I believe if absolutely necessary then large bins should be positioned on the road

I will be writing to the department to express these views and I will pass on DCC's comments and questions, which I very much welcome

b) Increasing space for active travel

The short answer to this is I entirely agree with need for more space for people, in light of climate emergency and the need for social distancing on an ongoing basis. My colleague Cllr Martha Wardrop raised this with council officers at end of March and I'm not briefed on latest developments of those discussions. We have been given general outlines that officers are working to establish more cycle paths and are considering where these could be located.

I hope to get into this matter further next week and will report back to DCC when I have more information. You may already be aware that the organisation On Bikes in Blackhill are campaigning for better cycle routes in the north east and I am in regular touch with them.

Specifically to answer your question, I have seen Duke St mentioned as a possible location but no further detail on plans. I do not know what the proposals are for discussing with CCs but I will pass on your concerns and comments and I would very much expect that CCs can be involved as this crucial issue develops

c) Vegetation on footways, on-pavement parking, cycle lockers

I do not have any information on these. I will make enquiries and let you know as soon as possible.

Please let me know if there are further issues arising out of the meeting.

Kind regards,
Kim

Cllr Kim Long
Scottish Green Party
Ward 22 : Dennistoun



House of Commons



Anne McLaughlin MP

Update from Anne McLaughlin MP to Dennistoun Community Council

12th May 2020

Hello everyone and I hope you are all safe and well.

Not being in London means I have the opportunity to do the things in Glasgow that I normally can't. Unfortunately I got the notification just a little bit too late for tonight's meeting but I hope to be at the next one.

My constituency office and my parliamentary office are both open but virtually. The brilliant people working with me are still working but from home – two of us here in Dennistoun albeit in separate houses. We are always available on 07740 600 101 or by emailing me on anne.mclaughlin.mp@parliament.uk.

For the first few weeks of Lockdown, we had our heads down 7 days a week as thousands of people got in touch with the many questions you will all have been asking. I want to give you a little bit of detail so that you know the kind of thing we've been dealing with but also so that you and everyone else living in Dennistoun (and beyond) knows that if you come to me I will either have the answers to these questions or I will find them.

Unfortunately, try as I might, I was not able to get the answers for Dennistoun based company City Blinds and Shutters. Between myself and Ivan McKee MSP we did everything we could to keep the company afloat but in the end it folded and 63 people lost their jobs. The issue was that they were unable to access government grants because their bank refused to be helpful. There was only one option left for them and that was to furlough their staff. However the government guidance said they could apply for a 'reimbursement' of 80% of wages and it was the word 'reimbursement' that caused concern. It implied that they had to pay the wages in advance and then claim back. They could not afford to do that so wanted confirmation that they would not be ineligible if they did not pay the wages and then applied for this 'reimbursement'. I spoke to government ministers, their private parliamentary secretaries, I was told one particular minister had my number, knew the urgency and would call me that day. That was 6 weeks ago and I'm still waiting. The company knew if they 'furloughed' staff on a promise of 80% wages and it turned out they were, in fact, ineligible, not only would they be breaching company law but their workers would have missed out on 4 weeks of whatever benefits they were entitled to claim. So they had no choice but to fold.

Anne McLaughlin SNP MP for Glasgow North East
Old Springburn Library & Museum
(Jobs and Business Glasgow)
Atlas Square
179 Ayr Street
Glasgow G21 4BW

Email: anne.mclaughlin.mp@parliament.uk

Temp phone number: 07740 600 101



Anne McLaughlin MP

Another major issue was Sky at Citypark and myself, Ivan and Allan Casey worked on this for several weeks to support staff who were being forced to work in Citypark despite not being classed as 'essential workers'. I understand Allan Casey is at the meeting tonight so if anyone wants to know more I'm sure he will be happy to go into more detail.

So far, since Lockdown began, I've helped people who:

- have lost their jobs or income;
- need access to food – both those who can pay for it but can't collect it and those who simply have no money right now;
- are self-employed or run a business and need advice on the grants available;
- can't pay their electricity bill and are worried about being cut off – don't be, we can help;
- are key workers needing advice or help;
- have been told by their employer that they can't be furloughed when in fact they can – I can speak to your employer;
- need someone to walk their dog or pick up a prescription – we know who can do this for you;
- are being forced by their employer to go to work when they are NOT an essential worker;
- are struggling to cope with bored children;
- are worried about paying the mortgage or rent – again, don't be, there are new laws that will protect you.

In addition to that I've been out delivering food with numerous food hubs (I hate the term foodbanks) in Springburn, Dennistoun, Haghill, Balornock, Barmulloch, Possilpark, Blackhill, Royston and I host the weekly Zoom COVID 19 response meetings for Milton and for Springburn. I attend the meetings for other areas or send a member of staff.

So my team is immersed in the response to CV19 as we should be. Doing the food deliveries is the best opportunity I will have to engage with the people in this constituency who need the most help. After knocking the door and stepping back 2m, I always wait to introduce myself and let them know how to get my help if there is anything else that they need. I almost always pick up casework and sometimes I find myself helping people in exceptionally desperate situations and wonder what would have happened to them if I hadn't knocked their door.

That tells me there are many many more out there who don't know how to get help so I am working with a number of groups to find the best way to communicate that message.

Anne McLaughlin SNP MP for Glasgow North East
Old Springburn Library & Museum
(Jobs and Business Glasgow)
Atlas Square
179 Ayr Street
Glasgow G21 4BW



Anne McLaughlin MP

I am now back 'in' Parliament which is hampering my ability to be out so much. I'm obviously not going to London but am working remotely which mostly means listening to debates and picking up information and issues and sometimes I am selected to speak. So far during lockdown I've managed to speak on issues relating to the DWP and on the impact of a Universal Basic Income.

I want to finish by saying please come to me if you need help, support, advice with anything – I don't care how anyone voted, I don't ask, it's not relevant, my job is to represent everyone. And if you know anyone who might need my help, please just ask them to get in touch.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne".

Anne McLaughlin MP
Glasgow North East

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(Jobs and Business Glasgow)
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