



Dennistoun Community Council

hello@dennistouncc.org.uk www.DennistounCC.org.uk

Minutes of the Dennistoun Community Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday 10th January 2023, from 7:00pm,
at Reidvale Neighbourhood Centre, 13 Whitevale Street, G31 1QW.

Cllrs Present Steven Campbell (SC); Lisa Clifford (LC); Tom Dickson (TD); Brian Johnston (BJ); Ruth Johnston (RJ); Jane Marley (JM); Ellen McVey (EMcV); Fiona Nixon (FN); Frank Plowright (FP); Ian Sheerer (IS); Valery Tough (VT) [Chair]; Wesley Wright (WW) [Minute taker].

Others Present: Cllrs Anthony Carroll (ACar).
Niamh, representing Anne McLaughlin.
1 member of the public.

	ACTION
1 Welcome / Introductions / Attendance / Apologies	
- Apologies received from Cllrs Lewis Hughes (LH); Callum McLellan (CMcL). - Also from John Mason MSP. - Cllrs not present, no contact: ; Allan Casey (ACas); Elaine McDougal (EMcD); Greg Hepburn (GH); Cecilia O’Lone (CO’L); Linda Pike (LP); George Redmond (GR).	
2 Approval of Minutes	
- 8th November 2022 ordinary meeting minutes: proposed by RJ, seconded by SC. - 10th December 2022 Ordinary meeting notes: proposed by FP, seconded by BJ.	
3 Matters Arising	
<u>Noticeboards</u> - Currently stored at Milnbank Community flat. >> VT/LC continuing to arrange details for installation. Will look into permission to dig, or whether it’s required.	VT
<u>Playpark Upgrades</u> - Per pledge prior to May 2021 election. >> Cllr Casey noted at 13 Sep 2022 meeting that site visits were planned. Citywide rollout procedure unconfirmed.	ACas
<u>Haghill Primary School Kit Sponsorship</u> - Provision and sponsorship of football kit at approximately £460 for full squad kit. Approved in principle by Cllrs in April. >> Application to Area Partnership to be looked at by LC.	LC
<u>Road markings</u> - Duke Street/McIntosh Street/Hillfoot Street/Alexandra Parade expected to be complete by end of August 2022.. GCC Neighbourhood Liaison Co-ordinator re-notified 11 Dec 2022 (and prompted again on 16 Jan 2023). >> Awaiting response from GCC.	GCC
<u>EV charger installed alongside existing cycle parking at library</u> - Cycle rack to be moved by 05 Aug 2022. GCC Neighbourhood Liaison Co-ordinator re-notified 11 Dec 2022 (and prompted again on 16 Jan 2023). >> Awaiting response from GCC.	GCC
<u>On-street seating at cafes</u> - Problems associated with encroachment of on-street spaces associate with cafes and bars were identified. GCC Neighbourhood Liaison Co-ordinator notified 11 Dec 2022 (and prompted again on 16 Jan 2023). >> Awaiting response from GCC.	GCC
<u>Drainage</u> - Blocked gullies and regular flooding on Onslow Drive, Armadale Street, Whitehill Street and Meadowpark Street. GCC Neighbourhood Liaison Co-ordinator notified 11 Dec 2022 (and prompted again on 16 Jan 2023). >> Awaiting response from GCC.	GCC

4 Officer Updates/Reports

a. Chair/Vice-chair

- Discussion of individual topics/items that can be promoted in advance of each meeting as a way of raising interest, especially if a speaker will be attending (e.g. Bins/Cleansing, Police attendance, Redevelopment projects).

- Seeking someone to book venues for future meetings. >> **LC volunteered to take this on.**

LC

b. Treasurer

- Latest RBS statement balance is £2949.63 as of 30 Dec 2022, with no outstanding cheques or invoices, but invoice for Nov venue hire expected from Reidvale. **Signatories to be updated to replace the outgoing Chair with LC, and LC to receive RBS statements.** Have arranged to visit RBS branch on 12 Jan 2023. VT and WW to remain as signatories. Accounts for 2021/22 have been audited, signed, and submitted, and GCC have confirmed acceptance.

LC/VT/WW

c. Secretary

- Correspondence shared internally via Slack, as applicable. Nothing additional.

d. Planning and Licensing

Planning

- Restaurant and statue application by Coias noted for new Meat Market development at Bellgrove St/Duke St.

- Restaurant application noted for vacant ex-Lloyds/TSB bank property.

- Mural on Duke Street gable at Marmaris/Lidl – would require planning permission and listed building consent before being reinstated.

Licensing

- Approval for outside seating for La Cala noted, with a question querying the relevance of the record of approval stating that no-one who had objected was in attendance at the time of the hearing. BJ is unaware of any requirement within the system that requires attendance as an addition to the initial objection.

- Query about registering and licensing of short-term let landlords. Cllr Carroll noted the Council has approved a city-wide system to be in place as of October 2022, but that it is expected to come into action from April.

e. Area Partnerships

Calton AP [\[Link\]](#)

- Next meeting date 8 Feb 2023.

Dennistoun AP [\[Link\]](#)

- Next meeting date 14 Feb 2023.

IS summary from recent meeting:

- No roads maintenance representative present.

- Glasgow Life local representative David McCready was present. Whitehill Pool was raised, but no new information available at that time.

- Spoke with other CC representatives and interested in further discussion with Calton CC.

- RJ noted Garthland Drive fire, and the usual attendance of Fire Service at AP meetings, and queried whether plans are in place for publicity relating to additional heating devices etc (potentially with a higher than usual risk) expected to be in use during the winter and energy price rise, noting that historically the approach was to direct this information through housing associations, with no strategy for areas not covered by HAs. Potential noted for possible attendance at a future meeting, and/or appropriate publicity for any fire safety promotions. >>

FN volunteered to liaise with the Fire Service to investigate.

FN

- Extra Police attendance in Milnbank, paid for by Milnbank HA noted, with some confusion about the mechanism, framework or procedure through which this has been arranged. >>

Enquiry to be submitted to Milnbank requesting further information.

VT

5 Consultations

Glasgow City Council via glasgow.gov.uk/consultations

- No current consultations.

Scottish Government via consult.gov.scot

- Review of GI Cancer Care Performance Indicators, ending 13 Feb 2023. All current others end in March 2023 or later.

Others

- Glasgow Life, and St Mungo consultations circulated to CCLlrs.

6 Current Local Issues

Whitehill Pool

- No new updates available.

Reidvale HA

- Reidvale HA has advertised for potential partner organisations. Minutes of recent meetings are publicly available. Further significant details are not freely available, in part due to a confidentiality clause applying to stakeholders/Reidvale membership, thought to be in place per Scottish Housing Regulator conditions. Initiation of this process is rooted in equity required to ensure compliance with a range of new and incoming legislation. The final decision will be made by the tenants when full details of the policy/proposal are known. Details on the status of HAs are available via the Scottish Housing Regulator website. DCC can play a part in publicising the specific details of any proposal in due course. >> **In the meantime, DCC to contact John Mason MSP (see also below) to confirm this position.**

VT

Liveable Neighbourhood

- Architect-event on Thu 13 Oct 2022 reviewed projects being taken forward to Stage 2. Dennistoun AP committee workplan identifies that the Stage 2 reports were to be presented at the 23 Nov 2022 AP meeting. DCC contacted George Gillespie, NRS Director, GCC, on 7 Nov 2022, regarding timeframes, funding, resources, etc, of the Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) and other linked projects (Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund, Inner East SDF, Citizens' Panels) with a reminder in December after no response [[link](#)]. Still no response. Raising a complaint was considered, but thought best at present to make a **final request for a response in advance of the Feb meeting**, bearing in mind the expected attendance of Ian Elder regarding the City Centre Strategy Framework update for Merchant City and Learning Quarter areas.

VT

7 Public Input

- Street cleaning: GCC responses to multiple enquiries thus far have been lacking. Onslow Drive pavements have been partially swept clear of leaves as a one-off, but significant debris on the road remains.

- On-street bin emptying: GCC responses to multiple enquiries thus far have been lacking. Fly tipping issues persist around the on-street bins (particular issues exist on and around food bins). Proper systems are evidently not in place to deal with these issues. >> **DCC to look into having attendance from a GCC representative in relation to this.**

DCC

- Flooding on Onslow Drive: GCC responses to multiple enquiries thus far have been lacking. Some gullies have been solidly blocked up to ground level for years, despite repeated reports. See also above for enquiries made through GCC Neighbourhood Liaison Co-ordinator.

8 Elected Member Updates

Cllr Carroll

- Garthland Drive fire response and follow-up support summarised.

- Spoke with Leslie Ann Docherty regarding various matters, noting an increased presence in certain areas, where required.

- High Street railway station accessibility expected by 2028, put back from 2025.

- Wellpark Hall initially expected by end of 2022 with Bluevale Community Club as main tenant, revised to Jan 2023, potentially further delayed due to some local objections raised about some activities proposed to take place.

- Better night provision of public transport being pursued.

John Mason MSP

- Wrote noting concern about the Reidvale HA merger/takeover, and has been in touch with Reidvale HA as well as with the Glasgow and West of Scotland Housing Forum and is in the process of arranging a meeting with Reidvale's interim director.

Anne McLaughlin

Written report submitted, attached, verbally summarised by representative in attendance.

9 Any Other Business

- Enquiry about status of Parks and Open Spaces funding and the proposed projects covered by it. >> **Cllr Carroll to update.**
 - Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) project was discussed. DCC understands there are no plans or resources in place for this to be resurrected 'as was'. Possible inclusion of aspects within LN schemes.
 - 'LTN' Traffic Regulation Order to make one way streets, no-entry junctions and amendments outside schools permanent. Believed to be underway, but no known status of progress or milestone dates.
 - Pavement Parking enforcement: some secondary legislation now believed to be in place, but no confirmation available on the GCC position regarding exemption audits, consultation, etc.
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ACar

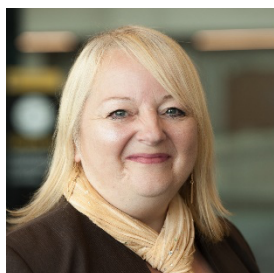
10 Next Meeting

- Ordinary meeting on 14 Feb 2023, 7pm at Reidvale Neighbourhood Centre, 13 Whitevale Street, G31 1QW.
 - Agenda will be circulated with invites in advance and published to [Dennistouncc.org.uk/dates](https://dennistouncc.org.uk/dates).
 - Apologies to be submitted via hello@dennistouncc.org.uk.
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APPENDIX ITEMS ATTACHED

- **UPDATE FROM ANNE MCLAUGHLIN MP – JANUARY 2023**

Dennistoun Community Council Update from Anne McLaughlin MP – January 2023



Contents of this report

- What's going on in Westminster?
- Getting out and about in the Constituency
- Helping constituents in Glasgow North East
- Representing Constituents in The House of Commons
 - Update on the Campaign to Outlaw Self-Disconnection
 - Update on the Campaign to extend the deadline for the £650 Cost Of Living Payment
 - Energy price cap for commercial rates
- Cost of Living Support
- Christmas Card Design Competition
- Contact me

What's going on in Westminster?

The run up to the Christmas recess was a busy time at Westminster, with the Tory Government refusing to take decisive action on the Cost-of-Living and refusing to negotiate to resolve the strikes affecting everything from rail, to mail, and healthcare.

The SNP Westminster Group had a change in leadership after Ian Blackford decided to step down after five years of hard work fighting Scotland's corner. Stephen Flynn has now taken over as WM Leader and will continue speaking up for Scotland from the front benches.

As often happens when there is a change in leadership there has been a reshuffle in our spokesperson roles and I have chosen to spend some time on the backbenches. This will give me some more time to focus on constituency issues and the big campaigns I have detailed below.

Getting out and about in the Constituency

I had the opportunity to attend a number of events in the local community in the run up to Christmas including craft fairs, community dinners, and family fun days. I always love going along to these events and chatting to people about what's going on in the community.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Primary 7 Class at Elmvale Primary School to thank them for their entries to my Christmas Card Competition and present the winner – Eniola – with a certificate.

I've continued visiting different groups (mainly pensioners groups) to talk about a variety of issues (mainly Pension Credit) in the last few months. If you know of any groups who would like me to go along and speak to (and listen to) them, please just get in touch.

Helping constituents in Glasgow North East

One of the most important parts of my job as your MP is to help people with their individual problems. I am very careful when I employ people and as a result I have a fantastic team who go the extra mile to get justice for people. As always, we have been incredibly busy helping people out with an array of issues including:

- In the run up to Christmas a constituent contacted my office as they had had their benefits sanctioned. My team were able to help resolve the issue with the DWP and their sanctions were lifted.
- We have provided referrals for energy top-up vouchers for people facing fuel poverty over the Christmas period.
- My office have liaised with Glasgow City Council to ensure that blocked gullies reported to me were cleared in good time.
- I was able to arrange for a Christmas present from Santa to be provided for an 11 year old who's family are facing financial hardship.
- A number of constituents have contacted me as they had not received their pre-payment vouchers for the Energy Bill Support Scheme. I have been able to contact the energy companies concerned and get the vouchers re-issued.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to things my office can and do help people with. If you have anything you think I could help you with – or even if you don't think I could help but don't know who to ask – please do get in touch.

Representing constituents in parliament

I am campaigning on 3 main issues at Westminster right now in addition to the many issues that my constituents bring to me that I speak about in parliament.

1) Campaign to outlaw so called self-disconnection. As I have mentioned more than a few times, if I stop paying my heating bills, my supply company CAN cut me off but not for a long time. They MUST give me the opportunity to pay it up and they must go through different processes. If someone with a prepayment meter goes 1 penny over the £10 emergency credit, they are cut off immediately. Those worst off in our society are the most likely to be on pre-payment meters and are left dangerously open to being left with no power unless they can feed the meter.

I am not asking for people to not have to pay, I am asking for equal treatment for everyone if they don't (can't) pay. I don't deserve to be treated with more compassion simply because I have a good income. So this is about equality.

Previously I had raised this on the floor of the House of Commons and written to various people. I had also met with third sector organisations, spoken to OFGEM, and I've written to the major power companies.

Since I last told you about this campaign, I have held a Backbench Business Debate in the House of Commons on the subject. I'm glad to say that this received cross-party support, and debate with colleagues from other parties was broadly positive, with many having been previously unaware of the issue but supportive of change. The response from the minister however was less positive.

I went into the debate with one simple ask – that the UK Government bring forward an emergency moratorium on self-disconnection for the Christmas period, so that nobody would be left without fuel or heat. A temporary ban would have ensured that no-one would be cut off at this time of year, it would have given people a short reprieve while we wait to debate this further in this parliamentary session. Sadly the UK Government did not put any such ban into place.

I will keep fighting this and the second reading is set for the 20th of January.

2) Campaign to extend the deadline for pensioners to receive £650 Cost of Living payment. In my last report, I told you about my Pension Credit campaign. Pension Credit is one of the so called 'Passport Benefits' that entitles eligible people to the £650 Cost of Living payment announced earlier in the year and opens up eligibility for various other sources of assistance. However there is a big problem getting people to apply for Pension Credit (PC).

Many older people feel it's too complicated to apply and others feel they are asking for a

'handout' after years of hearing their legal entitlements demonised by some sections of the media and privileged politicians. I'm always looking for ways to persuade people to apply for what is their LEGAL entitlement. Given that this year is going to be particularly painful for anyone on a low income, that extra £650 whilst not enough, will definitely make a big difference. I believe it can act as an incentive to persuade pensioners to apply for PC.

However, you had to have successfully applied by 25 August to get the extra £650. I don't think that's fair so I've been arguing with the UK Government that they should extend that deadline to 31 March 2023 and that would give us time to persuade people to apply. After all, it's only in the cold winter that the reality of the situation will really hit home for many. I published an early-day motion to that effect, I presented a petition on the floor of the House and I wrote to myriad Chancellors and Ministers, so far to no avail.

This clearly wasn't enough for the Government to take notice so I secured a debate in my name in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 26th October and the Minister responsible had to come along to answer my questions. You can watch the full debate here:

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/2eae6ac6-6ec2-4054-8230-e5a1dd0e0b4a?in=17:03:25>

(Remember, you can see most of the debates I speak in on my Facebook and Twitter pages.)

To promote the uptake of Pension Credit in the run up to the deadline for the Cost of Living payment, I did a tour of places where older people were gathering in Glasgow North East to let them know about it. I went to lunch clubs, bingo halls, shopping centres. I also held 2 days in my office in Springburn where pensioners could book in to see one of my team who would do the application form for them. I had 4 members of my team taking appointments every half hour for two days and we had a waiting list of people.

I have since received confirmation from the DWP that those who are eligible, but have not yet applied, will qualify for the second half of the Cost of Living payment - a sum of £324 - if they apply before the 19th of December 2022. While this is a step in the right direction, it is still not good enough and I will continue to fight for the deadline to be further extended and for those eligible to receive the full £650 payment.

In light of this news I held a further Day of Action in my constituency office in December and helped even more of my constituents apply for their legal entitlement.

Now that further Cost-of-living payments have been announced, it is vital that those who are eligible for pension credit who have not yet applied sign up, I know I don't want to see any more of our retired friends and neighbours miss out on yet another legal entitlement.

Last shocking fact – every year in this constituency alone, SEVEN MILLION POUNDS of Pension Credit goes unclaimed. Please do what you can to spread the word.

3) As I have previously mentioned I'm very concerned about **small businesses, charities and third sector** organisations who were facing unimaginable increases on their

energy bills. In September the UK Government reluctantly introduced a price cap for commercial energy rates, but the catch is it's only for 6 months. This leaves organisations and businesses struggling to plan for the coming year - 6 months is nowhere near long enough to make viable plans or commitments.

I have presented a petition in the House of Commons last year calling on the Government to extend this to the two years that domestic customers had been given and I will keep pushing them to do this, as well as to re-instate the two years of support for domestic customers.

Help with The Cost Of Living Crisis

My Senior Caseworker worked very hard last year to pull together a database of help available to people from all the different organisations in the constituency that my office have contact with. She has created a 10 minute questionnaire we'll be able to use with people so that we are taking a more holistic approach and identifying any help that people are entitled to. Often someone comes with one problem and a skilled Caseworker will be able to establish if there is another, underlying (and potentially worse) problem they're not telling us about. This (voluntary) questionnaire will enable us to pinpoint exactly what help that person needs (that they've not told us about) and we will know how to get it for them.

My team and I held a Cost-Of-Living advice fair in my office in Springburn in December, we were able to point people in the direction of help that they did not realise they could access by using the questionnaire. We also had representatives from Scottish Gas, Citizens Advice Scotland, Social Security Scotland, and Home Energy Scotland in attendance. They were able to speak to constituents about the help that their organisations can provide.

A full list of all the Government Cost of Living payments can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

I would encourage you to have a look at these if you have not already and claim anything you may be entitled to. This money is there to help you and you have every right to benefit from these schemes. I know that many people are quite rightly very concerned about this winter. Please know that if you find yourself struggling or are worried that you might be soon, my team and I are here to help you. Just get in touch.

Christmas Card Design Competition

On a lighter note, in the run up to the festive season I held a Christmas card design competition for Primary school pupils in the constituency. I received several hundred entries, and they all made me smile so picking just one winner was very difficult!

The winning card was designed by Eniola from P7 at Elmvale Primary School in Springburn. This one, I'm sure you'll agree, not only looks great but in wishing a Merry Christmas in 16 different languages, it sends a thoughtful message out from one of the most diverse constituencies in Scotland.



Contact me

As always, anyone who needs the help and support of myself or my team should email me on anne.mclaughlin.mp@parliament.uk or call our office number on 0141 465 8925 & we'll be very happy to help. If you want to read more about what I've been up to follow me on:



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