



Dennistoun Community Council

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Minutes of the Dennistoun Community Council Ordinary Meeting

held on Tuesday 12th November 2024, from 7:00pm,
at St Andrews East Church Hall, 685 Alexandra Parade, G31 3LN.

Cllrs Present Frank Plowright (FP), Ruth Johnston (RJ), Brian Johnston (BJ), Lisa Clifford (LC), Wesley Wright (WW), Callum McLennan (CMcL), Tom Dixon (TD), Steven Campbell (SC), Valery Tough (VT), [Minute taker]

Others Present: Cllr Allan Casey (ACas), Cllr Elaine McDougall (EMcD), Bailie Andrew Carroll (ACar); Eddie Scanlon (ES), John Hughes (JS), 2 police; Clare Darlaston (CD); 8 other members of the public

	ACTION
1 Welcome / Introductions / Attendance / Apologies Apologies received from John Mason MSP, Annie Wells MSP, Ivan McKee MSP, Maureen Burke MP (written report submitted & attached), Ian Sheerer (IS)	
2 Approval of Minutes October 2024 minutes approved by LC; CMcL seconded AGM 2024 minutes: For approval at 2025 AGM	
3 Matters Arising	
3a - Christmas warm space proposal LC: Yama Studios, City Park, Salvation Army have offered spaces for a couple of hours on Christmas Day. (Yama needs £80 payment, so this option has been discounted) Salvation Army need public liability insurance (which we have) and we need to agree to safeguarding procedure, which shouldn't be problematic. Discussed with Clare Darlaston and Cllrs - LC and CD to look at both venues and report back	LC
3b - Non-attendance of elected officials DCC was happy to see all three Dennistoun Ward councillors in attendance. Maureen Burke MP has submitted a written report. Ivan McKee agreed to submit written reports.	
3c – Treasure Hunt FP has submitted his Treasure Hunt report. Lack of participation was disappointing. Cost was £240. Some of the Glasgow City Council grant will need to be refunded due to no prizegiving ceremony. About 10% of pupils taking part. FP feels there isn't the interest to continue and we should consider something different - to be discussed at Planning Meeting.	
3d – DCC Membership DCC membership is now set to 15 members, leaving five vacant posts. Closing date for DCC applications to be just before Christmas. Can proceed once October minutes sent to GCC.	
3e – Dennistoun Area Partnership (DAP) costs & Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) Proposals No costings for NIIF proposals supplied to DAP ACas - 23 wards are submitting multiple costings for proposals across the city. No technical team in place to cost proposals. Project Manager has been appointed, but costings won't be available by next DAP meeting. <i>Ark Lane</i> Site investigations have shown underground utilities with land ownership problems. <i>Crossing at Co-op</i> Bus stops would need to be moved. FP expressed dismay at lack of answers. ACas felt things were progressing and answers should be forthcoming in due course.	

Disappointment at lack of detail in DAP meetings. How long would be reasonable for Glasgow City Council (GCC) to get back with concrete proposals? ACas said he didn't know for certain, but it would be into next year. Jenny O'Hagan (Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) Rep at DAP) has been ACas's contact.

Is the £1 million per ward money ringfenced? ACas - yes. Was used in last year's budget for resurfacing works, but subsequently put back in. Money available till 2027 (end of the current council term).

EMcD - Jenny O'Hagan was meant to produce a report at the start of the year, which never happened.

DAP's proposal was eastern entrance to Necropolis.

DCC proposed three crossings plus step-free access on Ark Lane.

There is also playpark proposal for Germiston.

DCC expressed disappointment with lack of framework for taking proposals forward, and concern about lack of documentation of DAP meetings. ACas pointed to consultations already taken place, eg, on Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN). Ark Lane proposal was in LN, from GCC and DCC.

There are also proposals for security cameras, and also an eastern entry to the Necropolis.

4 Police update

Reports of drug dealing top of Whitehill Street

Police investigated every comment on a post on the Dennistoun Information Page (DIP) Facebook page. Comments were monitored and there was found to be a disparity between the number of people claiming to have reported the issue and the actual number of reports received. There was a successful house turn afterwards. Police do monitor posts and comments on the DIP.

Police are aware of drug dealing – issues started in Calton 8/9 years ago and have moved up. After perpetrators are convicted, housing associations are contacted (if applicable).

Conviction, however, doesn't guarantee that perpetrators will be removed.

Police are concerned at the lack of reporting of incidents, and reminded everyone that non-emergency incidents can be reported online at

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

The police were not involved in installing the fence and gate at Whitehill Pool.

5 Haghill Bin Pilot Scheme - Edward Scanlon, Group Manager, North East NRS and John Hughes, Programme Manager at NRS

One year since Haghill bin pilot, ES said so much money had been saved, it would almost certainly go forward city-wide.

DCC raised a number of issues:

We were told there would be regular patrols with overflowing bins being reported and emptied. In practice, this does not seem the not the case.

ES: Reason for missed collections is because of double parking in front of bins. Bins are emptied every four days. "Not a silver bullet". Missed collections for Haghill are at 7%. In Walter Street, 80 bins were reported to be overflowing - capacity here is being reviewed. Volume of complaints is low, face-to-face meetings and home visits have happened and we have achieved what we set out to do. Green and blue bin collections are every 4 days and 8 days respectively, compared with 8 and 16 days previously. Recycling reported to be up 85%.

LC is disappointed with the bin pilot. She reported overflowing bins 5 days in a row and has used QR code to report full bins up to 50 times. Bins don't get emptied regularly, though the addition of double yellow lines around bins has helped.

ES: ES happy to leave his number so she can contact him directly. Can check the details of bin reported for 5 consecutive days and not emptied. Assured that issues

will be handled on that day. ES acknowledged the pilot hasn't been perfect.

Public: Are hubs going to be rolled out citywide?

ES: Likely to remain a hybrid system. Health & Safety around emptying bins is getting tighter.

Public: Noticed increase in street litter from overflowing bins.

ES: Streets shouldn't be left strewn with rubbish.

CMcL: Is frequency of collection at the right rate?

ES: Has reports on each missed collection, but given the feedback at the meeting, will check on some particular bins. There are no plans to increase frequency of collection. Will look at capacity of bins in problem cases. An increase in recycling would help.

FP: Binmen inconsistent with way bins have been replaced, eg facing street rather than pavement.

ES: This should get picked up by the monitoring.

SC: In terraced houses, there are 3-weekly pickups and 6 bins per property. Where do we store them? And there is one general waste bin per house regardless of size of household.

ES: Possible to ask for extra bins. There are also more recycling opportunities with multiple bins. Bin hubs can be opportunity to have no bins directly outside properties.

FP - Used to have 6 recycling bins, but 2 were taken away. When he requested more, was told tenement blocks only need 4 recycling bins and to use other recycling facilities. Someone came out to look and more bins were supplied.

ES: There is an algorithm (determined by Zero Waste Scotland) to say how many bins people should have. Some properties had up to 12 bins. One problem is people often don't squash stuff down in recycling bins, and some bins were getting used for general waste rather than recycling. Very few people have been refused an extra blue bin.

JH: There will be survey sent to everyone in Haghill in the 3rd/4th week in November, which will run for 8 weeks.

Action - FP to write to ES in about 3 months to check on the situation

FP

6 Officers Reports

a. *Chair/Vice-chair*

FP fed into Reidvale Housing Association survey. There may be a follow-up in March. Community Council Development Sessions in John Street – applications now have to be made via the Chair. Let FP know if you wish to take part in any.

b. *Secretary*

Nothing to report

c. *Treasurer*

£3,547.07 in bank. Accountant hasn't cashed cheque for auditing. Check has been made out to RAPA for £210 – we had agreed this money should be donated after the Reidvale Centre failed to cash cheques for venue hire despite multiple follow-ups

d. *Planning and Licensing*

No licensing applications
Planning report appended

e. *Area Partnership*

Nothing to report

7 Consultations

Road Safety Survey (parking) - awaiting designs. Design should have been available November. Traffic Regulation Order will be in place in December. The tight timescale suggests little consultation will be available re the design.

8 Current Local issues**a. Homes / Housing Associations / Cleansing**

Nothing to report

b. Transport / Roads / Parking

Pavement parking enforcement is under way in other parts of the city – any news about Dennistoun?

ACar will check, but thinks this is in the pilot phase.

c. Amenities / Glasgow Life / Whitehill Pool**Whitehill Pool**

FP contacted Andrew Olney from Glasgow Life about lack of info and requested monthly updates and a named person to contact.

Draft cost reports for RAAC remediation have been returned. To be discussed with all of GCC in coming weeks, ie, end November. Hopes for more clarity then. DCC will be on councillor update emails.

DCC Video – we hope this will be finished by early December. Strength of feeling still there to save pool. FP suggested public screening - we will review this after video is finalised.

ACas - Property Asset Team have a significant role in scrutinising the cost reports. Can pool and school remedial work be done together? Significant proportion of funding for Whitehill Pool still available, but RAAC costs over and above repairs required before discovery of RAAC. Still part of bigger discussion of pool's future.

ACar – There may be consequential from UK government funding for RAAC treatment in English schools.

DCC pointed out that the Whitehill School heating system is based within the pool.

ACas: Different heating system could be installed in the school.

EMcD had received reply from Glasgow Life which said no significant new updates to report.

Playparks

What is happening with playpark upgrades?

ACar: This came before committee in the summer.

9 Public Input

None.

10 Elected Member Update**ACas:**

Councillors were not notified in advance re the installation of the Whitehill Pool fence and gate. Councillors asked Glasgow Life to open it immediately. Glasgow Life told ACas an abandoned car had been set on fire, plus there had been vandalism and a member of the public had tripped on pool grounds. ACas has asked for fence to be reviewed. There is a meeting with Glasgow Life on site on Wed 20th November for walk-round. One issue is that there is no one to maintain the path around the pool.

EMcD

Since the pool car park has been shut, traffic is bottlenecking and could be dangerous.

Filming in Haghill - Milnbank Housing Association have said there should be no use of their buildings for props, etc.

Clyde FC want to take over old pitches at the former Glasgow Club Haghill's outdoor sports facility in Alexandra Park and build a stadium.

ACar

Clyde FC is not the sole applicant for that community space, as part of the Community Asset Transfer Process.

Whitehill Street/Golfhill Drive – trees cut back due to ash dieback.

There is a consultation re CCTV on Ark Lane/Broompark Drive.

There will be a feasibility study into accessibility for Bellgrove station.

10 AOB

None

11 Next Meeting

- Planning Meeting on Tuesday 10th December 2024 from 7pm at St Andrews East Church Hall.
 - Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 14th January 2025 from 7pm at St Andrews East Church Hall.
 - Agenda will be circulate 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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DCC

Appendix 1: Planning Report (BJ)

8 Seton Terrace

Internal and external alterations including partial demolition, formation of a single door and bi-folding door to the rear of the building

396 Duke Street

Use of shop as shop/Café

15 Annfield Place

Internal insulation works

Appendix 2: Report from Maureen Burke MP

I am sorry to be unable to attend this meeting. As Parliament is sitting, I am in London from Monday to Thursday this week. I am, however, pleased to share this written update with you.

Since being elected in July, I have been busy – from getting to know how parliament works, to advertising and hiring my staff to attending community events across Glasgow North East. As a new MP, I have been inundated with phone calls, emails and letters and this has unfortunately meant a delay in getting back to everyone. I am pleased to now have my office team in place and we are working around the clock to respond to every constituent.

I have also recently established my constituency office which is located at the Circle in Easterhouse. In the four months since my election, I have held multiple advice surgeries across the constituency. In the last week, I held two specialised surgeries – one on immigration, helping people navigate Home Office systems and another on Pension Credit, supporting older people with their applications for assistance.

In Parliament, I have met and discussed several issues with organisations that have held drop-in events. From Dogs Trust raising the cruel realities of puppy smuggling to the WASPI women continuing their fight for pension justice. As a WASPI woman myself, I am proud to have joined the All-Party Parliamentary Group on WASPI and will be working closely with government colleagues to see this matter resolved once and for all.

In addition to my day-to-day work as an MP, I was recently elected to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee. As part of this work, I will be examining government policies that relate to Scotland and holding ministers to account.

In my maiden speech to the House of Commons, I spoke about the need to abolish hereditary peerages in the House of Lords, ending the absurdity of people being born into power, to enable parliament to become more representative of our country – including the need for greater working-class representation. I have tabled questions to ministers on maternity pay and the creation of Great British Energy. GB Energy was a pledge made at the election which will see the creation of a publicly-owned energy company, based in Aberdeen with an office in Glasgow, employing tens of thousands of people. In the long run, GB Energy will tackle rising bills – something I know remains an issue today.

I can't give you an update without mentioning that we have just introduced the first Labour budget in 14 years. This budget will undoubtedly improve lives.

The budget ends the era of austerity that has decimated our public services – people in Dennistoun need to look no further than Whitehill Pool to see the effects of public service cuts and neglect.

And, as a result of the Chancellor's decision to invest, this budget will deliver the biggest financial settlement for the Scottish Parliament in the history of devolution, providing more cash for the Scottish Government to spend here in Scotland.

In addition, the Chancellor announced an increase in the living wage which for the first time takes into account the cost of living. This is a pay rise for 200,000 of the lowest-paid workers in Scotland.

As well as this, the Chancellor has listened directly to family carers by increasing the earnings threshold for Carer's Allowance, meaning from April people will be able to earn up to £196 a week and still receive this benefit. This is the biggest ever boost to how much carers can earn and be entitled to support.

The last point I want to make on the budget relates to Universal Credit. I find it shameful that

people on the lowest incomes were so cruelly penalised under the last government and it's why I am glad to see the new UK Government do something to help. We are doing this by introducing a "Fair Repayment Rate" that will reduce the cap on debt deductions taken from people's Universal Credit from 25% to 15%.

It has been non-stop since July and it is impossible to include everything, but I hope this gives you an idea of my work as your MP. I hope to work closely with Dennistoun Community Council over the coming years. I mentioned it earlier, but I understand just how important the campaign to re- open Whitehill Pool is. It is totally unacceptable that the Council have been so silent on the issue, we are fast approaching the first anniversary of the pool's closure and local people deserve answers.

Lastly, I was honoured to lay a House of Commons wreath at the Dennistoun War Memorial earlier in the month, remembering all those who served and gave their lives for our country.

I hope this is a useful update, please get in touch if you would like to discuss any matter with me and, of course, if you or anyone you know ever needs my help, please do not hesitate to contact me. At present, the best way to do that is via email – maureen.burke.mp@parliament.uk

Thank you for all the work you are doing to care for our community and I look forward to engaging with you during my time as the MP for Glasgow North East.