

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 11 March 2020, Albany Centre, 7.30pm

Present: Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Stewart Leighton, Gerry Doyle (treasurer), Derek Manson-Smith, Clare Crawford (minutes), Diane Mitchell, Kay Scott, Morag Lau, Joyce Pountain

In attendance: PC Barry McGlynn, Karen Venables (Glasgow City Council), Councillor Ken Andrew, Councillor Martha Wardrop, Councillor Hanzala Malik

1 Apologies: Johnpaul McCabe, Alasdair Gerrie

2 Police Report

PC McGlynn presented his report: *Crimes of Violence*: the crime trend of assault this month was maintained at the same level, with incidents occurring in and around Kelvingrove Park. There has been a slight increase in minor breach of the peace offences. Patrols will be increasing within the park in the coming months. Inspector Daley is in the process of preparing an action plan to cover Kelvingrove Park over the summer. *Crimes of Dishonesty*: there continues to be an increase this month in crimes of theft. This is mainly theft by shoplifting from the Sainsbury's on Woodlands Road, along with theft of petrol from the same premises. The Retail Unit is aware. There have been a couple of incidents of Fraud this month. These are in connection with taxi fares. *Crimes against Property*: theft by housebreaking and vandalism remain around the same this month, although the figures are not high. People are advised, regarding security of their buildings, to ensure, if they allow access to premises, the identity of persons entering. And, as always, report anything suspicious immediately. *Drugs Use and Abuse*: the crime trend for drug offences this month has decreased, which is very encouraging. I would hope the action plan from last month, which covered the neighbouring community ward, is having an effect, with fewer people being detected for possession of drugs. An ongoing action plan for beat 17 is currently ongoing. *Road Traffic Matters*: road traffic offences this month have slightly decreased. Once again the offences are mostly due to several vehicles being struck and damaged and the driver making off without reporting the incident. I have patrolled Woodlands Road on several occasions to deter any 'boy racers'. I have not observed any incidents this month. Tom Johnstone said an incident of 'boy racers' had been witnessed by Ruth Gillett after the last Community council meeting. One of the problems from the police's point of view is that such incidents are over really quickly. Derek Manson-Smith reported that many drivers ignore the 'no right turn' notice from Woodlands Road on to Lyndoch Street. He is not sure why there is a no right turn notice there. Councillor Andrew said there is an issue in Carnarvon Street with drug addicts. PC McGlynn said there is an action plan in place to deal with this. Morag Lau said there seems to be a problem with young people and drugs of some kind in the car park opposite the Arlington Baths, which belongs to the flats on the west side of Ashley Street. Stewart Leighton suggested that improving the lighting would deter such behaviour. Councillor Wardrop said that she has documentation about the flats because of their part ownership of part of the Millennium Park and that there is a factor for the property.

3 Kelvingrove Park

Karen Venables, Neighbourhood Coordinator (West) for Glasgow City Council, outlined the council's action plans for the park for 2020, which are being introduced because of the problems over the last few years mainly with young people using drink or drugs. The council is working as closely as possible with local communities and getting the right partnerships in place. Last year, the large numbers of young people using the park took everyone by surprise, particularly the large gatherings on the Hill. This year the council and partner agencies will be organising activities within the park to encourage young people to act with respect for the park and the local communities. Last year, the young people didn't realise the problems they were causing to others using the park, particularly those with small children. This year, plans are being made for a policing action plan and a Glasgow City Council action plan, which will combine forces to improve CCTV within the park and increase the number of community officers. They are also looking at a larger youth project and programmes with Glasgow Life and other partners, including Partick Thistle and the Army, to encourage fitness and to provide training and workshops. The plans will operate from April to August and will be weather-dependent. There will be a Kelvingrove Development Day on Monday 6 April when local community councils, Friends of groups and others will be encouraged to come into the park and to note where improvements could be made to the park. These observations will be worked on by the park's development team. They are working on a Love Kelvingrove campaign, which will involve schools. Parents will also be involved. There will also be a social media campaign. In discussion about the plans, Derek Manson-Smith suggested using the Nextdoor social

media site. Councillor Andrew suggested that, since many of the young people will be travelling from outside Glasgow that British Transport Police should be involved. There was discussion about what makes Kelvingrove more attractive than other parks or open spaces and how the action plans will be funded.

4 Minutes of 12 February Meeting

Tom Johnstone pointed out that under item 4, Matters Arising, line 10, the words 'share his view' should read 'share this view', and that under item 12, Correspondence, the second sentence should be struck from the record. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom, seconded by Derek Manson-Smith.

5 Matters Arising

Councillor Wardrop reported that she had circulated an email about the Kelvinbridge mural. The project cost £10,747.40, the Hillhead Area Partnership providing £5,000. The artist was Smug (Sam Bates) who has been doing murals in the city centre. It is on the Discover Glasgow website. Its theme is the history of transport and children were involved in its creation, and it runs from the North Woodside Road wall to the Eldon Street bridge. Councillor Wardrop said she would like to see a new group of children involved in revamping it. The cost would be about £10,000 but it is a worthwhile project. It has lasted over ten years since it was created in 2009 and it is only in the last year that it has deteriorated. She said she would talk about the project with Glasgow Life and DRS as it involves the arts and tourism and wondered if the community council would again agree to take the lead on the project if funds were made available. Stewart Leighton pointed out that there is another piece of public art in Woodlands, which was commissioned by the Woodlands Community Development Trust and is fixed to the gable of a house that occupies a site on Ashley Street and Carnarvon Street and is now completely obscured by Leylandii. Derek Manson-Smith reported that he had received a useful email from Connecting Woodside, which he had circulated, on the issue of dropped kerbs. These can be 'dropped in' with a comment on the Connecting Woodside map. Tom Johnstone reported that the dropped kerbs meeting had gone well and had expanded to include blocked drains. There was discussion about maps to make moving around the area easier for disabled people. In reply to a question from Morag Lau, Councillor Andrew said action is still being pursued over the fried chicken shop at 126 Woodlands Road. Environmental Health has carried out an inspection. There is evidence that an entrance has been created in the basement of the chicken shop into the close. Planning has said that it is not an issue for them as it is internal but it is an issue for Building Control. There was discussion about this and the state of the back court. Stewart Leighton reported that, as requested by the community council, he had lodged an objection against change of use of a shop at 188 Woodlands Road to become a pizza takeaway but the application was withdrawn.

6 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Malik reported that he had finally persuaded Glasgow City Council to carry out a so-called consultation on HMOs. A growing number of applications have been made for HMO licences without planning permission and the council does not have the staff to monitor what is going on. Some landlords have tenants in before they have a licence. He is now objecting to many applications because of over-provision, according to City Plan 2, and is sending copies of his objections to the Hillhead Area Partnership. Tom Johnstone said that the biggest problem is the failure to link Licensing and Planning. He thinks that the reluctance of the council to link the two is so great that primary legislation would probably have to be changed.

Councillor Andrew reported that the tower of the Trinity building in the Park area is at risk. He is working with Building Control, Planning, trusts and engineers to put together a plan to maintain the tower. It is a complex issue. In the original refurbishment and conversion inappropriate materials were used and ventilators were blocked, meaning that damp has set in. It is an A-listed building and action is needed soon so any objections to planning permission will hold up the process. The plan is to save the tower by renovating it and putting in an internal stent and an external protective cover and then a whole section of wall be taken out of the tower and rebuilt back in. While they are doing that the inappropriate materials will be removed. He feels that the work should be carried out under delegated powers to avoid the need for planning permission.

Councillor Wardrop said that there is an ecological crisis looming. A working group is being set up in the council and a public consultation has been running from the middle of February and ends on 20 March. An action plan is to be written with recommendations, to be published at the end of May or beginning of June. Anyone who is interested will find the consultation on the consultation hub. For those interested in air pollution, there is also a low-emission zone consultation being carried out, which runs until 29 March.

7 Lanes Project

Tom Johnstone reported that the fixing of the signs will start the following day. The contractor is so embarrassed at the delay that they have offered to refund the cost of the sign that has already been made but isn't going to be fixed.

8 Park Quadrant Site

Tom Johnstone said that someone has posted on Nextdoor that algae is growing on the building. Tom said that the building has a green tinge but isn't as bad as the photographs posted online show.

9 HMO Consultation

This was covered under item 6, Councillors' Reports.

10 Millennium Park

Nothing was reported.

11 Cleansing

Morag Lau said that the residents of 45 Arlington Street, a former sheltered housing complex now a block of 25 amenity flats administered by Charing Cross Housing Association, have to pay £150 a month to have the bins taken out of the building to allow the bin men to empty them, but the residents also pay council tax. The housing manager spoke to a manager from Cleansing, who carried out an inspection and said that ramps could be dangerous for bin men in damp weather. Councillor Andrew said he was meeting a senior person in Cleansing the following morning and he would follow the matter up. Derek Manson-Smith reported that there had been problems in the Park area with both green and blue bin collections. It was agreed that this was a performance issue rather than a policy one.

12 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone said there was no time to comment on any of the planning applications. The third last item of Correspondence is to do with Local Place Plans. The 2019 Planning Act introduces the ability for communities to draw up their own local place plans. A group of community councils throughout Scotland have got together along with Planning Democracy to write to the Scottish Government making ten demands about getting involved with local place plans. It was agreed that Tom should sign up to it. Derek Manson-Smith pointed out that one of the two items of correspondence on 25 February on 'temporary arrangements to stabilise Out-of-Hours services' should read 'new arrangements . . . '.

13 Finance

Gerry Doyle reported that he had received an invoice from GCVS for room hire for February.

14 AOCB

There was no other business.

15 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 April 2020 at 7.30pm in the Albany Centre.