

North Kelvin Community Council monthly meeting: Minutes

Tuesday 18th November 2014, 6.30pm

St Charles' Church Hall, 1 Kelvinside Gardens, G20

Present: Peter Blackshaw (PB), Secretary and acting Chair; Christine Alison (CA), Planning Officer; Merle Read (MR), Webmaster; Martin Venherm (MV), NKCC member; Elaine Doherty (ED), prospective NKCC member; Jock Morris, local resident; Councillor Chris Kelly (CK), GCC; Councillor Helen Stephen (HS), GCC; Councillor Kieran Wild (KW), GCC; two local officers of Police Scotland

Apologies: Cameron MacFarlane (CM), Chair; Douglas Peacock (DP), Treasurer.

1. Welcome. PB convened the meeting. MV was welcomed as a new member of NKCC. ED intends to submit her application to join NKCC.

2. Police report. This was given for the period 18 October to 17 November 2014. Offences were reported in the NKCC area in the following categories: drugs, 1 incident (1 arrest & report to the fiscal); street drinking, 1 (1); theft, 8 (1); theft from motor vehicle, 4 (1); housebreaking, 1 (0); assault, 7 (7); vandalism, 3 (0); other, 21 (16). Total: 46 incidents and 27 arrests.

It was reported that residents were disturbed in Wilton Street by the noise of boisterous students returning home in the early hours. The police encouraged residents to report such incidents, anonymously if wished, so they could be logged and any hotspots noted. The police will aim to have a chat with the students about the disturbance caused.

Incidents on the Underground should be reported to staff on duty, who will inform British Transport Police.

3. Councillors' reports. HS reported problems with the phasing of traffic lights at Queen Margaret Dr/Byres Rd had been investigated but a full response from GCC was not yet forthcoming.

HS noted NKCC accounts should be submitted this month.

HS had had the positive experience of attending an event held by Queen's Cross Housing Association to mark the 21st anniversary of the CHYP (Council for Homeless Young People) in Wilton St and the Firestation Project's 25th anniversary at Belmont St. The benefits of the projects were noted. Members noted that the CHYP home seemed to be very well run and had not caused problems to the surrounding community.

KW apologised for recent lack of attendance at NKCC meetings.

KW noted the Roads Dept plans for double yellow lines on Firhill Rd were ongoing. The Dept will respond to anyone who has submitted an objection. Dangers at the Murano St junction were noted, and existing pavement damage on Firhill Rd.

KW reported that, following core sampling, deeper foundations were now needed for the new health centre on Hinshaw St. An increase in funding from the Scottish Government is now required. Concerns were again noted re the proposed parking provision for the health centre.

4. Doune Gardens. JM reported residents' grave concerns that land on the corner of Doune Gardens has been surveyed with a view to development. GCC Development and Regeneration Services consider that the site is a long-established private garden with a strong physical connection to 1 Doune Gardens. It contains mature trees and forms part of the historic landscaping in the area. The DRS are concerned that even an unobtrusive residential development of the site could result in erosion of the city fabric, to the detriment of the spacious, leafy character of the Glasgow West Conservation Area. The submission of a planning application has not therefore been encouraged. PB had visited the site with JM. NKCC must wait for any planning application to be submitted before taking any action.

5. AGM Minutes and Chair's Report. Acceptance of these was proposed by CA and seconded by MV.

6. Treasurer's report. DP had reported by email that he needed more time to submit the accounts because of delays on the part of the bank, but that he had finally been sent the relevant bank statements. He will now be able to do the accounts via the statements and get them signed off independently.

At present NKCC has £1941 in the account. Discussion on how best to make use of the money is required. It was proposed to have a **brainstorming session** at the January meeting. Suggestions so far include surveying residents' opinions; taking a stall at local events such as the Queen's Cross Housing gala or the Wilton St party; posters; Facebook ads; generally spending to raise NKCC's profile.

7. HMOs. PB noted we need to be more proactive re HMO renewal applications. We need more time to respond to applications. CK noted GCC legally has no latitude to increase the amount of time granted. It was felt that applications were weighted towards applicants. PB noted our opportunity to respond to one HMO application was between 23 Oct and 12 Nov, which fell between our meetings and thus prevented us from discussing the application. It was suggested we could write to MSPs about this short period. CK said the Licensing Committee may be able to raise the issue of the short time period for objections.

Problems with individual HMOs should be reported to GCC so that they are logged and GCC is aware of any problems when the application comes up for renewal.

GCC doesn't have regulations on overprovision of HMOs. This has been raised with the Scottish Government.

Because of a lack of GCC resources, properties are not checked as a matter of course after an application has been granted. The potential risk to tenants was noted.

8. Community Council Discussion Forum Administration Allowance Survey. It was agreed that the allowance meets our current needs.

9. Community Council Training and Development Programme. The proposed content of the programme was discussed and received positively. PB is to note our approval.

10. Planning Officer's report. CA had received no information from GCC. Lack of information is to be investigated.

11. Webperson's report. Our Facebook page, website and Twitter feed are now all being updated regularly.

MR had contacted Stewart Burns (SB), Partnership & Development, Democratic Services, at GCC to ask if GCC could provide us with email addresses, following the recommendation for such provision in the academic report [Community Councils online](#). The report urges local authorities to support the online presence of community councils. SB responded that no IT decisions can be made until after a computer upgrade at his department at the end of this month.

One of the report's authors noted that Fife Council were providing their community councils with online addresses to allow them to maintain their webpages on Fife Council's website. MR agreed to provide KW with details.

12. Maryhill Foodbank. Nothing to report as we no longer have a representative.

13. Scottish Canals Firhill to Applecross Project. PB will invite Andrew Thin from the project to speak to us at our January meeting.

14. Secretary's correspondence. Heather Macmillan from Sunny Govan radio had emailed PB with a view to us advertising via LinkedIn. PB to respond that we are not using LinkedIn.

A session on Welfare Reform will be held at the Albany Centre on Thursday 4 December, 1.30–3.30pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact lynn.law@gcvs.org.uk.

The next Community Council Discussion Forum at John Street will be held on Saturday 13 December, 9am for 9.30 start.

15. Criminal justice survey. We discussed the survey which is being carried out by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice, funded by the Scottish Government and hosted by the university of Strathclyde. The biggest problems noted were antisocial behaviour, theft and vehicle damage. MR will submit our response to the CYCJ.

16. Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund. MR reported that the fund was available for projects such as upgrading the Queen Margaret Drive pitches, but sadly there is insufficient time for us to pursue this because NKCC will have only 1 meeting before the closing date (1 Feb 2015).

17. Local events. The AGM of the Greek Thomson Sixty Steps Preservation Trust will take place on Tuesday 25 November 2014 at Kelvinbridge Parish Church, Belmont Street. All welcome.

The shops on Queen Margaret Drive are holding their annual Winter Festival on Sunday 30 November, 11am–5pm. All welcome.

The meeting closed about 8.30pm. The next meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 20 January 2015, at St Charles' Church Hall, 1 Kelvinside Gardens, G20 6BG.