

## North Kelvin Community Council monthly meeting: minutes

Tuesday 16th June 2015, 6.30pm

St Charles' Church Hall, 1 Kelvinside Gardens, G20

**Present:** Peter Blackshaw (PB), NKCC secretary; Douglas Peacock (DP), NKCC treasurer and acting chair; Merle Read (MR), NKCC webmaster; Martin Venherm, NKCC member; Elaine Doherty (ED), NKCC member; Jamie Thomas-Harley, resident; Malcolm Bruce, resident; David McCarthy, resident; Councillor Kieran Wild (KW), GCC; Councillor Helen Stephen (HS), GCC; Councillor Chris Kelly (CK), GCC; Craig Glen (CG), Police Scotland; Yvonne McGregor, Police Scotland; Stephen Murphy (SM), from Aspire; Rhonda Fraser (RF), from Friends of Queen Margaret Drive

**Apologies:** Christine Alison, NKCC planning officer; Cameron MacFarlane, NKCC member

**1. Welcome.** DP convened the meeting.

**2. Last month's minutes.** To begin with the meeting was not quorate as one member was delayed, so decisions could not be taken e.g. to approve minutes.

**3. Police report.** CG reported 20 drinking & 7 drug offences; 18 thefts incl. 3/4 housebreakings; and 1 robbery. Ten of the thefts were of bikes, which mostly had been left momentarily unattended and unlocked.

#### **4. Councillors' reports.**

KW had attended a recent very good event at North Kelvin Meadow. There have been ongoing discussions on the objections to the New City Vision planning application.

HS in response to a previous query said she was not aware of any plans to remove the Wilton St bollards or improve the footway. There have been no planning applications made for the gap site on Wilton St. Fly tipping on the lane behind the gap site had been reported removed but MR & EH had seen mattresses etc on the lane on 15 June.

Concerns about buildings in poor condition should be reported to Building Control on 287 2855.

This week was Glasgow Bike Week. There is information about this on the GCC website & on our facebook page.

Melrose Gardens Lane was deemed in too poor a state for a community clean up & will be attended to by Land & Environmental Services. They will inform residents whose properties back on to the lane.

The date for objections to the NCV application has been extended to 29 June.

CK reported that, **in part in response to concerns raised by NKCC members about tenant safety [see April minutes]**, GCC has already begun to be more proactive in checking renewals of HMO applications. Criteria have been adopted when considering mid-term inspections – these include taking into consideration any complaints that have been made and general compliance performance e.g. re gas safety (previous warnings will be taken into account). There will also be random sampling. So far 33 properties that have not met the criteria have been identified. Reports will be made to the procurator fiscal. Landlords may be issued with a suspension of rent order – if they don't comply with regulations, they can't receive their rent.

Evidence sessions on fire safety have been attended by various community councils incl. Hillhead.

Different CCs have different experiences of HMOs – some areas find them a benefit to their area, others don't.

Questions were raised about the over-provision of HMOs and how this is measured. Provision is not controlled by legislation. As long as the appropriate criteria are met for the individual property, an HMO licence can't be refused on grounds that there are already many HMOs in the area. There is no linkage between planning and licensing.

KW raised the issue of controlling private renting and expanding what the planning department can do, and what the factoring commission can do.

It was pointed out that we are often not given enough time to consider new HMO applications. GCC has no leeway in this. We should contact our MSPs: how can they help us fulfil our obligations as a statutory body? PB to write to MSPs.

## **5. General CC business**

**a. Clean-up of Doune Gardens Lane on Saturday 27th June.** EH has arranged for necessary equipment to be provided. EH and MR did a recce of the lane with Ryan Noble from Community Safety Glasgow. There are some large items but mostly the problem is litter, so a skip isn't needed. Like last time we will provide refreshments. MR has put info on the cleanup on the website & will email members a flier. SM asked to be kept informed of any clean-ups in the area to enable Aspire residents to get involved.

**b. Update on printing of leaflets, cards, logo & banner.** MR reported unexpected delay at the printer & lack of communications. She would pursue this. [Post-meeting update: MR collected leaflets, business cards and paper banner in time for event on 21st]

**c. Stall at Queen Margaret Drive Festival on 21st.** Arrangements were made for a rota so that our stall would be covered all day. We had sufficient volunteers for everyone to do an hour each. MR to bring leaflets, suggestion box, chairs; PB to

bring table. MR to email confirmation of timings. It was noted that QMD would be closed to through traffic on the day. GCC charged £5,000 for this but RF reported the cost would be met because of the street-play events on the day. Sustrans would be holding a workshop to explore the community's feelings about the future of the area, such as the shared precinct idea which operates in some areas of the city, e.g. Merchant City.

**6. Planning officer's report.** Two applications were noted for the same area of land.

**a. New City Vision Ltd** - North Kelvin Meadow - Planning Ref number 12/00924/DC. The date for comments/objections on this much discussed application has been extended to 29 June. NKCC has previously submitted an objection. Over 800 other objections have been submitted.

**b. The Children's Wood Group** - Planning Ref number 15/01223/DC and "Concept" Plan. This is essentially to keep the land used as community woodland and park. Comments on the application must be submitted by 26 June.

KW said both plans might be approved in principle. The NCV plan has been pre-emptively called in by the Scottish Government, an unusual move.

**7. Treasurer's report.** No report, other than that we have sufficient funds in the bank. We had wanted to purchase bins for Murano St and Kelbourne St but this isn't feasible without GCC agreeing to empty them. Problem areas re litter/dog waste should be reported to GCC.

**8. Webmaster's report.** Our Facebook page, website and Twitter feed are all being updated regularly.

**9. Secretary's correspondence.** PB attended by invitation a Summerston CC meeting to discuss a property company's proposals for housing on land that was originally farmland near Balmore Rd. Among the problems identified were its being on a flood plain; the lack of decent roads; lack of amenities & shops; lack of social housing.

There are reports of dogs being stolen in the Maryhill area.

Dowanhill CC would like us to support their concerns re the poor state of Kirklee Bridge.

Overhanging trees on Clouston St and QMD bridge have been reported.

Rubbish has accumulated on Clouston St Lane.

An HMO planning application has been submitted for 12 Clouston St but the closing date for objections (24 June) didn't allow us time to act.

We have been told that prospective members are not allowed to join NKCC as full members before the AGM in October. This is frustrating as we have two or three

prospective members and are very understrength, with more than half the places on NKCC being unfilled.

**10. AOB. Aspire** representative SM spoke about his wish for the homeless residents at Aspire to get involved with any activities we might plan that could use some extra manpower, for our mutual benefit. If anyone has any concerns about antisocial behaviour perceived to be associated with Aspire they should contact SM. Fears can be allayed and problems managed.

RF spoke about the launch of the **Friends of QMD** scheme which aims to work towards the long-term betterment of the area. Those behind the scheme are trying to raise £45,000 by September towards the new pavement on QMD between Oban Dr & Fergus Dr. There is a related G20 Heritage exhibition at the Kibble Palace. The general idea is to make the QMD area more attractive not just to locals but to tourists as well, as it could help connect the apparently disconnected landmarks in the area (Botanic Gdns, Mackintosh Church, Sixty Steps). The festival on Sunday 21st will help publicise the scheme.

The meeting closed about 8.20pm and was followed by tea & coffee.

There is no July meeting. The next meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18 August 2015, at St Charles' Church Hall, 1 Kelvinside Gardens, G20 6BG.