

Minutes of North Kelvin Community Council monthly meeting

6 February 2018, 6.30pm, St Charles Church Hall, 1 Kelvinside Gardens

Present: Douglas Peacock (DP); Merle Read (MR); Alasdair Macdonald (AM); Christine Alison (CA); Jamie Thomas Harley (JTH); Martin Venherm (MV); Cllr Jane Morgan (JM); Peter Bell (Police); Martin Dale (Police); Elaine Doherty (ED); Cllr Martha Wardrop (MW); local residents

Apologies: Cllr Ken Andrews

1. JTH opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes** of the last 2 meetings were proposed and seconded by CA and DP respectively.
3. **Police report.**

Offence	Detected	Not detected
Misuse of drugs	2	
Vandalism		14
Theft by housebreaking		9 + 1 attempt
Theft of bike	1	3
Theft of motor vehicle		1 + 1 attempt
Theft, other	1	7
Football related	1	2
Public order	3	1
Sexual crime		1
Road traffic	1	1
Violence	1	4
Total	10	45

PB noted an increase in **housebreaking**. The police have a dedicated unit to tackle this. It is hoped forensics will help identify the perpetrators. There has been some fingerprinting/DNA evidence, so there may be an ID at a later date, even months later.

No pattern to the housebreaking has been noted, though generally it has occurred when residents are likely to be out or asleep. A wide range of streets have been targeted: Oban Drive (2), Maryhill Road, Lyndhurst Gardens, Wilton Street, Mingarry Street, Fergus Drive, Murano Street, Jedburgh Gardens. Police advice: try to keep your property secure. Remember to lock your door. Insecure windows or doors can be forced open.

The gang of BMX bikers have returned to their **vandalising of cars** parked on Doune Gardens/Doune Quadrant etc. Plainclothes police on bikes have been on the lookout. Residents are advised to report suspicious activity. A good description is helpful for ID as there is no CCTV in the area, though CCTV in the wider area can help. Monday evenings have been noted as a popular time. Could the police request a community safety van (fitted with CCTV)? This was a possibility. Could residents mount their own CCTV? This is fine as long as it is restricted to their own property. There may be legal issues with public space, leading to inadmissible evidence.

A clearly **abandoned car** (insured and taxed) in Doune Gardens went on fire early on the Saturday after the last meeting. PB had contacted the owner via the pound. The fire service said it wasn't

wilful fireraising and so it was not logged as a police incident. In theory, for example, the fire could have been caused by an electrical fault. The police will ask the fire service for their reasoning. It was a frightening incident, with petrol alight running down the street. The fire engine came within 10 minutes but couldn't get down the street because of the parked cars on either side. Hose extensions had to be used. What if it had been a building on fire? Previous attempts to remove the car had failed because of the recovery truck size. MW was told by Glasgow City Council (GCC) that the registered keeper had been contacted. GCC has to follow legal procedure. The police have more powers, eg if a car is causing a road traffic offence.

Two other abandoned vehicles had been reported, one in Kelbourne St. Police will follow these up. It was noted Doune Gardens and Striven Gardens have been used for dumping cars.

A car was reported to have been ticketed for parking on the zigzags on Queen Margaret Drive (QMD), but the car wasn't moved immediately, though it should have been.

Problems of commercial vehicles parking in bus spaces were reported. Repeat problems should be reported to GCC. Police will only act if the vehicle is e.g. causing an obstruction.

4. Councillors' reports.

MW had done a Lyndhurst Gardens walkabout re pavements which need to be lowered for wheelchair use. Bins problem at Melrose Gardens/Wilton Street/Lyndhurst Gardens is being worked on. Hacking & Paterson factor is to get a contractor to clean up the area. GCC will supply a skip. Environmental health will provide advice/support. Lyndhurst Gardens residents hadn't realised they owned the lane, hence expectation that GCC was responsible for it.

MW will do a door-to-door survey. Bin areas need gutted and made safe.

Doune Gardens Lane: residents were due to meet the next day. Money from the Hillhead Area Partnership is to be spent on recycling facilities and a path handrail, depending on planning consent.

MW has asked for clarity on streetlighting: who is responsible for replacing a dangerous light that is removed by GCC?

JM: Could it be a paid service done by GCC rather than residents having to find a contractor?

MW reported problems with flooding/drainage on Doune Gardens.

AM: Some people are unaware of their responsibilities or simply refuse to pay. Some buildings are self-factored. MV: The Tenement Handbook is recommended for guidance on e.g. what repairs are communal.

A proposal for GCC to take over ownership of lanes some years ago failed. Too expensive for GCC, plus there were legal issues. Maintenance is expensive. Back lanes under private ownership are a low priority compared with pot holes etc elsewhere.

A path accessing the River Kelvin Walkway east of QMD bridge was closed after MW reported safety concerns. Repairs were now under way and it was expected the path would reopen soon.

Business bins: shops would like them enclosed. Under proposed commercial bin plan: all businesses will have to keep their bin inside. Report concerns to MW if bins are causing obstruction.

Some people are putting household rubbish beside bins on the street, which is attracting fly-tippers. MW will report to relevant GCC department.

MW got Christmas trees dealt with on Belmont St and asked for it to be a designated collection point.

Overhanging branches on some streets are causing obstruction to people with buggies and visually impaired people. Sometimes pedestrians have to walk on the road. MW will report to Land and Environmental Services and owners will be asked to deal with it, within conservation area restrictions.

JM: BT said a lighting post was interfering with one of theirs, but BT don't have an automatic right to have their own post wherever they want. If it happens again BT should be challenged to move their own.

JM: 3 licence applications for HMOs. New HMOs should have planning permission also. New HMOs should only be ground floor. There is a concern that HMOs are an increasing problem. Our policy is to object to new applications.

The corner of QMD/Kelbourne Street is prone to flooding. The pavement is due to be raised to stop this and help pedestrians.

A bin replacement programme is being introduced across the city. Owners will be responsible for the upgrade of bin shelters.

5. Update on controlled parking zone (CPZ). There was a lengthy discussion on this issue which clearly residents want to see addressed.

There are concerns about the volume of traffic going through the area and about parking. It is a growing problem. GCC has a policy of CPZs as a means of tackling congestion/health concerns/safety. GCC has been trying to look at it systematically since 2015.

Regarding the urgency of the problem, Wilton Street/QMD scored 11 out of a maximum level of 12. Originally west of QMD/Clouston St wasn't to be included in the proposed CPZ, but roads officers have since included it. The NKCC subgroup has looked at this and had an informal meeting with Jamie Rodden re what needs to be done.

A substantial area is involved (but not the whole of the NKCC area, eg Firhill is not included) because of the spillover problem from neighbouring CPZs. Our area is the next to be decided on. Local consultation would be needed. People should be encouraged to find out more and express their views. GCC could put an exhibition on to show what the possibilities were. Through-traffic is also a problem. Do we want measures to stop the rat-runners? Parking/traffic management could be dealt with at the same time.

The devil is in the detail. We need clarification on many issues, such as days of operation (Mon to Sun? Mon to Fri?) or times (to 6pm or to 10pm?).

Parking policy has developed piecemeal but has been rationalised. GCC will put forward a proposal for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) but before that we should have informal consultation to gauge community feeling. We could have officers come to a meeting to help identify what the options are.

Some people who are not residents are parking here, sometimes for weeks on end. Some residents are put off going out in the evening because they're unable to get a space when they come back. Commuters are parking here. People going out in the West End at the weekend are parking here. Pollution is a problem. Displacement caused by the CPZ in Hillhead/Dowanhill has increased the problem here. It could be 2.5 years before the CPZ is brought in.

MW: a survey of residents in Dowanhill was successful – she would support similar for us. We could have an electronic survey on the website.

Informal consultation would not be binding but GCC would have regard to it. Problem is increasing car ownership in streets built long before car use was widespread.

MW: officers aren't getting feedback on parking problems in this area. It would be good to have a community event such as a drop-in exhibition well before the TRO is initiated. We could get people to fill out comments forms.

The onus is on us to make options available.

Will enforcement be effective? At the moment illegal parking on Belmont Street is not being enforced properly.

We need an email address that all parking comments can be sent to.

An attempt to identify in advance of the CPZ how many cars parked in Dowanhill actually belonged to residents (and thus estimate the level of residents' parking required) failed because it was too difficult with the available resources, but once the CPZ was in operation, there were sufficient spaces for residents.

Information can be circulated via social media such as our website and Next Door North Kelvin. MW will show us what she did for Dowanhill and we will decide what to do next.

We could ask representatives from Dowanhill to speak to us about their experience. Perhaps someone from Dowanhill CC could speak to us?

We should seek opinions from residents/housing associations/fire service etc. We can start by posting information on a separate "Parking" page on our website, which we can add to as more becomes available.

6–9. Clean-ups, Planning Officer's report, Treasurer's report, Communications report all held over due to lack of time.

10. Correspondence. CA received a nomination form for a community resident representative to sit on GCC's Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement Policy Committee. Closing date: 4pm on Friday 2 March 2018.

CA received a request for any member of NKCC wishing to attend the Royal Garden Party at Holyroodhouse on 4 July 2018 to submit their name. Closing date: 16 February 2018.

11. Licensing: held over due to lack of time.

12. AOB: none.

13. JTH thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 6 March, 6.30pm, St Charles Church Hall, 1 Kelvinside Gardens.