

North Kelvin Community Council business meeting
Tuesday 3 June 2025, Community Central Hall, Maryhill Road

Present

Christine Alison (chair)
Merle Read
Stuart Wallace
Joyce Khatri
Andrea Fisher
Patricia Grant

Alasdair Macdonald
Rowena Statt
Elaine Doherty
Frank Shennan
Bailie Seonad Hoy
Cllr Ken Andrew

Apologies

Louise MacKenzie
Douglas Peacock
Baillie Martha Wardrop
PC Peter Bell

1. Merle elected minute secretary.
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting: proposed, Alasdair; seconded, Trish. A correction to point 5 of the April meeting minute was noted: Café Ibiza has been renamed the Firehouse but it's still the same company behind the venue.
3. Police report. This was read out from PC Bell's email:

Recorded crime has decreased on last month and there are no crimes of note or trends identified.

Matters arising from last month's meeting:

Speeding on Queen Margaret Drive – Speed checks were carried out, which was documented on Police Scotland Social media and one person was reported for various Road Traffic offences.

Illegal E-bikes (Byres Road highlighted) – information passed to colleagues at Partick Police office.

This information supported a day of action across Greater Glasgow on 21/05/2025 targeting E bikes / Scooters.

Published results taken from social media were as follows –

19 x E bikes / scooters seized
9 x Conditional offers of fixed penalty issued.
33 x Road traffic offences detected
10 x Miscellaneous offences detected.

Drug dealing at the 60 steps – Extra attention / patrols have been carried out at this location. No evidence of persons gathering or any drug dealing / misuse at this location.

Members' reports (Christine to forward to police):

- Uber/JustEat/Deliveroo ebikes being ridden dangerously, eg without lights, carelessly emerging from junctions
- Cars regularly parking at foot of Belmont St (outwith NKCC area) beside Chilo's takeaway window blocking drivers' line of sight
- Vehicles (disappointingly including police van on non-urgent business) turning right at immediate top of Byres Rd (outwith NKCC) instead of using the roundabout further on as required. Cllr Andrew noted this junction is to be redesigned as part of the Byres Rd makeover.

4. Follow-up on last meeting:

- Our public liability insurance has been renewed
- Glasgow 850: Progress on the commemorative plaques for JD Fergusson and Margaret Morris on Clouston St continues. Planning permission may not be required. Christine and Alasdair have prepared wording and expected cost is about £300 per plaque. Perhaps we can obtain business sponsorship. We have written consent from the owners of 8 of the 9 flats concerned (1 owner so far has been uncontactable). [The CC having supported the plaque project since it was first mooted, a joiner's estimate for installation of the plaques having been received after the meeting, and there being no in-person meeting in July, it was overwhelmingly agreed by email vote on 19 June 2025 to submit a Discretionary Grant Fund Application.]
- Also on Glasgow 850, a meeting of some CC members is to be arranged to discuss historic information on the shops on QMD
- Queen's Cross Housing Association to send a representative to our August meeting

5. Councillors' reports.

Cllr Hoy:

- Complaints have been made about waste being left outside a property in Wilton St. Cllr Hoy has contacted the neighbourhood coordinator to consult neighbours
- Air monitoring action plans around schools/nurseries are being carried out (work of the Net Zero Committee) – more info to be circulated when available
- Info on carbon-based parking charges already circulated

A member noted that fly-tipping that was reported to have been cleared up on Trossachs St was not in fact removed.

Cllr Andrew:

- A meeting was to be held this week with GCC arborist and the keeper of the Botanics Andrew Sinclair to discuss trees on Doune Gardens. Problems include branches interfering with overhead cables.
- A meeting was held with Cllrs Andrew, Hoy & Wardrop and Susan Hanlin from GCC Housing to discuss retrofit issues for pre-1919 tenements. Hillhead Area Partnership doesn't release money to individuals, so any bid for financial assistance would have to be on behalf of a group. A bid for £5000 for consultancy was suggested to draw up a document giving advice on how to get started and what action to take, eg insulating floors/ceilings is cheaper than double glazing. Ground-source heat pumps are expensive because of 35–70m depth required to drill down to "hot rock". The document would benefit all owners/renters throughout tenemented areas of the city, as changes would lead to cheaper living costs. Strathclyde Business School has produced guidance for factors.

There are concerns that if the wrong action is taken, condensation could lead to rot in the long term. Walls vary in thickness, and different types of stone absorb moisture differently, so there isn't a "one size fits all" solution. Historic Environment Scotland have already produced a lot of information: would the proposed document repeat work already done?

Expert advice clearly required so that correct insulating materials are used. Very expensive for individuals to act alone. Could we build up a bank of contractors aware of the specific issues affecting tenements? Whole-block solutions?

6. Street play: GCC have offered 2 weekends in June and September to have certain roads closed to enable safe street play. This has been done successfully before on Braeside/Dalmally Sts. We would need play leaders/organisers. Generally thought to be a good idea as it encourages children to be outside and away from their screens.

It was decided to aim for a closure on a day over the Sept period (26th to 28th); notification must be submitted by 12 Sept, but the issue would be raised again at the August meeting and if supported the submission could go in at that point. Suggested areas include the old fire path at Wilton St; the car park midway off Fergus Dr; Dalmally St; the streets near the Children's Wood, as there will be an event there on 26 Sept. Stuart to write a post for the website inviting residents to suggest suitable areas.

7. Communications report.

- We participated in the "Kelvin at the Kibble" exhibition for 2 weeks. Our display included an information board and leaflets/cards to take away. Cost was about £60 all in and the board should be reusable (despite the damp climate at the Kibble) at a similar event.
- Newsletter was issued

- Website: The home page and calendar have been revamped to make it easier to see what we do, how to get involved and what events are going on. The most popular page on the website continues to be Parking. Merle was thanked for her work on the website.
8. Glasgow 850: covered under point 4.
 9. Community clean-up: next will be a litter-pick on Sunday 22 June, Trossachs St. Elaine to report back on suitable meeting point.

Last month's clean-up at the Sixty Steps was very well received by the community and Stuart thanked those involved because of the huge difference made. Cllr Wardrop is pursuing getting railings and lampposts painted. Repairs are needed: Rowena intends to meet with Sinclair Smith to check the right materials will be used. People have been seen climbing on the retaining wall: signage needed to discourage this in case wall is damaged. Graffiti also reported on the wall.

Planters on QM Road: Cllr Wardrop pursuing funding. Perhaps Tesco could be approached, as they offered help before? Stuart to pursue.

10. Planning. Re the former Café Ibiza (now Firehouse), Rowena to follow up on the company's appeal to the Scottish Government re the retrospective rejection of the decking at the back.

11. AOB:

- Walk to Clyde riverfront on Sat 7th June
- Wilton Gardens Fete on Sunday 8th June
- Friends of Ruchill Park monthly event on Sunday 8th June
- Children's Wood events in June: exhibition of children's nature programme on 10th (or, if weather bad, 17th) June; treasure hunt ending on 21st June, date of CW anniversary and solstice event; P7 to S1 transition events being held on Mondays
- G20 Artist Collective treasure hunt in June
- HMO renewal application for 105 QM Drive (5 occupants, 5 rooms, Calgary Heritage)
- HMO objections: objectors are urged to
 - keep evidence so that objection more likely to be accepted
 - take external/internal pictures if possible or with permission (as long as data protection respected)
 - log info, eg if try to contact landlord and they're unavailable

- report rowdy behaviour to the police – even if the police don't attend, the incident will be given a report number
- The Radio Teleswitch Service is due to be switched off on 30 June. This will affect electricity customers who have an RTS meter in their home. Customers should be offered a replacement meter by their electricity provider.
- Landlords fly-tipping: the Licensing Committee find it difficult to refuse a licence to landlords accused of fly-tipping because it is difficult to prove that the landlord has done the fly-tipping, even if it is clear where the rubbish came from. Good evidence is required plus a willingness to go to court to make a case.
- Frank is to attend a development session for licensing on 14 June. He also expressed a willingness to attend community engagement sessions for community councillors, but most unhelpfully no dates have yet been announced.

Meeting closed at 8pm. Next meeting: Tuesday 5 August 2025 at the same venue.