

LOREBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Extraordinary meeting: Minutes

Meeting: Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.00pm

Held at Municipal Chambers, Buccleugh Street, Dumfries

Present: Graeme Stitt (Police Scotland), John Campbell, Keith Walters, David Slater, Susan Garnsworthy, Sandy Rogerson, Artemis Adams, Cath Nesbitt, Chris Woodness, Carole Hastings, Malcolm Johnstone, Graham McLeod, John Dowson, Simon Jones, Anne Lindsay, Nick Lean, Sitki, Graham Bartlett, Lia Bartlett

Part 1 Community Forum

Police report

The police have charged several people with various offences. There is an issue of professional beggars coming down from Glasgow. Concerns were expressed over women being under coercive control. GS explained that there are special welfare related questions asked when interviewing a subject where there is a concern around coercion/trafficking.

open forum for Loreburn area residents

Lia suggested we could do a survey on what people want to see in the community. She mentioned that the Head of Loreburn Primary was very interested in the Community Council.

Action point: AL and Lia to work together on survey and Local Development Plan.

Part 2 Main topics:

Parking

JD in 2017 made a formal complaint to the Council about the failure to deal with parking, or to prepare options or to consult with LCC. The Council wrote back to dismiss the complaint. They considered an action plan but didn't do it.

AL: AL and CH did a lengthy community survey in Dec 2020 on Area C problems with parking. No acknowledgement from the Council.

We have now received a long letter from Tony Topping.

AL feels disrespected, feels the public is being disrespected.

AL described a horrifying near miss incident caused by a bad driver going up onto the pavement to get around an illegally parked car.

People are being blocked into their shops by illegally parked cars.

DS expressed concerns about a lack of parking in the town centre. Others disagreed.

JC: there is cross-party consensus on decriminalisation. The political will is there, the matter needs to be pushed to the officers.

A suggestion was made to pay overtime for police to focus on ticketing cars. However, the police are funded by Scotgov so this is not something the Council can do.

GS: the police are ticketing cars. Claimed that the number of tickets given out matches the number given out when we had wardens however the deterrent effect of the wardens being there meant that they didn't have to give out many tickets. He said, "it's not a full time job for us."

GB suggested using volunteer police.

GS said they need more special constables and asked LCC to encourage people to apply)

Action point: LCC agreed to encourage people to apply to be special constables.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/special-constables/how-to-apply-special-constables/>

GM: raised an issue of lots of unsafe parking on the Lockerbie Road near the junction with Moffat Road.

GS: yellow lines could be put there.

Action point: GM to write to Council about putting yellow lines there.

Flood

SJ talked about flood wardens and setting up a community group.

RW: the problem is greater than a voluntary effort can solve.

SG: young people can help.

CN: High emotion after the event then the priority recedes. Sirens/alerts that cry wolf are really bad.

CW: Volunteers have limitations. They will need to work with the Resilience Team. 3000 sandbags were deployed across the region. The flooding affected a wide area of Dumfries and Galloway.

Sitki: concern that volunteers won't have the info/resources available. SEPA warnings useless, many people ignore them. He feels that we need a DGC Flood Department. Some businesses are not thinking to come back, everyone is demoralised. Cutting off the electricity caused issues. There's a risk of chasing all these businesses away.

RW: we need expert advice.

CH: Storm Arwen knocked down millions of trees last year which will have had an affect on the water table.

It was suggested that Scottish Power move their box higher so that they won't need to cut the power.

Sitki: Every business in Whitesands needs investment.

JC: there's a local resilience partnership with DGC, Police, Fire and many more organisations.

GB: Coach and Horses have done a lot on resilience, opened in 2-3 days (normally it would be one).

AL: it's important that the Council values volunteers.

SG and RW felt that it's a combination of personal responsibility, community and council.

GS: good work was done, the Mountain Rescue and Nith Inshore rescue provided great voluntary help.

MJ: need to keep people up to date, knock on doors, chat.

CW: great volunteers, kindness of Morrisons, Mrs Greens exemplified the community coming together.

CN: new arrivals can often be blasé. People can get PTSD after floods, watching anxiously every time it rains.

JD: compensation was paid by Scotgov in 2015.

Sitki: we intend to ask for compensation (60 businesses). 26 businesses have completed the survey so far totalling £646,000 of damage. They will send this to Scotgov and the Council.

GB: compensation should be used wisely, eg re-siting electrics, removing fancy wallpaper.

Artemis Adams: when compensation was offered in 2015 Andrew (Riverside Tap) missed out because DGC didn't adequately let people know.

Part 3 Reports and other business

LDP3 pre-consultation

SG: DGC wants Local Place Plans.

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/25548/Local-Place-Plans-Invitation-to-Create-a-Local-Place-Plan>

CN: Kingholm Quay has put theirs in this week.

CW: DDD is a plan, a starting point.

SG: DPAG should not be LCC's plan, rather the two should work in collaboration.

She asked for volunteers to help develop our local place plan

Action point: SG, AL, SJ, RW to do this.

RW: stressed the key issue of whether we want to have a town centre. A Jam doughnut with a delicious centre or a ring doughnut with an empty centre.

SG: the expression of interest is due Jan 27th.

SWestrans survey (Sandy/Anne)

AL and SR did our response to the survey and also submitted personal responses.

Marchbank Bakers windows (AL)

AL represented LCC at the Planning Committee meeting. The committee decided to grant retrospective permission over our objections. Here is Anne valiantly representing us:

<https://youtu.be/-VjEHbWWCuk?t=6748>

GM: got a reply from the Planning Department, concerned that Marchbanks circumvented the planning system, concerned the Conservation Area doesn't count for anything.

AL: concerned about a race to the bottom. LCC unanimously objected, overruled by the Planning Department.

SJ observed that the slide showing a similar shopfront at Greggs framed the discussion to lead the committee towards approving the proposal.

GM: the rules are applied inconsistently.

JD: these people will be advised by architects and surveyors (who know the rules).

KW observed that getting as many objections as possible is advantageous.

Any other business

CW: Local Place Plan is open for us to submit. LDP has a 23rd Jan consultation date.

JC: LDP has 3rd Feb deadline.

Kingholm Quay community council update

CN: Kingholm Quay community council held a great meetings, the councillors came, lots of direction, it's going well.

Date and place of next meeting

7pm, 7th February 2023, Municipal Chambers Buccleuch St