

# LOREBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



## Meeting

Meeting: Tuesday 6th February at 7.00pm

Held at Municipal Chambers, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries

**Sederunt:** John Dowson (acting Chair), Simon Jones (Secretary), Karl Drinkwater, Carole Hastings, Peter Kormylo, Graham McLeod, Keith Walters, Maureen Johnstone, Malcolm Johnstone, John Campbell, Cath Nesbitt, Lesley MacLeod, Mark Harper, Alistair Hope (Police Scotland), Graham Bartlett, Lia Bartlett

**Apologies:** Robin Wishart, Susan Garnsworthy, Chris Woodness, David Slater, Artemis Adams

**Acting Chair:** We agreed unanimously that John Dowson would act as our Chair for the evening in the absence of Robin.

## Part 1 Community Forum

including:

### Police report (Alistair Hope)

The full report is available on the LCC website. <https://loreburn.comcouncil.scot/documents>

Notable are vandalism at Molly Mays, Oxfam, Loreburn Centre, discovery of a large cannabis farm at the corner of English St and High St and a 12 year old child committing 2 assaults on the High St. 61 parking tickets were issued in the town centre in January.

AH: free bus travel for young people has had a consequence of youngsters bussing into town to hang out.

PK asked about Weekend Offender. AH explained it is a fashion brand.

SJ asked about assaults on police officers. AH explained there is an initiative called Your Safety Matters which is trying to address them.

LCC agreed that SJ should write to the police expressing our support for officers and our intention to help reduce attacks on officers.

CH asked about the new takeaways on Academy St and the dangerous driving associated with them. AH explained that insurance can be a way to make sure commercial vehicles don't drive unsafely.

### **Remembering Lorna McGowan**

JD spoke of our great sadness that our former colleague Lorna has passed away. She was a wonderful woman. May she rest in peace.

### **Open forum for Loreburn area residents**

Lesley MacLeod, (Head, Loreburn Primary School) spoke of the awful state of the school buildings. She made a plea that the school continue to stay in the town centre. A number of the children are town centre based. There is great uncertainty and it affects the children. She has misgivings about a proposed relocation to The Bridge as it is too far for some of the pupils.

KD: supported its town centre location.

PK: the number of refugee children attending LPS has increased. Families are leaving hotels into town centre residences. LPS has to stay.

LM: 33% of the children are from other cultures, 17 languages are spoken. LPS has a reputation as a great school for different communities.

PK: Loreburn St Johns site could be viable.

CN asked about neurodivergent pupils.

LM: quite a number of the children are neurodivergent and they have additional support needs

Malc J (personal view): if we are going to have a commitment to Dumfries town centre then we need the school. On a visit he was absolutely shocked with the state of the property.

LM: LPS is in the worst condition of the school estate (Category C). The children just want grass. The 15<sup>th</sup> March Education & Learning Committee must resolve this.

Maureen J will take the views expressed back to the Education Committee.

### **Questions to Councillors**

JD said that hairdresser businesses were using their upper floors to house workers. This is commercial, not residential, property. There's no safety, it's unregulated. Planning is failing to enforce policies. A number of people are sleeping on mattresses on the floor of a storeroom. Please could the matter be

raised to a Category A. Maureen J asked about the fire safety implications.

JC: Parking decriminalisation was considered that day by the Communities Committee and scenario 2 was agreed: DPE in full. DG Council will employ 6 new dedicated wardens. PK asked how long it will take. JC agreed to get back to us.

## **Part 2 Main topic: Town Board**

Greensands JD: Chair will be appointed on 27<sup>th</sup> February. All 3 parties handled the discussion of this commendably at the Economy and Resources meeting. The committee opened up nominations for the position of Chair to the community. The Area Committee will play a role (organising an event). JD suggested that LCC rent a shop for a week in the Mid Steeple, week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February. To invite the community to find out more, nominate Chair, advise on composition of the Town Board. He invited Councillors and Council officers to visit the shop.

KW warned against heightening people's expectations.

SJ said there are a number of expectations for powers to be used and enforced within the guidance.

CN: issue of political disenfranchisement, cliques.

SJ: timeline is shop 12<sup>th</sup>-, event 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, Full Council 27<sup>th</sup> February.

JD: we're expecting long list to be published by 20<sup>th</sup>.

LCC supported the renting of a shop unanimously.

SJ: the local place plan could be finished by the time the Chair is appointed.

LCC supported unanimously applying for the £500 Local Place Plan grant.

## **Part 3 Reports and other business**

**Greensands update (JD):** meeting with JD and RW from Loreburn, Chris Woodness, Jamie Ferguson and 2 members of the Flood Protection team from DG Council. Issue over the distinction between consultation and participation. We are asking to participate in the briefing and design of the project. JF will write to LCC with the Council's response to our Participation Request. We can accept or appeal. Appeals are determined by officers.

Graham Bartlett: raised issue of Common Good change of use and complained about lack of notification for local residents.

JD/SJ explained that as this was a Section 42 extension of a previous planning application the usual rules on notification did not apply.

JD: Common Good have the power to refuse to allow common property to be used by the project.

Graham B: concerned about the effect on the Primary School.

**The Hub premises (SJ)** SJ reported that The Hub on Friar's Vennel is due to close in March and described his work there.

**Robert Burns statue:** planning permission has been sought to clean it but there is a lack of a long term plan. JD said the statue needs moving inside.

**Burns trail and Peter Pan mural (KD):** The mural is with Mark Jardine waiting for an opportunity to re-site it. KD has been collecting leaflets on themed trails. Keen to promote tourism, local history, community wealth. He has met with James Proctor (SOSE). Burns Trail path and signs are damaged. CN asked about similar tourism development at Kingholm Quay. GB asked about digitisation.

**Grant request – Dumfries Adoptive Railway Gardeners.** A grant for £380 for a new lawnmower was approved unanimously.

**John Henderson award (AA)** PK said John Henderson is one of the finest employees he's ever witnessed. He missed nothing. Polite, nonconfrontational. SJ and AA to complete application for an award.

**Minutes of last meeting** – mistake on the date to be corrected, approved as amended.

**Matters arising from the minutes.** JD asked about wheelchair taxis. KW: there is a motion to address this issue. JC: a review in taxi licensing is coming up, DG Council could make it a condition of the licence.

**Common Good report (Carole)** Land at St Michael's St/Craigs Road to be sold to Scottish Power, CH asked for extra trees and shrubbery to be planted as a condition of the sale which the buyer agreed to.

**Planning & licencing** GM concerned about the Queen St shutters. JD: enforcement action is being taken.

#### **Date and place of next meeting**

7pm, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Municipal Buildings, Buccleuch St.