

LOREBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes

Meeting: Tuesday 2nd July at 7.00pm

Held at Municipal Chambers, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries

Sederunt: Robin Wishart (Chair), Peter Kormylo, Simon Jones (Secretary), Susan Garnsworthy, Anne Lindsay, Carole Hastings, Artemis Adams, Graham McLeod, John Dougan, Emma Currie, Anne Simpson, Andrew Pearson, Sgt Dale McEwan

In attendance: Cllr Malcolm Johnstone, Cllr David Slater, Cllr Keith Walters

Apologies: Karl Drinkwater, Jim Wallace

Part 1 Community Forum

including:

Police report

Offences included Drinking in public 2, Drugs 4, Shoplifting 14, Parking 55. Three 14 year olds were charged with spray painting the rowing club and criminal damage to Sandside Community Garden. Antisocial behaviour patrols continue at the Burns Statue. A Deter Divert and Detect strategy is in place. There has been a spike in youth disorder. The police are running an action plan that includes working with social work and working with the Lochside community. Free bus travel might be fuelling it. CH reported a crowd of 60 young people in Catherine Street. They did no damage.

Emma Currie: raised a safety concern about young refugee men based on New Abbey Road.

DM: the men have been given info on road safety and drugs.

Emma: groups of the men have been hanging about Holm Park, New Abbey Road and Burns Square.

DM patrolled Holm Park last night.

DS: there's not much actionable reporting of crime.

Anne Simpson: asked about vandalism. The People's Project did a survey with an 80% response of Castledykes Park users: strong desire for a shelter. However graffiti has been burnt into the walls of the shelter by vandals who used a camera blind spot. The shelter is covered by CCTV cameras provided by Vigilant Security and anyone witnessing anything suspicious in the park or near the shelter can contact them on 01387 247842. Anne further explained that there were problems with young people dropping litter or drinking cheap booze and that this behaviour was sometimes enabled by parents or taxi drivers.

DM: the police need crime to be reported at the time.

AS: praised Police Scotland Youth Volunteers.

John Dougan: Relationship Scotland has been vandalised by repeat offenders. Relationship Scotland would like to sit down and talk to the young people who have been doing this.

Andrew Pearson: 5 incidents of vandalism in the last 18 months at the Riverside Tap. Last week a rainbow flag was removed which was possibly a homophobic incident.

DM: crimes need to be reported. There is an online portal available <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/>

PK asked about CCTV. DM: CCTV helps, it could be better. AL asked about a previous decision to put a camera looking down Nith Avenue which was never actioned.

GM asked about punishment. DM: under the age of about 16-17 we don't want to criminalise them. They are referred to social work.

DM offered to respond to emails that people want to send to him about policing.
dale.mcewan@scotland.police.uk

Questions to Councillors

MJ: there was a full council meeting on 27th June. Action on derelict buildings. Regarding the asylum seekers that was a Home Office decision not a Council one. It has been for the Council to respond to the situation. Asylum seekers put a lot of pressure on the Council including the need to provide social care. DG Council have been constantly trying to battle to recoup the costs of these extra costs.

Emma Currie: there is a lack of information about what is going on. She asked about evening curfews.

MJ: DG Council can only act within their remit. The asylum seekers are not prisoners.

Emma asked about Facebook speculation.

MJ: assured Emma he will speak to the Chief Social Officer and Chief Executive. They are aware of social media conversation.

AL: suggested that the asylum seekers are being stereotyped and suggested working with them to see the other side. She suggested someone from MOOL or DGMA should speak to LCC.

SJ asked about school exclusions following the Council's commitment to zero tolerance on attacks on its staff.

KW: not anticipating an increase in exclusions.

PK asked about litter. The town is filthy, adults and kids just drop litter without thinking, town signs and bus shelters are greening up as they are never cleaned.

Anne Simpson: Devorgilla Rotary Club cleaned the bus shelters at Burns Statue and Glasgow Street.

RW/SG litter should be removed quickly.

John Dougan: Community Justice is giving out light sentences if any.

AL praised the work of Lisa Callandar-Bone at the St Catherine Street Inclusive Play Park. Kids respond well to kindness and attention.

RW: raised issue of moving violations on the pedestrian areas. Suggested a 5 mph speed limit.

MJ will find out what the procedure is for setting a speed limit.

Part 2 Reports and other business

Local place plan (SJ): SJ to circulate a draft plan soon. SG is working with Rosefield Mills for their feedback. SJ raised the usefulness of Parish Online in preparing maps for the place plan and support was expressed for the service.

South of Scotland Destination Alliance (AL) Business are risking their capital for Dumfries. Digital support is essential. SJ suggested VisitScotland be asked to improve their Dumfries entries.

SJ: Rats and gulls are causing problems. Badly secured food waste allows them access with plastic bags ripped apart. GM: the Do Not Feed signs are now mostly missing from the town square.

Funding environment (SJ): there are numerous grant opportunities. What is lacking are people who will lead on project and put the time and effort in to seeing it become a success.

Grants update DGMA football team and update on bicycle training project. (SJ)

Loreburn Community Council voted unanimously to give a grant of £360.36 to the DGMA football team for kit. SG noted that it is not sponsorship, it is a grant.

RW suggested a grant of £200 to help Relationship Scotland with the cleanup costs after the graffiti. Approved unanimously.

Minutes of last meeting. Approved unanimously.

Matters arising from the minutes. None.

Finance report. Approved unanimously.

Common Good report (Carole): The bandstand works are out for tender.

Planning & licencing (CH): New toilets at the station. The former dentist in English Street will become new flats. A restaurant will be built at the New Bazaar site.

Correspondence. PK asked us to write to the Council and ask about street cleaning. Who is responsible and would they come to us to explain their work and answer questions.

Date and place of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd September, Municipal Buildings, Buccleuch St.