

Kilsyth Community Council

Meeting in Burngreen Hall Wednesday January 20th 2010

Members Present

Scot Johnston (Chair) Margot McMillan, Charles Coulthard, Jim Hutchison, Ian Jarvis, John Freebairn, John Smithson, Jean McLaughlan, Carole Sullivan. Alan Stevenson, Councillor Mark Griffin

1. Apologies Nil

2. Police Report Nil

3. Issues raised by members of the public (police): Nil

4. General issues raised by members of the public

Alan Stevenson raised the issue of the deteriorating state of the retaining wall on the north side of the Road between Shawend and Kelvinhead. Following the frost a number of stones had become dislodged and were lying on the pavement. John Freebairn was of the opinion that maintenance was the responsibility of the landowner.

Action: Contact the Roads Department.

5. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (18th November 2009)

Agreed to leave pending

6. Matters arising

Jim Hutchison brought up the matter of the meeting which had been scheduled for the previous Saturday. There had been only three responses prompting the cancellation of the meeting. He felt that the problem arose from there being no specific agenda.

Scot Johnston felt that the purpose of the meeting was to eliminate overlap, competition and duplication of effort between the local groups such as the Community Council, Kilsyth and Villages Forum and Friends of Kelvin Valley.

The Forum meetings take place bi-monthly in the Burngreen library. Following discussion it was agreed:

- To reconvene the meeting if a specific issue required to be discussed
- Ask the Forum if a representative of the Community Council could attend their meetings on a rotational basis

John Smithson pointed out that the Community Council representative would not have voting rights on this basis. However, Ian Jarvis was already member representing Friends of Burngreen.

Mr Johnston felt that this issue had highlighted the need for better communication i.e. circulating minutes and being more pro-active communicating with respective Chairs. He would contact Paul Carter of K&V Forum.

It was felt that if all groups pulled together, more could be achieved than each group working independently.

7. Report from Treasurer – Admin Account.

The Treasurer, Jean McLaughlan reported that she was concerned that the cheque for the wreath had not been cashed by the now defunct Kilsyth branch of the British Legion although Christine Johnstone had sent a receipt. Agreed that she should try to contact Christine Johnstone in the first instance and if she could not resolve the problem the cheque should be cancelled and a new cheque issued and sent directly to the British Legion in Edinburgh.

Balance stood at £1508.05 + 14pence interest - £ 1508.19 before expenses.

Expenses totalled £223.67 split between a new backing for the co-op picture (£12.50); ASCC £65.17 and Heritage Night Expenses (£146.00)

This left a balance of £1284.52.

8. Report from Secretary – Projects Account

In the absence of the Secretary, Margo McMillan reported that at 31/12 the balance in the account stood at £782.71

Mr Johnston questioned whether the expenses for the Heritage night should have come out of this account. Mrs McMillan indicated that there was still an outstanding bill for the signage at the entrance to Colzium. Mr Smithson reckoned that cost for this sign would be in the region of £200 - £300.

9. Correspondence.

Mrs McMillan had forwarded an application to CSFT (Forestry Trust) with respect to snowdrops for the Innsbridge. As yet, no acknowledgement had been received despite follow up communications.

10. Planning

1. DDA for Colzium House lift – no issues.

2. North Lodge. Councillor Griffin reported that this would be refused due to green belt issues i.e. not a redevelopment. A site visit might be requested, however. Submissions can be taken up to 27th January.

Agreed to submit to reject the application.

Mr Freebairn expressed his concern about the timing of planning submissions – particularly during holiday periods, which left too little time to allow the public to respond.

3. Boundary Commission. Consultation on the new Scottish Parliamentary Boundaries by 7th February. Notice had appeared in the paper on the 13th January. No changes were proposed for this constituency. There was some discussion regarding the proposed changes and the possibility of requesting that Kilsyth be moved out of the Central Scotland Constituency. Given that no change was proposed, it was agreed to leave this issue.

4. ROCK. The most recent development was that the company had applied to change the conditions for the flats above. The previous proposal was to provide social housing but the new proposal was to make the flats available for Council tenants.

Mr Johnston reported that it was proposed to start the site clearance by the end of the month and some activity had been noticed around the Co-op building. Much of the paperwork was in place other than supplementary paperwork required by the Nursery. Mr Johnston was now copied into all e-mails.

5. Planning lists – none.

11. Environmental Matters

- Innsbridge. A joint proposal for the sign board had been prepared by members of the Community Council. Richard Cartwright had been given a copy and felt that it was a useful proposal. He would prepare a town centre plan and move the project forward. A proper proof required to be made and feedback sought regarding options thereafter. The snowdrop proposal would be put back until money was available
- Garrell Burn Management Scheme. Mr Jarvis reported that Friends of Burngreen had convened a meeting. They wanted an overall management system for the burn. British Waterways had attended but no representatives from SEPA. Mr Jarvis didn't have details of the minutes but stated that a general agreement had been reached to have a management system.
- Cavalry Park still didn't have planning permission – still subject to flood risk planning agreement. The plans entailed reinforcing the sides of the canal feeder above Colzium Park but British Waterways were not keen to do this. Planning wanted Wimpey or successors to take on the responsibility for flood management in perpetuity. The current situation was that the application was not granted and there was no flood risk agreement.
- Burngreen recreational ground. If money was available the damp area could be treated.
- Townhead reservoir. British Waterways were upgrading the reservoir and moving towards the point where the feeder would be surplus to requirements. The problem was cost since upgrading would be required back to the Mill Dam. The flow through the current sluice was

very limited but a continuous flow was required since a number of septic tanks percolated through into the Lade.

- Salmon spawning. Mrs McMillan advised that salmon had been reported spawning at the point where the Garrell Burn meets the River Kelvin. This had been kept secret up to now but it was thought that the information was better in the public domain so that the law could be enforced. Mr Freebairn stated that restrictions on the waterways i.e. the Mill Dam waterfall prevented access to spawning grounds further up the Garrell.
- Unconfirmed reports of otters seen at the junction of Queen St. and Duntreath Terrace.
- Burngreen redevelopment. Mr Jarvis reported that the Contractor took possession on schedule and items such as the bandstand and fountain had been removed for refurbishment. The project was due for completion in 16 weeks – by the end of Spring and certainly by the centenary celebrations at the end of June. Areas to be turfed rather than seeded. Some discussion followed as to who should be invited to the official launch e.g. Lady Edmonstone and perhaps anyone with past associations with the Park / Miners Welfare.
- Snowdrop Festival. Mrs McMillan reported on arrangements for the weekends of 6th/7th February and 13th/14th February. Alex Graham would be providing a café on these dates and both museum and café would be open between 12.00 and 4.00pm. Volunteers were required to man the museum. 6th: Charles Coulthard: 7th: Margo McMillan: 13th: Jean McLaughlan 14th: Ian Jarvis. Any other volunteers will be welcome.
- Colzium Leader Funded Project – Conservation Management and Clock Theatre restoration. A £50,000.00 consultation had been prepared containing a number of historical inaccuracies. The landscape architect was Fiona Robertson and Doug Wheeler working for Gray/Marshall Associates (appointed by the Local Authority) had prepared the report. Mr Jarvis pointed out that applications to bodies such as Historic Scotland and Heritage Lottery Fund stipulated this level of detail. £200,000 had been spent on consultancy work required for the Kelvin Valley projects. Mr Johnston expressed his concern at the cost incurred by this beaurocracy. He asked Mr Jarvis how much deliverable project money had been realised from this consultancy cost. Mr Jarvis added that huge efforts were required to produce feedback to the Consultants who didn't know the area and were therefore more liable to make mistakes. The diverse sources of money for funding such projects also produced problems.
- Colzium Lennox Estate Management Audit. The Council have put in a bid for WIAT funding from the Forestry Commission (£60,000.00) to carry out another consultation. To date Council Officers had met with the Consultants but the scheme had not yet been through the Committee Stage of the Council. The Bluebell Wood had been excluded from this audit and management funding would be sought from the Local Regeneration fund. Heritage Lottery Funding required backing from Community groups for example a Friends of Colzium Group. Ian Jarvis suggested that representatives from the 3 Community Groups , Friends of Burngreen, Friends of Kelvin Valley and the Community Council could come together to form such a group. When questioned, Mr Jarvis guessed that Community Groups could perform the same function as the Consultants for ¼ of the cost. Mr Johnston felt that there was no need to set up yet another Community Group when the Community Council with an existing Constitution, accounting procedure and set of stated objectives was already in place. He suggested a sub-committee of the Community Council be set up with representatives from the other two organisations forming part of this sub-committee i.e. a Friends of Colzium sub-committee. This group would be the vehicle which would partner the Council in any application. Mr Johnston proposed the motion that a sub-committee be set up as proposed under the Treasurer of the Community Council's books. There being no objections, the motion was carried. Mr Jarvis asked the Meeting's authority to approach David Greer and inform him that the Community Council would take this on as a 'task and finish' project. Agreed.
- Clock Theatre – no further information.
- Co-op display. Sommerfield was being rebranded as from February 15th when the shop would be closed prior to the relaunch. The shop was happy to have a display of artefacts charting the

Co-op's history in the town. Both William Chalmers and Jim Hutchison could provide items of historical interest – photos and text - provided they could be kept safe 'in store'.

- Antonine Wall Mr Hutchison had attended the recent meeting when yet another group had been established to run over a few months. The stretch of wall between Castlecary and Twechar formed the basis of a case study. The main points under discussion were :
 1. The Antonine Wall itself as part of the Kelvin Valley
 2. Upgrading centres in both Croy and Twechar to proper visitors centres
 3. Developing path systems
 4. Websites
 5. Improved road access
 6. Links with Kelvin Valley and CanalOnce the report was finished, it was hoped to push forward to deal with these points.
Mr Jarvis said that the report had been commissioned by the Central Scotland Forestry Trust who were looking at issues regarding standardising signage for the whole project.
- Mr Coulthard donated a book 'The place names of Falkirk' by John Reid to the Community Council.

13. Reports from Other Organisations

- Rotary Club. Mr Coulthard reported on the forthcoming Burns Supper on 5th February. Ticket cost was £15.00. Members of the Rotary Club would be in attendance in the Main Street on 27th February as part of a world wide campaign to raise funds to eradicate polio. Bill Gates was providing matched funding of \$250 million. The Club tie and pennant was being redesigned with the old Kilsyth Crest.
- Golf Club. Nothing to report – course snowbound.

14. Website. Use of the e-mail address Kilsyth.org.uk was discussed. After discussion it was decided that only the Secretary should use the address. Any member who wished to send a communication should copy to the Secretary pro-tem/

The Community Council Secretary was currently ill in hospital. Margo and Jean to contact Mrs Machray and pass on the Community Council's best wishes to Alex.

15. Any Other Competent Business.

- Invitation to rededication of Dumbreck Disaster memorial headstone had been received - 30th January at 12.00 noon. Mr Hutchison will be attending and will be the Community Council Rep.
- Mr Freebairn reminded the meeting that written reports should be circulated where possible to reduce the meeting time. Mr Jarvis replied that much of his report was very recent and he had not sufficient time to prepare. Mr Jarvis attended a large number of meetings and meant that his report would take some time to prepare due to the complexity of the issues covered.
- Mrs McMillan reported that the Government had earmarked £200,000.00 for a National Development Officer and Co-ordinator for Farmers Markets. It was hoped that Local Government would promote these in each town. A steering group was being set up in March. Mrs McMillan suggested contacting Emma Walker, manager of town centres, to see if Cumbernauld and Kilsyth were thinking of participating. If so, Kilsyth would be a good place to start. She also suggested contacting Stirling Farmers market to see if they were interested in picking up the reins again. The infrastructure was all in place but the Community Council wanted no direct involvement. Mrs McMillan to contact both.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm. Date of next meeting 17th February at 7.00 pm in Burngreen Hall.

