

Minutes of Neilston Community Council 28th August in the Glen Halls, Neilston at 7pm.

Present, J Scott, A Walker, R Junner, J Sheriff, J Connery, M Pettigrew, E Mould, S Crabbe, V Wood, Cllr Buchanan, Cllr Gilbert, Cllr O’Kane, PC, Sgt (Police Scotland

N Christie, M Griffiths, F McLaren, T Wood, W Martin, J Martin, L Watson, A Mould, G Kinnell, S Pattison, G Wilson

Apologies: R Mould

1. Police Report

Police report attached:
Summarised below

Violent Crime

Common assault near Madras Place – 2 adult women being investigated

Housebreakings and other thefts

No homes reported broken into. In 2 month period

Bicycle stolen from unlocked garden shed in Glen Shee Avenue

Man detained in early hours in grounds of house on Lochlibo Rd suspected of intent to commit theft.

Antisocial behaviour

Disturbance in business premises on Main St

15 year old male arrested for acting in a disorderly manner in Station Rd.

Disturbance in Madras Place two persons reported to Procurator Fiscal.

30 calls received in the period regarding nuisance caused by youths and in some cases acts of disorder in the Neilston area. This equates to less than 4 calls per week.

Calls most frequently received at weekends. Recurring locations are the wooded areas in the vicinity of Cowdenhall and the roads leading to.

Support from divisional off road motorcycle officers and mounted branch has been provided.

Youth disorder in residential areas in the vicinity of Main St and surrounding streets has been tasked by officers.

A joint partnership working meeting involving Police Scotland, ERC Community Safety, ERC youth services and Cllr O’Kane took place recently

Anti-Social Behaviour

There were a number of residents present that were concerned at the increasing anti-social behaviour in the village and the perceived lack of priority from the authorities.

The Police had received 30 calls in the past month regarding anti-social behaviour in Neilston and the Community wardens 11.

This was disputed in part by some residents who suggested that unless an incident number was received the call was not logged on 101 numbers.

In terms of Community Safety people indicated that they had given up since nothing happens and the perception was that "they are never seen in Neilston"

Increased safety checks had been carried out on licensee premises in the area by ERC.

The Police urged residents to report all incidents since resources were deployed in relation to numbers of incidents as well as seriousness.

Residents complained that some areas had large amounts of graffiti and litter including broken bottles which made it dangerous to walk with children and dogs.

People complained they felt intimidated and unsafe with in some cases groups of 15 or so youths congregating in their area with alcohol and drugs.

They complained about groups performing sexual acts in their area in public, fires being lit and groups with "boom boxes" outside their homes.

Parents complained that they were angry when their female children were confronted in unlit streets with large numbers of intoxicated youths shouting at them.

They complained that by the time the authorities reacted the disturbance was over as the groups dispersed when the Police appeared.

The Police and ERC indicated that extra resources had been deployed in Neilston, increased patrols, plain clothes patrols, off road bikes and mounted officers as an example

Residents complained that since May there had been incidents almost every night in Neilston.

People complained that life in some areas of the village had been destroyed and safety severely compromised.

It was claimed that a number of the youths were not from the village but came on the train and by other means

Residents confirmed the transport issue with youths being dropped off by “parents” or getting the bus to be dropped off at Glen Doll road or other locations.

The Police confirmed they did not have responsibility for railway travel but they did liaise with British Transport Police

Vehicles have been damaged in a number of locations in Crofthead, Kingston Rd, Main St etc. as drunken youths walk past, but no culprits found.

It was claimed that drugs and alcohol are actually delivered to some “party” locations by “known dealers”.

There was a discussion regarding the CCTV cameras in Double Hedges Rd, Main St, Kingston Rd and Uplawmoor Rd but no meaningful evidence as to their use or effectiveness was available.

The residents complained they” were fed up phoning as nothing was done.”

One resident complained that when a particular complaint was made of an incident with credible witnesses, she was “persuaded by a sergeant” not to take the case forward as the youth was underage and it would involve the Children’s Panel.

Residents asked “where are the Community Wardens, only seen driving past, or for parking tickets”

A councillor stated that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour across the authority and there was a suspicion that youths were travelling across the area.

After some lengthy heated discussion it was agreed that the Community Council and the local Councillors would organise a separate public meeting to discuss this with senior representatives from Police, Community Safety, ERC Youth Services and local Councillors.

3. Locality Planning

There is to be a public meeting on the 6th of September. .

4. Community Council Issues

Madras Play area/ Kingston Park Outdoor Gym

There was a presentation on the proposal so far.

The monies committed by ERC cover the cost of both projects.

Initial on line consultation was generally supportive but a number of alternatives were raised e.g. running track.

These have been discussed with ERC officials and are not practical within the timescale but could be considered for later additional projects.

Concern was raised regarding safety and anti-social behaviour.

This has been looked at with regard to making the park safer with an innovative lighting system and CCTV.

There is no funding currently available for this but the European LEADER fund is open for applications and we have had initial discussions with them who are supportive of making a bid.

This is money which the Council does not have to find although they are central to making a bid and it is a last chance application which will not be available after Brexit.

It was agreed that we should pursue this with the Council and LEADER and the Cllrs agreed to set up a meeting with officials urgently (15th of November is application deadline).

Pig Square

The tree in Kirkstyle Lane/Pig Square has been entered into the Woodland Trust competition

Skate Park

Decision due in Sept from WREN

Crossing – Main St

Still no action nor update on signage.

6. Planning**On Line Representations in Planning**

No update if representations are on line yet

Kirkton Rd

No application made yet.

Joint Campus

Report due to Education Committee in Oct

Main St car park – Killoch

There are still some outstanding issues with the car park which were going to be resolved by ERC.

9. Sports Hub Engagement

Charity status now finalised.

No change to lease terms of Brig O Lea stadium but now granted by ERC for 27 years to Neilston Juniors.

10. Charter Advisory Group

The approved CAG notes attached.

Shopkeepers have now written to ERC regarding the return of the area in front of the Main St shops to the public realm.

There was a discussion regarding the better utilisation of the Glen Halls and reducing cost.

10. Minutes

The minutes having been circulated were proposed by S Crabbe and seconded by J Connery and approved.

The AGM minutes having been circulated were proposed by E Mould and seconded by J Connery and approved.

11. Finance

The bank balances are as follows

TSB – 1025.70
BS – £1166.28

12. A.O.C.B

The next meeting is Tuesday 25th September at 7pm in the Glen Halls.