

Clarkston Community Council (CCC) October Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 7th October 2020

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Zoom Video Meeting (Online meeting)

Attendees: Chairperson - Rebecca Nicholson (RN), Secretary - Maryam Imran (MI), Treasurer - Christopher Kelly (CK), Gillian Cox (GCox), Julie Flaherty(JF), Linda Allan (LA), Ian Bell (IB), Lise Fisher (LF), Jacqui Frame (JF) – Off Grid Kids, Cllr Annette Ireland (CAI) , Andy Dunlop (AD)– Clarkston BID

Apologies: Brian Dillon, Greg Chalmers, Kirsten Oswald MP

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Meeting Minutes for September
3. Police Scotland Report
4. Matters for discussion
 - Clarkston Covid-19 Recovery
 - Social media / communications including Logo competition
 - Activity Trails
 - CCC Mobile Library Proposal
 - Recycling & Litter
 - Spaces for People – Update on funding allocation
 - Williamwood station access
 - Roads Update
 - Wildflowers scheme
 - AGM / new members
5. Off Grid Kids
6. Planning applications
7. Licensing applications
8. Treasurers Report
9. AOCB

Meeting Minutes

1. Apologies received and attendance recorded. RN will contact Tracey Dickson to see if she wishes to join meetings and will follow up with new members. CCC still seeking to recruit new members.
2. CCC 02/09/20 meeting minutes

September Actions

- Post message for recruitment of new members on Facebook group - Rebecca Nicholson
- Send RSVP request for future CCC meetings to help manage attendance - Maryam Imran
- Check AGM requirements and when we can organise for CCC - Maryam Imran
- Kirsten Oswald to put Eaglesham Mobile Library in touch with CCC and CCC to explore similar model for Clarkston and put plan together - Gillian Cox
- Update on Wildflowers Pilot form ERC - Cllr Annette Ireland
- Create content and post CCC logo design competition - Julie Flaherty
- Update Facebook Group Name to CCC - Clarkston Community Council to avoid confusion with other groups -
- CCC to be introduced to Friends of Linn Park for ideas around activity trails and material for Clarkston - Cllr Annette Ireland
- Organise dates for litter picks and put on Facebook group once agreed - Rebecca Nicholson
- Supply information on wardens supporting litter picks and providing dog fouling stencil signs - Cllr Ireland

- Close CCC Survey and summarise results to share with CCC and community and other stakeholders - Maryam Imran
- Obtain update from ERC on car parking charging proposal – Cllr Annette Ireland
- Work with ERC to get minutes updated on website - Maryam Imran
- Provide information on owners of bridge into Williamwood station from Drumby Crescent – Cllr David Macdonald
- Connect CCC with East Ren Disability Network re access to Williamwood Station – Cllr Annette Ireland

July Actions Carried Over

- Next meeting to be arranged for social media planning and development - Social Media Sub Group
- Seeds for Hope - Collect and collate photos of plants grown from seeds and ask on original Facebook posts for photos - Brian Dillon.
- Compilation of list of local organisations, groups and activities - Brian Dillon
- Send existing list of organisations and groups from BID - Andy Dunlop

GCox requested consistency in minutes for CCC member Julie Flaherty's name. Minutes approved.

3. Off Grid Kids (OGK) (approved to move item up the agenda)

Setup 4 years go as a community interest company (CIC) and aims to develop play outdoors for children. There is a separate after school care business operating from the same site but is separate from the CIC that can apply for funds for community work. The site is the woodlands next to the 121 Clarkston Scouts Hall in Aidens Brae and on lease from the local developers. There has been a planning application accepted for new outdoor building and outdoor disabled toilet to make more accessible. The Off Grid Kids is focused on providing outdoor play and inclusive support to children with additional support needs (ASN) and currently work with SupER kids and ERC Inclusive Support Team and was started with Cosgrove Care. There are plans to make the site more accessible for children with ASN with active and accessible pathways. There has also been an increase with playgroup demand so more sessions are running weekly. The site is a local asset for the community and OGK would like to see the site used more positively as currently has difficulties with antisocial behaviour outwith operational hours. Local scouts and brownies groups access the site. OGK would be happy to work with CCC to use the site for the local community and also work with CCC on future funding opportunities. During Covid-19 lockdown the site was open for local people to access however currently with regulations will not be able to organize community events. ACTION – OGK Invited CCC for tour of site.

4. Police Scotland Report

“We have received a number of reports relating to large groups of youths gathering in the vicinity of Busby Road, Clarkston over recent weeks. Officers on routine patrols have similarly witnessed such gatherings. In many cases these are in contravention of current "COVID" regulations. Whilst many of these youths are travelling to the location, many live locally. Additional patrols have been put in place and last weekend local officers were supported by officers and horses from our Mounted Branch. We also continue to liaise with British Transport Police in relation to youths using the rail network and gatherings in and around railway stations. We continue to highlight these issues to our partners in East Renfrewshire Council Community Safety Department and Youth Services Department with whom we work closely to tackle anti-social behaviour. A number of assaults involving young people have been reported on and around the main shopping thoroughfare in Clarkston during the month of September. Amongst these, a 14 year boy has been charged with Serious Assault after another 14 year old youth was assaulted near to Clarkston

Railway Station about 9pm on the 25th September. Reports have been submitted to relevant agencies. On the early afternoon of the 2nd September a 39 year old man was arrested after he was reported to have been approaching children in Busby Road, Clarkston, in contravention of a court bail condition prohibiting him from doing so.

There have been no reports of housebreakings in your community council area during the last month. Instances of online fraud and doorstep crimes have increased nationally during the current pandemic and in East Renfrewshire we continue to receive these types of report. We encourage residents to keep up to date with current crime trends by logging on to the Police Scotland website and following social media accounts of Police Scotland, Trading Standards and East Renfrewshire Council.”

CCC Discussion on Anti-Social behaviour

CAI – has liaised with Police and Head of Community Wardens at East Renfrewshire Council. It has been noted Clarkston is a hotspot for antisocial behaviour involving local and non-local youths, with brazen incidents and assaults. There has been much discussion and sharing of incidents on social media. There is now a regular GRIP (Greater Results in Partnership) meeting with Police, council and youth services. Busby, Sheddens and Clarkston toll are the main areas for hotspots. There will be more resources now given to Police. The CCTV have been given instruction to put any activity and calls straight through to Police regarding any activity in Clarkston. Important for more people to reports incidents immediately by phoning 101 and the council Ring and Report phoneline. Campus Police are also working with schools - it appears to be 3rd/4th year pupils that are involved. There will installation of CCTV at Moray Drive near the entrance of Overlee Park in next few weeks. It is now requested that due to the level of antisocial behaviour in Clarkston, groups of over 6 people should be reported to police

- Extra resources are being deployed this weekend, mounted police were in area dispersing groups last weekend.
- The parent of a young person who was assaulted was informed by police that they need to install their own CCTV. Advised that the gang involved would try and intimidate them into not reporting it to police
- Concerns raised over 101 failing to answer – people should be advised to dial 999 if a serious incident is occurring
- Is the CCTV monitored 24/7 and can the CCTV room be contacted by public to alter them? CAI stated the ring and report number goes through to the control room – the number should be displayed by CCTV outside Michaelangelos
- Concern raised as to why CCTV operatives had not reported incidents during previous weekends. Advised that they are now very focussed on area, 24/7 monitoring
- Query as to lack of apparent community warden presence – advised they work until midnight/1am – requested increased presence
- Area next to takeaway businesses and pub at Clarkston Toll is becoming a hotspot. Witnessed by CCC member over two weekends where ground is littered, glass smashed and youths are gathering in large crowds with no social distancing. Duty manager of pub has reported 3 times. Youths on bikes also seen riding dangerously on roads
- Local businesses near hotspot have tried to ask youths to disperse and move on due to covid-19 regulations.
- When reporting to police, it's important to request an incident report number
- CCC will share information about the importance of contacting the police and council phoneline.
- Request for Police to attend CCC meetings, however Secretary explained Police cannot attend online meetings during pandemic and CCC can share the police reports with monthly meetings.
- Concerns raised about upcoming bonfire night – CCC can share official safety messages. People should report if they see bonfire piles being amassed.

ACTIONS – Share police report and post updates and ring and report details on Facebook Group. (RN) Email any information/concerns about local antisocial behaviour to Cllr Ireland to share at GRIP meetings (all). Email request for more community warden presence in the area, especially during the evenings at weekends. (RN) CCTV signage to be checked. (RN)

5. Matters for Discussion

Clarkston Covid-19 Recovery

- MI attended Clarkston, Busby and Eaglesham recovery group meeting and read out meeting note. Low attendance so far so will be reviewing meeting - may be joined with the Barrhead Recovery group. Impact of antisocial behaviour in the town centre with little compliance to Covid-19 regulations. Sheddens parking works has been paused and there was mention of local business closures and loss of Post Office. There was also information about the Town Centre Capital Funding
- Felt important to keep the meeting going for Clarkston and things may change over the next 6 weeks with regulations.
- Noted that VANL make friendship calls to those encountering isolation and loneliness.

Social Media/Community Communications Update

- Logo/Mascot Competition, 2 logos had been received so far and 2 days to go
- Need to work on more generated content for CCC Facebook Group.
- ACTION – Set up social media sub group meeting.

Activity Trails

- JF has been approached by BBC and already spoken to local businesses with some happy to host signage for the trail. Witchy Windows was successfully launched via CCC group and flyers in some businesses. Already one resident has participated in decorating their window. Also suggested an Christmas trail in different parts of Clarkston with different props and signage.
- AD – The Clarkston BID has already announced the pumpkin trail. They also host a Christmas activity in the town centre annually with maps and searches of Christmas characters. BID focus is on town centre as they are funded by the local businesses.
- ACTION – CCC and Clarkston BID to communicate around co-ordinated events/activities in Clarkston.

CCC Mobile Library Proposal

- GCox met with Freya from Eaglesham Mobile library and developed a proposal which was circulated to CCC members. However, CAI has advised Clarkston Library is now due to open end of October /start of November. Suggestion that CCC organise a book swap and could make a separate Facebook group to coordinate the book swap. This would include books, games and puzzles. ACTION – setup up book swap page when stock is ready (GCox).

Recycling and Litter

- Noted that litter situation is bad in the area currently.
- The litter pick was cancelled due to Covid 19 regulations for East Renfrewshire regarding household gatherings. ERC unable to support therefore. Will look to organise again as soon as permissible.
- Bulk uplifts will be starting again from ERC in November.

Spaces for People

- The online spaces for people portal now is displaying temporary measures .

Williamwood Station Access

- CCC met with ERDA and will contact them regarding access to Williamwood station.
ACTION – CCC contact ERDA

Roads Update

- CAI – Road works programme have begun and roads that are currently being repaired are Woodvale Crescent, Kilpatrick Gardens, Greenwood Road and Cathkin Drive. CCC request for road works for Lothian Drive, Vardar Avenue due to state of road surface. ACTION - CAI will ask inspectors from the relevant department to look at these roads.

Wildflowers Pilot

- CAI asked council for update Michelle Thomson at East Renfrewshire Council. The pollination plan will include the wildflowers.

AGM/New members

- Still looking for new members, some people have expressed interest. There will be AGM for CCC next month meeting. Will send out information.
- ACTION – Post on FB group new members post. ACTION – Send out AGM process to CCC members before next meeting. It was suggested to contact Friends of Linn Park as the Chair resides in Clarkston and his son could join after the successful nature project in Linn Park. AD also has nominations for the young peoples category from I Love Clarkston Awards, he could send to CCC as potential members. ACTION – AD will send young people's nominees for CCC membership.

6. Planning

- No new applications to note. Application on the Station Masters House has been rejected by planning committee. The property is privately owned and a new application could be submitted. Locals have shared views on wanting to develop the site into local heritage by applying for Listed status or see the site used for a café or restaurant. The building is falling into a further state of disrepair. ACTION - CAI will write to building controls about requesting owner take care of the building.
- AD informed CCC that the Chest Heart and Stroke Foundation shop has closed and the change of use request was not made by them. The roof on the car park will be finished by the end of October.

7. Licensing – No licensing applications for Clarkston. AD says the BID will expect new off licence applications after the new Covid-19 regulations for businesses.

8. Treasurers Report – The bank account total is £1638.68. There has been no activity and only forthcoming planned spend will be the £50 for a local business voucher for the winner of the logo competition.

9. AOCB

- CCC Survey - MI has collated most results just received some new paper questionnaires. JF suggests we extend survey again, MI suggest end of 2020.
- ACTION – MI will open online survey and JF will post on FB again.
- RN – There is training for community council members available, email sent through and will share again. The email from Scottish Community councils asks for training needs of CC members. ACTION – Forward SCC email to CCC members again.
- - £353k for capital improvements. Ideas to be submitted.
- AD – Clarkston BID update
 - Christmas Event this year will not be the same, details cannot be disclosed as subject to funding decisions. Christmas lights will be put up and already confirmed. BID will confirm with CCC as soon as possible when they receive further information from funding applications.
 - Will request if CCC could be a member of the BID Board, the next meeting is taking place on the 10th November. Renewal ballot for BID will be in March 2021, would like some community input into BID. Recruiting new board members.
 - Kick Start Campaign – Scottish Government to fund positions and jobs in local businesses for local young people aged 16-24 years. This could be a positive

and encouraging new initiative for local young people after a lot of negativity about antisocial behaviour. CCC would be possibly in a position to also apply for positions for CCC to employ staff, will check if flexible for community groups to apply. The role will be fully funded, offering minimum age for the age groups who apply and each business organisation will be given some startup funds for taking on the Kick Start scheme. BID will host first aid training, PVG checks and training for Kick Start employees locally.

10. Next Meeting –Next meeting date set as 4th November 2020.

October Actions

- Post another message for recruitment of new members on Facebook group - Rebecca Nicholson
- Forward SCC email to CCC members again.- Maryam Imran
- Send out more information about AGM process to CCC members – Maryam Imran
- Organise next meeting of Social Media Sub Group
- Reopen Survey til end of 2020 – Maryam Imran
- Post Survey to Facebook – Julie Flaherty
- Write to Building Controls for care of Station Master House – Cllr Ireland
- Send young peoples nominees to CCC for new members recruitment – Andy Dunlop
- Request to Roads Department to inspect Lothian Drive and Vardar Avenue – Cllr Ireland
- Set up CCC Book Swap page when stock is ready – Gillian Cox
- Share Scottish Fire Service Fireworks safety messages ahead of 5th November – Social media group
- Off Grid Kids invitation to CCC members to have tour of OGK site
- Share police report and post information about reporting on Facebook Group. Provide any information about local antisocial behaviour for Cllr Ireland to share at GRIP meetings.
- CCC to contact ERDA about Williamwood Station accessibility.

September Actions Carried Over

- CCC to be introduced to Friends of Linn Park for ideas around activity trails and material for Clarkston - Cllr Annette Ireland

July Actions Carried Over

- Seeds for Hope - Collect and collate photos of plants grown from seeds and ask on original Facebook posts for photos - Brian Dillon.
- Compilation of list of local organisations, groups and activities - Brian Dillon
- Send existing list of organisations and groups from BID - Andy Dunlop

Meeting ended.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 4th November at 7pm

Meeting Minute Author

Name: Maryam Imran

Date Completed: 20/10/2020