

**MINUTE**

**of**

**GIFFNOCK AND THORNLIEBANK, NETHERLEE, STAMPERLAND  
AND WILLIAMWOOD AREA FORUM**

**Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in Woodfarm High School, Woodfarm on 2 September 2015.**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Montague

Councillor Jim Fletcher

Lynne Arnott (Thornliebank Seniors Forum); Monty Cowen (Jewish Representative Council); Jim Martin (Giffnock, Community Council); Helena Shanks (Thornliebank Community Council); and Inspector Alan Dickson (Police Scotland).

Councillor Montague in the Chair

**Attending:**

Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager.

**Apologies:**

Councillor Gordon McCaskill; and Bill Considine (Stamperland and Netherlee Community Council).

**VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Councillor Montague agreed to vary the order of items on the agenda in order to facilitate the conduct of the meeting.

**MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 27 May 2015.

**POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES - UPDATE**

2. In the absence of a representative from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Councillor Montague invited Inspector Dickson to give an update on the activities of the police in the forum's area since the last meeting.

Inspector Dickson explained that overall there had been relatively low levels of criminal and antisocial activity in the area since the last meeting.

He explained that Sergeant Paul Wilson had been engaged as a temporary replacement for Sergeant Dougie Spence and also reported on changes to the campus officer at Eastwood High School.

Inspector Dickson also reported on the recent successful "Safety in the Park" event in Arthurlie Park. This had again been well received and an outcome report would be produced in due course.

Commenting further, Inspector Dickson reported on the recent *Operation Neighbourhood* initiative. This was a Glasgow-wide initiative aimed at reducing housebreaking. Having outlined the number of officers involved, he indicated that the initiative had seen success in East Renfrewshire, explaining that a small number of people tended to be responsible for multiple offences and the arrest of 1 person had seen a significant fall in the number of housebreakings in the area.

He further explained that one of the biggest problems in the area was the number of cars, garages and outbuildings etc that were left unlocked at night and outlined the promotional activity by the police to alert the public to the dangers of leaving premises and property unlocked. This would include a stall with crime prevention advice at the forthcoming Giffnock's Big Day event. Notwithstanding, Inspector Dickson highlighted that East Renfrewshire had the lowest crime rate on mainland Scotland.

Following further discussion in the course of which comment was made on the most appropriate number to use to contact the police, and Councillor Montague highlight that Safety in the Park was organised by Magic Wand, an East Renfrewshire volunteer group, the forum noted the update.

## **PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2015/16**

3. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of project monitoring in 2015/16. In particular it was noted that intimation had been received that the project previously approved by the forum at a cost of £1,000 would only cost £600 resulting in a remaining balance of £4,300.

Discussion followed in the course of which a number of suggestions for potential projects in Rouken Glen Park were made. In particular, Councillor Fletcher referred to approaches he had received about the possibility of a bandstand in the park. He referred to some of the events that had taken place in the park, such as the Armed Forces Day event, and that a bandstand or even a hardstanding area that could act as a focal point at such events may be worthy of consideration.

Councillor Montague reminded the community group representatives present that their groups were able to access a variety of funding sources unavailable to the Council if they wanted to develop project proposals in the area.

The forum noted the report.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

4. It was noted that the next meeting would be held in Woodfarm High School on 2 December 2015 at 7.00 pm.