

MINUTE

of

**NEILSTON, UPLAWMOOR AND NEWTON MEARNS NORTH AND BARRHEAD
AREA FORUM**

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead on 27 February 2014.

Present:

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Danny Devlin

Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Tommy Reilly

Heather Anderson (Uplawmoor Community Council); Rita Connelly (Auchenback Tenants and Residents Association); Inspector Alan Dickson, (Police Scotland); Linda McCullagh (Hillside Tenants and Residents Association); and Alan Walker (Neilston Development Trust).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

Attending:

Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Elaine Green; John Divers (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); and Steven Healy (Neilston Community Council).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 28 November 2013.

POLICE/FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – UPDATE

2. Councillor Hay invited Inspector Dickson to give an update on the activities of Police Scotland in the forum’s area since the date of the last meeting.

Inspector Dickson began by advising of the new opening hours of the Barrhead and Giffnock Police offices in the course of which he explained that the offices would be staffed by civilian workers allowing more police officers to be out on the streets. He also intimated that the 3-year Local Police Plan 2014-17 which set the local priorities of Police Scotland in East Renfrewshire had now been completed and would be submitted to the Council for approval

towards the end of March 2014. Update reports for the Neilston, Uplawmoor and Newton Mearns North, and Barrhead wards for the period April to December 2013 were discussed. He reported on the local priorities in each ward and provided further details of the crime statistics in respect of each priority.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Inspector Dickson clarified a number of operational issues in the forum's area.

The forum noted the position.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2013/14

3. Under reference to the Minute of meeting of 28 November 2013 (Item 4 refers) when project proposals had been approved and authority had been delegated to the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services, in consultation with the Chair, to approve additional projects prior to the end of the financial year, the forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive providing details of available funds remaining for projects for the 2013/14 financial year and projects approved under the delegated authority referred to above.

The Committee Services Officer emphasised that there was still money available in the budget for this financial year and urged community representatives to encourage their own organisations and any other local groups not represented on the forum to submit project proposals for consideration by the middle of March.

The forum noted the position.

FORUM BUDGET 2014/15

4. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the general services budget allocation for 2014/15.

Councillor Hay explained that the budget for 2014/15 was slightly down on the current allocation but that it was anticipated that in the light of work which was currently being undertaken by relevant officers to develop revised criteria to be applied to funding requests in future, more projects would be funded albeit that an upper limit might be applied. This approach was intended to ensure that smaller local groups which had little chance of securing funding from other sources such as the National Lottery and Whitelee Windfarm Fund would not be disadvantaged.

The forum noted the position.

MEETING DATES – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2015

5. The forum considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive providing details of the proposed meeting dates of the forum for the period January to December 2015.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

6. The following issues were raised:-

Middleton Windfarm

Mr Walker questioned whether or not the operator of Middleton Windfarm made any financial contribution for the benefit of the local community. In response, Councillor Buchanan explained that it was his understanding that a sum of money was paid into the Whitelee Windfarm Fund by the operator of Middleton Windfarm but that this was effectively ringfenced for projects within the Uplawmoor area. Councillor Buchanan undertook to confirm this information and to respond directly to Mr Walker in this regard.

Continuity of approach across area forums

Ms McCullagh asked if there was a continuity of approach across the 3 area forums when considering projects for funding approval. In response, Councillor Hay explained that discussions were currently underway with relevant officers to develop revised criteria to be applied to funding requests and that it was anticipated that these new rules would be more specific and less open to interpretation than the current guidelines.

The forum noted the position.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

7. It was reported that the next meeting of the forum would be held in the Council Offices, Main Street, Barrhead on Thursday 29 May 2014 at 7.00pm.