
Renfrew Community Council
Community council meeting
01/10/2024 19.30 | *Meeting called to order by* Lindsay McKillop

In Attendance

Lindsay McKillop	Ronald Fraser	Andrea Lawn
Barbara Perrie	Christine Walker	J Kennedy
Libby Downie	Andrea McCullough	
Grant Wilson	Susan Dillon Fraser	
Sam Noel	Cllr Cathy McEwan	
Ben Stewart	Michael O'Neil	
Helen McIntyre	Diane Grater	
Ian Cunningham	Trevor Cooley	

Apologies;
Gordon Burgess

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the last meeting and approved by Grant Wilson and seconded by Iain Cunningham..

There are no matters arising from the previous meeting. Fire marshall announcement was made by Iain Cunningham.

Police Report

Police report from 1/9/24, up to and including 30/9/24.

Renfrew

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 2024

Update from Previous Meeting

Crime Summary

Between 1st September 2024 and 30th September 2024 there have been a total of 66 recorded crimes, 24 have so far been detected.

CRIME/OFFENCES OF NOTE NUMBER DETECTED CONTEXT

Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt

Theft 17 0 1 x Theft of purse & Fraud, 7 x Shoplifting, 1 x Fuel, 2 x Bike, 1 x TV & Cash, 1 x Bin, 1 x Mobile, 1 x Intended Theft, 1 x Theft MV, 1 x Jacket

Robbery

Serious Assault

Common Assault 8 2 7 x Assault, 1 x Assault & Breach of Bail

Drug Offences 2 2 1 x Cultivation, 1 x Possession

Anti-Social (breach of the

peace/vandalism/street drinking) 11 3 5 x Vandalism, 5 x S38, 1 x Vandalism & S38

Road Traffic Offences 10 7 1 x No MOT, 1 x Child no seatbelt, 3 x S170, 3 x Careless Driving, 1 x Driving under influence & Possession, 1 x Driving under influence

Other 18 10 4 x Fraud, 8 x Breach of Bail, 1 x Fireraising, 1 x Communications,

1 x Culpable & Reckless, 3 x Other

Crime Trends and Policing Priorities

Community Police Report

(Include focus of activity, any initiatives, partnership working)

Crime is slightly down but nothing unusual.

Normal seasonal campaigns will occur on the lead up to Christmas.

The police intervention team will hand out small bells to vulnerable people within the community to help keep them safe.

There are still some people parking on pavements, the latest one being across from the war memorial. This issue does not come under the jurisdiction of the local police force, the traffic police are responsible for this.

Current Issues

Elected member reports;

Councillor Cathy McEwan

Councillor McEwan has been getting a lot of complaints regarding the poor bus service within Renfrew. Buses either do not arrive or are late, so when they do turn up, they are too busy.

There are road works on Wright street that are causing difficulties for locals.

Finance;

Discussed at AGM directly prior to this meeting taking place.

Town Center update;

There is a road officer from Renfrewshire council coming to see the poor condition of the roads and paths within Renfrew.

There is an ongoing problem with graffiti all over the place, especially on utility boxes throughout the town. We have heard that some of the graffiti is "tagging" from gangs from other areas. The question was raised about CCTV and why this is not catching these gangs, and if it is getting caught on CCTV, why is nothing being done to stop it, why is there no follow up. Cllr McEwan stated that it is the responsibility of the utility provider to remove it, not the local council. The council can serve notice on the utility companies to remove the graffiti, but cannot enforce it. It was suggested that the council could stop further planning permission for further masts etc. if the companies do not deal with the graffiti issue. Cllr McEwan will raise this issue with the council.

Complaints can be made to the omnibus man to specific companies regarding this issue. Cllr McGuire and Grant Wilson will look into this.

Lindsay will take council staff around the town to highlight the graffiti problems.

This issue will be circulated via the website and facebook.

Buildings;

Old police station;

We were advised that money from the common good fund will be used to remove part of the old police station.

Road signs;

There are still no road signs installed in Fulbar Lane, Fulbar Street and Bell Street. Elderly crossing signs needed.

Website;

Minutes of the AGM and this meeting to be posted onto the website, as well as the above mentioned graffiti issues. Information on local groups such as the swim team and the scouts to be added onto website. The relevant information to be given to Sam for incorporation.

AOCB;

There was a discussion with Cllr McEwan regarding the planters outside Newmains Primary School. Cathy McEwan will take this matter to the council as there needs to be a decision regarding them.

The tree felling in Kirklandneuk has not been adequately dealt with so Cathy McEwan will pass this information on to John Shaw. Cathy also suggested that the community council themselves take this directly to Renfrewshire council. Branches have been removed from TPO trees. As these trees are protected, they should not be touched, this act also breaches the 20 meter zone, that the protection order covers. It seems that none of the trees have been properly mapped or logged.

There is a "transitional area" within Renfrew that is not owned by the council, instead it is an area for mixed use. The transitional area should not have breached the size of the retail park, but it has. The caravan storage site is responsible for this and the council have not tried to prevent the expansion of the caravan storage facility encroaching from its original designated area.

There is a reported 118 tonnes of hazardous chemicals in the caravan storage facility which comes with a huge fire risk. There are also a lot of alarms going off at all times of the day and night from this area and the owners / council are not dealing with it.

Grant suggested a corporate complaint procedure regarding the caravan site.

Cathy will ensure that the other relevant councillors are made aware of these issues.

The community council are not aware of who is currently in charge of the common good fund, therefore a finance officer from Renfrewshire council will be attending the November meeting to answer this and other questions.

At the September meeting, Cllr Shaw stated that there was no Freedom of Information Act request from Renfrew Community Council, regarding money coming out of the common good fund to pay for the previous work carried out on the old police station. We did not have a response about this query, prior to the September meeting, due to the elections. However, we have since heard that not all monies used from the common good fund can be accounted for! Lindsay McKillop has the identification number of the Freedom of Information Act.

Remembrance Sunday;

The Community Council are organizing and funding tea, coffee and biscuits at this years Remembrance Sunday ceremony. This will be held in the local scout hall.

The following people have volunteered to help with serving refreshments, with set up at 9.30am.

Helen, Christine, Sam, Ben, Grant, and Libby will provide the biscuits.

Planning;

No response

Christmas lights;

The festive light switch on will be held in the town centre on Saturday 23rd November.

There will be a Christmas carol concert in the town hall, with some tickets possibly being allocated to the community council and local care homes.

There will be a mixture of stalls from locals and outside areas.

The stage will see performances from the local community.

There will be snow globe available for festive photos, with a photographer from Renfrewshire council.

There will be a variety of rides behind the Wallace bar and a confetti canon for the actual light switch on.

Santa will be in the little church next to the fellowship centre, with tea and coffee available. All of the children who visit Santa will receive a gift.

Cllr McEwan is confused as to why there is no longer a Christmas tree up near the fire station. She will take this question to the council.

Renfrew cricket club;

The local cricket club have asked the community council to help in getting their lease transfer from Renfrewshire council through. The community council have asked Cllr McEwan to help with this issue.

MUGA;

The Renfrew VICS have had a lease since 2019 but apparently this lease has never been signed.

There have been over 400 signatures on a petition, submitted to the council, from the residents of Kirklandneuk, raising an objection to the MUGA being taken over by the Renfrew VICS. This petition has been ignored, and Cllr McEwan advised that as there were 400 objections it should have been brought to the planning board for discussion. As far as we know this did not occur. Cllr McEwan to check this out. Local residents have been investigating the MUGA planning etc. and noted that at

12.05am there was nothing on the planning application for the VICS, however, it was quietly decided a few hours later, by persons unknown, and without proper consultation.

The MUGA gets used by a lot of different groups, but now locals, including children, cannot get access to it.

It is feared that the already congested streets within the Kirklandneuk community will get worse, as the VICS will be organizing bus loads to come to the MUGA.

As the council seem to be ignoring the local residents, Barbara suggested asking the planning officer from Cotton St to come to a meeting and explain what is going on.

Susan Fraser asked if anyone knew of a complaints procedure to deal with the MUGA and was advised by Cllr McEwan that there is an appeal process that can be used. She is not sure who or where would deal with it, but she will attempt to find out.

It is apparently the same planning committee for both the MUGA and the caravan storage facility.

There are areas of Inchinnan Rd where the lighting is very poor, as at least 5 of the street lights are being obscured by foliage. Local residents are worried that this might result in accidents on Inchinnan Rd, as there is a lot of speeding, coming from the direction of the airport. There is also a lack of appropriate signage on this road, including children crossing. It is felt that a risk assessment is needed and these issues have to be addressed.

Lindsay McKillop will highlight these issues to the Roads officer when he comes to the town.

Committee Reports

No new reports

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 5th November at 7pm in Trinity High school.