

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 4 DECEMBER 2017

Present: Allan Bell (chair), Esme Clark, Flora Pagan, Robert Preston, Georgina Preston, Jean Melvin, Wilma Bruce, Daniel O'Neill, John Foster

Attending: Cllr John Kane, Cllr Richard Bell, Kirsty McDowall (Ibrox Cessnock CC Liaison), David Jones

Apologies: Reinhild Gorniack, Cllr Allan Young, Cllr Stephen Dornan, Chris Stephens MP, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

1. Minutes of 6 November meeting

These were moved as correct by Esme Clark and Daniel O'Neill and agreed.

2. Presentation by Shirley McKnight, Development Officer Elderpark Housing Association

Shirley reported on three development projects that were now in their final phase of preparation

a) The redevelopment of the Old Hills Trust School as the HA offices

The purchase of the building had finally been resolved, after a series of legal delays, and it was hoped that this would permit tenders for construction to be issued in January. There would be a ground floor extension to permit the creation of interview rooms and a large reception area. The main entrance would be switched back to the west side of the building, as in the original school, and Heritage funding had been secured for the full historic restoration of the exterior. If the project went on site within the next six months the offices would be available by summer 2019.

b) The housing development on Golspie Street/Harmony Row

Legal technicalities had delayed the purchase of the full site (including Nethan Lane) but it was now hoped that these would be resolved by the new year and tenders could be issued in January. These would be for an 82-unit development including a mix of flats and terraced houses ranging from 2 person 2 apartment to 5 person 4 apartment and, at the corner of Golspie Street and Harmony Row, five storey tenement style flats with lifts. Wheelchair provision is included both within the flats and houses. All houses would be for rent and would, it was hoped, enable numbers of existing tenants in old tenement buildings to shift to new build. All flats houses would have south facing balconies. All houses would have gas central heating. Construction would be of brick and copper features and are designed to 'silver standard'. It was hoped the project would be complete by summer 2020.

c) Community Centre in Elderpark Street

The Association has received £400,000 funding from Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund towards the demolition and rebuilding of the existing community centre in Elderpark Street. Big Lottery provided funding for Development Design of the project and this has been completed and a bid for match funding has been submitted. A decision should be made by Big Lottery in February or March 2018. The new centre would have enough space to enable more than one activity/group to take place at the same time and will allow many more groups to work from the centre.. If the funding applications were successful, work would be begun in October 2018 and be completed within a year.

Shirley was congratulated on her perseverance over several years to see the development work to completion. It was noted that quite a number of the delays resulted from cuts in City Council legal department and the consequent inability to process property transfers. Shirley indicated that it was

the wish of the HA to undertake further new build for rent but there was very little land available for development in Elderpark and that GHA/Wheatley Group had secured most of the land east of Govan Cross.

3. Matters arising

a) Membership of the Community Council

The Secretary is writing to those who stood for election but failed to get elected saying that they would be very welcome to attend as associate members (the letters will be distributed by Stephen Dowling of Democratic Services on our behalf). The Secretary will also write formally to the City Council requesting that our membership be increased to 14.

b) Proposals resulting from the 29 September annual strategy meeting with elected representatives – actions to be taken

i) QEUH

The minute secretary had been contacted by the office of Humza Yousaf about our concerns. It was agreed that the two issues of strategic importance, underlying the problems of staff turnover and the continuing failure to meet targets for A&E waiting times, were:

The shortage of new nurses coming out of training as a result of the cuts in numbers of training places in 2012

The public sector pay cap which had significantly reduced nurses pay – resulting in nurses going into the private sector and hospitals being forced to hire agency nurses from the private sector at much greater cost.

The Scottish government, through the good offices of our MSP, should therefore be asked to fund a real increase in nurses' pay and increase the number of training places for nursing staff.

ii) BAE Clyde yards

Chris Stephens MP is arranging attendance by TU reps from the yards at our January meeting. The key issue that would determine continuing employment post-2030 was whether or not the yard secured the tenders for the Type 31 Frigates as originally promised.

iii) Rights of asylum seekers

Chris Stephens was arranging for attendance by an asylum seeker at our February meeting to discuss the right of asylum seekers to secure paid employment, currently barred.

iv) Housing provision for older people

A letter should go to the Scottish Housing Regulator as previously agreed and an enquiry lodged with Stephen Lamb (AndersonBellChristie.com) as to the status of provision of housing for older people in the Transformational Regeneration Area plan covering Govan. Allan Bell had attended the TRA consultation meeting being under the auspices of Ibrox Cessnock CC on 15 November in the Clyde Hall concerning the Wheatley Group's proposals for the redevelopment of the currently vacant land in East Govan and Ibrox.

v) City Bus Transport

A letter should go to Humza Yousaf as Minister for Transport asking that the scope for any local authority based regulation should be enabled at *regional* (combined LA) level in the Bill currently before the Scottish Parliament. Cllrs Kane and Young had raised issues of electronic signage with SPT.

vi) New joint initiative against dog fouling

Cllr Young and Cllr Kane continued to seek resourcing from LES.

c) Proposed overnight accommodation for refugee/asylum seekers in Fairlie Street

Alan Bell reported on the visit to the current centre in Anderson that provided overnight accommodation for males only (currently around 20 each night in accommodation provided by the Church of Scotland). The centre was in a residential area. No problems had ever been reported. The centre was very well organised with two full time workers and plenty of volunteers – although more facilities were needed. This would be provided by the development in Fairlie Street with accommodation on two levels for men and women separately, showers and living space. The meeting indicated its support for the proposed move to Fairlie Street. For Ibrox Cessnock Community Council Kirsty McDowall reported on the differing opinions locally. It was agreed to wait until planning application had been formally lodged and then indicate our support.

d) East Govan

There remained no firm information as to whether there was the basis for a renewed community council in the East Govan area. The meeting reaffirmed its support for a joint initiative with Ibrox-Cessnock to ensure CC representation for East Govan if no community council could be re-established.

e) Police Issues

Our Chair reported on discussions with Sergeant Inglis and the current spate of thefts from cars. It was hoped that police representation at meetings could be restored.

f) Shopping trolleys

Trolley littering continued – with most currently from Lidl. Cllr John Kane had continued discussions with the management in Asda and had approached the City Council Chief Executive to see whether a by-law could be created to fine offending stores.

g) Mary Barbour statue

It now looked likely that the statue would be unveiled on International Women's Day 8 March 2018. Progress was being made in discussions with the SPT Board. All previous arrangements with local schools and donor organisations were being carried forward.

h) Graving dock site: planning permission process commencing

Councillor Kane reported on the new proposals, announced that day, by Ferguson Marine for the site to be restored to use for ship repair with some additional redevelopment. Cllr Young had sent a message to clarify the restrictions on the City Council's ability to provide a subsidy to the New City Vision bid to enable the provision of housing for affordable rent. As strategic housing authority its resources from government were currently restricted to the TRA on the other side of Govan Road. Cllr Kane noted that local housing providers were also reluctant to see public money from the City Deal and elsewhere go to subsidise what was a private development. NCV plans indicated that the first two blocks of housing nearest Clydebrae Street were to be for 'mid-market' rent and the third block for sale.

Danny O'Neill had attended the film showing on 21 November and expressed sympathy for the proposals to preserve the site as a graving dock and heritage centre.

The meeting agreed to reserve its position until further information was available. There was little support for expensive housing that catered for high-income residents who would have little contact with the wider community and which would deny the land and potential employment to local people.

i) Lyceum building

There was no further development.

j) *Shaw Street-Langlands Road circuit: traffic hazard*

So far there had been no response from James Rodden of LES about an assessment – particularly covering traffic flow between 8.30 and 11 am – of traffic hazards arising from the current two-way traffic system.

k) *Scottish Fire and Rescue Service*

The new Local Service Delivery Review Report had been published. Cllr Kane indicated that the report to the Local Area Committee indicated some causes for concern and that funding cuts could mean that Govan Fire Station would no longer be able to guarantee the presence of two fire tenders. Given the presence of the hospital and the shipyard locally, this was felt to be a potentially very serious development and, should it materialise, objections should be made.

4. POLICE REPORT

No police representative was present.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Accounts

The accounts had now been audited, thanks to the Chair, and would be sent to the CCRC immediately

b) Changing signatures on the bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland

Now that the paperwork had been returned from auditor our Secretary would ensure that new signatures were secured.

c) Govan Letter

This had now been printed. The cost for 1,200 A3 folded in full colour had been £205. Our Secretary had distributed through Harhill and parts of Elderpark and, additionally, all community centres, HAs and health centres had been covered.

d) Community Council responsibilities

Danny O'Neill had set up a twitter account and established, so far, fifty followers – mainly other community councils and organisations in the Govan area. He was congratulated on this initiative. Other new members were asked to consider what areas they might take up – in terms on planning, environment, publicity, youth liaison.

6. PLANNING

Edmiston Drive: football memorabilia on Saturdays – no objection

Encroute Catering 58 Elderpark Workspace: 10 am to 10 pm off-sales license
Secretary to check with Workspace management. No objection if intent was to facilitate offsite catering business

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Macmillan Cancer charity

Contact had been made via our twitter account to request a speaker to our meeting. It was agreed to reserve time at our March meeting.

8. COUNCILLORS' AND ELECTED MEMBERS REPORTS

Chris Stephens MP

Our MP had given his apologies and been in contact regarding a range of issues itemised above.

Councillor John Kane

Cllr Kane reported that the Council was now reviewing its budget for the coming year and that further cuts of up to £50 million appeared likely as a result of further restrictions in government funding. The meeting indicated agreement that any cuts should not fall on areas of service providing for the most needy and vulnerable but also that the Community Council should support any actions to oppose the cuts as initiated by the Trades Union Council and relevant trades unions.

Jean Melvin asked about tickets for the Lord Provost's Christmas Dinner and suggested that there might be pensioners locally who did not have family and who should be invited. Cllr Kane agreed to discover if there were still tickets available.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 8 JANUARY 2018 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room.