

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

5 AUGUST 2019

Present: Allan Bell (chair), Flora Pagan, Esme Clark, Wilma Bruce, Reinhild Gorniack, Robert Preston, Gina Preston, Daniel O'Neill, John Foster

Attending: Chris Stephens MP, Cllr John Kane, Cllr Allan Young, David Jones and representing Living Rent Jeff Meadowcroft and Neil Gray

Apologies: Jean Melvin, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING

These were moved as a correct record by Esme Clark and Robert Preston with the addition of 'by' in 6c SERCO to read 'evictions stayed **by** an appeal'.

2. PRESENTATION BY LIVING RENT ON THE WATER ROW DEVELOPMENT

Neil Gray and Jeff Meadowcroft introduced the issue on behalf of Living Rent and tabled a report assessing the problems that might arise should the development go ahead with all stock being allocated on the basis of mid-market rents. They reported, on the basis of Living Rents' discussions on the doorstep of several hundred local residents, that there was concern that local residents would not get access and that higher rents in the Water Row scheme could lead to heightened rents elsewhere. The average local income was around 18,000 and mid-market income was assessed at over 23,000. There were also issues of the relocation of the market, a useful local amenity, and of the show people. What the area needed in particular was accommodation for families and for older people and those with special needs.

In discussion Cllr Kane noted that no final plans had yet been drawn up and these would largely depend the finance that would be available through the City Council DRS department. Details were so far not known. He pointed out that all the housing in the new developments at Hills Trust and in Drumoyne were for social housing rent as was most of the housing being developed along Broomloan Road and that there was a waiting list for mid-market rent housing from some of those now working in the area.

It was noted that in the consultations so far undertaken through CGAP the issue of the proportions of mid-market and socially-rented housing had not been clarified and probably could not till funding was clarified. It was AGREED to return to the issue at the next meeting and that the question of what percentage of the development was socially-rented was important not just in terms of provision for local people but also how far the new development seen as part of the local community. Living Rent had proposed 60 per cent.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM JUNE MEETING

a) BAE orders

Chris Stephens MP reported that the All-Party Parliamentary Report on Shipbuilding published in May had been well received by the new Secretary of State for Defence. No decision had yet been taken on the three naval supply ships currently out to tender. He would be discussing the allocation of contracts with the Secretary of State at the First

Cutting of Steel for HMS Cardiff on Wednesday. If these contracts could be retrieved, then it would enable all Type 26 and potentially Type 31 Frigates to be built on the Clyde.

b) Refugees and asylum seekers: right to work and evictions

Chris Stephens reported that despite the Appeal to the Supreme Court SERCO had continued to attempt evictions of asylum seekers. They were targeting in particular those without full English, including one asylum seeker with severe health issues, and had managed to evict two in East Glasgow and one on North Glasgow but none so far in the South West. SERCO had wrongly claimed that these were failed asylum seekers when in almost all cases they were asylum seekers on appeal. The Govan Law Centre had sought interim interdicts on this basis and received them in 41 cases. Three others were on appeal.

The meeting AGREED to give all support to prevent evictions and for the Council's twitter account to be used to provide warning of attempts at eviction locally. The issue should be discussed at the Community Council's Strategy Meeting.

c) Presence of police at Council meetings

Our Secretary would write once more to Sgt Bob Anderson.

d) Govan Fair Association

Flora reported that the Fair had marked a significant improvement on recent years. She was now on the Committee and would be helping to ensure that the improvement continued.

e) Blocked gullies and road flooding

The gullies at 233 to 235 Langlands Road continued blocked and the road flooded. Cllr Kane reported that he had visited the area with Dougie Gellen of LES who agreed that action on this and a number of other issues was urgent.

f) Rangers Community Forum

Cllr Kane reported on the last meeting and that there was a commitment to make Ibrox a site that was welcoming to all.

g) Petition on legal position of pre-1989 Housing Association tenants now live

The minute secretary reported that the petition to the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee for a Hearing at the Petitions Committee had gone live as of that Monday. The Petition number was PE1743 and was available at <http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/scottishsecuretenants>. It would be open till 16 September and it would be important to get the largest number of signatures possible. It was AGREED to use the Council's twitter account and website and also to issue a statement to the Evening Times. All members were urged to support as the issue affected a significant number of local tenants.

h) Area Partnership: Cleansing procedures

It was AGREED to consider cleansing issues at the Council's Strategy meeting on 6 September. Cllr Kane reported that the new 8 day shift was now in operation. Problems of non-collection, particularly of commercial food waste, continued. Members considered that the lack of written instructions, in a variety of languages, contributed to the problem of contamination and non-collection as did the lack of green bins for general refuse. Rat infestation was worsening.

i) Consultation on the Transport (Scotland) Bill

There had been no response from our MSP Humza Yousaf to the letter on the Transport Bill and urging support for full municipal control of bus transport with the requisite government funding. Daniel O'Neill reported that amendments had been passed at the committee stage of the bill in favour of both direct Council ownership of services and arms-

length operation. The Scottish government had, however, opposed direct municipal ownership and the Bill still had to return to Parliament. He also noted that the First Group had decided to shed their bus services in Scotland and that two local authorities were already examining the possibility of taking them over. It was agreed that this issue be the second focus for the Strategy meeting.

j) Paving of Govan Road and Burleigh Street area: issues about continuation across Central Govan

Cllr Kane agreed to make enquiries as to what steps CGAP/the City Council intended to take to improve the quality of pavements beyond the area currently being repaved around the Pearce Institute. He noted that there were problems with the design of some of the new provision and that access for Cleansing Vehicles to Beild Housing on Pearce Lane was extremely problematic. The minute secretary noted that Central Govan Tenants Association had also written about access for fire engines but had after two months still not received any response from Govan Fire Station. Cllr Kane agreed to follow this up.

k) Elder Park

Danny O'Neill reported that action had now been taken to clear and improve the gardens around the Lady Elder statue.

l) Cleaning of closes in Elderpark HA areas

Wilma and Flora report that they had raised the standard of cleaning with the manager and that some action had now been taken.

m) Paul Macalinden: consultation

Our Secretary had attended the musical events and spoke appreciatively of them.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Strategy meeting

It was AGREED that this would be held in Friday 6 September starting at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of Elderpark Workspace (if available: Our Secretary to check). The focus would be on two issues: Cleansing Services in Govan and the feasibility of the running of bus services by the City Council. Chris Stephens MP confirmed attendance. All elected members were asked to attend including our MSP.

For Cleansing services an invitation would be sent to the Director of LES and also to a representative of the relevant trade union (GMB): Chris Stephens to raise with Drew Smith. For Bus Transport an invitation should go Bruce Kiloh at SPTE and those responsible for the current feasibility study.

b) Govan Letter

The next issue should cover, among other issues, the Strategy meeting and aim for publication by our October meeting. It was reported that Ian McCracken had requested a full run of the Govan Letter – prior to those for the last six years that were on the web. The Minute Secretary agreed to examine past files. Publication began in the early 1980s and only paper copies would survive for these years.

c) Computing equipment

Our Secretary had the form for the application for funding from the City Council to cover the £500 cost of a laptop plus printer/scanner to Democratic Services.

d) Signed copy of the amended constitution

This had now been signed and returned.

5. PLANNING

KGV Dock Demolition and reinstatement of existing scrap metal storage and loading facilities – presentation and plans available at the Pearce Institute on 11 August

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Unclaimed Pension Credit meeting 16 August

A letter from Keith Gibb, parliamentary assistant to Chris Stephens, gave details of the meeting being held jointly with Age Concern and Citizens Advice at the Mary Barbour Suite in the Pearce Institute on the 16th August 2019 at 11am. There were currently 3,000 households in SW Glasgow where pension credit had not been claimed – these households would also as a result probably be disqualified from free TV licences.

7. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

COUNCILLOR YOUNG

Allan reported that his main casework had been focused on cleansing issues and seeking action to address the dilapidated state of local parks and green spaces. He had also been raising the need for police attendance at Community Councils at the Area Committee.

COUNCILLOR KANE

John reported that his main commitment had been through the Thriving Places initiative and issues of anti-social behaviour. There had been a significant investment in local street work among youth: current hot spots were in the park at Govan High School and at Burndyke. He commended the work of Govan Youth Initiative who had just celebrated their 25th anniversary.

John noted that the refurbishment of the Old Hills Trust was ahead of schedule and asked if there were any ex-pupils with photos (Robert Preston volunteered some). Also on the positive front Govan Housing had received final approval for a £9m window refurbishment programme covering the conservation area and there had been a useful meeting to discuss the acquisition of the Lyceum cinema.

CHRIS STEPHENS MP

Chris reported on meetings with the GMB on ASDA's demand that staff surrender breaks and days off. He was working to secure a joint approach by all Glasgow MPs. He was in contact with ALDI about spare school uniforms and food that could be made available free to combat school holiday poverty. He noted the First Cutting of Steel for HMS Cardiff on Wednesday 8th August and the importance of the meeting being convened on pension credit on 16 August.

Chris also reported that he had launched a private members bill in parliament that would provide greater safeguards for asylum seekers and protect from arbitrary deportation.

8. OTHER ISSUES

a) **Early Day Motion commemorating the work of Dick Carabine**

Our MP was thanked for tabling the Early Day Motion in the Commons commemorating the work of our former Chair Dick Carabine.

b) Motorbikes and Quad bikes

The reappearance of bikes in the park and elsewhere was noted as an issue for police action.

c) Environment

Our chair raised the issue of a collapsed tree that totally blocked the pavement on the West side of Elder Street near to the junction with Crossloan Road and also the worsening of the problem of abandoned shopping trolleys.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room.