

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
Held on Wednesday 14 March 2012 in Douglas Academy at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Committee Mr J Kerr, Mrs E Gibson, Mrs R Hooper, Ms J Horn, Mrs E Adie & Mr I Petrie

In attendance - Cllrs J Gibbons & E Gotts
Inspector O'Neill Strathclyde Police & P C Heather
Environmental Warden – Michelle Nesbit

Apologies

Mrs F McNeish & Mrs S Longrigg

Chairperson's Opening Remarks

JK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Environmental Wardens Report

Michelle advised that the Wardens together with the police had been carrying out a bottle watch scheme. This involves local shopkeepers e.g. Craigash stores, Carbeth Road stores etc labelling bottles. If these bottles are then subsequently found this will enable the Wardens and Police to ascertain where the offenders are drinking. However the figures would reveal that drinking in public has reduced by 38%. It was advised to the Warden and Police that there is a dedicated band of residents who regularly pick up litter and bottles in Craigton Woods, Mains Park, Chestnut Lane, Core Path and in the area in general. As these residents are not aware of the scheme it could be that many bottles are not being identified and are being disposed of by residents albeit well intentioned. Michelle advised that EDC litter collectors are the source of the feedback and as residents are uplifting bottles etc then the proper feedback is not being given. MERA shall endeavour to make those residents aware of the scheme and feed the information back to the police and wardens. The next campaign the Wardens have is the "no butts" campaign which is to target Town Centres to discourage litter from cigarette butts. They will be handing out butt pouches and fixed penalty notices for dropping what is still litter. They will be in Milngavie on 15 March 2012. Dog fouling was still an issue within Mains Estate and Michelle advised that there will be operation Neptune, which is a combined operation with the Police, to target this problem and litter which affects the quality of life of residents in the area.

Police Report

Reported crime is down in the area. There were two instances of computer fraud in December and one of vandalism. Nothing in the way of reported crime for January and February to date of meeting electrical cable was stolen from a local business. So reported crime was pleasingly low. However, following the incident regarding the lady from Bearsden who suffered from dementia and was abducted with a view to

taking her to her bank to obtain money, we were reminded to look out for our neighbours and to report anything suspicious. This is something the committee felt we could highlight at our AGM and have asked that the police attend our AGM if possible. Inspector O'Neill reiterated the points made by the Environmental Warden regarding their joint initiatives. It was also highlighted to the police that a resident has concerns regarding Stockiemuir Road and in particular the noise from speeding motorbikes. Inspector O'Neill advised that he would arrange for the traffic division to monitor speed and noise which could come from modified bikes. He has also offered to take the resident out to monitor the area with officers. Turning to the lady who had been abducted it was interesting to note that the police are in partnership working with the banks and will happily attend any premises where a cashier may have suspicions over any transaction.

Minutes of Meeting on 11 January 2012

These were proposed by JH and EG

Matters Arising

Following the Tesco presentation at our last meeting we had received an acknowledgement of our letter from Gloria Coats of Tesco. This was read out at the meeting. It was disappointing to note however, that we had not received a direct acknowledgement from the CEO or the Secretary to the Board. To date we have not received any date of a public meeting from Tesco.

A response had been received from Head of Roads at EDC, Mr David Devine with regard to the gritting of Garvel Road. This response indicated that the area was on secondary gritting route and our councillors will investigate if this is new or is already happening, in which case the area concerned is not covered at present.

Jean and Rona had met with Jackie Gillespie of EDC Greenspace with regard to their Strategy review. They advised that they had walked from Hunter Road through Craigton Woods, round the Core Path trail and crossed over to Chestnut Lane and then back through the park. During the walk many areas of special interest were highlighted together with the abundance of wildlife in the area. It was also pointed out that there was an area of skunk cabbage which it is recommended the owner of Craigton Woods should remove immediately. It was also noted that Hacking and Paterson should be encouraged to repair the Core Path which their workmen damaged whilst removing the fallen trees and also the Dunellen Road resident who removed trees has replaced them with non native trees and it was recommended that they be removed immediately and replaced with suitable species for woodland. It was thought that we should invite Jackie to our AGM in order that she could share her knowledge with residents.

Jean and Rona also met on 20 January with Mr Bushby, Representatives from Bearsden North CC, EDC Greenspace, Forestry Commission reps. and concerned resident on Mains Plantation. As mentioned Mrs Arthur (landowner) has proposed to start commercial felling of the area. However, following our meeting Mr Bushby agreed to go back to Mrs Arthur to see if a slightly different scale of operation could be achieved. He shall get back to us.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance of the account is £7797.14 of which £1347 is still reserved for the park. Also included in this figure is £3,300 from Tarmac for the kick about area.

Park Update

JH advised that we were still awaiting response from EDC as to ordering and progressing the goalposts and kick about area. Our Councillors agreed to try to chase matters up. Following the walk with Jackie Gillespie, as advised above, it was suggested that the covered burn in the park could be opened up and that funding is available for this. This would also help with wildlife and may ease the drainage problem. This option, if possible, could be discussed at our AGM.

Website

No change. Still wishing to encourage people to sign up to the blog to receive updates. This is something that we should actively encourage at the AGM and SL has suggested a step by step instruction in signing up could be handed out and perhaps included in the newsletter.

Residential Matters

The Academy Way sign is on order and should be received soon as confirmed by EDC.

AOCB

We have been approached by a Dalnair Place resident regarding the noise of motorbikes going along Stockiemuir Road. He also advised that it was felt that the speed was excessive. He was seeking MERA's support in approaching EDC to reduce the speed limit on the road to 30 or 40 mph. This matter was discussed and as advised above the police are being helpful. It was decided to await a further report from the police on this subject.

Councillor Gotts advised that works on Hunter Road should start at the end of March beginning of April and should take approx 10 wks.

Also, First Bus intends to terminate the 119 service at the lay-by at the water feature on Castlemains Road. As a result residents in Baljaffray will now require going to Drymen Road, Bearsden to get a bus service. Concerns were raised about buses sitting with the engine turning over and the suitability of turning at the roundabout at the water feature. It was agreed to write to First Bus to ascertain their intentions at this location. Cllr Gotts will provide details of the contact at First Bus.

Correspondence

Letter from Tesco and response from EDC Head of Roads, as stated above. The EDC traffic consultation was also circulated by e-mail for completion.

Date of Next Meeting

16 May 2012

6 June 2012 (AGM)

Elizabeth to confirm dates.