

**STEPPS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING
THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM
IN
STEPPS CULTURAL CENTRE, ST ANDREWS WAY, STEPPS**

Present - Community Councillors - Ken Maxwell (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Craig Cowan (Treasurer), Muriel McDade (Secretary), Alice Morton, Stewart Donald, Tracy Kennedy, Jacqueline Wilson and Thomas Stones

Guest Speakers - Sandy Carle NLC Parking Manager and Lynn Gow NLC Communication and Engagement Lead

Elected Members - Councillor John McLaren

Apologies - Andrew McPherson (NLC), Tom Forrester, Paul Noble, Cllr Claire Williams, Police Scotland

Public - 8

1.0 Opening Remarks/Introductions

Ken Maxwell (Chair) opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2.0 Apologies - Received as noted above

3.0 - Minute of Previous Meeting 24th October 2024

Proposed by Campbell Provan - Seconded by Alice Morton

4.0 - Guest Speaker - Sandy Carle, NLC Parking Manager

Team has been expanded and they have doubled the number of parking attendants to 8 (1 vacancy) and 2 technical workers but this is for the whole of North Lanarkshire.

Legally enforceable restrictions in January 2025 but not in a position to enforce at the moment

Grace period of a month however there will be a notice on the windscreen to say this is illegal in January and in February they will start enforcing fines.

Questions and answers re the above: -

When leaflets are posted in January do the wardens take note of the vehicles?

No, there will be no vehicle details noted; however, it will be a warning for everyone

Will the new parking attendants visit Stepps?

Yes, but they will not be here on a daily or weekly basis

Will the parking attendants check vehicles right down to the Co-op?

It is not the intention to check residential areas, more likely to be the village and schools i.e. high footfall areas

Will there be an opportunity to influence which areas are checked?

Yes, there is an opportunity to do this and report it directly

Would somewhere like Whitehill Avenue be targeted which has cars parked on the pavement on both sides?

No this would not be targeted as it is not considered double parking

When will this be advertised on Facebook etc.?

It will be advertised in January 2025

How many people are NLC hoping to recruit?

If the parking team brings in enough funding the team may expand

Other points raised

Double yellow lines recently painted on Cumbernauld Road still have cars parked on them.

In some places wheelchair users and people with buggies are being forced to walk on the road as there is not enough space for them to walk on the pavement.

Sandy advised that obstructions on the pavement are illegal but Police don't have the resources and now the Council will address the issue. They also have limited resources. It is a very difficult area to deal with e.g. where would motorists park?

When leafleting starts we should see an improvement and hopefully a change in behaviour.

Councillor McLaren reiterated the points Sandy raised and thanked him for his help.

5. Office Bearers Reports

Secretary Report

- Correspondence and admin as required
- Meeting re handover of Community Council website
- Sign-in attendance sheet

The Actions from October Meeting - completed

- Emailed Cllr Williams re Flower Beds at War Memorial
- Emailed expression of thanks to PC John Fleming

Vice Chair

See reports at 9.0 - Local Place Plans and 12.0 Northern Corridor Community Board.

Treasurer's Report

As at 18th November 2024 the Community Council has an account balance of £3278.64.

Since the last treasurer report there have been 3 cheques cashed totalling £65.20 in relation to hall lets (£26.80) and the purchase of the poppy wreath for Remembrance Day (£38.40).

One cheque has been raised for a room booking of £15.00.

The Treasurer has had an initial conversation with North Lanarkshire Council to explore the process and possible funding routes for the equipment required to provide a hybrid meeting facility for Community Council meetings.

6.0 Community Police - Police Scotland

There were 68 calls to Police, however 10 of these incidents were for the motorway that falls under the Stepps area, so discount those as not Community related.

Some of these calls are duplicate incidents or enquiries that have been dealt with by call handlers and did not require Police attendance.

11 crimes were recorded, relating to road traffic issues, minor disorder, vandalism and fraud. There have been no obvious crime trends and no wider community issues that have caused great concern.

We are also aware that the community notice board was vandalised and a crime report has been raised in relation to this.

There have been two frauds reported to Police over the past month, both of which are still currently being investigated. These incidents involved persons receiving telephone calls, one pertaining to be from a bank and one relating to exchanging Bitcoin currency. Please be reminded never to give any financial or personal information over the telephone.

At this time of year, with the colder weather approaching, we also remind people to be vigilant about not leaving cars running idle and unattended within driveways.

Following reports of ongoing issues with parking at St Josephs Primary, Neil and I attended alongside North Lanarkshire Council parking wardens in a joint initiative in order to educate drivers and remind them of the dangers caused by inconsiderate parking during pick up and drop off times. Pupils from the school were in attendance, handing out leaflets to parents attending at parents' night and we will continue to monitor and make attempts to alleviate these issues where possible.

7.0 Environmental Report

- Vandalism to the Community Council Noticeboard was reported to the Community Police.
Cllr McLaren arranged removal of paint.
- Five trees felled in Bluebell Park– see Ash dieback/ Birch report at item 12.0.
- Hornhill Farm Road pavement markings are instructions for service excavations.
- Continuation of footpath from Gateside housing site to the corner of Hornhill and Mount Harriet Roads.
- Traffic monitoring had taken place on the Cumbernauld Road.

8.0 Lynn Gow, NLC Communication and Engagement Lead

Lynn Gow attended the meeting to present Digital engagement strategies.

There will be 2 consultation meetings on 29th November at Chryston Library 10 - 12 and 5th December at Stepps Library 2.30 - 5. Lynn spoke about the success of intergenerational digital learning and that she would do all the work; all she needs is a group of people of a certain age to attend. There is also a good social side to this.

Following on from the above, there will be another two workshops at Moodiesburn Library on 6th and 13th December between 12 noon and 2pm.

Question was asked - is it a set course or is it ad hoc? Lynn said it is a set course but actually it could progress into a more ad hoc setup based on what people would like to learn over a 4-week period.

Alice stated we are delighted with the new Stepps library so this will be ideal for the “silver surfers” and will create intergenerational learning opportunities.

Lynn also advised that recently an article was shown on STV news where “silver surfers” attended a primary school in Coatbridge to be shown by the pupils how to use iPads, laptops etc. This was very successful.

Craig advised that the Digital survey is important to gather the data so would encourage everyone to fill in the survey re the digital zone consultation which closes on 13th December. He also said there are opportunities re funding relating to the survey.

Campbell advised that the survey was advertised on the Community Council Facebook page.

9.0 - Local Place Plans

Campbell Provan gave a report on Boundary Maps

The first slide shows the CC boundary that includes the area we could cover in a local plan.

Unfortunately it does not include Frankfield Loch but does include the fields over Dewar Road and the link road to the Hornhill junction.

The second slide shows the green belt which we would like to protect. Only a small part to the south is included in our area but a large part is included to the north and east. We would like to increase the public access and biodiversity in this area.

Report on Local Place Plans

Auchinloch will not be doing a local place plan as there is no land left.

Chryston & Muirhead are solely concentrating on traffic.

Moodiesburn - their action group is preparing a local place plan.

Six names of people showing an interest in Stepps. We can start putting something together. Develop a plan for the local community.

Action Plan - legalities - gathering stats from the community is helpful, experience, knowledge etc. Local Place Plan has to be in place by June 2025.

It could be a lot of effort for not much return. It would be helpful to get local views.

10.0 Planning Matters

10.1 Planning Report Oct/Nov, for the Stepps area.

Validated

24/01077FUL- 6 Cumbernauld Rd, Alterations to porch and formation of canopy.

Approved.

24/00780/FUL- Approved 12 Nov, 17 affordable housing units developed by the J.R Group, on the site of the Council's Coshneuk Rd Depot, Millerston. Validated in August 24.

24/00940/FUL- Approved retrospective, outbuilding to front garden on raised deck, 75 Cumbernauld Rd.

Applications out with Stepps.

PAN 24/01508- Validated 18/10/24. Film studio, Gartcosh Industrial Estate, Auldyards Rd.

10.2 Monitoring Diversity for Planning Alice Morton reported on this item which she said was very worthwhile as it focussed on surveying, recording and monitoring biodiversity locally.

This year's Winter Webinar Series is running from November through to March in collaboration with Planning Democracy.

The session is recorded for anybody who was not able to make it or for those who would like to watch it again. You can view it here:

<https://aprs.scot/monitoring-biodiversity-for-planning/>

Action 1 - Secretary has contacted Cllr. Claire Williams re Northern Corridor Community Volunteers and will contact her again in the New Year to arrange a meeting to discuss how a local biodiversity survey could be carried out.

11.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing Report

Councillor John McLaren reported as follows: -

1. Blenheim Avenue drain to be fixed.
2. New double yellow lines on Cumbernauld Road.
3. Community space in Stepps Hub - update on our position on this issue.
4. Update on school transport and intention not to remove this from Primary children. FirstBus has agreed new timings. A Short explanation of costs was given - latest was £24.2 million.
5. Advertising boards still on Dewar Road - removal requested.
6. Police and parking wardens in attendance at St Joseph's PS to educate parents on parking at school.
7. Grass cutting on Dewar Road.
8. Housing is looking into both local hotels - waiting for response.
9. A landowner has been granted permission to build on Seven Lochs Wetlands.

12.0 - Northern Corridor Community Board & Northern Corridor Community Forum

Campbell Provan and Jacqueline Wilson attended the above meeting on 20th November. The following points were discussed: -

The main topic was the lack of progress on the extension to Bedlay Cemetery.

The cost of repairing the Pivot Centre has been put at £4 million.

Police Scotland reported attending at Stepps Primary School because of the parking situation.

A question was asked about the availability of the community rooms at Stepps Cultural Centre. Reply from NLC was that these will not be available during the day until the new year. The provision of a kitchen is still under discussion.

Campbell reported that five trees had been taken down recently in Stepps Park. Andrew McPherson advised that a tree survey had been carried out by NLC and the following action was taken: -

Four Ash Trees and an overhanging Birch were removed by our team recently, the Ash all had Ash dieback and the Birch was unsafe (picked up through inspections). We are making plans to replant in this area, but this will not be immediate as we have to wait for the correct season for this – but hopefully in 2025.

Proposed NCCB Dates for 2025 (subject to change)

Wednesday 19 February 2025

Wednesday 25 May 2025

Wednesday 20 August 2025

Wednesday 19 November 2025

13.0 AOCB

13.1 The Remembrance Service 10th November 2024 at Stepps District War Memorial. Wreath laid by Campbell Provan, Vice Chairperson.

13.2 Official Opening of Dunalastair Play Park Friday 13 December at 10.15. Pupils from St Joseph's PS and Stepps PS and Communities Committee Convenor will attend.

13.3 Friends of Les Marches Race Night (fund raiser) Saturday 24 November at 7.30 in St Joseph's Hall. All are welcome.

13.4 Two Community Council adverts will be published in the December 2024 Edition of Stepps on the Level. Thanks to Sameeha.

13.5 Annemarie Kirkland from Cardowan Community Meadow asked if it would be possible to have CCTV installed to monitor youths at Dorlin Road in Cardowan because of various problems such as vandalism, fly tipping and the illegal annual bonfire on 5th November.

Cllr McLaren stated there is a £15K budget for the area and this matter would need to be dealt with through Peter McNally, NLC Community Matters. This would require Police involvement and consultation with local residents.

14.0 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 16th January 2025 at Stepps Cultural Centre 19.30

Vote of Thanks to the Chair ---END---