

Ibrox and Cessnock Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting on **Wednesday February 17th** at 7pm at Kinning Perk
In attendance: Paul Chambers, Shona Craven, Stephen Dornan, John Foster, Iain Henderson, Mark Hughes, John McKinstry, Grace Smith, Bailie Fariha Thomas

Apologies: James Adams, Bill Copleton, Chris Fyfe, John Kane

Chairman **John Foster** opened the meeting and minutes from December and January were approved subject to minor amendments.

Councillors **Stephen Dornan** and **Fariha Thomas** gave an update regarding cleansing issues raised at the January meeting, and advised that both had raised concerns with Land and Environmental Services (LES) about uncollected rubbish as well as leaves and mulch in the streets. It was clarified that bin collection services were not sub-contracted but additional vehicles were hired that should have all displayed the council logo though it was noted some did not.

Shona Craven advised that she had emailed Paul McGrath, deputy south cleansing manager, about festive collection issues and also the impending introduction of food recycling bins, but received no reply. The only reply came from the councillors who had attended a meeting with LES. The community council expressed grave concerns about LES's ability to introduce new bins when it is clearly failing to provide an adequate collection service of existing bins. It was acknowledged that paper/plastic recycling bins were lower priority, but these were left unemptied for months and regular bins were also left for many weeks over Christmas. **John Foster** suggested fine should be imposed on LES for failures. There is a clear lack of accountability here.

Stephen Dornan also mentioned a forthcoming change to legislation that will allow refuse collectors to collect anything left in the street without the risk of legal action. It is hoped this will address some of the huge inefficiency problems with bulk collections that have been addressed many times at our meetings.

Iain Henderson gave his report on the monthly Community Council Discussion Forum on February 13. The forum was addressed by David Wood from Planning Aid Scotland, who spoke about how the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 will make it easier for communities to take ownership of public assets.

John Foster advised that the consultation on the Skene Road development had been extended due to the major website problems, and was awaiting an update confirming that five responses had been received. A comment from the Scottish Architectural Heritage Association has highlighted the fact that the proposed flats do not fit with the style of other housing in the area. The deadline for responses to the "Ibroxholm 2" development plans is March 15th. It was noted that it is hard to get a sense of developments from the documents available on the council website, and that it would be useful if larger-format papers were available locally, ie in the library.

John Foster has made contact with Ibrox Primary School and the community council will be highlighted at a forthcoming PTA meeting. The school has been involved in litter-picking in the past so this may be an area we can engage with.

Kinning Park Community Council have contacted us regarding Orchard and Shipman, the agents responsible for the housing of asylum seekers whose offices are on Brand Place. The firm is to provide a waiting room to avoid the current situation where people are queuing in the street. Orchard and Shipman's contract for this work ends in 2017, and it was suggested we invite local MP Alison Thewliss to a future meeting to discuss concerns raised by the Scottish Refugee Council about the quality of accommodation being provided. **John Foster** asked **Fariha Thomas** if it was likely asylum seekers would be accommodated in one of the proposed new developments and she said she thought this highly unlikely given the level of demand for brand new rented housing.

Mark Hughes gave an in-depth report about a recent meeting with the management committee taking forward the refurbishment of Whitefield Road Hall, now renamed Clyde Community Hall. He advised that a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) application had been submitted naming three trustees. The plan is for the hall to comprise a main hall plus two training rooms and a café. Concern was expressed that no funding appeared to be in place to support any staff for the new hall.

Strategic priorities were discussed and **Grace Smith** highlighted the importance of having eye-catching leaflets and posters to raise awareness of the community council in our local area.

There are plans for the Edmiston Drive billboard to be turned into an LED high-definition screen, which will require planning permission. **John Foster** raised the possibility of space on this screen being available for community use, and said his correspondence on this with advertising firm JCDecaux had been positive.

Paul Chambers, Cultural and Learning Skills Officer with Glasgow Life, outlined his role and long-term aims to improve our area, including the Artery project.

The meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday March 16th at Kinning Perk Cafe.