

## **Ibrox and Cessnock Community Council**

Minutes of meeting on **Wednesday January 20th** at 7pm at Kinning Perk

*In attendance: Shona Craven, Stephen Dornan, John Foster, Iain Henderson, Mark Hughes, John McKinstry, Robyn McPherson, Margaret Prunty, Grace Smith, Justin Stephens, Bailie Fariha Thomas*

*Apologies: John Kane, Archie and Anne Henderson*

Chairman **John Foster** opened the meeting and December's minutes were approved. John then addressed correspondence received in relation to the closure of the local Bank of Scotland branch. **Bailie Thomas** advised that she had contacted the bank after residents raised concerns and was advised that the closure was a commercial decision backed up by statistics showing poor usage.

The Dr James Wilson Memorial Drinking Fountain is currently in storage with restoration work being carried out, and all being well it will be returned to its usual location in the spring. Contrary to a report in the Evening Times, it was not stolen! Ibrox Library are keen to explore the history of the statue with pupils, something the community council could get involved with.

Due to the council's server crashing around Christmas, opportunities to comment on the Skene Road development plans have been limited. **John Foster** will seek confirmation regarding an extension to the consultation period. Residents were encouraged to submit their views, referring to the online guidance about material considerations. Five are required to take the application to the committee stage.

The meeting heard that Glasgow City Council is holding a consultation meeting on its strategic priority agenda for 2016 on February 2nd from 7pm to 9pm in the Palace of Arts. This is open to the public and the city's budget will be discussed. The council is seeking views on which areas should be prioritised and also which areas could have their budgets reduced. **John McKinstry** advised that he would try to attend. Also on February 2nd is a Health and Wellbeing meeting at Hampden. Police Scotland is also seeking public views about its spending with a Strategic Police Priorities Review. The deadline for online contributions is February 12.

Cleansing problems in the area were raised by the residents, and it was noted there had been very significant disruption to collections before, during and after the Christmas period. **Stephen Dornan** advised that domestic collections were "sub-contracted" over this period, and concern was expressed about whether this represented good value for money given the lack of service. Some residents noted that they were at home for most of the holidays so were certain attempts at collecting from back courts had not been made. **Shona Craven** advised that she would contact Paul McGrath to request more information about the subcontracting and ascertain where accountability for the failures lies.

There was also discussion about the recycling bins being removed from Paisley Road West near the Kensington Bar and the the west end of Walmer Crescent. **Bailie Thomas** advised

that she had received many complaints about misuse of these bins and that they were regularly so contaminated that their contents could not be recycled. However, she reported that the contamination problem had now spread to the bins at Ibrox Library. Residents highlighted the lack of enforcement action against those who abuse the bins.

The community council received an update from Lesley McGregor of Glasgow Housing Association on the future of Whitefield Road Hall. Repair work by City Building is due to commence soon and is estimated to take 10 weeks, allowing for the hall to re-open in April. The community council expressed surprise that plans were at such an advanced stage. We heard there had been a “development day” with roles and responsibilities agreed, and an application submitted for SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The next meeting is to be held on January 25th. **Mark Hughes** and **Shona Craven** agreed to make contact with Lesley with a view to becoming involved in the hall, which all agreed was a very important hub for the community with lots of potential uses.

**John Foster** asked for suggestions of strategic priorities for the community council for 2016, so we can better focus our efforts and harness the ideas of members, then measure our success at the end of the year.

Suggestions included:

- Purchase of a community noticeboard to keep people up-to-date with local activities
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- Improvement of online presence with active Twitter and Facebook accounts and a custom url pointing to our website
- Clean-ups including a “Spring Clean” in line with **Chris Fyfe's** suggestion at a previous meeting (possibly with the involvement of Clean Glasgow and charity shops – STV Glasgow was suggested as an opportunity to promote this)
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- More target cleansing action, potentially involving others in the community including school pupils
- Flower baskets
- Broader youth engagement, via local primary and secondary schools, including encouraging young people to attend meetings
- A summer fete involving Ibrox Primary
- Further community engagement including churches, Boys' Brigade and south-west food bank. **Shona Craven** tabled a draft email to the headteacher of Bellahouston Academy for consideration.
- The meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting will take place on February 17th at Kinning Perk cafe.

- A best garden competition – Dobbies have funded similar organised by Friends of Elder Park
- Work to have the train station reinstated
- Resolve problems with event-day parking

The meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday February 17th at Kinning Perk Cafe.