

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Zoom meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Present: (Chair) J. Herriot; (Vice Chair) S. Wilson; (Secretary) J. Whyte; (Communications) C. Lilly;  
(Treasurer) K. Chesney-Bathie; (Co-opted member) M. Todd.

In Attendance: D. Carmichael, D. McFadden, C. Willson, J. Quigley.

Councillors S. Murray, S. MacDonald, J. Jamieson.

No apologies. No Police connection.

- (1) This meeting was once again on Zoom because of Covid-19 and the need to socially distance.
- (2) Minutes of the last meeting were read, and were proposed by J. Herriot and seconded by K. Chesney-Bathie.
- (3) ESTATE MANAGEMENT. A limited walkabout had been carried out by J. Herriot, C. Lilly, M. Todd and J. Whyte. It was agreed that the state of the village as a whole was poor, with hedges growing over pavements in Alexander Place, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road – some of these hedges bordered privately owned properties. Some Cairnview gardens looked particularly bad. Moss and weeds were growing on pavements and road edges. Berryknowe (1-5) is an adopted road, but the pavement is badly in need of attention (trip hazard). While the council does have fewer staff to carry out maintenance (many being furloughed, leaving only 30 per cent working), attendees suggested Waterside had been neglected in comparison with other areas of E. Dunbartonshire. It was noted that a tenant in Cairnview had again piled furniture, a mattress and garden rubbish in a garden. Information from the walkabout to be passed to councillors. Cllr. MacDonald said he would make enquiries this week as to what could be done (road survey, programme of works, green space across Waterside).
- (4) HEDGE HELP. D. and J. Carmichael of Luggiewatch had in the past offered to cut hedges for tenants and residents unable to do this for themselves, and their kind offer is still open. J. Quigley said he had a petrol hedge trimmer and was willing to help the Carmichaels. It was hoped that, following initial help, tenants would make their own arrangements.
- (5) ESTATE WALKABOUT by council officials to be arranged (before end of October grass cutting).
- (6) FLY-TIPPING. Any information to be reported to EDC – relevant department still active.
- (7) UNSUITABLE TENANT. In July a vigilante group had tackled an alleged paedophile living in the Taig Road flats following (illegal) entrapment (and had posted a video on Facebook of the encounter). Attendees wanted to know if the council had known about his background before letting the flat. Cllr. MacDonald had no information on this but confirmed that the tenant in question would not be returning. Reassurance was sought that housing officers had followed approved policy. Cllr. MacDonald said he would refer matter to housing officers. He had talked to Grant Mackintosh and learned that there were only 12 known paedophiles in E. Dunbartonshire. He would ask whether environmental scans had been carried out.
- (8) SPEEDING ISSUE AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR. The problem with fast drivers living at a property in Taig Road seemed to have largely stopped, as had some other antisocial activities connected with the property. However, the garden was overgrown, and there was rubbish lying around, including nappies.
- (9) LDP2. The Main Issues Report had been approved at a council meeting on 20 August. Since the consultation last year, nine additional sites had been proposed by developers for housing development. These include two sites of particular concern to Waterside residents: the cow field between Pit Road and the Luggie, and the unspoilt meadow between Chryston Road, the Dam Braes path and the Luggie (which has spectacular views over Waterside to the Campsies and, with its pignuts and other diverse flora, has previously been recommended for Local Nature Conservation Status by wildlife experts). The planning department is not currently supporting these proposals but recommends that interested residents comment in the

forthcoming consultation – developers will be making their case to the government reporter. Saddler’s Brae is another local site. Any proposed developments comprising 100+ housing units are called in. The industrial estate at the bing is also under consideration for possible economic development, though it would require improvements to the unadopted Pit Road (owned by Gartshore Estates). It was asked whether improvements might include drainage (water at times floods down from Pit Road to Alexander Place, and the fire brigade has had to be called on occasion to clear it). There will be a Zoom meeting at 7pm on 31 August at which arrangements for the consultation will be explained to community group representatives.

- (10)ASN. The architects have been suggesting that all local concerns and grievances have been dealt with. This is NOT true! The area is clearly not big enough. Traffic turning right into Bankhead Road had not been adequately considered in traffic surveys (there will be at least 250 vehicles heading to the school each morning from the Kirkintilloch direction). The traffic fumes had not been adequately considered either. The building is to have two storeys (both to be used by students), despite one of the main reasons supposedly for initially opting for Waterside being that it could accommodate a single-storey building (which we were told then was hugely important for ASN students). Both the ramp and lift access do appear to be fraught with dangers: emergency evacuation in case of fire; wheelchairs being pushed down the ramp; Covid infection risk posed by lift buttons (and touch items on the sensory trail). Then there is loss of vital community space (used more than ever in this era of Covid distancing), air pollution, flooding risk, volume of traffic etc. Shockingly, when in March 2018 councillors voted to go to consultation on the closing, relocating and merging of the two existing ASN schools, they were not made aware that EDC’s position was that a 5-year moratorium would legally be required should the choice of site subsequently change, so their vote effectively made Waterside *the* site for the school though they didn’t know that then; moreover, the summary they were given explained that both Waterside and Auchinairn were equally possible but did not point out that Waterside was open space and green belt while Auchinairn was brownfield. All in all, a complete confidence trick by East Dunbartonshire Council officials, and Waterside’s fight must go on. Objections at this stage must be based on planning matters (comments about the unfair process will be irrelevant). The time lag between the start of this process and the opening of any new school will mean that many of the children whose parents preferred Waterside to Auchinairn (partly because of the apparent green space – now to be buried under a massive car park) will have left school by the time it opens. The suggestion was made that we look to community gains: children’s play area; meeting place. The school might provide a meeting space though the cost will be prohibitive. EDC could provide a grant to cover it but no guarantee that it would continue.
- (11)PURPLE PINKIE DAY (25 October). D. Carmichael suggested buying and planting crocuses throughout the village in aid of the Rotary Club’s polio eradication programme. This was unanimously agreed. [However, the crocuses had run out when we tried to place the order.]
- (12)WATERSIDE CLUB. There was some discussion about what could be done to save/acquire the facilities/land at Waterside Miners Club. The Community Enterprise feasibility study had shown £500K was needed just in maintenance over five years were the whole building to be saved. Meanwhile Covid would appear likely to reduce potential income of any refurbished club. The annexe might provide enough space for current needs (a community hall is vital), but was in the worst condition. C. Lilly to speak to D. Wright (CRT) and discuss next steps.
- (13)There was no correspondence to report. As there were no further issues, the date of the next Zoom meeting was set for Tuesday 15 September at 7.30pm. J. Herriot thanked everyone for participating in the meeting.