

IRVINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 5th APRIL 2023
REDBURN COMMUNITY HUB

Attendees: D. Dunlop (Chair), D. Phillips (Vice Chair), T. Doyle (Secretary), J. Walker (Treasurer), R. Walker, T. Lindsay, J. Neil, E. Walker, C. Smith, J. Jones, I. Wallace,

Apologies: C. Sweaton, J. Jones, P. Whitford

Minutes from previous meeting approved by D. Phillips, seconded by J. Walker

Community Development Worker

E. Walker asked the CC is there was anything in particular they would like her to report back on. The group had nothing to note.

Police Report

1080 incidents were reported, of which 235 were crimes, similar numbers to the previous year.

PC Fisher explained that shoplifting has increased recently, he believes this does have a link to the cost of living crisis. They plan to tackle this by having more officers patrolling the town.

Local police have started their planning for the upcoming summer and have already started planning ahead. PC Fisher asked if there was anything the CC would like to see from them to help tackle any issues that come along with the good weather.

J. Walker asked about stop and search? Why are they allowed to drink on the beach?

PC Fisher explained that this is easier said than done. They do engaged with BTP (British Transport Police) in Glasgow to try and police the issues efficiently. The issue is that they need to find a balance with the public. They can't possibly stop and search everyone, the main focus is usually to tackle youth disorder.

J. Walker asked if there was an update on the beach buggies for police use?

PC Fisher advised there is no update but there have been a number of officers trained.

T. Lindsay thinks that the youth are able to disguise their alcohol in pop bottles which can't make it easy to police. He believes that there should be more education regarding alcohol and that more police "on the beat" could be a great deterrent.

D. Phillips spoke up for youth and suggested that not all focus should be on them. He thinks that more could be done to tackle "jump-ins" to local stores and that shop keepers could do their bit to engage with the police and put a stop to alcohol being sold to underage children.

PC Fisher stated that they have had a lot of calls regarding this. They have been working alongside Trading Standards in an effort to put a stop to this.

D. Phillips suggested more CCTV at local stores?

PC Fisher explained that there are a lot of restrictions when it comes to cameras.

W. Anderson expressed that his concern is mostly the litter. Although he does see youth with alcohol cans and bottles and agrees that it is an issue. He is most disgusted by the amount of rubbish that is left along the beach. He has tried approaching individuals and even educating them to an extent but the issue only worsens.

J. Neil asked if the police have cameras on their bodies?

PC Fisher expressed that he wished they did!

J. Neil thinks this is something that should be considered as police safety is also of importance and she has been witness to situations where she has felt sorry for officers put into horrible positions.

I. Wallace feels that there are not as many facilities for young people to go as there was years ago when he worked in the youth sector. He also feels that more education is important on alcohol and drug misuse.

D. Dunlop asked if it was legal to sell vapes with 0% nicotine to persons under 18 years of age? PC Fisher advised that it is not illegal to do so.

D. Dunlop also asked if there were any statistic on RTC's in the area? PC did not have any info to hand and would need to check.

D. Dunlop had a question from a member of the public regarding 'abandoned vans' in the town centre? T. Lindsay was able to advise on this and stated that the vans were not abandoned as he had been keeping an eye on this also.

W. Anderson expressed that the young boys on trail bikes are still causing a nuisance at both the moor and harbour. He had a personal altercation with one of them which led to damage on his car. Unfortunately he was unable to gain any information on the youth or evidence of it at the time. PC has noted this.

D. Phillips suggested that PC Fisher engage with J. Jones regarding the issues involving youth as he feels it would be a good way forward.

PC Fisher was excused.

Chit Chat Update

We were joined by C. Smith who wanted to update the CC on the Community Chit Chat and any issues that have risen in the community.

Firstly she expressed that they are looking to tackle the transport issues in the town, including bus links to the harbourside. There is a consultation now open that she will forward on. She encouraged the CC to take part and spread the word.

She also advised that finance assistance group CHAP are looking to expand their services from the 3 towns to the Irvine area as well to help with the cost of living crisis.

NAC are looking to get notice boards outside public buildings/community centres to keep the public more informed about what's going on in their local area.

Food Bank provisions have changed slightly. Castlepark are usually the main bank for the top end of the town. However, more recently the Redburn Community Hub have begun holding emergency food parcels for those in need.

C. Smith is looking to get involved in as many groups as possible and get their views.

CC agreed to arrange a further meeting to discuss in more detail.

Matters Arising

None to report.

Treasurers Report

J. Walker gave monthly report.

Accounts have been submitted for auditing although incomplete.

J. Walker expressed her disapproval of this but she noted it was the best she could do with the information she had. The accounts have still not been separated and there are receipts outstanding for Amazon.

She has changed the accounts to run from 1st April to 31st March in future.

D. Phillips asked if any funding had been applied for?

J. Walker advised that there hadn't been as no agreement reached yet.

D. Dunlop suggested asking Marymass Committee if CC could attend meeting? CC agreed to ask.

W. Anderson asked to be excused from tonight's meeting – Chair approved.

Correspondences

Nothing to report.

Buses

No update from previous meeting as W. Anderson left.

Chair explained that I. Wallace and A. Small were attending tonight's meeting to raise issues regarding this subject.

According to I. Wallace there were similar issues in Drybridge to what we are currently experiencing in parts of Irvine. The buses there are every 2 hours and at one stage the company tried to reduce this further. Residents had to threaten protest in order for this to be overturned. He also expressed that Irvine Senior Forum have been in talks about this for years but he believes that action needs to be taken in order for change.

A. Small brought the question to the table as to whether there was funding for further bus services and if so where are they? She was under the impression that there was significant funds set aside to tackle this issue.

Paper Rep – stated that the government have issued a scheme to tackle this.

D. Phillips offered to contact the bus companies on CC's behalf.

T. Lindsay advised members that he had previously spoken to Cllr Donald Reid, he explained that there is no money for any more buses. He hopes that the local authority can be successful in their plans to tackle this.

D. Dunlop explained that he will be attending the next locality partnership meeting and will be able to check and update on this issue at the next meeting.

Burns Tour

T. Lindsay has compiled a tour! He will be trying it out on a few volunteers before finalising. He was excited to bring to the table and idea, to put together another tour of the local churches and their history. He would like to go forward with this, with the backing of the CC. CC agreed to this. The item will be added to the next agenda.

E. Walker advised T. Lindsay that there is a new discovery group starting for the over 50's and suggested he may want to establish a connection with them.

Water Font

E. Walker advised that they took children from the local area to see the font and she was led to believe that it was being moved to the town house.

T. Lindsay is concerned about this and what it would do to the condition of the font.

D. Dunlop advised that he will ask C. McLellan to attend as he has been in talks with the local Heritage Society regarding the font.

Youth Legacy Hub

J. Jones attended to give the following report.

114 young people have registered with their services since December 2022.

Current groups continuing into term 2 are : LGBT, Mindfulness and Wellbeing, New Scots Group, Girls Group, Youth Group, Drop In, Food Chat and Chill.

Numbers have been progressively improving as they have been engaging with more groups and schools.

In terms of geographical location they have young people coming from all over NA. three Towns bring a high contender. All young people are welcome no matter their postcode.

They will be continuing their specialised programme for non-school attenders at Irvine Royal Academy. This project has proven to be an asset within the young peoples educational attainment journey and they have had excellent feedback from teachers at the school.

With Easter coming up they had 20 young people registered for their two week programme. This offered fun activities over the holidays with a lunch provided.

Their service partners continue to flourish at what they do and they continue to support them in their efforts and endeavours.

The Breakfast Club has dramatically increased in numbers following on from cost of living and financial climate. They are working tirelessly to keep the group going, monitoring funds and ensuring volunteers are available and willing to help. Note of thanks to all those who go above and beyond each week to support.

A new intergenerational project has began and they have been working with groups in the community looking at stigma and the difference between the decades that separate the youth and older generations. They hope to hold a get together event soon.

Notable achievements recently; Tes-amm Irvine have donated 20 laptops for them to give to young people in the area. These will be given out to aid and combat gaps in provision already existing and ensure our communities are connected. It will also enable them to build on their resource.

They were successful in NAVT funding to enable them to boost their staff hours which will allow them to give young people more opportunities and a better quality of service.

Community Councillors

D. Dunlop informed members that J. Reid wished to take a leave of absence. CC agreed to this. J. Reid will be notified of this by letter.

J. Walker questioned why no local councillors are attending our meetings? Cllr M. McLean was attending meetings but had suddenly stopped.

D. Dunlop explained our last meeting coincided with the councils budget meeting. He also advised that all Cllr's are invited to meetings but not obligated to attend.

T. Doyle agreed to email Cllr McLean to check in and extend personal invitation as everyone agreed that we were beginning to establish a trusted relationship with him.

D. Phillips proposed a public consultation for the National Care Service Bill.

D. Dunlop stated that a meeting had already been held that was well attended, and asked I. Wallace to confirm this – confirmed, however Mr Wallace did state that there was no harm in having a further consultation.

D. Dunlop suggested contacting Health & Social Care Partnership and getting them involved.

CC agreed to this and D. Phillips will take the lead.

D. Phillips asked if it was possible to invite other members of the community that are out with our boundaries to have their say? D. Dunlop will seek advice on this but did state that anyone is welcome to attend out meeting, however they cannot speak nor vote. There were no objections to the chair seeking further advice.

I. Wallace expressed that he had previously spoken to Cllr S. Macaulay about expanding the area that ICC covers. He was exasperated that there should be 5 CC's within Irvine but there is only one which is operational.

D. Dunlop read aloud an email received from M. Anderson explaining the reason that this was not any easy feat and the process in which the CC would need to go through in order to obtain this outcome.

I. Wallace expressed that he was not happy with this response and A. Small would like it noted that it is about widening the scope and moving with the town as it grows.

D. Dunlop asked members if anyone objected to KA11 members. CC agreed to inform NAC this is something we wish to pursue and D. Dunlop agreed to draft the letter.

T. Lindsay informed members that The Salvation Army has now closed in Irvine. Sad to see another institution go and hoping it will soon be revitalised.

He also informed members of sectarian graffiti which has still not been removed from the forum area of the town and also under the 'bailey' bridge.

He would also like it to be noted that the local Library have extended their hours and that the Heritage Office is now open.

T. Lindsay suggested a new community group to tackle some of the issues raised at tonight's meeting. D. Dunlop stated that perhaps I. Wallace and A. Small would be beneficial members to have.

I. Wallace gave an update on the incinerator plant. He expressed that he is very keen to act on this and will be holding meetings to engage with others. He has major concerns regarding pollution in the local area and would like to know if the CC have had any responses?

D. Dunlop advised that W. Anderson did receive a response from SEPA and T. Doyle will forward this to Mr Wallace.

I. Wallace asked if the CC would conduct a survey surrounding the respiratory issues in the area and if the plant goes ahead would the conduct another to note any changes that are detrimental to health.

T. Lindsay also expressed a worry about the microparticles and advised that this must have been approved when the CC wasn't in operation due to Covid-19.

I. Wallace expressed that the most important this is getting as many people as possible to sign and send the objection letter which he passed out to CC members.

Elected Members

None in attendance.

Events

Deferred to next meeting.

Any Other Business

Nothing to note.