

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 27 January 2021

Chair:

Councillor Mary Donnelly

Councillors Present:

Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Peter Craig (Depute), Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross (ex officio), Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Lynne Nailon

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

R Leith, Community Engagement Manager; E A McGonigle and S McLeod, Administration Officers

Also Attending:

Police Scotland

Chief Inspector L Baillie and Inspector R Bond

Chair's Opening Remarks – Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

The Chair intimated that it was Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 and, as a mark of respect to all those who lost their lives during the Holocaust, all present observed a minute's silence.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 4 November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

Councillors Burns and Callaghan joined the meeting after this item of business

3 Police Scotland - Update

Chief Inspector Baillie and Inspector Bond, Police Scotland provided details of the following key priorities for South Lanarkshire as detailed in the new (pan Lanarkshire) Local Policing Plan 2020 to 2023:-

- ◆ reducing violence and disorder
- ◆ public protection and protecting people at risk of harm

- ◆ tackling housebreaking and acquisitive crime
- ◆ reducing harm caused by substance misuse

Information was also provided on various activities and positive policing outcomes in the local community.

Chief Inspector L Baillie and Inspector Bond, having responded to members' questions, were thanked for their informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 18 December 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

Councillor Razzaq joined the meeting during this item of business. Councillor Chalmers left the meeting after this item of business

4 Neighbourhood Planning Update

A report dated 7 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the work carried out in the Hamilton area in relation to neighbourhood planning.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 placed a statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to identify smaller areas within their local authority area which experienced the poorest outcomes and to prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes for agreed priorities for those communities. In South Lanarkshire, those plans were neighbourhood plans.

On 14 July 2017, the CPP Board considered the results of a statistical exercise which identified areas experiencing poorest outcomes in South Lanarkshire. 9 of the Council's 20 wards were identified as potential neighbourhood planning areas. On 11 October 2017, the CCP Board agreed to pilot the use of neighbourhood planning activity in South Lanarkshire and the first 3 neighbourhood plans for the pilot areas were published in January 2019.

On 11 September 2019, the CPP Board agreed that the neighbourhood planning process be rolled out to the following communities:-

- ◆ Burnhill
- ◆ Halfway, Westburn, Circuit
- ◆ Auchinraith, Blantyre, High Blantyre, Springwells
- ◆ Fairhill

Each community had individual levels of community capacity and support already in place and required individualised programmes of support, which were delivered by the Community Engagement Team (CET) alongside local partners and community groups.

The 2020/2021 (year one) Neighbourhood Plan for Fairhill, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been launched through a 'soft approach' and the CET used new and innovative ways to engage with people to progress the community priorities. The annual progress reports, January 2019 to March 2020, for Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, were attached as Appendices 3 and 4 to the report.

Details were provided on further activity to be undertaken in the Hamilton area which included further neighbourhood planning processes to be undertaken in Whitehill, Low Waters and Eddlewood during the current year. Although neighbourhood plans were being created in response to a statutory requirement, it was the Council's ambition that the process of neighbourhood planning be extended beyond the identified areas which would enable all communities to produce their own plans of local priorities and their planned responses to those.

As the number of neighbourhood plans increased, locality priorities would begin to be developed by identifying key shared priorities across localities. This provided the opportunity for wider resources to support actions over localities with a view to improving outcomes and to work in partnership at a locality level across South Lanarkshire.

The Community Engagement Officer responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report. Members considered that it would be useful to invite representatives of some of the local community groups to attend future meetings to provide updates on their activities.

The Chair and members of the Committee expressed their thanks to R Leith and the Community Engagement Team for the work undertaken during the pandemic.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress made in relation to neighbourhood planning be noted;
- (2) that the content of the Neighbourhood Plans for Fairhill and Larkhall, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be noted;
- (3) that the annual progress reports, January 2019 to March 2020, for Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, attached as Appendices 3 and 4 to the report, be noted; and
- (4) that the next steps planned for the Hamilton area be noted.

Councillor Nelson left the meeting during this item of business

5 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 11 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grant.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that community grants be awarded as follows:-
 - (a) Applicant: Dalsersf Village Garden Club, Larkhall (HA/18/20)
Purpose of Grant: Environmental project
Amount Awarded: £350
 - (b) Applicant: Hillhouse Link Tenants' and Residents' Association, Hamilton (HA/19/20)
Purpose of Grant: Materials
Amount Awarded: £400
 - (c) Applicant: 112th Lanarkshire Scout Group, Hamilton (HA/20/20)
Purpose of Grant: Materials
Amount Awarded: £350

(2) that the action taken by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, to allocate community grants to support community groups with their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, be noted, as follows:-

- (a) Applicant: Beacons
Purpose of Grant: Family support with addictions and self care packs
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (b) Applicant: The Haven
Purpose of Grant: Digital wellbeing support services
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (c) Applicant: Cadzow Parish Church
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £802.95
- (d) Applicant: Hillhouse Community Council
Purpose of Grant: Children's gift packs
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (e) Applicant: The Parent and Child Support (PACS) Group
Purpose of Grant: Outdoor activities and materials for children with Additional Supports Needs
Amount Awarded: £1,000

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.