

Mount Florida Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of 27 March 2018
held at Clincarthill Church Hall, 7p.m.

Present: Community Councillors C. Carus (Chair), M. Charlwood, J. MacDonald (Minutes), J. Perry (Secretary & VC), J. Pollock, G. Thomson
Also attending: Margery Cherry, John Cherry, E. Durham, Rosemary Kidd, Douglas Mackie, Elaine McFadden, Alison McHugh, John McHugh, Rowena Thomson, C. Thompson, Ross Wallace, PC Derek Coyle, PC Brian Rooney, Cllr Tanya Wisely, David Hay (DRS).

1. Welcome and Apologies (C. Carus):

Chris Carus opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. Apologies were received from Claire Charlwood, Robert Pollock and Jo McManus.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2018 were approved:
(proposed Gavin Thomson, seconded Joan Perry).

3. Matters Arising:

(item 6(v)) Consultation re Community Council boundaries still to be acted on.

4. GCC Water Strategy (David Hay, Development & Regeneration Services (DRS)):

Mr Hay presented an overview of the situation. He said that GCC had made reasonable efforts to engage with the local community, and wants to hear their response.

Each Surface Water Management Plan (SWM) goes through two phases: feasibility and detailed design. A community consultation event was held at each stage. Three previous SWM plans have now been brought together as they progress to the detailed design and implementation stage; this makes sense as they are hydraulically related and are in adjoining areas. A letter drop was made to every house within the scheme boundary, but engagement sessions were not particularly well attended – around 30 people per 1000 letters. At the detailed design stage, letters were more targeted to those in closest proximity to the interventions.

Re the overall strategy, two documents were produced under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, and 14 local plan districts were created. Glasgow is in the Clyde and Loch Lomond local plan district. SEPA is required by law to develop a local flood risk management strategy. They identified actions to prevent flood risk under three six-year cycles. In the national flood risk assessment of 2011, 14000 residential properties and additional commercial properties were identified to be at risk, as well as infrastructure. SEPA is seeing an increase in at-risk properties, and the effects of flooding can be fairly long-term. A high level consultation was held by SEPA, and GCC as the lead local authority prepared a management plan. They wrote to every household within 50m of a known 1-in-200-year flood risk event. The overall strategy for the city includes the work undertaken by Scottish Water on the Shieldhall Tunnel, and as this had been planned some time ago, the recent plans were made separately, entailing more disruption, road closures etc. A further phase of work by Scottish Water around Asda is being coordinated with GCC.

As the urban area has grown, sewers cannot cope with major flood events, and the strategy is to start building resilience, trying to hold water as high in the catchment as possible. In a major storm event, flooding will happen, but efforts are being made to contain flooding in areas where it will have less impact on homes and businesses (e.g. the White Cart Flood Prevention Scheme). Interventions in SE Glasgow include work in the former Kings Park Golf Course, in Kings Park itself, storage south of Asda and west of Toryglen flats – these are significant interventions. The city council's revenue budgets are under pressure, but they have a commitment to maintain infrastructure to the best of their ability, and this is included DRS's flood risk management budget.

Rain Gardens are a proven method of effectively capturing and storing rainfall. These are a combination of below-ground storage and trees or plants which take up water. The parks department offers guidance on planting of native species. Planting will encroach on the carriageway on Aikenhead Road, and there was concern about disruption to traffic and access for emergency vehicles.

DRS acknowledge an impact during the construction period. A parking study undertaken indicated that there would be sufficient space for cars to park, but residents disagreed. GCC's intention was that residents would engage with the process before decisions were taken, but many

people were unaware of what the full impact of the plans would be. A balance is needed between managing for a 1-in-200-year event, and the ongoing disruption for residents.

Residents attending the meeting suggested other alternatives, such as eco-paving, and were concerned that small trees would not be able to soak up excess water in a major flood event. Mr Hay said that other options considered included swales, but that rain gardens had proved most effective in other areas, as they intercept and trap dust and silt washed off roads, and are low maintenance. Rain gardens were used at the Commonwealth Games village and at the Oatlands development. The Roads Department had not had good experience of permeable paving, but it could potentially be part of the overall solution.

The Issues identified:

- what alternatives were studied?
- Why was this arrangement chosen?
- Amenity loss in terms of parking and traffic flow (especially on event days at Hampden)
- Health & safety issue – access for emergency services

We asked Mr Hay to review the idea of rain gardens at road junctions. We also asked if he could provide us with a copy of the traffic report and the feasibility study.

Some alternatives might be considered, e.g. drain-down water butts could be provided as an option if a group of houses wished to sign up for this in preference to rain gardens.

The plans were scheduled to go to committee tomorrow, but this has been delayed. GCC are still in discussion with the utility companies; a walk-over survey was done, and utility drawings reviewed, and there are plans for a non-intrusive survey and trial trenching to verify the position of utilities. Depending on how deep the pipes are, utilities may have to be moved and this would have an effect on costs. If the utility issue makes the plans difficult to implement, subsequent measures may be held off until a later date.

MoFloCoCo felt that the consultation was not all that it could have been; many residents did not know about it, and the leaflets did not mention the potential loss of parking or traffic lanes, nor make it clear what was proposed. Chris had fed this back to Laura at AECOM. Scottish Water had a much bigger awareness programme for their works. We asked:

- If residents' preferred option was for plants rather than trees, if this could be taken into account;
- Can we see the feasibility study and parking study?
- What alternatives were considered, and is there scope for change?
- Residents disagreed with the findings of the parking study and do not want rain gardens at road junctions.

David Hay will get some clarity about when this will go to committee and let Chris know. The period for representation has closed, but since many people did not know the plans, Chris suggested that concerned residents may wish to contact Planning and/or ward councillors and ask for their concerns to be addressed. It was also suggested concerned residents may wish to write to the newspapers to raise awareness.

5. Community Police:

Officers had attended but due to the extended discussion on the water management issue, had to leave before delivering their report.

6. Hampden Neighbours:

We discussed inviting Peter Dallas to our May meeting, this to be decided at the April meeting.

7. AOCB

(i) Save Hampden campaign (John & Alison McHugh):

John talked about the economic and social benefits of having Hampden stadium on our doorstep; he said that up to 20% of the turnover of local shops is related to Hampden events. They have set up a campaign group and want to lobby local businesses, councillors, MSPs etc and to hold a public meeting to raise awareness of the threat of the loss of the stadium.

MoFloCoCo is broadly supportive of the SFA staying at Hampden but we don't have the resources to actively campaign on this. We will publicise the campaign in the newsletter and on our Facebook page, and can provide a link to the campaign page. We can help the campaign to organise a photoshoot. Kings Park Community Council may also get involved.

(ii) Biodiversity at Hangingshaws (Rowena Thomson):

Rowena and Judith had met Stalled Spaces to look at options for a biodiversity garden at Hangingshaws. Stalled Spaces intimated that they cannot give support unless there is consent from the landowner, which is a separate division of the Council. The scale of the upgrade is fairly high, more so than other projects which have been looked at. Cllr Wisely is currently trying to get

sight of the mapping of council-owned land throughout the city, and also to see what money is available for improvements. The next tranche of Stalled Spaces funding will be in August. We would need to get a lease of the land from LES, and various criteria would have to be met. Cllr Wisely will meet Rowena to discuss further.

(iii) Battle of Langside 450th anniversary commemoration weekend (Ross Wallace):

Ross is the convener of Langside Community Heritage, and is currently working with other community groups, local schools etc to deliver a weekend of events in Queens Park over the 11th-13th May. The project is being managed by InHouse Events. A commemorative tree-planting ceremony was held earlier in March to get the events underway, and on the weekend of the anniversary the Lord Provost will perform the opening ceremony, and on the Sunday there will be a procession from the library to the park, with a specially-written fanfare, a drama performance, illustrated talks, craft activities for children, and there will be speeches from the First Minister and MSP James Dornan. The Big Noise and other musicians will be performing. The Community Heritage group is looking for volunteers; contact Ross Wallace at info@langsidecommunityheritage.org . (Twitter LangComHeritage and see Facebook) MoFloCoCo will publicise the events on our Facebook page

(iv) Information Day for the Elderly at Clincarthill Church, 16th April:

Volunteers needed to help staff MoFloCoCo stall.

(vi) The next **Area Partnership** meeting will be on 24th April.

(vii) Apologies in advance from Chris and Janet who will miss the next meeting; Janet will also be unable to attend the May meeting.

15. Close.

Next meeting: Tuesday 24th April 2018 at 7pm, Clincarthill Church Halls.