



## Langside, Battlefield and Camphill Community Council

Meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 @ 7.00pm

From the constitution:

The objectives of the community council shall be to:

- (a) gather and articulate the views of the community which it represents
- (b) express fairly the views, diversity of opinions and outlooks of the community to Glasgow City Council; and other public/private organisations
- (c) act as a voice for their local area on any matters affecting their community's lives, welfare and environment
- (d) liaise with other community groups within their local area
- (e) take any such action in the interests of the community as appears to be practicable
- (f) promote the well-being of the community and to foster community spirit.

### 1. Note attendance, apologies.

Attendees

Councillors - Stephen Docherty / Christine Jess(part) / Alistair King / Russell Ecob/ Claire Conaghan / Laurence Weir

Visitors

Ola Pawluk

Apologies – Evelyn Silber / Shane Sheridan  
And Councillor Susan Aitken

There was no representation by Community Police

### 2. Approve minutes of last meeting

Approved March Minutes - All agreed.

### 3. Matters arising from last meeting

Items raised under specific headings.

### 4. Community Police report

There was no report from the Community Police. Alistair had sent out invites but had received no response.

### 5. Councillor's report

Susan Aitken had provided a detailed report, as below:

- Laura Moran has moved on from her role as Neighbourhood Liaison Manager for the Southside and Karen Venables has formally taken up the the role since 28<sup>th</sup> March. Christine Martin remains the Local Neighbourhood Coordinator for the Langside ward.
- As you may already be aware, Langside ward has been confirmed as one of the two pilot Liveable Neighbourhoods wards in the city, with 15 potential interventions identified to improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity, access, and safety - improve greening etc. Work on a few of the projects –

including the changes to Battlefield Road – are already underway and of the remaining improvements to the Langside Monument roundabout rank particularly highly to be prioritised for early progress in the year ahead. More information at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=55877&p=0>

- The Parks and Open Spaces fund, which was very well received last year, will be repeated in this new financial year, with Area Partnerships and communities once again taking the lead on identifying projects to be funded. There were a number of projects for Langside ‘left over’ from last year’s allocation, however new ideas are still welcome. Bear in mind that this funding doesn’t have to be used within formal parks but can be used to animate or improve any open space.
- Also, starting from this financial year, £1m has been allocated to each council ward for investments in local infrastructure, as identified and prioritised by communities. Community Councils via Area Partnerships will again have a leading role in the allocation of this funding but because this is such a substantial sum – the largest given over to participatory budgeting in Scotland so far – community funding panels will also be established to ensure that participation is as wide as possible. It’s not expected that all £1m will necessarily be spent in the coming year but communities will be asked for initial proposals before the end of year.
- Finally, additional funding has also been put into Private Sector Repairs Grants in this year’s budget, something that is of particular relevance to a highly tenemented ward like Langside. This funding still doesn’t meet the full scale of the maintenance and repair challenge in our pre-1919 tenements. That will ultimately require a far bigger intervention than the Council is able to provide through our own funding - but it does mean that more private owners of older homes will be able to access help to get vital repairs done.

It was agreed that this report was very useful to the CC and thanks to Councillor Aitken for providing. Alistair suggested that the CC should aim to respond to these funding opportunities by identifying areas of open space within the ward and any problematic tenement properties that might need attention. He would bring along a map of the area to next meeting to kickstart this process.

## 6. Area Partnership Report

There was no report on meetings of Area Partnership.

## 7. Correspondence

Correspondence was in process of changing to new office-bearers. Claire had forwarded any correspondence that had arrived via the CC address and has passed access to the LBCCC address to Alistair to use for distribution.

Communication had been received from South Health Improvement Team notifying the CC of new local health network team based at Pollok Health Centres: a Mental Health Network and Suicide Safer Communities Forum. Paul Lafferty had offered to arrange a meeting with the CC.

## 8. Treasurer’s report

There had been no changes to the bank balance. Payment had been made for the website upkeep.

## 9. Planning report

Russell had been corresponding with local planner, Neil Moran w/r the application at Grange Road and noted that this application was due to go before the Planning Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> April. He had not received invite to contribute but had been told that the meeting would be recorded. Alistair noted that an invite to speak might only be extended where it was felt that there was sufficient opposition to the proposal. Russell would aim to speak with Neil Moran in advance of the Committee meeting.

Alistair noted that he had attended the well-attended meeting of locals at Ivory Hotel to discuss the redevelopment of **32 Mansionhouse Road**. He had re-drafted LBCCC's earlier response to the application, circulating to all before submitting by the due date on 28<sup>th</sup> March. There had been no further correspondence but it was noted that there had been a good few letters submitted by the neighbours. It was thought that these points would be passed to the developer for action, particularly to address the point regarding incorrect levels between the site and Camphill Avenue. If correct, drawings would need to be re-submitted.

## **10. Licensing report**

Christine had been unable to attend the meeting in person but had circulated various notices on the licensing applications.

Shawlands Business Improvement District had applied to place entertainment facilities on the civic square at Langside Halls (bouncy castles and other small fairground type rides) on 18<sup>th</sup> April. It was not considered anything to object to.

Christine had submitted response to application for licensed premises on Battlefield Road. This was the conversion of the former bookie's shop next to a doctor's surgery and proposal included an external seating area at rear. Christine would draft a letter of objection based on the fact that there was already a large number of licenced premises within a five-minute walk. Claire and Lawrence agreed there was already issue in the Battlefield area on match days at Hampden with public urination.

On the application for the event in QP bandstand over the end of April weekend, it was not considered something that the CC would have an objection to.

## **11. Website update**

No further work had been carried out to the website. Alistair confirmed he had received access details but there needed to be a further discussion about how this was to be managed. Ola had expressed interest in being involved and Alistair would send on access details. It was noted that the Battlefield Community Facebook page had a large local following and that a link to our website would gain a better profile. Ola agreed to look at this.

There needed to be a procedure for uploading to ensure all were in agreement to content and a process needed to be followed. Also, w/r GDPR protocols. There was also need for immediacy. It was suggested that the CC should invest in a laptop or tablet to enable this administration, recording of minutes and also to enable Zoom calls, possibly a paid account, for members to ensure accessibility (note that Christine's virtual attendance at this meeting had been unsuccessful due to difficulties with sound). This was a reasonable use for funds and the CC has sufficient reserves and Alistair would check with Steven Dowling.

## **12. Library garden project update**

There was no update on the Library Garden project. All were again urged to complete the questionnaire as forwarded by Evelyn and available in Langside Library.

## **13. Queens Park Steering group**

Stephen reported that there had been a legacy donation for refurbishment of the Rose Garden in Queens Park and he was currently pushing for the Council to agree to its expenditure. The developments at the glasshouses continued to move very slowly although there was a proposal to fit fire doors. He reported also that the Balvicar Road Playspace, previously split between the Langside and Shawlands Area Partnerships was to be moved wholly into LAP.

## 14. AOB

### Guest Visit by Christine Martin, Area Representative

Christine was welcomed to the meeting, being one of several Neighbourhood Representatives who were tasked to be intermediaries between the Council and local communities. Christine also helped in mediation of neighbour disputes and in conjunction with Police, on anti-social behaviour. She was involved with CEOs on current issues with dog-fouling, litter and youth disorder with CCTV a tool that they could help arrange where needed.

She was working with a number of groups to upgrade their back lanes using targeted funds. There had been issues generally with these due in part to these being owned by the flats and not the Council.

Christine had been invited to the meeting to discuss the current issues with waste: litter, street-cleaning but in particular waste collection which was a contentious problem within many areas of the community.

**Litter problems** were currently major and there seemed to be very limited occasions when streets were being cleaned. Alistair noted that a high number of road gullies were totally choked with result that run-off was severe and with large areas of ponding during heavy rain. Christine noted access problems with cars parked constantly on street in tenemented areas such as Battlefield. This had become worse during the Covid period, as fewer people were commuting. Small sweepers could be called in for dog fouling and broken glass. **Street sweeping and gully cleaning** involved communities in moving cars – difficult in areas where there was no alternative, and the loss of the parking area on Grange Road meant that Battlefield was one. Currently there was facility enabling call-outs for small sweepers to deal with nuisance complaints of dog-fouling and glass on pavements or for collections to deal with fly-tipping.

Waste collections was a big issue in the area with current arrangements under pressure in Camphill. Christine noted that the H&S evaluation had indicated issue with certain blocks with stepped access, locally at Bellwood Street and Camphill Avenue. Risk assessments had found that such areas were still using metal bins now deemed not fit for purpose. A single flight or 14 steps were considered to be maximum for operatives due to demands on a work shift and higher levels of physical injuries amongst operatives. Alternative options for re-siting wheelie bins or expecting residents to bring waste to an acceptable level for collection were being considered in consultation with the residents. It was noted that some residents were sceptical of the reasons for the assessment, suggesting that health and safety was a smokescreen for cost-saving and had submitted an FOI request to get copy of the assessment. Christine reported that the assessment had been made independently by a different Council department but accepted that there were ongoing issues for the residents.

At Bellwood Street, there appeared to be little alternative to street bins despite this being a source of problem with bulk items being dumped and general environmental concern. Residents could not be expected to pull wheelie bins up and down the stairs. Pavements on this street were not wide enough to allow bin placement and access for prams and wheelchairs. Large lockable bins on-street needed stances, difficult on the street and robbing a congested area of parking spaces. Nothing has yet been decided but over 100 properties were involved.

At Camphill Avenue, there were up to 31 steps up from bin enclosures to Iser Lane. Options here had been discussed with residents including placement of bins on lane by residents (not practical for older residents) or tailor bins on street. In this situation, it may be resolved by placement of new shelters on the lane itself however there remained issue with ownership of the lane (by residents) and cost. Iser Lane is a well-used footway for locals and access was required by SSE to substation. Currently, there was issue with partial collapse of a retaining wall, a long-running issue that was not being resolved. There needed to be a route to adoption, part of a wider issue of ownership of lanes generally and the responsibility for maintenance, surfacing, lighting etc would need to be agreed.

Most Battlefield tenement properties have lanes though many cannot be used for waste collection. Claire asked whether communal glass bins might be located in lanes however there was currently no means of collecting these from lanes. Residents were not keen on their closes being used either to access lanes.

Many properties had limited collections so that, as a city, Glasgow was performing very poorly. Despite hosting COP 26, Glasgow was meeting less than 2% of waste going to recycling. The city needed to focus on improving the level of recycling – street bins were problematic as these became dumping areas for bulk items and a real problem for residents in adjacent properties.

### **Neighbourhood Deep Cleaning**

A major issue however was with restricted budgets and staff shortages which were limiting the Council's ability to service many of these issues. The Council has fallen badly behind in most areas of the city and was seeking to impose a 'deep clean' approach to the problem. This involved a concerted effort to deal with all issues in an area in one hit over a three week period: cleaning, maintenance, road repairs etc. Currently wrk was underway as a pilot project in Govanhill and the plan was to continue beyond the election with more personnel to be taken on to form Enviro-Clean Teams. The Battlefield area was next on southside's hit list.

At Govanhill, cars had to be removed to allow access (though without penalty), resulting in a large increase in costs as well as local bad feeling. Better community buy-in was required, to be fostered by a local PR campaign to publicise improvements to the area. LBCCC was happy to help with any communications required to enable this work.

This focused approach was badly needed (but could take a while to roll out for all Glasgow's 56 neighbourhoods?). Once the deep clean had been completed, there would be an effort to instigate a more regular three-weekly(?) arrangement for keeping the area clean and in good order. Involvement of the community was again key,

Christine was thanked for attending and for her detailed insight into the issues.

### Membership

Ola Pawluk has indicated she was happy to become a councillor and AK would arrange with Steven Dowling. Better representation from the Battlefield area remained a priority and hopefully an improved website would help with this.

## **15. Date of Next Meeting**

To avoid holiday Monday, the next meeting to be held on following Monday:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 7.00pm at Finn's Place.**

Kevin Kane from Langside Halls Trust could be invited to the next meeting. Members were happy with the return to live meetings and AK would confirm a regular booking to the church.

**Councillor rota: Due to local election on here would be no representation during the election period and a new rota would be agreed with new city councillors following the election.**