

## ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7pm 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 Community Hub

PRESENT: Nick Jennings, John Furlonger, Barry Young, Stuart Green, Bernard Provost.

Also present were Lara Porter, Hub Administrator and Rachel Knox the Community Resilience Co-ordinator

APOLOGIES: Liz McQueen, Beatrice Furlonger, Archie Dryburgh, Dennis Male, Community Police.

MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING: Read and approved. (Prop. Stuart Green, Sec. Barry Young).

MATTERS ARISING: These would all be covered in the Agenda, though it was noted that the transfer of the Treasurer's Office is progressing slowly because of the tardiness of the Bank of Scotland.

RESILIENCE PLANNING: The aim is to organise a system that will enable us to support each other in cases of Emergency.

Rachel will be compiling a registry of needs and resources. The Community Council has already started on a similar project, and the Chairman pointed to the desirability of the co-ordination of the schemes. The Council will pass on their address list and the 'Routes' to Rachel as a starter. Those within the community considered vulnerable would be approached to ensure Personal Contacts so that those who might be potentially in need should feel that they are being supported by the Community. There would need to be regional persons responsible for keeping tabs on their neighbourhoods, and then perhaps phoning in to the Hub to bring about the link between needs and resources. The question of coordinating the communications system needs to be carefully thought out. It should be appreciated that the Eskdalemuir Parish is large (75 sq miles), and the population small (c 270). The Hub is in the Centre but has a very small proportion of the population. The resilience scheme has therefore to be very different from that of many other communities.

Funding is going to be required, and the Chairman suggested that though the Community Council would offer full support, the nominal 'Ownership' of the scheme would be best left in the hands of the Hub. The scheme for providing emergency power for which Community Funding already exists will be the basis for resilience provision, but many local challenges have to be taken into consideration. Healthcare/Homecare is a serious concern in such an elderly population. Ultimately the members of the Community will have to find their own ways of dealing with many of these challenges.

Barry Young emphasised the importance of a visual presentation of the needs and resources in such a widely spread region. A map outlining the parish boundaries with details of the properties within those boundaries indicating the location of both resources and potential points of need would be prepared. The D/G Council has already instituted a Mapping scheme to fit the purpose which is available first on a free trial and then at a cost of £60 per year. (the Council approved the investment). We can also sign up to the Ordinance Survey mapping system which is available at no cost.

The Chairman then proposed that the Resilience team would be a partnership between the Community Council and the UEDG, and should consist of Barry Young, Stuart Green, Rachel Knox and Lara Porter. It would report to the Community Council who would be responsible for organising funding. This was unanimously approved by the Council

**LOCALITY PLANNING:** Gives Communities a lot more say in planning within their areas, and the retention and protection of what is locally considered important. This scheme will feed into Local Authority planning. Further guidance will be coming out soon as to how we can communicate online, and it was agreed that Barry Young would keep us updated.

Kronospan is planning to have this area designated as a Country Sports Centre. There is strong local feeling that we need to protect this area and make it a centre for peace. How will Locality Planning enable people to indicate their feelings? Barry Young pointed out that there would need to be public consultation. Should we not therefore hold a [public meeting to discuss the issue as widely as possible, as any possible objections to the Kronospan scheme should not be seen as merely a Community Council response.

**PLANNING NOTICES:** There have been no planning notices specific to our area, but as suggested above, Eskdalemuir Forestry are involved in a pre-planning exercise. This involved a noise test but this was dropped. If they do plan to go ahead it will be necessary for some form of public Consultation to take place. It could be online, though clearly we would prefer for it to be face to face.

Because so much of local land is controlled by Kronospan and there may well be a need for the Community to have the opportunity of using some land for Community purposes, the D/G Council is prepared to assist in enabling our Council to overcome this problem. The Chairman suggested that the Lottery may also be of assistance should it be necessary.

**WEBSITE:** The Community Council website is now registered and Barry will set up a small group to sort out the details as to how the best use can be made of the facility. Clearly items such as Council Meetings Agendas and Minutes will be included as well as the statutory material from the D/G Council. Barry said that there would be no problem in accommodating the large amount of information sent in by the D/G Council, and John Furlonger said that it was an easy matter to transfer from his own email correspondence

CROSSDYKES COMMUNITY BENEFIT: We have 2 directors on the Board and £200,000 has now been allocated. The Hub has applied for core funding and £90,000 has been received for 3 years. Energy costs have gone up considerably and poor insulation of the building does not help.

CORRESPONDENCE: We have been notified of an Intermediate Care Meeting in Langholm on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This has some relevance to the concerns expressed in the Resilience discussion.

There had been a very brief Police Report indicating that a local man had been served with a fixed notice penalty for aggravated abuse on a business premises.

The cost of the bus service between Eskdalemuir and Langholm has escalated to enormous proportions. It would be more economical if we could operate a minivan service within the Community, possibly with the assistance of the Annandale Community Transport Scheme. It was pointed out that the main problem there would be the manning of the vehicle. However the matter could be investigated.

A. O.B: Is there any means of collecting rubbish from some vulnerable homes remote from the Rubbish collection routes? Some kindly people have attempted to transport rubbish for neighbours without transport in their own cars, but this cannot be a reliable method. It was agreed that the only possible hope of addressing this problem was through contacting the D/G Council.

NEXT MEETING: This would be on Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> in the Hub.