

Torrance Community Council
Meeting Thursday 11th March
Torrance Community Centre

Present: Hugh Kershaw, Morven Quin, Martin Sproul, Barrie Small, Niall Campbell, Brian Quin, Councillor Anne McNair and Councillor Una Walker PC Brian McAllister and 30 members of the public

Minutes of previous meeting: Brian proposed and Hugh seconded.

Secretary's report: Morven received a letter from the NHS detailing plans for a new chemist to be opened in Strathkelvin retail park. It will be a Boot's chemist and will serve the residents of Cadder.

Planning board agenda was delivered and there were only routing planning application for Torrance, however there was one application for a building on green belt land and it was felt that TCC should look into this further and send back a response.

A letter was composed by TCC and sent to chief executive of EDC, Gerry Cornes. The letter expressed concerns over the recently announced budget cuts which directly affect Torrance. A copy of the letter was distributed at the meeting and is published on www.torranceweb.info

Treasurer's report: There is a balance of £1590.27 and the cheque for the Woodhill residents group has been deducted from account.

Chair's report: Martin reported that TCC had met with Councillor Anne McNair earlier in the week to find out about the budget cuts. Caldwell Halls are set to close, the school crossing patrol is to stop and the mobile library contract is to be terminated.

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL: TCC made the meeting aware of a formula which is used for crossing patrols. After investigation, Hugh discovered that there were quite a number of cars with poor red light discipline and noted that Margaret had a tremendous effect on the red light crashers. Torrance is well above criteria of 4 million and TCC had mentioned the dangers at this crossing to the police at a previous meeting. Margaret Neill stated that she was being moved from her post in Torrance as of April 1st and that Torrance Primary School had issued letters to this effect. After much discussion it was decided that we should fight against this action and try to re-instate Margaret at the School crossing for the safety of the children in the village. Anne McNair suggested that TCC ask to see and discuss the risk assessment which was carried out prior to this decision and send the outcome of our investigations that Hugh did to the chief executive of EDC.

Anne McNair and Una Walker also agreed to seek postponement of the April 1st deadline.

Niall Campbell asked PC Brian McAllister about the possibility of getting a camera at the crossing but he informed the meeting that unless there had been a serious injury or death this was not possible. There is a points scale and this section of road would not qualify. He said that after the TCC December meeting there had been police out to look at this section of road but it was very man power intensive and that when driver see a police presence they obviously slow down and do not jump the lights.

When asked by a member of the public, why were the council putting saving money

before saving children's lives, Councillor Una Walker said that the council were facing a very difficult task and that this was not what anyone who got into local government wanted to do. Council officers put out a list of everything that was not statutory and each political group had to come up with £8mil of savings.

When asked by a member of the public, Martin suggested that a standard letter could be drawn up against this decision but added that this was not the most effective approach and that everyone should write their own letter or e-mail. TCC agreed to publish e-mail addresses for chief exec of EDC and all other relevant contacts on notice board and website.

POLICE REPORT: 19 crimes in Torrance between 1st Jan and 11th March.

These included; a house braking on a farm, road tax and seatbelt offences, breach of peace at Bogton Farm, Communications act offence, careless and inconsiderate driving, assault outside Village Inn, assault inside Torrance Inn, assault in Victoria Bowling club, and some instances of fly tipping.

The issue of drug taking in the grounds of primary school was raised and it was confirmed that the security camera had picked up footage of some known youngsters smoking in the grounds of the school playground and were intending to speak to all three of them.

CALDWELL HALLS: Committee discussed that-The halls are set to close and are not taking bookings beyond August 2010. The criteria for closure is used less than 30 hours per week and the Caldwell halls are used for more than 32 hours per week and this figure does not include ad hoc bookings such as birthday parties and only takes sessional bookings into account. The council has stated that there are other facilities in Torrance which could be used. Many of the user groups cannot afford the rates at the school hall and cannot store equipment. There are clashes in timetabling for groups that wish to use community centre at same time. It was brought up that the halls are well used per head of population, compared to other halls in Bearsden or Kirkintilloch for example.

EDC has asked for volunteers to come forward and discuss options including community management. EDC is currently sending out letters to user groups although many people at the meeting expressed concerns over the reality of community management.

A decision was made to have another meeting with user groups to discuss this matter further.

Date of next meeting: AGM Thursday 8th April 2010