



MINUTES

Countesswells Community Group

30/9/24 – 7pm

In Attendance

Karen Bayliss, Gillian Burnett, Leanne Blacklaw, Susan Scott, Peter Scott,

Apologies: Judith Taylor – Tough, Rachael Melvin, Denise Gardner, Andrew Bowman, Anne Hyslop

James Gibb

We have asked James Gibb again regarding AGM and they have confirmed that it will be the 21st of November 2024 – although prior to publishing this has been changed to 3rd December 2024

Clarity is needed on the below as there seems to be some confusion and concern that this is not actually being completed despite us being charged for this.

Inspection of development – who is conducting this and when? - Schedule is there a set scheduled that perhaps s this something CCG can be part of? James Gibb to be asked about this.

AGM – 3rd December 2024 7pm

There are a significant number of issues previously pointed out to JG that has not been actioned. A formal report is being created by JTT of community group to publish and submit to JG prior to AGM. If anyone has anything they would like added please feel free to contact Community Group email at top of minutes. James Gibb appears to be lacking in continuity and progress with what they are supposed to be undertaking.

An update has been difficult to get regarding the playpark, but the current positions is as below – not acceptable that we still no further forward when some of this work could have been done by now. More pressure needs to be put on them to actively do something about this.

Unfortunately, the quote for repairing the playpark from our supplier active playgrounds was high and we therefore requested a 2nd quote form a new supplier we are working with called Hags.

The costs provided by active playgrounds are as follows:

- Birds Nest Assembly - swing chains, sheaths, hangers, bushes and shackles including the refitting of seat - £2830.00 + VAT.
- Carousel 'Stork' – This one has been proving difficult due to its design. The stork is no longer available, and we have had to look to see if there are alternative solutions to this. It is reasonable to assume that given the manufacturer is the same as the bird nest assembly the costs involved with effecting any changes to the carousel will be eye-watering. Due to the changes the manufacturer has made to the design since this item's original installation, it would need a new platform as well as stork element.

- Sand bucket - price previously given **£105.00 + VAT** (to be done at time of inspection or alongside other works) – It was agreed to replace this one more time and if the bucket is broken again then we can review removing the bucket on a permanent basis. This was instructed 26.07.2024 and should be replaced during the next inspection.
- The painting of the playpark has been given the go ahead and given we are entering the winter months this is likely not to be carried out until around April 2025 however the price is locked in for this to be done then.
- Sand and bark top ups were going to be done by the handyman, I have not had a chance since I got back today to come and see if this is done yet or not.

There needs to be some Accountability from Grass Guzzler/Contractors – e.g. – missing manhole cover – Grass guzzlers – if they break it why are we paying?

Development Updates

Administrators emailed for update on this for next meeting.

Road Crossings

We need to look at initiatives with the Parents Voice from the primary school to see if we can work together with school to encourage some movement on safer route to school.

Kaimhill primary have measures that the janitor takes in/out these are like small cones in shape of children.

Local councillors emailed to see if they can come to meeting for advice re traffic calming measures.

First Bus Route

In relation to the bus parking in inappropriate places we have contacted First Bus again regarding this.

They have asked for evidence of bus parking and causing an obstruction. If anyone is able video/photograph the bus parked outside flats close to corner then please email to countesswellscommunitygroup1@gmail.com so that we can pass onto first bus as evidence.

We continue to monitor this, but it seems that they are now parking at old sales office on North Countesswells Road.

Clarity is required on the actual bus stops, First Bus to be emailed regarding this.

The below link can also be used to complain regarding bus.

[Send Complaint or Feedback | First Bus](#)

Bulb Planting

Success well done everyone who took part. Huge thanks to Fox Lane garden Centre for their donation of bulbs, Local businesses support is essential for events to take place, and we are extremely grateful for this.

More tools are needed to help dig holes for next event to ensure that we can get through some of the tougher ground.

Group to look at maybe more advertising again for people to be aware of the evening taking place.

Holy Tree as been planted on the corner of Gairnhill and North Countesswells Road amongst the current shrubbery.

Photos to be taken of where we missed once plants come through in the spring so we can plant for next year to ensure those areas are covered.

Community Facebook Page Feedback

Going well numbers are increasing all the time - 255 current members but we are gaining 5 -10 a week

Halloween competition has increased the numbers and will increase reach going forward with further events.

Other ideas were a Who's Who's in community group – this may help engagement, so people know who the members are and the goals of each individual group member.

The Facebook page is not in competition to the other FB page – this is in addition to the other pages. This page is to be able to run competitions/information on development.

Halloween Competition

Design your own pumpkin competition has run again this year. The entrants coming through has been great. Prizes will be presented on 30th October 2024.

Prizes will be Smyths Vouchers

1st Prize - £30

2nd Prize – £20

3rd Prize - £10

Volunteers

As a group we want to work towards an amazing community for us all to live in, this means working together and being proactive for the benefit of all. We require people for the following positions and general volunteers. We are very informal and like to keep things light-hearted. Whether you can commit 10 mins or 10 hours we welcome you.

Core Member Roles Req: -

Events Co-Ordinator

Website content creator

Treasurer

Photography Competition

We are hoping to run a photography competition with prizes for best pictures. Details to be confirmed. Local businesses to be asked to sponsor provide prizes. It is hoped that winning photos will be used to produce calendar for 2026.

School Engagement

We are excited to be at School Xmas Fayre – 30th November 11 – 2pm, Core members will be at table, but others are welcome to help.

Community group to have a table to continue to raise funds and awareness of the group. At this there will be the below for fun and engagement: -

- Lucky Dip
- Decorations for Sale
- Decorative Rocks for sale
- Temporary tattoos – Xmas themed
- Hampers for raffle - adults and kids hampers - (KB to get raffle books).

Possibility of getting Roller Banner/Table Sign to promote ourselves at events. Leaflets to be handed out also for people who perhaps are not aware of website/community Facebook page.

The success of lucky dip at easter event meant we ran out of prizes, but we will ensure that core group gather enough prizes for this.

Core Group to meet before for planning arrangements prior to event.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting is Arranged for Monday 25th November 2024 @7pm - Fourmile House