

Lenzie Community Council AGM – Wednesday 21st November 2012

Chairperson's Statement

Firstly may I welcome you all to Lenzie Community Council's Annual General Meeting. My name is Suzanne Smith and I am the current Chairperson. I will now introduce you to the other members of the Community Council who are in attendance this evening.

My role this evening is to try and provide a brief overview of the Community Council's remit (as we see it!) and to summarise our activities over the past year.

This year we have been fortunate to recruit two new members, Patricia Munro (who unfortunately cannot be with us this evening, but has been very busy with arrangements for the Christmas lights switch on) and Christine Morrison. Christine is also involved in the Friends of Lenzie Moss group and we are keen to attract new members who are part of other organisations to encourage communication and cooperation between local groups.

In summary, Lenzie Community Council exists to represent the views of local residents and to take action on community issues. The work that the members undertake can broadly be split into the following three categories:

- (1) **The events that we organise every year**, which I hope most of you are already familiar with. In 'calendar' order these are the Lenzie Jog, the Gala, the Charity Christmas Card Fayre and the switching on of the Christmas lights. This year, thanks to the assistance of the Kirkintilloch Olympians, the Lenzie Jog saw a record number of attendees take part (299 in total) running and walking over the three distances. The Community Council is keen to ensure that this event remains true to its roots as a fun run which the whole family can participate in. Our Gala this year was a great success, largely due to the huge amount of work put in by one of our members, Liz Ibbotson, who managed to secure funds from the Consortium of Housebuilders at Woodilee and East Dunbartonshire Council to help with the running costs of the event. Liz has already started planning next year's event.
- (2) The second category would be the **Community projects linked to the fabric of Lenzie and our local environment**. In the past this has involved assistance with bulb planting and the restoration of the Queens Building clock. Our Secretary, Tom Gray, takes an active interest in access issues and continues to monitor the flooding to the pathway adjacent to the Gadloch, as well as the condition and accessibility of other pathways. This year our partnership working with First ScotRail has continued for the planters at Lenzie Station and we also paid for the Railway monument at Lenzie Station, which was erected to commemorate the Millennium, to be re-painted. East Dunbartonshire Council are able to provide further funding for projects of this type (provided that they are located on land in Council ownership) and we would welcome any ideas that you may have.
- (3) Finally, the Community Council seeks to **represent the views of local residents on issues that concern them**. This year we have continued our involvement in the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Plan, as well as in other stakeholder forums. Three of our members are also on the Lenzie Fair Trade Group, which is working towards Lenzie becoming a Fair Trade town. Tracy Mitchell coordinates this group and will be coming along to our AGM this evening to provide an update on progress.

Our involvement as members of the Community Council is voluntary; we meet once a month, usually on the third Wednesday of the month, in Lenzie Public Hall. One of the regular items on our agenda is the report that we receive from community police officers on crimes that have taken place over the previous month and initiatives with which the police are involved – we are also able to pass on any concerns raised by local residents with these officers. The Community Council also monitors planning applications for our Ward and submits representations on any applications that may have wider community impact, should this be required.

The Community Council receives an annual grant from East Dunbartonshire Council to fund its work and events. We, in turn, try to assist local groups with funding where at all possible. This year we again provided donations to the Lenzie Youth Club for their annual football festival and the Lenzie Churches for their holiday club. We also gave a small donation to a group from Lenzie Academy who are participating in a trip to Malawi, this group, in turn, helped us with some of the setting up and clearing up on Gala day.

Although the bulk of the Community Council's work is carried out by the members, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the support we receive from our local councillors and the Police. We are also assisted by groups such as the Lenzie Scouts and the Lenzie Churches at our community events for which we are very grateful.

On a personal note I would like to thank each and every member of the community council for their invaluable help and support over this year. Can I remind you about our next event, the switching on of the Christmas Lights, which takes place at 5.30pm on Saturday 1st December at Lenzie Old Parish Church, with the event starting at 5.00pm.

Finally can I just say that the Community Council would welcome suggestions and input from those who are not currently members – you may have the time to attend our monthly meetings, or to be a volunteer at one of our events - helping out on Gala day for example, or acting as a marshal for the Lenzie Jog - either way, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please remember our website - lenziecommunitycouncil.org.uk, which Tom keeps up to date - we hope that you will find this a useful way to keep in touch and to let us know about any issues that may be concerning you