

## **Lenzie Community Council AGM – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

### **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 outgoing Chairperson. I will now introduce you to the other members of the Community Council who are in attendance this evening.

I do not intend to speak for long, however I would like to provide you with a short résumé of the Community Council's remit and our activities over the past year.

The majority of people living in Lenzie will be aware of the annual Lenzie Gala, which takes place on the first Saturday in June, they may not, however, know that this event is organised by the Community Council. This event would not be possible without a huge amount of work from one of our members in particular, Liz Ibbotson, who organises the Gala on our behalf and coordinates all those involved. This is a mammoth task, which takes up a huge amount of Liz's time. In addition to the organisation, Liz has been very proactive in obtaining grant funding to increase and improve the activities and entertainment on Gala day. The Gala is our main item of expenditure during the year and this year, for the first time, two of our members, Pat Munro and Christine Morrison, organised a raffle in order to raise funds for the 2014 Gala. All prizes were donated by local businesses and we were extremely grateful for their generous support.

In addition to the Gala, the other events that we organise during the year are the Lenzie Jog, the Charity Christmas Card Fayre and the switching on of the Christmas lights. Again, this year's Jog was well attended and the weather was kind to all participants. Next year's event will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 and will be a fun run (or walk!) over three distances. In recent years, the Community Council has been supported by the Kirkintilloch Olympians who provide invaluable assistance with marking out the route, registration and time keeping; again we are very grateful for their support.

We have just held our Charity Christmas Card Fayre, an event which is arranged by one of our members, Rosemary Craig. Rosemary does an excellent job in encouraging as many charities as possible to participate. This year's event was well attended and we were grateful for the support of Lenzie Old Parish Church who organise refreshments and home baking.

The final event in our calendar is the Christmas lights, which takes place on the first Saturday in December. As with the Gala, we are keen that this event is one where the whole community comes together. Pat Munro organises the evening on the Community Council's behalf, supported by the local churches, Lenzie Scouts and local businesses. Pat has organised Christmas music and carol singers for this year's event, which is taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Church Hall at Lenzie Old Parish.

In addition to our events calendar, the Community Council gets involved in adhoc projects linked to the fabric of Lenzie and our local environment. Our Secretary, Tom Gray, takes an active interest in access issues, specifically the condition and accessibility of pedestrian routes, and attends meetings relating to this. We also continue to monitor the accessibility of the pathway adjacent to the Gadloch and the works that are proposed for this area. Our partnership working with First ScotRail has continued for the planters at Lenzie Station; this work is carried out on the Community Council's behalf by our Treasurer, Ron Hall and his wife Elaine.

The Community Council's remit also encompasses representation of 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, such as for the Main Issues Report. Three of our members are also on the Lenzie Fair Trade Group, which this year has been instrumental in achieving Fair Trade town status for Lenzie.

It has indeed been a year of consultations of particular importance to Lenzie, specifically for the proposed merger of Lenzie Moss Primary and Lenzie Primary Schools, for which the Community Council submitted a statutory consultation response. The views expressed to us by local residents were incorporated in our response and we also invited a representative from East Dunbartonshire Council to attend one of our meetings in order to gain a better understanding of the issues involved.

In addition, residents will be aware of the consultation that took place regarding the proposed relocation of Lenzie Post Office. The Community Council took a proactive approach to ensuring that residents were aware of this proposal and of the ways in which they could participate in the consultation exercise.

This year one new member has joined the Community Council, Tony Miles. Tony was Convener of South Cowal Community Council for three years before moving to Lenzie; his experience in this role has already proved beneficial to Lenzie Community Council and Tony has been an active participant in our events.

With regard to our regular meetings, we all participate in the Community Council on a voluntary basis. Our meetings are held monthly (with the exception of January and July) and we usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Lenzie 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. We have a Planning Convener, John MacFadden, who carries out this work on the Community Council's behalf and provides excellent reports on a monthly basis, as well as special reports on applications of particular interest.

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, in turn, helped us with some of the setting up and clearing up on Gala day.

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 very pleased to hear from you. Please remember our website - [lenziecommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://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.

Finally, this will be my last statement as Chair. On a personal note I would like to thank each and every member of the community council for their valuable help and support over the past five years.