

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2010

Present: J. Duncan; B. Pell(*Chair*); N. Kelly; A. May; P. Wilks; H. Wright.

Apologies: P. Rea; Betty Smith; Jenni May

In Attendance: Councillor G Lambie; Pam Campbell and approximately 50 participants.

Invited Speakers: Tom Douglas (*Consultant Engineer*); Jamie Adam (*Community Energy Scotland*); Jonathan Padmore (*Stirling Council Transport*); David Riggle (*Stirling Council Waste Services*); Catriona Mackenzie (*Teacher*) and two pupils, Caris Nuttall and Callum Clark (*Killearn Primary School*).

SM5 Brenda Pell welcomed all present and explained that this was entitled a special eco meeting. The Council had been justly rebuked for not tackling many topics of current importance that are grouped together under the heading eco; green issues, carbon footprint; renewable energy; minimising resource use, recycling and so on. This meeting was intended to be the forerunner of a special Eco Fair to be held as an all-day event on 18 September 2010. It was hoped that it would arouse interest in these topics and would canvas the views of the community to determine what was of importance to the wider community.

The meeting was structured with short presentations from each of the invited speakers, which then broke up into separate groups under the leadership of each of the main speakers. The meeting ended with a short plenary session.

SM6 Tom Douglas congratulated Killearn Community Council for initiating this event as shortage of energy, water and food would be the challenge that we would have to meet and it was essential to plan for the future now. He then gave a short overview of the problems and some possible solutions. He said that there were a number of possible sources of renewable energy, including nuclear and it was not yet possible to say definitively if one single technology would dominate. The change in the provision of energy in the past twenty years from nationalisation to the private sector has rendered the energy business more complex and more dependent on market forces. This in turn has led to the issuing of regulations and the introduction of subsidies paid for by the tax payer. He discussed the problem of one's carbon footprint and said we would have to change the way we consumed. He then finished by saying that this was no short-term problem but required long-term endeavour.

SM7 Jamie Adam gave an overview of products that generated energy from renewable resources. He described the advantages and problems with pelleted wood and wood chip boilers, solar thermal panels, solar photovoltaic panels, different types of heat pumps, microwind generators and finally small hydro-electric generators. He then explained the function of CARES (*Community and Renewable Energy Scheme*), the grants available and the conditions attached to them. He finished by discussing the government's feed-in tariff scheme. The scheme guaranteed a minimum payment for all electricity generated by the system, as well as a separate payment for the electricity exported to grid. These payments were in addition to the bill savings made by using the electricity generated on-site. This was guaranteed for 20 years or 25 years in the case of solar PV.

SM8 Jonathan Padmore stated that there were big problems in providing rural transport and he asked what support was desired of the Council and Community Planning Partners. The key issues were the increase in car use and how it could be reduced. Buses were privatised and the Council could only subsidise those routes and times which were identified as being socially necessary. The Council needed feedback from the community on the services it provided, and how they could be improved.

SM9 David Riggle said he had an aspiration that the Council should work towards zero waste, and said that it was not an impossible goal. The Council was obligated to reduce the waste that goes to landfill and remove all bio-degradable waste as it produced the greenhouse gas

methane. The Council would soon provide all households with a bin to store and collect the food waste which could not go into the brown bin. This would be collected weekly. He concluded by saying that we must minimise waste and ensure that waste became a resource.

SM10 Catriona Mackenzie gave an interesting presentation about Killearn Primary School's participation in the *Eco Schools Programme*. This is an international initiative designed to encourage whole school action for the environment. Each class in the school has their own area of responsibility. These include a garden planted and harvested by the infant classes, energy conservation and litter prevention. The school has already achieved an Eco Schools Silver Award and is currently working on meeting the criteria for the *Green Flag*. Carys Nuttall and Callum Clark, both P7 pupils, then explained the work their class are doing as 'Power Rangers' to raise awareness throughout the school of energy issues and to improve energy efficiency within school. The commitment and enthusiasm shown by the children was evident.

SM11 The meeting then divided into four separate groups to discuss the topics raised by the speakers. The meeting then reconvened when Pam Campbell collated the major discussion points from each group. These would be taken into account by the committee charged with setting up the Eco Fair in September.

Thanks were given to the principal speakers, to Pam Campbell and to the audience for participating in this event.