



**CAMBUSLANG**  
Community Council

**Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Cambuslang Institute 7.30- 9.00pm**

**Present**

John Bachtler, Chair  
Michelle Farmer, Vice-Chair  
David Porter, Secretary  
Hilda Allison  
Robert Allison  
Donald MacDonald

Dave Sutton  
David Thomson  
Linda Wallace  
Clare Williamson  
Stewart Walker

**In Attendance**

PC Thomas McEwan (Police Scotland)  
PC Scott Anderson (Police Scotland)  
Alison Park Sub Group (FoHWCP)  
Rhonda Leith, SLC CPE  
Jacqueline Queen, SLC CPE  
Brian Law, SLC-YFCL  
Jacqueline Smyth, Resident  
Alice Wallace, Minutes Secretary

**Apologies**

Brian Fisher, Treasurer  
Hamish Allan  
Amy Davison  
Suzy Quinn  
Cllr. John Bradley  
Cllr. Ann LeBlond  
Cllr. Margaret Walker  
Clare Haughey MSP  
James Kelly MSP  
Elizabeth Whyte, Resident

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the representatives from SLC's Community Participation and Empowerment (CPE) team for attending. The Chair proposed that, as usual, the police report (item 5) be given first. The Chair also proposed that, after that, the CPE team would give their presentation (item 10).

**2. Apologies**

Noted above.

**3. Minutes of Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

There were no corrections. Approval of the minutes was proposed by D Sutton, seconded by S Walker.

#### 4. Matters arising

- **Residents' Parking Permit Zone (RPPZ) Proposal and Park and Ride Study**

J Bachtler summarised the recent correspondence with SLC on the RPPZ proposal which indicated that nothing had changed since the last CCC meeting. D Porter noted that SLC Roads Safety Forum (Committee) has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the RPPZ proposals for locations throughout SL including Cambuslang. Cllr M Walker is a member. The Forum met on 15 January 2019 and the discussions on RPPZs were reported to a second meeting held on 12 March 2019. The discussion was mainly on the purpose and justification of RPPZs, the criteria that should be used to determine where to introduce them, and alternative solutions. Consideration was also given whether fees should be charged for parking permits and what level these might be set at.

D Porter commented that no decisions appeared to be made at the meeting and the committee were still considering the pros and cons of introducing RPPZs. L Wallace commented that the criteria in the minutes from the meeting were very confusing and that there had been no specific discussion on the pros and cons of particular RPPZs, specifically the one being consulted on around Cambuslang Railway Station where there are concerns about displacement.

D Porter raised concerns that the possible £10 cost for a parking permit suggested at the committee meeting seemed very low.

J Bachtler acknowledged concerns and said that there would have to be a formal consultation by the committee if they were going to introduce an RPPZ scheme in Cambuslang.

D Sutton attended a consultation on 21 February 2019 held by the Park and Ride consultants AECOM who are in the process of finalising their report. He provided a short note on the main points discussed which is attached as Appendix 1. J Bachtler reported that he had just received the final draft of the study from the consultants for comments with the request that these are sent by 3 April 2019.

**Action: J Bachtler will circulate the draft to CCC members, collate comments and send an appropriate response to AECOM on behalf of CCC.**

- **Mobile phone base-station adjacent to St Bride's Primary School**

Following a further sharply-worded email to Mono Consultants, copied to CTIL's (Vodafone-Telefonica) Community Engagement Department, CTIL made contact and confirmed that an audit of radiation around the school will be conducted if requested by the school's administration. CTIL declined to hold a public meeting and said that they provided full information to the public in a series of publications they had produced. These were emailed to CCC. This information has now been passed to St Bride's Head Teacher who has responsibility for deciding any course of action the school wishes to take.

- **Community Council cooperation and related survey**

In conjunction with Halfway CC, a survey form has been sent out to all SL CCs which will be used to gauge their opinions on these matters. The Chair took the CCC members attending through the survey point-by-point, and recorded the consensus view on each question.

**Action: J Bachtler will finalise and submit CCC's agreed views on the survey, and then collate and analyse the responses from all SL CCs who decide to participate.**

- **Dawn Homes (Somervell area) planning application (not on agenda list)**

D Sutton has been reviewing the information online regarding the planning application for housing construction on the old Hoover site which local residents in the Somervell area are objecting to. He would now like to have further discussions with the residents to plan next steps.

**Action – D Porter to email D Sutton contact details of the Somervell residents who attended last month's CCC meeting.**

## 5. Police Report

PC Scott Anderson introduced himself as a new community police officer for the area, and PC Thomas McEwan reported the crime statistics for 19 February – 18 March 2019.

Type of Crimes	No. recorded 19 Dec 2018 – 15 Jan 2019	No. recorded 16 Jan – 18 Feb 2019	No. recorded 19 Feb – 18 March 2019
Acquisitive	11	10	19
Disorder	6	13	5
Violence	9	9	6
Drugs	5	6	4
Miscellaneous	20	12	18
Total	51	50	52

PC McEwan commented that the acquisitive crimes nearly always occur in the same locations with Morrison's garage being the most frequent; these have increased by 9 compared to the previous month and this could be due to people being aware of when the security guards change shift. PC McEwan said that the police are trying to work with Morrison's staff to make the premises more secure, possibly by changing shift patterns.

PC McEwan also commented that there have been two housebreaking crimes both of which occurred during the day when people were in the house. He advised people to keep their doors locked even when they are in the house as nowadays burglars rarely break in at night; they are trying doors at various times of the day to see if they are open and taking car keys which are often left near the front door.

PC McEwan reported that 3/4 of the drug crimes concerned possession of small quantities that they had been able to intercept many of these using intelligence obtained about certain vehicles. He also commented that miscellaneous crimes include street drinking which they have

been proactively stopping before more serious incidents occur. He noted that the 'miscellaneous' category also includes fraud which is on the rise throughout Scotland.

J Bachtler asked how South Lanarkshire compares to the rest of Scotland in terms of crime rates. PC McEwan said he was not aware of how Cambuslang compared to the rest of Scotland, but he did know that Cambuslang is the second best area in reducing crime in South Lanarkshire. He also noted that Cambuslang West has the lowest crime stats out of the 4 wards in Rutherglen and Cambuslang.

J Bachtler mentioned that he had heard Cambuslang has a high rate of youth offending and asked if it was worse than the rest of Scotland. PC Anderson had not seen any data that indicated that Cambuslang was any worse than the rest of Scotland; but he didn't think the number of youth offences was any higher than expected for the number of children in the area.

D Porter asked the officers what their experience has been with amusement arcades. PC McEwan said that there are two in Rutherglen and he has hardly ever had calls to deal with issues there. He said that the police are more concerned with pubs as most crimes occur when there is alcohol involved.

L Wallace asked if it was okay for a resident to put posters on cars that are parked in their street if they think they shouldn't be parked there. PC McEwan said that it wasn't an offence to do this but it could cause arguments. So if someone was concerned about parking in their street it would be better to contact the Local Council.

PC Anderson left contact information and said that if anyone had a concern that wasn't an emergency they should contact the police on the **undernoted** email address.

[lanarkshirelpstcambuslangandrutherglen@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lanarkshirelpstcambuslangandrutherglen@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## **Committee business**

### **6. Chair's Correspondence**

There was no Chair's correspondence.

### **7. Secretary's Report**

#### **Planning Applications** (from weekly notifications)

For domestic premises: 4 applications for changes/extensions to houses; and 3 for commercial developments.

- 1) Formal application for *Vodafone-Telefonica mobile phone base-station* upgrades (P/19/0298). This has been fully discussed by CCC (see Matter Arising above and previous minutes).
- 2) Proposal to convert former *TSB premises* into an amusement arcade (P/19/0315). There has been some concern expressed about this on local, social media. Following discussion on this, it was decided that there are reasonable grounds on which CCC can object.

**Action: J Bachtler & D Porter to draft and post an objection to this PA to SLC Planning.**

- 3) Formal application for *East Whitlawburn Housing Redevelopment (P/19/0299)*. This has been extensively examined by CCC under the Proposed Application Notice (PAN) process. It is worrying, therefore, that no documentation on, or even reference to, CCC's representations have been included in the information posted on SLC Planning's website.

**Action: D Porter to write to SLC Planning pointing out this deficiency.**

**Marches/Parades:** None notified.

**Consultations/Surveys**

- ***Banking Services*** - An invitation was received for CCC to express its view on the impact of bank closures in recent years and current access to banking services. This was discussed under item 12 of the Agenda (see below).
- ***Animal Health & Welfare Act Amendment*** - Scottish Government consultation. Undoubtedly many in our community will be interested in this. Therefore, it has been posted on CCC website for individuals to respond to.

**8. Treasurer's Report**

M Farmer presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of B Fisher:

Current and pending transactions for all three CCC Bank Accounts since the 15th January 2019 meeting.

<b>Account</b>	<b>Feb 2019 Balance</b>	<b>Statement date</b>	<b>Mar 2019 Balance</b>	<b>Statement date</b>
CCC Main Account	£3,318.95	01.02.19	£3,284.95	01.03.19
Cambuslang in Bloom	£1,937.75	30.11.18	£2,937.75	01.03.19
F of Holmhills WCP	£231.72	01.06.18	£231.72	01.06.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,488.42</b>		<b>£6,454.42</b>	

Last month's transactions:

- Main Account - Cheque for £34 to John Batchler re Remembrance Day Wreath

Pending transactions:

- Main Account - £45.00 to SLC for hire of Institute Hall for Jan, Feb & Mar 2019 (cheque no. 507)

Other financial business:

- Brian Fisher and David Porter have been approved by the bank as signatories, forms for John Bachtler and Michelle Farmer have been sent to RBS by special delivery to approve theirs. Hamish Allan and Jack Taylor have been removed. Awaiting confirmation.

## Items for discussion

### **9. Co-option of Ms Jacqueline Smyth as CCC member**

There was a vote on whether to accept Ms J Smyth as a member. The result was unanimously in favour.

### **10. SLC Community Participation and Empowerment**

R Leith and J Queen introduced themselves as part of the new Community Participation and Empowerment (CPE) team for SLC. R Leith explained that the team was very new. It was formed in November and most of the new staff were recruited in January and March. The team's role is to work with communities to increase community-led plans but they are not part of SLC's Community Planning Partnership (CPP). R Leith explained that CCs will be key in the process of identifying issues in their areas and deciding whether it is appropriate to deal with these themselves or whether to speak to SLC. She noted that East Ayrshire and Argyle & Bute Councils have already invested in similar schemes and have had good results.

Some CCC office bearers raised problems CCC have with their relationship with SLC. R Leith agreed that the current communication between SLC and CCC is not good but she believes that the CPE team will make it easier for CCC to speak to the correct people in SLC to get things done more efficiently, and also it will help council departments receive the feedback they need to make positive changes. R Leith acknowledged that the team is still very small so processes will be slow at first. However they are keen to work with CCC.

D Sutton commented that CCC is not a member of CPP, but VASLan is. This creates difficulties as there is a need to submit requests for access to documents from CPP that are not openly available online. D Sutton asked R Leith for advice on how CCC can join CPP. R Leith explained that CPE is not part of CPP and that community planning is a separate entity to community-led plans. She acknowledged concerns about CCC's lack of representation in CPP, but said that this is not their responsibility. Other members of CCC agreed it was a priority for CCC to obtain membership of CPP.

L Wallace recognised the benefits of this new team in terms of SLC being more informed about what is happening and being more connected to CCs. Previously M Farmer has dedicated a lot of time to navigating SLC structures and finding the right contacts to help with particular issues. Although CPP is separate from CPE, over time the role of CPE could evolve to include this. L Wallace believed that having this team in place would be very positive.

J Bachtler noted that CCC had had a previous meeting with the CPE team and raised some of these concerns about lack of communication and coherence and feels confident that this team will help the situation.

D Sutton commented that the councils who have the best communication with CCs are ones where there is a federation of CCs so this is also still a priority for CCC.

A few specific points were raised by CCC members. L Wallace asked about SLC not following correct procedures when selling parts of parks. D Sutton mentioned that there is a large amount of litter next to motorways and in parks. He said SLC should be employing people to pick up this litter; members of the community can help but SLC needs to provide yellow

vests and safety equipment to do so. L Wallace also mentioned that Cambuslang does not have a town centre manager so CIB doesn't have a go-to-contact if, for example, there was a drought and SLC could help with water supply.

M Farmer asked whether one specific CPE team member would be assigned to Cambuslang. J Queen said that she is assigned to Cambuslang, Rutherglen and East Kilbride; so it is quite a big area. They are currently working with SLC communication staff to try and create a web page, email address and phone number so that people can be directed to the right person which will hopefully ease the confusing landscape of who to contact in the Council.

Members noted that the timescale allowed (14 days) for responding to planning applications was very restrictive as, if the application date was soon after a CCC meeting, there could be no opportunity for CCC members as a group to discuss and comment. R Leith said that she would check whether this timescale was a legal one and advise.

M Farmer asked R Leith to respond to the points made about CCC's representation on CPP.  
**Action - R Leith to get back to M Farmer about CPP, and to check with SLC Planning on the timescale for commenting on applications.**

## **11. Cambuslang Future Sub-Group**

H Allison gave a report on the last Cambuslang Future meeting:

*At the meeting on 21 February, Ian Ross asked for more information about the Sustrans Funding and what junctions were involved. SLC are aware of problems at Greenlees Road and Westcoats Road. The group highlighted that in fact there were more junctions that should be involved and highlighted the issues at the offset junction at Vicarland Road/Greenlees Road and Brownside Road. There have already been some accidents here. Another point raised was the slip road off the north side of the Main Street into Bank Street. Drivers are doing a u-turn into Bank Street from the Main Street and causing pedestrians to be extra vigilant.*

*Parking, and in particular Cambuslang Gate Car Park, was discussed briefly. In the latter, the majority of bays are not time restricted. This allows for people (SLC workers and commuters) to park there all day and local shoppers can't make use of the car park. It was suggested that some time-restricted bays (other than Farmfoods) be introduced and this will be mentioned at the next Park and Ride Consultation meeting.*

*The meeting spent some time going over the Action Plans and the minor changes SLC wanted but, with only one hour for the meeting, as much as possible was covered.*

M Farmer said that CF/SLC are now on the 6<sup>th</sup> draft of the Main Street Regeneration plan and SLC has accepted some of CF's changes such as the monitoring framework. Also SLC are taking more responsibility for the plan. CF has made changes and forwarded the plan to SLC. A meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 has been proposed to follow up. The plan needs to be approved and submitted for wider consultation.

After CF's meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February, M Farmer followed up on action points such as street furniture and the phone boxes on Cambuslang Main Street. M Farmer said it would cost £2000 to replace a phone box; or alternatively CF could send pictures of each box to BT and give suggestions of what should be improved and they will give due consideration.

J Bachtler passed round a draft of the new newsletter. He said they are hoping to get advertising revenue to fund newsletter however the first edition will just have placeholder advertisements. J Bachtler said they were looking for approval from CCC to use £200-250 to fund the first newsletter. This was agreed.

## **12. UK Parliament 'Access to Banks – Have your say' : CCC's response**

C Williamson provided a report:

### **Access to Financial Services in Scotland**

The Scottish Affairs Committee on behalf of the UK Parliament, want to hear from local communities regarding their experience of accessing financial services following recent bank and ATM closures. In particular they are interested in learning

- what challenges there are in accessing financial services;
- what impact recent bank and ATM closures have had;
- how practical alternative measures such as online and mobile banking are

CCC received a request via South Lanarkshire Council on the 7th March 2019 to engage with the local community to gain their feedback and, if we wished, to provide a written submission by 25th March 2019.

Due to time constraints, CCC decided to put together an online survey via Survey Monkey and place this on the CCC website. It was also added to the All About Cambuslang website and emails were sent directly to CCC and CF members as well as all business owners in Cambuslang, inviting them to have their say via the online survey.

The results will be fed back to the Scottish Affairs Committee prior to the deadline of 25th March 2019.

So far CCC has received around 250 responses. J Bachtler hoped to double this by the end of the week.

**Action – J Bachtler to send out email to all CCC members with survey link again and members to share with as many people living in the area as possible.**

## **13. SL Renewable Energy Fund : Micro Grant Scheme for Community Councils**

M Farmer provided a report on the meeting with SLC which is attached as Appendix 2.

L Wallace asked if it would be possible to do a joint bid for the micro grant with Healthy n Happy. On a previous occasion they had been involved in stimulating demand and supporting community groups to complete proposal form but had to include costs for their time in the grant application. J Bachtler said that the involvement of HnH in the Greening Cambuslang award had been very helpful, but that it had cost a significant amount as HnH need to charge for their time. Therefore CCC would need to market it ourselves.

It was agreed that CCC should apply for the grant. M Farmer asked if there would be anyone willing to be part of the sub-group. S Walker volunteered to help and B Law will find youths to support in decision making.

M Farmer noted that it is important CCC apply as soon as possible as it is first come first served.

## **Items for report**

### **14. Parks**

#### **Friends of Holmhills Wood Community Park Sub-Group**

- Ponds have been busy with frogs, toads and newts. Frog numbers apparently peaked but toad invasion, best seen when dark, is likely soon.
- We had a successful community clean up on 3 March when we removed 15 bags of rubbish. New roadside bin bordering woodland has much helped the dog poo bags problem.
- We had a volunteers' work party with SLC Ranger Service when we cut back dense willow near ponds to reduce shading and improve wildflower and insect diversity. We intend to work on this further, and welcome more volunteers.
- Recently met with rep from British Dragonfly Society who was impressed with our ponds and dragonfly sightings. We look forward to assisting to contributing to monitoring of these insects.

#### **Next Planning Meeting**

Thurs 21 March 7-8:30pm

Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre, 57 Belmont Road, G72 8PG

### **15. Town Greening Projects**

- **Cambuslang in Bloom Sub-Group**

The next committee meeting is planned for April to plan for the new season. L Wallace said she has started to buy small plug plants as it is cheaper to grow these over a couple of months than buy them large.

Proposing new fundraising activity – the plan is to target local businesses with a letter and L Wallace has identified a volunteer to be the recipient of responses and coordinate this activity.

L Wallace noted that there is money in budget from a previous grant to paint railings. These railings are galvanised and if painted would need to be maintained; so SLC don't want this. The money in the budget could therefore be used for another purpose in keeping with the requirements of the grant. One idea discussed was a mural painting on the wall beside the old Cancer Research shop. This could cost approximately £1500 and the CCC's views were sought. CCC members highlighted that negotiations with the building factors would be necessary. There were also concerns about vandalism.

Generally CCC members were positive about the idea, and J Bachtler said it would be good to have community engagement to decide on the artwork.

Action - J Bachtler to send L Wallace contact details for owner of the building.

- **Greening Camglen**

There was no update.

## **16. Any Other Business**

CCC has received a newsletter from Ged Killen MP containing updates on various issues with which he is involved i.e. Visit My Mosque Day 2019, Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, Brexit, Chromium VI, and Scottish Affairs Select Committee. It has also received a newsletter from Clare Haughey MSP covering her work in Cambuslang i.e. HELMS/Green Deal, EU Nationals, SPRING Social Prescribing, REACH Lanarkshire Autism, and other parliamentary activities in her role as Mental Health Minister. These newsletters are attached as Appendices 3 & 4.

D Macdonald raised a couple of issues he has had with streets not being resurfaced for a long time causing pot holes and a wall partly collapsing on Cobalt Street that is blocking the footpath causing people to have to walk on the road. M Farmer said that he should report these things on the SLC website including uploading photos of the problems.

B Law introduced himself and his role with youth in the community in the Community Learning Development Partnership and said he would be happy to try to involve some young people in initiatives.

M Farmer mentioned that she and H Alison will be going to Camglen radio station on 20<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the new newsletter, CF and the banking survey.

M Farmer also mentioned that the Easter night out had originally been planned for 25<sup>th</sup> April but J Bachtler and D Porter are unable to attend on that night as they have an SLC meeting. M Farmer said they now plan to make it 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Action - M Farmer to send email with details for the night out.

The Chair closed the Meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

**The next CCC Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in  
Cambuslang Institute, Greenlees Road at 7.30 pm**

## Appendix 1

### AECOM CONSULTATION MEETING - P&R PHASE 2

21 Feb 2019

Adrian Garcia x AECOM; Alex (SLAN Transport), Ian Ross (Econ Dec), + others inc Gerry Boyd x Rosebank Tower).

Basically setting out their parking proposals (John & Dave have drawings) - summarised as:-

Car Park (CP)	Existing Places	Proposed Places	Comments
Bridge Street	0	266 (250 + 14d + 2E)	More E - Electric charging points) required
Alison Drive	18	20 (19 + 1d)	
Sherry Heights	44	42 (40 + 2d)	
Maple Tree Court	33	47 (44 + 3d)	

Approach ???:-

**(A) ACCEPTING AS PROPOSED** - will offer new CP at Bridge St to offset "Residential Parking Controls" to south of Cambuslang Station. But a walk uphill - and issues likely with capacity to Main St/ Bridge St/ervell St junction.

**(B) CONSULTING & REWORKING TO GET BETTER "ENTRANCE GATEWAY" TO CAMBUSLANG TC:** To look at:-

- Creating pedestrian link from any new Bridge Street CP to Main St Underpass - inc tweaking (& new planting to) Rosebank Tower garage area (so reducing pedestrian pressure on Main St/ Bridge St junction). Also parking to help TC. Scope for wider "planting/ softening" of tarmac areas N of Main St.
- Seeking to link Somervell Street to junction on Bridge St/ Alison Drive (i. away from Main St/ Bridge St traffic lights. Or is it too late to do this?

Please let Cambuslang CC have any views.

Or send to dave.sutton@yahoo.co.uk 07932 676561

## Appendix 2: Briefing meeting in Rutherglen Town Hall hosted by SLC, Planning & Economic Development, Kenny Lean and Lesley Park 12 March 2019

Briefing was based on the South Lanarkshire Renewable Energy Fund, Managed by SLC, Micro Grants Fund. David Porter (secretary) and Michelle Farmer (Vice Chair) attended.

The Micro Grant Fund is part of the Green Agenda and targets Social, Environment and Economic areas. The purpose of the fund is to assist affected communities to improve the quality of life & economic prosperity in their local area.

- There is a Main Fund - £10,000 – submit an expression of interest – capital project
- The briefing was specifically about the Micro Grants Fund - £5000
- You can apply for both

Need to be within a 10k radius of a windfarm (Blantyre)

Funding Source - local wind farms.

Funding availability - commences April 2019-2020, 2020-2021.

CC's will administer Micro Grants after granted (if successful) in application process.

We were issued with the Micro Grant guidance, process and application information. Key points are as follows:

- Annual award to CC's is £5,000
- First come first serve basis in application process – get prepared and organised!
- CC's need a separate bank account for the Micro Grant Fund

- CC's apply, manage and process funds

Funding criteria:

- a) enhance quality of life for residents
  - b) contribute to vibrant, healthy successful, and sustainable communities; and/or
  - c) promote community spirit and encourage community activity
- There is a list of things that it cannot be used for also

Micro Grants can be issued to **constituted** and **non-constituted** groups in the community.

We could set up a decision team who would decide on applications monthly and report into the CC meetings for decisions and agreements.

One grant per organisation, per year.

Digital details of the forms we received will be sent to us in a few weeks and we can share these as soon as we have this information.

So then, do we want to apply?

Who would like to be part of a sub group?

We have posted notification of this briefing meeting and the Micro Grant Fund out via social media/ website.

More information can be found on the website

[file:///D:/Users/Michelle%20Farmer/Downloads/CEN\\_Renewable\\_energy\\_Fund.pdf](file:///D:/Users/Michelle%20Farmer/Downloads/CEN_Renewable_energy_Fund.pdf)

Report by Michelle Farmer

Vice-Chair, CCC

## Appendix 3

News from Ged Killen | Member of Parliament for Rutherglen and Hamilton West

### Visit My Mosque Day 2019

I recently visited the Minhaj-ul-Quran Mosque in Rutherglen as part of the #visitmymosque initiative. It was great to see so many people from the local area of all faiths and none accepting the warm invitation to visit the Mosque and learn more about Islam.

### Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme.

In February, I went to the arctic circle as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme to join the Royal Marines for their annual cold weather training. It was a very informative visit, which included camping outside in temperatures as low as -25c, and gave me a new appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the young men and women serving in our Armed Forces. The scheme covers a full parliamentary session and has been designed to give Members of Parliament an insight into life in the Army, the Royal Navy, and the Airforce.

### Brexit

Parliament has rejected the Prime Minister's deal for a second time and has also voted to rule out No Deal and to seek an extension to Article 50. Brexit remains an unpredictable issue, however I will continue to support any efforts to prevent no deal, to extend article 50, and to take the final decision back to the people in a public vote.

## Chromium VI

There has been renewed media attention on the issue of chromium contamination in the constituency, predominately found in Rutherglen and Cambuslang. This is due to a recent spike in levels of Chromium VI detected in Polmadie Burn in Richmond Park in the neighbouring constituency of Glasgow Central. The contamination is a long running issue going back to J&J Whites Chemical Factory, which shut in 1967, who were responsible for dumping large quantities of Chromium VI waste across the local area. The urban regeneration company, Clyde Gateway, has made excellent progress in remediating and redeveloping land, however they will require millions of pounds in investment to complete that work. I will continue to engage with Clyde Gateway, the Scottish Government, South Lanarkshire Council and other partners to seek a way forward to resolve this issue once and for all.

## Scottish Affairs Select Committee

The Scottish Affairs Select Committee is in the process of agreeing its final report on Scotland and Brexit and is coming to the end of its inquiry into the relationship between the UK and Scottish Government. We continue to work on our inquiry into Scottish Agriculture post Brexit and have recently launched a new inquiry into Use and Misuse of Drugs in Scotland which will begin taking evidence in May. Lastly, we have an upcoming short inquiry into Access to Financial Services. This inquiry will look at how communities access financial services in Scotland and how they are impacted by the loss of bank branches, ATMs, etc. The Community Council should have received an email from South Lanarkshire Council detailing how you can submit a response to the Financial Services Inquiry, this would be very helpful to the Committee in building an evidence base to inform our recommendations to the UK Government. The deadline for submitting a response is Monday 25th of March and if you require any further information, please feel free to contact my office.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Clare Haughey MSP Report – March 2019**

Please find below several updates which are specific to my work in Cambuslang.

#### HELMS/ Green Deal

I have been at the forefront of a Scotland-wide campaign which seeks to find a resolution for people who were allegedly mis-sold energy efficiency products under the UK Government's Green Deal scheme. Many of my constituents were fitted solar panels by a company named HELMS, who have since been liquidated, and rather than seeing savings on their energy bills, many have seen them soar. Furthermore, many of those who signed up were unaware that they were in effect taking out a loan on the solar panels, and as the debt is tied to their property they have been left unable to sell their homes.

Since the last Community Council meeting, the Cross-Party Group I set up in the Scottish Parliament to look into the issues around the UK Government's Green Deal scheme, and the company HELMS, met once more. At this meeting we discussed a report by Citizens Advice Scotland called 'Bad Company' which is very critical of HELMS.

As a Group, we are writing to the UK Government backing Citizens Advice Scotland's calls noted within the report:

[https://www.cas.org.uk/system/files/publications/bad\\_company\\_citizens\\_advice\\_scotland.pdf](https://www.cas.org.uk/system/files/publications/bad_company_citizens_advice_scotland.pdf)

#### EU Nationals

Over the last few months I have surveyed non-UK EU citizens in Cambuslang for their views on whether they feel they have been provided enough detail by the UK Government about their rights after Brexit. It is clear to me from their responses that they don't believe they have been properly informed.

I am therefore holding a specific advice surgery for EU nationals in Cambuslang Institute at 11am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April. I will be joined by Rutherglen and Cambuslang Citizens Advice Bureau who will be on hand to assist with any queries.

### SPRING Social Prescribing

I was delighted to attend and give the keynote speech at the launch of SPRING Social Prescribing project on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. This is a partnership between Scottish Communities for Health and Well-being and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance, Northern Ireland.

Social prescribing is commonly used in community settings and provides non-medical options to support and promote health and wellbeing, including mental health.

This exciting new project will work across Northern Ireland and Scotland through 30 community based organisations – including Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust across Cambuslang and Rutherglen.

### Visit to REACH Lanarkshire Autism

In February, I visited REACH Lanarkshire Autism SCIO in Cambuslang to hear about their vital work locally and to congratulate them on recently being awarded £30,685 from the Big Lottery Fund.

The organisation was launched in 2012 to provide support to families and young people and children affected by an Autism Spectrum Condition living within the authority of South Lanarkshire. Further information on the great charity, including the services they provide, can be found on the link below:

<https://reachautism.org.uk/>

### Surgery

A reminder that my monthly Blantyre surgery will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10:30am – in the CTEC Building This is a recurring surgery which takes place in the same venue, at the same time, on every third Thursday of the month.

### Parliament

#### **Perinatal Mental Health Funding**

At the beginning of March, I joined the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, to announce £50 million in funding to improve perinatal mental health care. The new money will provide access to treatment for an additional 11,000 women who experience mental health problems during and after their pregnancy. Perinatal mental illness affects up to 1 in 5 women, and covers a wide range of conditions.

Prior to becoming an MSP and Scotland's Minister for Mental Health, I was a mental health nurse for over thirty years – fifteen of which I specialised in perinatal mental health, so I know how transformational this money will be.

## **Keys to Life**

Earlier this month, I launched the Scottish Government's Keys to Life Framework. The plan focuses on building a more inclusive society, where people with learning disabilities have the support they need across all aspects of their lives.

Key priorities in the report include, supporting people with learning disabilities to have healthy relationships and to have the right kind of support if they choose to become parents, and to work with employers to raise the profile of employing people with a disability. There are 26,349 people with learning disabilities in Scotland and currently only 7% are employed and 6.2% are in further education.

The report can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/keys-life-unlocking-futures-implementation-framework-priorities-2019-21/>

*This report has been tailored to Cambuslang, however if you would like to subscribe to my newsletter, which includes my work across my Rutherglen constituency, please visit:*

<http://bit.ly/ClareHaugheyConstituencyNewsletter>