

Longstone Community Council

Chair's Report for 2021/22

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has helped the Community Council in the last year. This thanks includes the officers of the Council, the members of the Council and all those who attended Council meetings and contributed to the discussions and debates that we have had. I would like to thank everyone for their patience in having to use Zoom and am sorry that this did not suit everyone

I am pleased to see that we have continued to develop, during the year, links with the Longstone Community and our primary school. We have doubled our donation to the school which allows them to make the Duncan Colquhoun Award to a student who has demonstrated service to the community. This year the award, a £50 book token, will be presented on the 28 June. I was pleased that we recently donated £600 to the school to alleviate hardship and see that this has been put to good use to assist people attend the school camp. I have been pleased to see that the Primary school has worked with the Friends of the Quarry Park group to develop a 'Tiny Forest' in the park and install herb planter boxes.

I was always thought that it was useful and interesting that a Community police officer attended Council meetings to report on local crime and local issues. It is, I think, very disappointing that this attendance has been stopped. I think it was a bad decision and should be reversed.

I am also disappointed that the closure of the Burnside Park path still continues as the path was much used. It is a local amenity that the Council should have ensured was opened as soon as possible. Correct me if I am wrong but there seems no end in sight to the closure after years have passed.

We have had some well attended and heated discussions on road safety issues. These issues are very important and have not gone away. There are lessons to be learnt from the last year and would welcome further discussion particularly as we have a new set of Councillors and the ruling entity of the Council has changed - perhaps significantly. A recent visit to the USA suggests that all electric car issues are going to be important.

To finish my report I would like to say that we have challenges in the next year on road safety and on the future of social care in Edinburgh. I hope that we will be able to deal with these challenges and that the local community will want to participate in the debate.

Des Loughney