

STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: George Smith, 6 Naismith Court, Stonehouse. Tel 01698 793946

Secretary: Robert Freal, 75 Lockhart Street, Stonehouse 01698 793498

Chairman's Report 2016

The Members of the Community Council continue to have served the village well during 2015 by representing their views in many forums.

There have been 11 regular monthly meetings in accordance with the schedule of meetings set out by the community council. The meetings have been well attended and the issues which affect the village are regularly discussed and reported within the village.

During this year we have added two new members to the team. Nicola Foote and Sam Irons have joined us adding both youth and experience. Nicola has taken over running the Facebook page.

In the spring of this year we ran a village survey. We secured funding from the Banks Group to design the survey and employ an independent organisation to verify the results and produce a report. We were assisted by the Girls Brigade who distributed the survey across the village. The results were positive about what we require for the village in the next 10 years.

The office bearers met with Michael McGlynn, Director of Planning at South Lanarkshire Council to discuss the results of the survey which we will use to influence the upcoming Local Plan discussions. The Council were encouraged with the positive approach that the Community Council takes towards Planning & Development of the village.

In the meeting in June we had over 100 in attendance to discuss the outcome of a Facebook discussion on what the village requires by way of leisure and development. We hope this is the beginning of the movement to motivate the village to obtaining improvement of opportunity within the village.

We have corresponded several times with Calum Campbell, new NHS Lanarkshire Chief Executive regarding the Ground for development which formulates the old hospital. It has been difficult getting information from the NHS. The Community Council also objected to the continuance of the planning permission in principle since the ground has been up for sale and development for over 12 years and the lack of movement affects other planning for the village.

We had several meetings with the other community councils and Banks Group regarding the Kypemuir Wind Farm and the establishment of the Community Partnership which will distribute the money from the windfarm. I was elected as Chairman of the Forum which will shape how we perform over the next 2 years..

The Office Bearers attend a Forum of Community Councils run by South Lanarkshire Council and I chaired the Hamilton meeting. This gives an opportunity for Community Council to learn from each other and find out the issues in other villages..

We have commented on various planning applications as they related to the village.

The Community Council again organised the production of the order of service for the service at the Cenotaph. Dr Lisa Cameron MP and our 4 Councillors attended along with many other village organisations to lay wreaths.

The Community Council continues to regularly use the Face book pages to update the village and we have increased the following with some excellent articles having several hundred 'hits' and attracting useful commentary.

George Smith, Chairman – 21 November 2016