

November 2015 Convenor's Statement

May I welcome you to Lenzie Community Council's Annual General Meeting for 2015

I'm Tony Miles and I have been the Chair for the last two years. The other current office bearers are Christine Morrison, Vice Chair, Tom Gray, Secretary and Liz Ibbotson our Treasurer and our planning Convenor is John MacFadden

The other members joining me here are Rosemary Craig; Donald MacLeod; Pat Munro; Sandra Thornton; Suzanne Smith and Emma Henderson We also have with us Jenny Lee and Russell Meek school captains at Lenzie Academy who will be with us during the school year, also to act as liaison with Lenzie Academy. This gives us a great opportunity to work with the younger people of our Community.

A special mention to secretary Tom who attends lots of meeting and records so thoroughly our Council Business in the Minutes. Especial thanks go also to Liz who has for many years organised the main event of the year – The Lenzie Gala - and was this year helped by Pat Munro and Rosemary Craig. John also for his extensive local planning knowledge.

I have mentioned the Gala as our main event which takes place on the first Saturday in June, and this year it was to have been the 6th June. However, the weather forecast for the day warned of gales and heavy rain. Thus, on the Friday before the Gala we had to make the unenviable decision to call off the event. With the help of the East Dunbarton Council we tried to find an alternative indoor venue, but given the time available to get permissions this proved to be a non-starter.

We reluctantly re-scheduled the Gala for 15th August and a Facebook Campaign organised by Emma got out the word to several thousand people. Moving the Gala proved to be a good decision and I would like to thank all those families and friends who supported the August event which went off very well. The Community Council would also like to thank all those local companies who for the first time in it's history were asked to sponsor the event.

In addition to the Gala, the other events that we organise during the year are the Lenzie Jog, at New Year, and I can report that the 2015 Jog was better attended than ever before. Next year's event will take place on Saturday 2nd January 2016 and the Community Council will again be supported by the Kirkintilloch Olympians who provide invaluable assistance with marking out the route, registration and time keeping; and who benefit from the majority of the funds raised.

LCC also organises the Charity Christmas Card Fayre, which took place earlier this month on 14th November. The Christmas Card Fayre, is an event arranged every year by 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 switch-on, which takes place on the 5th December this year. LCC's Pat Munro organises the evening supported by the local churches, and local businesses. The event brings a family extravaganza

with Christmas music and carol singers, Santa and refreshments provided afterwards in the Church Hall at Lenzie Old Parish Church

The Community Council's remit also encompasses representation of the views of local residents on issues of concern. We participate in a Forum of Community Councils in East Dumbarton, and have been instrumental in the proposal to form an Association of Community Councils which will ensure we speak and network with other Community Councils and encourage best practice working with East Dumbarton Council.

Lenzie Community Council takes an active interest in Planning matters and we have monitored applications for two Supermarkets, and a housing developments at a number of sites including the controversial one at Meadowburn, and voiced concerns over the Tom Johnson House site.

We are delighted to see the Post Office in the centre of Lenzie flourishing following a shaky start in which LCC supported the owners. However, we were disappointed to see the closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branch. LCC is now attempting to ensure that the parking available there is directed to supporting short term parking for people visiting the shops and not just as an all day overflow for the train station. We have also made representation about the time taken to get the ATM enabled and working. We will continue to monitor these two concerns and report back to the Community.

A bit about Community Councils

Community Councillors are normally elected just like County Councillors and the next elections are in 2017. However, Community Councils are completely non-political. Community Councils are also at liberty to co-opt members from specific sections of the community representing local organisations, or if a local person has a skill or expertise which would be of value to the Community. All Community Councillors work and give their time 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, here in Lenzie Hall. Regular items on our agenda are reports from Community Police officers who brief us on crimes that have taken place. We also now receive reports from the Community Wardens in ED

LCC 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, and are always pleased to hear from Groups or individual with ideas.

Please remember our website – www.lenziecommunitycouncil.org.uk, and our Lenzie Community Council Facebook page, also our Community Notice Board just at the Bank entrance

A brief round-up of activities participated in over the past year:-

(NOTE for information and not necessarily to be read out)

Lenzie Jog

Lenzie Moss New School Consultation

Cowgate Street Design Proposal

Community Councils Liaison Committee

Community Councils forum

ED Community Council Website pages – revision and update

Constitution for Lenzie Community Council and Boundary Amendments

New Local Development Plan

Tom Johnson House Consultations

Garngaber Tunnel Safety Concerns

Arnold Clark premises concerns

Field of Dreams progress monitoring

South Claddens Development

Queens Buildings Herb Garden

Links with Auchinloch CC

Lenzie Churches Holiday Club

Review of Council Ward Boundaries

Co-Housing in Lenzie

Lenzie Walking Guide plans

Millersneuk Shopping Centre access