

## **Lenzie Community Council AGM – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

### **Chairperson's Statement**

First and foremost may I welcome you all to Lenzie Community Council's Annual General Meeting. My name is Suzanne Smith and I am the current Chairperson. My job this evening is to provide a brief summary of the Community Council's activities over the past year, which has been a particularly busy one for us.

The work that the Community Council carries out can be broadly split into three categories:

- (1) The events that we organise every year, which I hope most of you are already familiar with – the Lenzie Jog, the Gala, the Charity Christmas Card Fayre and the switch on of the Christmas lights. This year, thanks to the assistance of the Kirkintilloch Olympians, we were able to run the Jog, despite the weather conditions. Our Gala was organised by one of our members, Liz Ibbotson, who managed to secure a grant from the Big Lottery for some additional attractions. Liz has already started planning next year's event.
- (2) Community projects linked to the fabric of Lenzie and our local environment. In the past this has involved assistance with bulb planting and the provision of benches. This year our partnership working with First ScotRail has continued for the planters at Lenzie Station and I am pleased to report that our Secretary, Tom Gray, facilitated the restoration of the clock at the Queens Buildings, which is now in working order.
- (3) Representing the views of local residents on issues that concern them. This year we have continued to monitor the flooding situation at the Gadloch, we have also provided support to the Lenzie South Greenbelt Group and submitted representations to East Dunbartonshire Council in respect of Local Plan 2. Most recently, we have been involved in the consultation process that is ongoing for the proposed transfer of the Public Hall into community ownership. On Monday night we organised an evening that pulled together many of the local initiatives taking place around Fair Trade; we hope that this will be a catalyst for Lenzie becoming a Fair Trade town.

We meet once a month, usually on the third Wednesday of the month, in Lenzie Public Hall. One of the regular items on our agenda is the report that we receive from community police officers on crimes that have taken place over the previous month and initiatives with which the police are involved – we are also able to pass on any concerns raised by local residents with these officers. The Community Council also monitors planning applications for our Ward and submits representations on any applications that may have wider community impact, should this be required.

The Community Council 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. This year we again provided donations to the Lenzie Youth Club for their annual football festival and the Lenzie Churches for their holiday club. We also gave a small donation to a group from Lenzie Academy who were participating in a Duke of Edinburgh trip to Morocco, this group, in turn, helped us with some of the setting up and clearing up on Gala day.

Although the bulk of the Community Council's work is carried out by the members, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the support we receive from our local councillors and the Police. We are also assisted by groups such as the Lenzie Scouts and the Lenzie Churches at our community events for which we are very grateful.

On a personal note I would like to thank each and every member of the community council for their invaluable help and support over this year. Can I remind you about our next event, the Christmas Card Fayre, which takes place at 10.00am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Lenzie Old Parish Church.

Finally can I just say that the Community Council would welcome new members – you may have the time to attend our monthly meetings or you may wish to limit your involvement to one of our events - helping out on Gala day for example, or acting as a marshal for the Lenzie Jog or the Christmas lights- either way, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please remember our website - [lenziecommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://lenziecommunitycouncil.org.uk) - we hope that you will find this a useful way to keep in touch and to let us know about any issues that may be concerning you