

Westhill Community Council

Newsletter August 2012

We have been very busy since our previous newsletter and we are still working on the best way to distribute it. As this develops, the newsletter can become more frequent.

A hard copy is distributed by the primary schools and is placed in local shops.

Let us know if you would like to be a distributor or distribution point. An electronic copy is available on our website and it can be emailed if you supply your email to the acting secretary.

The AGM in June re-elected the current council and co-opted Catriona Johnson who was a former chair. Welcome back Catriona.

The Chairman's Report will be available on the website.

Contacting your Community Council

If you wish to contact us or to receive the newsletter by email, please send an email to the acting secretary at admin@westhillcc.co.uk

The Minutes for previous meetings are published on our website after they are approved at the subsequent monthly meeting.

We meet in the Community Lounge at Cradlehall Primary School on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.15 pm (except July and August). You are welcome to attend.

For more information, agendas and other documents, see our website at:

www.westhillcc.co.uk



Dr Donald Boyd
Chairman
Westhill Community

PHARMACY AT CRADLEHALL

The WCC submitted a letter in support of an application for the provision of a pharmacy at Cradlehall and inclusion in the pharmaceutical list.

Most, if not all, of the WCC population live within a mile or so of the centrally-located local shopping centre.

The Pharmacy Practices Committee refused the application because in the opinion of the majority: 1. there was no evidence of inadequacy of pharmaceutical services; 2. the neighbourhood is "quite affluent" and mobile; 3. it has lower than average elderly population and 4. for the housebound the neighbouring three pharmacies outside the catchment area offer a delivery service - at least two miles (four-mile round trip).

On the subject of *necessity* it concluded "the level of existing pharmaceutical services was adequate".

On the question whether it was *desirable*, the 28 page Minute has only one sentence: "The Committee then considered whether it would be desirable to grant the application to maintain adequacy into the future and concluded that predicted increased demand could be managed by the existing pharmacies adjacent to the neighbourhood and granting the application was not desirable."

The applicant appealed unsuccessfully to the National Appeal Panel. WCC cannot discern how 'desirability' was ascertained. We are pursuing this matter with the help of our local Highland Councillors. Come along to our next WCC meeting to help us to build a community. This pharmacy seems a sensible addition to our local facilities and we value your input.

STOP PRESS

Next Generation Broadband (NGB) is being rolled out. Come and discuss upgrading the Culloden Exchange to superfast broadband at our 12th September 2012 meeting.

Ward Discretionary Budget

We plan to make more use of the annual Ward Discretionary Budget administered by Inverness South Ward's four Highland Councillors.

The provision of a new bus shelter and the replacement of the Cradlehall shed were jointly funded from WCC and Ward funds.

WCC Donations

Cradlehall Primary School

£250 towards the replacement of the vandalised shed.

Highland Basketball Club

£150 towards new facilities at Culloden Academy.

Cradlehall Park play area

There is a proposal to add a climbing item for primary school aged children at the Cradlehall Park play area.

TEC Services of The Highland Council upgraded the park in 2011 with new equipment aimed at the toddler/younger children age ranges. This new item is so that parents can have both provided for at the same time.

However TECS are now cash-strapped and would like WCC to contribute £1000 as well as the Ward Discretionary Fund. This will spend about 1/3 of all our funds for the whole financial year running till April 2013.

We are disposed to agree to this, but we appreciate your input.

Can people please let the acting secretary know their preferred options and, better still, attend the September meeting of the WCC to discuss the options. Please let interested groups know about this.

New secretary

The WCC is looking for a new secretary.

The post carries an annual honorarium of £250 and gives a useful insight into the affairs affecting the Community.

Please contact the acting secretary for details: admin@westhillcc.co.uk

Pedestrian Crossing on Tower Road

We are delighted that this crossing is now operational and that there is new street lighting on each side of the railway bridge.

Dog litter

Can we please encourage dog owners to use the growing number of litter bins being provided?

The council is no longer providing dedicated red bins for dog waste, because responsible owners bag their dog waste before binning. This means that combined dog and litter bins are adequate, and the council is in the process of installing three combined dogs and litter bins on the path leading from Heights of Woodside down to Woodside Village shops.

We encourage dog owners either to take home their dog litter or to use the litter bins provided.

Sadly, there are some who hang it on a fence for others to dispose. "Do as you would have others do to you" was voted the most popular commandment some years ago, so we hope that we can foster a community spirit which encourages this. Please keep us in touch with continuing problems.