

CRAILING ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LOTHIAN HALL

CRAILING

Monday 3rd June 2024

7.00pm

At this Meeting we will report back on the work we have been doing over the past 12 months and will begin to consider priorities for 2024/25

All those living in our Community Council area are very welcome to attend. We are hoping for a good attendance at this, the most local level of our democratic process.

I look forward to seeing you on the night. Look out for more publicity about the meeting as we finalise arrangements.

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

The revised scheme for Community Councils, prepared by SBC, requires the Council to be appointed for a three-year term. At the end of this period, a new Council has to be formed. This may be done by an election – as happens in Local Council elections – or by a sufficient number of people putting their names forward to be nominated.

We need to form a new Council after our AGM in June.

The maximum size of our Community Council is 9 and we need at least five members before the Council is allowed to function.

Existing Councillors may choose to stand again but new members are particularly welcome. At present, we do not have our maximum number of 9 Councillors and, if we can't get a sufficient number of nominations, there is a very real danger that it will not be possible to form a new council.

ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Some people say that Community Councils do not have any power, and it is certainly true to say that they don't have many formal powers. However, their role is to represent their communities at the most basic level and, at a time when those who make decisions on our behalf seem ever more remote, this role retains its importance.

WHAT HAS CRAILING ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL DONE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- A Protected our Past
- Preserved and maintained our Red Phone Boxes
 - Refurbished our War Memorials
 - Welcomed the Jed Callant during the Crailing Ride
 - Kept a watching brief on the situation at Kalemouth Bridge

B Represented our Present

- Given a grant to purchase bedding plants for our villages
- Arranged for the repair and repainting of our street furniture
- Arranged for additional gritting in frosty weather
- Maintained defibrillators in each village
- Overseen the operation of Resilient Communities Groups in each village
- Campaigned for safer access to Crailing village
- Campaigned to changes to the 20 MPH area in Nisbet village

C Developed a vision for our Future

- Kept a watching brief on the Place Plans initiative being developed in local communities
- We will decide whether to join this scheme early in the work of the new Council

That is just a flavour of the work that we have been doing. Not too bad for a ‘powerless’ organisation.

HOWEVER, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

We need more members to join the Community Council otherwise we may not be allowed to form a new council.

The workload is not enormous – six meetings throughout the year – no more than two hours long.

What we need is your knowledge, opinions and insight.

Over the next week or so a flyer will be delivered to you. This will include a nomination form to enable you to put your name forward to be a Councillor.

To misquote President Kennedy slightly “*Ask not what your Community can do for you – ask what you can do for your Community*”

Completed Nomination Forms must be returned to Fiona Henderson, Democratic Services, SBC or to Councillor Sandy Scott, Returning Officer by 4pm on Monday 13th May.

Please give it some serious thought. After all, if we lose it, we might never get it back.

Charlie Robertson

Acting Chair