



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2022 EDITION OF THE BEACON!

As many of you will be aware, the subject of our local children's education and welfare of our community is very much to the forefront of people's minds with the building of the new primary school and health centre underway.

In addition to this there are changes proposed within the existing schools. In this issue you'll find an article by a parent outlining their experiences of the system and views of what may be to come.

In addition there's information regarding controversial proposed changes to school management. For further information regarding these issues please contact the appropriate bodies (NLC education department or your local councillors).

SUBSCRIBE AT NO COST

No doubt it will come as a shock to some that this is the fifth edition of our re-launched community newsletter. Not to worry, all previous editions are available on www.chrystoncommunitycouncil.org.uk

And just to be sure you don't miss future editions you can subscribe via the same website and have future editions emailed to you at no cost.

We hope you enjoy issue five and join us for future issues.

Brian Elder

Chair, Chryston Community Council

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To receive future copies of the Beacon, please click here:
www.chrystoncommunitycouncil.org.uk/beacon-newsletter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If there's anything you'd like us to consider for the next issue, or if you'd like to write a letter to the editor, please email us at beacon@chrystoncommunitycouncil.org.uk



WE SALUTE A GREEN-FINGERED LOCAL HERO

MRS ROSLYN KHAN, FROM LANRIG ROAD IN MUIRHEAD, HAS RECENTLY BEEN GRANTED A GOOD CITIZEN AWARD FOR TIRELESS WORK IN HER COMMUNITY.

She was nominated by some of her grateful neighbours, who are quick to point to all the work she's done. She clears the Jubilee Path, cutting back the shrubbery, weeding, and recycling the waste in her own bin, and she does the same at the path at Greenlea Road. She's also involved in clearing the grounds at Johnston Loch, and helps a disabled neighbour with their garden too.

"I LOVE WHERE I LIVE"

When asked why she does all this work, Roslyn replied, "I do it because I love where I live, and I want to help to keep it looking nice. And it pays for my free old age bus pass!"

The Community Council would like to offer their congratulations to Roslyn. It's people like her that help to make our community the place that it is.

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN CHRYSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL?

We hold meetings on the last Monday of each month, in Chryston Cultural Centre, from 7.30-9pm. Everyone is welcome.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

CHRYSTON SCHOOL CUTS

A parent/carer (who has to remain anonymous for the sake of the children in their care) has something to say about NLC's academic performance...

I'm a carer with children in Chryston Primary and High Schools. I've been active in school Parent Councils for eight or nine years, and in that time we've endured a long list of cuts.

The first I can recall is the reduction in classroom assistants in the primary: they went from four to one. Janitorial staff had their contracts changed, which they weren't pleased about. Kilbowie Outdoor Centre was closed, and day trips to Strathclyde Park really aren't much consolation.

FUTURE FRIDAYS

More recently, the Council imposed Future Fridays on the high school, moving to a four-and-a-half day week. The entire Parent Council (and the head teacher) were unaware of any consultation, and repeated FOI requests only confused everyone more.

MELM

The latest budget cut which is being sold as an exciting new way of doing things is the MELM. For anyone who doesn't know, that's a Multi-Establishment Leadership Model. Basically, the high school and primary school share a head teacher.

Many concerned parents have already let the council know what they think of this idea, and some have got together to form Parents Against North Lanarkshire MELM (*see article on following page*).

ASN LOOKS LIKE IT'S NEXT

There's actually very little left that the Council can cut, and I think ASN (Additional Support Needs) is next.

I recently had concerns about ASN support one of the children I care for was receiving. They're allocated 20 hours a week, paid for by the authority responsible for their care.

Chryston High School always has a large number of ASN staff off sick and there are no substitute ASN staff. For example, they have an allocation of 130 hours per week, and were down to just 27 hours recently. That's effectively one staff member for 950 children! To put that in perspective, the Scottish government says 30% of children require *some* additional support.

NO ALLOCATION

For the last three or four years both schools have been told not to apply for **any** ASN hours as the Council were about to unveil a new model of working. Children with hours allocated in primary lost them when they moved to high school.

Many of these children have been 'mainstreamed', are care experienced and/or vulnerable, have special educational needs (diagnosed or otherwise) or fall into any number of categories that the Council claims to have at the forefront of their concerns.

This erosion of support means promoted staff spend more time dealing with challenging children. It almost goes without saying this adversely affects the environment for all children, and the teacher.

Not only are NLC not providing adequate ASN cover, they're also taking money from other Councils for provision that they're not putting in place. As well as my child, there's at least one other child with hours paid by another authority.

NEW MODEL

As for their yet-to-be-properly-announced new model, it's a cluster model that lets them move ASNs between schools. Given such emphasis is put on one-to-one relationships, and the type of children we're dealing with (some may be autistic, for example), I don't think much of this solution.

I'm not alone in having had to fight hard to get hours allocated, and I know others in my position would be unhappy to discover their children aren't getting the support they think they are.

IN CONCLUSION

I'm increasingly of the opinion that the Council (or certainly the Education department) treats everyone from head teachers to parents with a disregard that borders on contempt.

While I appreciate the lack of resources, troubles exacerbated by Covid, recruiting issues and many other challenges, it nevertheless feels that we're not given our proper consideration.

I'm confident they will find it difficult to get parents involved in Parent Councils or consultations if they continue to treat everyone this way.

For further information regarding any issues mentioned in this article, please contact the schools directly, NLC education department, or your local councillors.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

PARENTS AGAINST NORTH LAN MELM

You may have seen the front page article in the *Glasgow Evening Times* about NLC's plans for a shared headteacher for Chryston Primary and Chryston High School. This is referred to as a **Multi-Establishment Leadership Model**.

Parents Against North Lanarkshire MELM believe that all parents/carers of pupils who attend both these schools, and those with children in the feeder primary schools, should oppose these plans, citing the lack of consultation, educational rationale, feasibility information and comparable examples.

The projected roll of pupils in the next four years for both schools is well over 2,000. This would make Chryston the largest cross-sector model in Scotland.

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Parents Against North Lanarkshire MELM have many concerns about the proposed model, and those include:

- This model has already failed in NLC – the Kirk of Shotts model was dissolved due to unsatisfactory HMIE Reports.
- It's worrying that NLC was unable to find an adequate candidate for the headteacher post at Chryston Primary but believes it can find one for a far more complex role.
- All children should have equal experience and resources. This model treats Chryston Primary differently from other feeder schools with a permanent headteacher.
- All Chryston High children will be impacted and at a disadvantage from other high schools with a dedicated headteacher.

SURVEY RESULTS - COULD DO BETTER

A Chryston Primary parent conducted a survey on NLC's proposal.

- 93% want a continuation of the traditional model of a designated headteacher and leadership team solely for Chryston Primary.
- 82% believe the current situation is having a negative impact on their children's education, and 98% believe the situation is having a negative impact on staff.

Search Facebook for **Parents Against Chryston MELM** to find out more or get involved.

CATCHMENT AREA ISSUES

At a recent Community Council meeting we were visited by a representative of a group of concerned parents.

The members listened to Alison Reid, who was representing a group of parents from the Dunlop streets in the Rowan Grove development. She told us about an ongoing issue where residents in Steps/Cardowan aren't able to register their children with local schools.

The area was moved over to North Lanarkshire Council from Glasgow City Council in 2019 after a campaign to align the small area with the local area and services. This was done but the council refused to move the area into the educational catchments, saying schools being over capacity prevented them from doing this.

After several recent meetings with North Lanarkshire Council, the residents are still in the position that a consultation can't be done until the new Chryston Primary School is built - meaning a consultation won't happen until at least 2024/25.

The residents met with the Community Council to inform them of the issue and to reassure them that pressure from residents to get this resolved will not result in an influx of pupils as children from the estate mainly attend local schools already, but they have to go through a protracted placing request system.

The residents were pleased to have the support of the Community Council and will continue to inform them of any further developments with this issue.

CHRYSTON COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

Construction work on the new Chryston Community Hub, comprising Chryston Primary School and a Health Centre, is finally underway, with a completion date of Autumn 2023.

The first phase of construction includes:

- Set-up of site accommodation
- Construction of access from Cliffvale Road
- Earthworks, drainage and foundations.

Normal working hours will not exceed Monday to Friday 8am-7pm, Saturday 8am-1pm. If you have any issues with, or questions relating to, the build, please feel free to contact Gillian Bartlett, Project Manager: g.bartlett@robertson.co.uk or 07796 626285.

COMPETITION WINNERS

We once again ran some competitions before Christmas.
The winners were:

PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, P1-P3

1st prize: Sophia Byrne
2nd prize: Angus Shaw
3rd prize: Evan Stanger

PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, P4-P7

1st prize: Erica Binner
2nd prize: Lily Cosimo
3rd prize: Charlotte Troup

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS COMPETITION

1st prize: 37 Millbrae Avenue
2nd prize: 8 Potassels Road
3rd prize: 62 Main Street, Chryston

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thanks to everyone who took part and
to our generous sponsors:

Allanwater Homes, Simpsons Optometrist
and Callan & Co. Solicitors & Notaries.

PLANNING NEWS

Sometimes it feels like we are going round in circles, especially in planning.

A second application for the former FEP site behind the Muirhead Clinic was submitted and again rejected by North Lanarkshire Council. As before, the applicant for the self-storage business has appealed to the Scottish Reporter. We will report back on its decision.

MONITORING

We also monitor developers when they are on-site to ensure they aren't being more disruptive than necessary to the community. The housing development currently underway just off Gartferry Road next to the Parish Church (first approved in 2013) has temporary lights as the road has narrowed for a temporary path while works are carried out. That path isn't looked after, with barriers and signs narrowing and sometime blocking the pathway. We've approached the developer to address this.

Finally, the new Local Development Plan from the Council is almost published and while we haven't seen anything major in our area, we will share the information with you all once we have it.



Northern Corridor Community Volunteers



WHAT SKILL WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN?

FREE activities! Earn badges!
Make NEW FRIENDS! ALL WELCOME!

10.30-12.30, WEDNESDAYS, THE COMMUNITY GARDEN, LORN AVENUE

For more info/to book your place drop us an email (NCCVols@outlook.com) or just come along.

POLICE UPDATE

CALLS TO THE POLICE

In the last month there were 69 calls to police from the Chryston/Muirhead area (including five involving the motorway, not really anything to do with the local community). Of these 69, four were duplicates (about the same incident) and five were abandoned anonymous 999 calls.

CRIMES REPORTED

There have been 18 crime reports raised for the area, including two frauds, road traffic crime, drug possession and vandalism.

Most notably there was a number of thefts/ attempted break-ins around the Belhaven Park/ Haining Wynd area at the beginning of the month which accounts for ten of the crimes reported.

Investigations are still ongoing into the circumstances surrounding the domestic property crimes. The incidents are being investigated by our plain clothes Divisional Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit (DAVRU). We have images of the suspect(s) involved and are hopeful of identifying the perpetrator(s).

REMAIN VIGILANT

We ask you to remain vigilant. Make sure to lock doors and windows, and keep car doors locked and secured. Please report any suspicious or abnormal behaviour and look out for vulnerable neighbours.

At the moment, the people perpetrating these crimes are all opportunist criminals who go around estates in the early hours of the morning, trying every house door and car handle until they find open ones, then taking anything of value from inside that is within easy reach.

SURGERY PLANS

We're currently considering a small surgery for residents of the area to speak to us about any issues they are having or feel we could address. We'll keep you posted.

PC Calvin Lake and PC John Fleming
Cumbernauld Community Police

We'd like to remind everyone that a **DEFIBRILLATOR** is available at the office of **Stepps and Moodiesburn Cars** on Cumbernauld Road.



SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

BUSINESS GROUP

Chryston & Muirhead Business Community
chrystonmuirheadbc.org.uk
Meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

CHURCHES

Chryston Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
105-109 Main Street, Chryston, G69 9LA
0141 779 4188. www.chrystonparishchurch.co.uk
Minister: Mark Malcolm

Chryston United Free Church of Scotland
7 Church Road, Muirhead, G69 9EB. 07815 954792
www.facebook.com/Chrystonuf

St Barbara's RC Church

Elmira Road, Muirhead, G69 9EJ. 0141 779 2286
stbarbara@rcdom.org.uk
Priest: Father Kenny Campbell

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL SERVICES

WINTER SERVICES:

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/winter-services

REPORT A STREET OR ROAD FAULT:

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/roads-streetlighting-and-parking/report-a-roads-streetlighting-or-parking-problem

DOCTORS' SURGERIES

Jamieson Medical Practice

2 Cliffvale Road, Chryston, G69 9DW.
0141 779 2228. www.jamiesonmedical.co.uk

Nalagatla Medical Practice

110 Cumbernauld Road, Muirhead, G69 9AA
0141 779 2017.

POLICE

Community Policing - Cumbernauld, Police Scotland, South Muirhead Rd., Cumbernauld G67 1AX. 01236 503926. www.scotland.police.uk

COUNCILLORS

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