

STEPPS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING
THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2025 7.30PM
STEPPS CULTURAL CENTRE, ST ANDREWS WAY, STEPPIES

Present: Ken Maxwell (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Alice Morton (Treasurer), Muriel McDade (Secretary), Jacqueline Wilson, Paul Noble, Tracy Kennedy

Elected Members: Cllr John McLaren

Apologies: Andrew McPherson (NLC)

Public: 6

1.0 *Opening Remarks/Introductions*

1.1 Chair Ken Maxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2.0 *Apologies*

2.1 Apologies were received as noted above.

3.0 *Approval and Adoption of Minute 18th September 2025*

3.1 Proposed: Campbell Provan Seconded: Alice Morton

4.0 *Office Bearers' Reports*

4.1 *Treasurer's Report*

As at 29 October 2025 Bank Statement shows account balance of £3,351.85

Cheques cashed:

ARCAM Design Ltd (LPP map) £75.00

Refreshments (LPP in-person event) £31.30

Cheques raised and not shown as cashed:

WIX website £146.28 2024/25 and £150.00 2025/26

NLC 3 x room lets £52.25

Income as shown:

NLC Admin Grant £827.00

4.2 *Secretary's Report*

- Correspondence and Admin as required.
- Action points raised at last meeting have all been completed.
- Helping out with Local Place Plan.

Report re meeting with Kirsty Mooney NLC Biodiversity Campbell and I met Kirsty in September. We walked with her through the green belt area at Whitehill Farm and along the side of the Garnkirk Burn. We highlighted the following: -

- Badger Sett - where sighted
- Barn Owl nesting box
- Kestrel nesting box
- Buzzard nest
- Tree belts on both sides of fields with a variety of trees some of which are very old
- Area of water near railway heading west
- Various birds that use the habitat for nesting/feeding. (Snipe, kestrel and barn owl are biodiversity priority species)

Kirsty said there is no Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and no core paths however there is a Right of Way. The SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) only extends to Lenzie Road and it is their objective to protect and enhance the burn habitat, associated riparian features and water quality. She also said it was important that hedgerows and shrubs be maintained for biodiversity. The Farmland Habitat Action Plan aims to protect and safeguard habitats associated with farmland such as lowland, flood plain, grazing, marsh and hedgerow.

The meeting noted that the **Call for Sites** early 2026 and the **Call for Ideas** which offers an opportunity to reinforce the LPP and inform the NLLDP2.

5.0 Community Police

PC Neil McBain; PC Laura Dudgeon Northern Corridor Community Policing Team

POLICE SCOTLAND – NOVEMBER 2025 OFFICIAL

CRIME STATISTICS During the month of October there were a total of 51 incidents reported to Police in the Stepps area. The following shows a breakdown of the 29 crimes recorded as a result of these reported incidents:

Category October Assault 4, Bogus Caller 0, Vandalism 0, Housebreaking 3, Theft 2, Drugs 2, Road Traffic related 9, Communications 1, Threatening Behaviour 5, Other Crimes 3. **Grand Total 29.**

Although the total number of crimes is high. The figure can be attributed to three incidents where a high number of offences were reported.

IDENTIFIED LOCAL ISSUES Speeding along Cumbernauld Road has been reported as an issue by residents. Road traffic officers will be carrying out speed checks as well as vehicles stops in relation to the festive drink driving campaign.

CURRENT CRIME TRENDS In the past month there has been two break ins to houses, with one person being identified and charged in relation. A vehicle was also stolen in the area through an apparent keyless theft. Specialist officers are continuing to carry out enquiries in relation to this and patrols have been increased through the hours of darkness. It is encouraged that members of the public are being aware of suspicious behaviour and remain vigilant. An increase in security is encouraged, reminding to lock and secure homes/ vehicles/ property. Any concerning behaviour should be reported to police without delay.

COMMUNITY; SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT Community officers visited Stepps Primary School to deliver inputs in relation internet safety for primary 6 pupils and 'People who help us' for primary 3 pupils. A quick visit to the nursery was well received also. Assistance was also provided with school parking and

safety advice. It should be noted that parking enforcement is carried out solely by North Lanarkshire traffic wardens.

6.0 *Environmental*

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM – BLUEBELL PLAYPARK Work underway. Cost £5,000 will be completed by the end of November. Available for use by young people from local primary schools and nurseries.

Action 1 - Secretary to contact Kirsty Mooney and/or Peter McNally to come to our meeting and give a talk

SOLAR LIGHTS, DUNALASTAIR PLAY PARK Work starting on this soon. Neighbour consultation resulted in a favourable response.

WATER VOLE INTERPRETATION BOARD Will be installed in the Bluebell Play Park.

INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECTS Lynn Gow arranged two sessions on Thursday 2nd October 11am (4 weeks) Chestnut Café (Stepps Parish Church) and St Joseph's Primary. Previous sessions have been very successful especially with the children. Lynn is trying to encourage others across the Northern Corridor to attend.

ADDITIONAL TREE PLANTING, BLUEBELL PLAYPARK There will be a large replant initiative carried out in Ward 5 at the beginning of 2026 due to other trees being removed within the area. The Bluebell Play Park will be included for replant. It's envisage 3 replacement trees for every 1, however space maybe a restricting factor. There will be planting within the urban environment to compensate for the loss of trees within the Ward.

Action 2 - Secretary to contact Kirsty Mooney re protection of water vole habitat when replanting.

CARDOWAN, OUTDOOR GYM An outdoor gym is being established in Cardowan with work underway at a cost of £35,000. Installation should be completed by mid-November 2025.

CARDOWAN, SOLAR LIGHTS PROJECT To provide eco-friendly solar eye ground lighting at the pathway situated between Frankfield Road and Balmore Crescent next to Cardowan MUGA. Cost £2,714. Consultation currently active and positive results being received.

FRANKFIELD ROAD, CARDOWAN ASH AREA PROJECT To provide a new whin dust gravel surface on the ash area next to Cardowan MUGA at Frankfield Road. A new surface would support improved delivery of bike hub activities by Cardowan Community Hub. Cost £10,000. No progress currently. On hold due to pump track request.

SOLAR LIGHTS, DUNALASTAIR PLAY PARK Work starting on this soon. Neighbour consultation resulted in a favourable response.

PLANTERS ON CUMBERNAULD ROAD Meeting to retain and maintain planters to be arranged with Cllr McLaren, NCCV and a member of the previous SCCT. Public Liability insurance is required. The previous work for these was carried out by NCCV. Meeting delayed due to NLC staff illness.

GRAFFITI REMOVED Graffiti has been removed from installations on Cumbernauld Road across from Bannatynes.

ADVERTISING TRAILER AT ROUNDABOUT NEAR DEWAR ROAD Second removal of trailer arranged by Cllr McLaren.

RAILINGS ON CUMBERNAULD ROAD No update re painting of railings on Cumbernauld Road or lamp standards on Whitehill Avenue, Blenheim Avenue, Cardowan Drive and West Avenue. Cllr McLaren will pursue. **Action 3 - Secretary to send details to Cllr McLaren**

HOCKEY PARK 23 October 2025, meeting with Cllr McLaren, NLC Officers, hockey representatives and community councillors to discuss the hockey park. Council Officers agreed to review the points raised at the meeting and get back to the group in due course. Secretary holds a minute of the meeting on file.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Wreaths laid by local organisations at the service held on 8th November 2025.

7.0 Local Place Plan Update

- Draft LPP published on S&DCC website/ FB for consultation with a closing date of 25 November 2025.
- Submit the final Local Place Plan to NL planning authority for validation and registration.
- Printing of LPP booklet, launch and distribution.

Andrew Thomsen updated the meeting: Making good progress re the LPP. Public consultation underway and statutory information notice emailed to relevant parties. Pre-validation meeting with NLC planning. Meeting with graphic designer. Hopefully launch the LPP early in 2026. It will be published on the NLC website. We would like to get more people involved and this could be discussed at our January meeting. We will also look to present survey results, stats etc and the best way to do this in terms of transparency.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1

10/11/202525/00812/FUL - Application Permitted

<https://eplanning.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=T03I0JBAMNX00&activeTab=summary> Formation of access and change of use of Agricultural Land to Dog Exercising Field. S&DCC objection was submitted. Suggest monitoring site developments.

8.2 Bluebell Dell/Euro Garage Development

- NLC enforcement officer carried out a site visit.
- Works were out with the application site boundary of the Euro Garage site.
- Planning advised that these works relate to drainage infrastructure required to service the development and are in line with Scottish Water's requirements.
- NLC enforcement officer will continue to monitor this matter.

Biodiversity Officer contacted with a view to seeking compensatory measures to have area reinstated to what it was. Scottish bluebells need to be planted not hybrid Spanish ones.

8.3 Online Community Event – Local Development Plan Update

Online community event to share updates on the Local Development Plan

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/working-communities/consultations/live>

Action 4 - Secretary to email details to mailing list. JW to add to website

8.4 Dumping alongside Garnkirk Burn Various items have been dumped along Garnkirk Burn near Hornhill Farm track. These include fridges, washing machines and bins. Cllr McLaren to pursue and contact Environmental and Garnkirk Estates.

Action 5 - Secretary to contact Cllr McLaren re this

9.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing Report

- Cllr McLaren spoke about the Countryside Alliance Scotland.
- War Memorial area being tidied before the annual Remembrance Service.
- Dewar Road/bus turning point near roundabout.

A meeting attendee gave information about the current situation regarding Dewar Road.

10.0 Northern Corridor Community Board & Northern Corridor Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)/Northern Corridor Community Board (Chair, Brandon Williams)

The current **LOIPs** were identified throughout 2020/21 and were published in Autumn 2021. They outline the key priorities for each Community Board area based on the needs of each local community. The LOIPs are due to end in 2027. Need to learn from the current approach viz what works and what doesn't.

NCCB meeting dates 2026 are Wednesday 18th February 2026, Wednesday 20th May 2026, Wednesday 19th August 2026, Wednesday 18th November 2026.

Northern Corridor Meeting 19th November 2025 was attended by Campbell Provan and Jacqueline Wilson.

Points reported:

- The 38C bus diverting up to Cardowan Road from Cumbernauld Road.
- Chryston community hub update, Mental health services from Greater Glasgow & Clyde are no longer planned to transfer.
- GPs encouraged to refer to the services that are available such as blood sampling that can be taken at Chryston Community Hub with no appointment needed.
- New GP to be employed at Jamieson Medical Practice.
- Police said that off road bikes are coming from Glasgow to our area and they are working jointly to try and resolve this. There is significant noise pollution and pathways are being destroyed.
- Speeding on Cumbernauld Road continues to be an issue and more cars are patrolling the area resulting in cars being stopped.
- Road safety issues continue around the schools with parking being a problem.
- Electric scooters are a problem at Chryston High School with young children going to school on them.

- Bonfires - New Fire Commander has been working alongside NLC and has achieved a reduction in bonfires however they continue to be a problem especially in Cardowan where they burn all sorts of materials. Cllr McLaren would like to see a total ban on bonfires with an exclusion zone throughout North Lanarkshire Council.
- NLC budget has been shared and will be available on NLC website.

11.0 AOCB

11.01 Recruitment S&DCC is currently looking to co-opt members. To find out more, please email secretary.sdcc@mail.com .

11.02 Monkland and Kirkintilloch Railway East Dunbartonshire is to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the railway in 1826. Its bicentenary will be celebrated in style. A series of events has been planned and are now being Finalised. John Paul Sumner mentioned there are plaques being erected at Sunnyside dated 1826.

11.03 Friends of Les Marches Twinning Association A presentation will be held on 21st November 2025 in St Joseph's Parish Centre to celebrate and thank Malcolm Close for his dedication and hard work to FLMTA spanning many years.

11.04 Chryston Community Hub Newsletter Details available on S&DCC website and in Stepps Library <https://www.steppsc.com/>

11.05 North Lanarkshire Council Community Spaces, Gym Halls and Football Pitches are now available. To find out more visit:- northlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-facilities

11.06 Glasgow Airport Glasgow Airport looking at new air space routes. Landing and take-off routes will not really change and probably there will be less coming over this way as they will go west.

11.07 Caledonia Funeral Aid Details available on S&DCC website - <https://www.steppsc.com/>

12.0 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre.

Vote of thanks to the Chair

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