

STEPS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING
THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2026 7.30PM
STEPS CULTURAL CENTRE, ST ANDREWS WAY, STEPS

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

Elected Members: Cllr John McLaren

Apologies: Tracy Kennedy, Tom Forrester, Richard Teale

Public: 6 (including Scottish Police)

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 22nd November 2025

3.1 Proposed: Alice Morton Seconded: Campbell Provan

4.0 Office Bearers' Reports

4.1 Chairperson's Report

Andrew Thomsen is now noted as a co-opted member in the NLC membership list of Steps & District Community Council. Ken thanked Andrew for coming on board

Nominated by Alice Morton (Treasurer) and Seconded by Muriel McDade (Secretary)

4.2. Treasurer's Report

As at 30 December 2025 Bank Statement shows account balance of £3170.12.

Cheques cashed:

Printing Costs £36.11

Room Hire £152.95

Interest £7.33

Cheques raised and not shown as cashed:

Website costs 2024/25 & 2025/26

NLC 1 x room let £18.50

Next Statement due end of January 2026

4.3 Secretary's Report

Correspondence and admin as required. Booking rooms when necessary.

Wreaths at Cenotaph - Corresponding with a local resident re the disappearance of poppy wreaths that were laid at the cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. There were particularly strong winds shortly after the service and I think the wreaths could have been blown away rather than the suggested vandalism. 2 wreaths have since been returned.

Perhaps before this November, we could think of an idea to secure the wreaths in some way to prevent this from happening again.

5.0 Community Police

STEPPS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE
POLICE SCOTLAND –JANUARY 2026

CRIME STATISTICS

During the months of December and January there were a total of 87 incidents reported to Police in the Stepps area.

The following table shows a breakdown of the 17 crimes recorded as a result of these reported incidents;

Category Dec/Jan

Assault 3

Bogus Caller 0

Vandalism 1

Housebreaking 0

Theft 2

Drugs 3

Road Traffic related 6

Communications 0

Threatening Behaviour 2

Other Crime 0

Grand Total 17

Other matters discussed:

Police to look out for quad bike which is licensed, drives around the area and is very noisy

Fake £20 notes in circulation - please be careful when selling private items

6.0 Environmental

Planters on Cumbernauld Road. Arrange meeting with Northern Corridor Community volunteers, NLC Land Supervisor (Streetscene), Northern Corridor Community Volunteers and Previous Stepps Community Development Trust. Public Liability Insurance is required and this is supported by NCCV

Additional Tree planting - Bluebell Park

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. Bluebell Park is included in this however we have made the NLC Ranger aware of the water vole habitat which should be protected when replanting.

Public comment - can replacement trees be planted where the previous ones were taken away as there is now a big open space?

Dunalastair Park

- Completed path work at Dunalastair Drive and solar lights now installed at the Play Park.
- Contacted Peter McNally NLC about the possibility of installing solar lights in the Bluebell Play Park however these may not be suitable as large trees do not let enough light in
- Comments raised re solar lights in Cardowan. The lights were placed into ash paths and are normally covered in rainwater.

Vandalism

- Reported vandalism to Seven Lochs boards at Stepps Railway Station and graffiti on installations near pedestrian crossing on Cumbernauld Road.
- Gas box near Bannatynes near school???

Flooding on Cumbernauld Road

Flooding and blocked drain has been reported

Roads Maintenance Team

RMT does not undertake the painting of railings. NLC has adopted the practice of specifying pedestrian guardrails that are galvanised. This approach significantly reduces the maintenance costs associated with painting and ongoing upkeep. A similar approach applies to street lighting columns. At present, painting these columns is not considered essential work. We are aware of their current condition and intend to include their replacement within a future renewal scheme (Councilor McLaren dealing with this)

Water Vole Interpretation Board

NLC Biodiversity Officer - Board will be installed in the Bluebell Play Park

Intergenerational Projects

Lynn Gow (NLC Driving Digital Locally) delivered two further sessions on 2.10.25 and 7.11.25 which were successful. This award winning intergenerational project has successfully brought together 15 senior citizens from the Chestnut Cafe and pupils from St Joseph's Primary School for a four week digital skills programme.

Outdoor Classroom, Bluebell Play Park and Outdoor Gym, Cardown

Future openings - dates to be advised

7.0 Local Place Plan

Progress since the last meeting in November. Before Xmas, our Local Place Plan was sent to NLC for validation. They have found some technical issues that need to be attended to re statutory requirements. These will be dealt with this month.

8.0 Planning Matters

Hornhill Farm Track - Site visited by Planning and Environmental Services. Various items removed.

North Lanarkshire Council NLLDP2

Call for Sites - Part of preparing its new Local Development Plan (NLLDP2) is to identify land for future housing and development, allowing landowners and developers to promote sites, with submissions assessed for viability and alignment with council goals, informing the council's planning strategy and ensuring a future land supply.

Call for Ideas - This will allow individuals and groups to contribute their thoughts on site selection and other relevant topics, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to planning.

Stay updated - The website will be updated once NLC is ready to invite submissions for the Call for Ideas. You can also register for direct updates to stay informed at **Planning email alerts**.

Planning Democracy - Our manifesto

❖ is a solution to many of the issues that you face in planning; the injustices, the environmental degradation and the destruction of existing communities that you would have described to politicians.

❖ is a roadmap for transforming Scotland's planning system to truly serve its people and places—and many of you have helped shape it.

❖ includes over 30 Calls to Action: stronger community power, rights-based planning, environmental protections, affordable sustainable housing, and land reform

Free Training Aid from Planning Aid Scotland - January - March 2026 (online)

This is a one-off programme of sessions and will not be repeated so we encourage early booking. All sessions will be delivered in early 2026 and will be recorded with recordings available to rewatch for 3 months after delivery. Please keep an eye on our EventBrite page as additional sessions will be added in the new year.

Please register for any sessions of interest and feel free to share this opportunity with your colleagues, networks and community contacts.

If you have any questions or accessibility requirements, please contact our Planning & Projects Officer, Anne Knippler at anne@pas.org.uk

Open Space Strategy Consultation Survey will close on 6 February 2026. We're inviting you to help shape the future of open spaces across North Lanarkshire. Your feedback is vital in ensuring our parks, play areas, and green spaces meet the needs of our communities - now and in the future.

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/yourcommunity/working-communities/consultations/live-consultations/open-space-strategy-consultation>

9.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing

Councillor McLaren discussed:-

- Gas boilers being fitted by NLC although no boxing in/tidying up works are being carried out. Please be aware of this before works commence
- Countryside Alliance
- Bus stop/turning point at the bottom of Dewar Road off Cumbernauld Road
- Contact community pay back team for ex offenders to work in the community free of charge

10.0 North Lanarkshire Council

Northern Corridor Community Board (Chair Brandon Williams)

Date of next meeting - 18th February 2026

Notes from meeting:-

Dewar Road - NLC adoption Update that developers have no interest in the land. NLC Legal Services are instructing a road bond for Dewar Rd. This would allow NLC to obtain monies from the developers for the cost of works on Dewar Rd then once completed NLC would adopt Dewar Rd.

Living Christmas Trees - the Living Christmas Trees have only been allocated in areas where there were previous trees, no further funding/plans for any additional trees.

Police Scotland to provide a contact email address for non-urgent crimes in the Northern Corridor. Email address is: Contactus@scotland.police.uk

Report via form on website which for non-emergencies: Contact Police Scotland - Police Scotland

11.0 AOCB

11.01 Recruitment - S&DCC

We continue to recruit for members of the public to join our Council as Co-opted members.

11.02 Strategic Network Route 6 (SNR 6) - Active Travel Project which runs from Steps to Condorrat

Online workshops are an opportunity for you to help inform the design at the earliest possible stage. Before we begin developing designs, it is vital that we gather local knowledge from those who know the area best. We want to understand the current barriers, safety concerns, and desire lines that affect how people move through these communities.

- Crossing Difficulties:** Where is it hard or unsafe to cross?
- Traffic Speed & Safety:** Where do vehicles present the biggest risk?
- Connections:** Where do people actually want to go (schools, shops, parks) versus where the paths currently lead?

- 1.**Project Context:** Brief overview of SNR 6 Project.
- 2.**Virtual Site Walk:** An interactive discussion using maps to walk through the route (Stepps, Chryston, Moodiesburn, Condorrat) and identify constraints.
- 3.**Defining "Improvement":** Discussing what successful improvements would look like for your community.

11.03 NLC Transportation Planning Team Online Survey

Transport impacts on all of us, whether we drive, use public transport, cycle or walk as well as on our environment.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey at <https://ow.ly/q8F150XJ>

The online survey will remain open until midnight on **Sunday, 8th February 2026**

11.04 Open Space Strategy Consultation

Open spaces are important for our physical and mental health, biodiversity, and tackling climate change. We work to manage and improve these spaces for residents.

To do this, we're developing an Open Space Strategy and we'd like your help. Take a few minutes to complete a short survey to ensure our parks, play areas and green spaces meet the needs of our communities - now and in the future. <https://ow.ly/vYIm50XuOtn>

Survey will close on 6 February 2026

11.05 Friends of Les Marches Twinning Association

Presentation to Malcolm Close Friday on 21st November 2025

Annual Membership £10

Visit to Les Marches early October 2026

11.06 Book Launch 'AUCHENGEICH'

An open invitation to the People of Moodiesburn & its surrounding Communities, to come & join us in the Auchengeich Miners' Club, on Friday evening, **30th of January**, at the launch of Hugh Gaffney's Book AUCHENGEICH.

The book details for the very first time, the harrowing effects the AUCHENGEICH PIT DISASTER had on our community and more importantly the lasting effects it has left on those families, who lost their loved ones on that dark and fateful day.

YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

11.07 Parking Fine Scam

Please be aware that one of our residents has received an email requesting payment of a £20 parking fine. We believe that this email could be a scam. The phone number provided did not connect or return a call, and when proceeding to the payment stage the site requested extensive personal information.

This has now been reported to our Community Police Officer, who will be visiting the resident.

Please be very careful if you receive anything similar.

Always check the source before making any payment and do not share your personal details.

11.08 Northern Corridor Community Volunteers

NCCV are holding a Burns Afternoon in Chryston Community Hub on Sunday 25th January 2026 from 2pm until 4pm. This is a free event and everyone is welcome

11.09 Stressbusters

NEW - TUESDAY NIGHT WALKING GROUP - Meet at Chryston Community Hub 6pm for a pre walk check in and 6.30pm for a 45 minute to 1 hour walk

ALL WELCOME - PLEASE DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

11.10 ACTIVENL Members

Unlimited access to all Active NL gyms including swimming pools, fitness specialist, fitness classes and discounted golf & tennis.

Start your year strong and join online today: <https://www.activenl.co.uk/join-activenl>

11.11 Meeting with Robroyston Community Council

Met with 6 members of Robroyston Community Council to discuss ideas and issues

11.12 Monkland and Kirkintilloch Railway

East Dunbartonshire is to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the railway in 1826

Events to mark the bicentenary are being organised at the Kirkintilloch end of the line, with details to be confirmed. These include:

- Inauguration and unveiling of a National Transport Trust Red Wheel at Southbank Marina
- A railway-themed fun day at the Auld Kirk Museum
- A talk on Early Scottish Railways by John Yellowlees, the Scotland Manager of the National Transport Trust
- A talk on the History of the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway by Don Martin MBE, local historian and author
- A guided walk along the northern part of the Monklands Kirkintilloch Railway
- The launch of a book of photographs from the 1960s of the Monklands & Kirkintilloch line

12.0 Date and time of next meeting

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday 19th February 2026 7.30pm

Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7.30pm

Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Stepps

SECRETARY EMAIL - secretary.sdcc@gmail.com

CHAIR EMAIL - sdcc.chair@gmail.com