Community reports – Updates by Partnership members.

5 There was heard verbal reports from members of this Partnership on various matters regarding the Pollokshields Ward as follows:-

(1) Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council – John Smith highlighted issues regarding removal of communal blue bins from the streets and the concerns that the back court bins were not adequate and could cause contamination within the back courts.

Thereafter, Karen Venables, NRS agreed to refer the concerns to the relevant team, and provide an update to the Partnership.

(2) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) – Station Commander Douglas Millar, advised

(a) that within the ward there had been 19 fires, no fatalities, 14 false alarms of which 11 were unwanted fire alarms, which had seen a 40% decrease from July 2023, since the new policy had come into force;

(b) that SFRS had attended 14 Special Services, carried out 30 Home Fire Safety Visits and working with the Community Action Team had distributed leaflets and had carried out anti-social behaviour talks on fire safety; and

(c) that bonfire night had been very busy but overall a success, although there had been attacks on members of the Service in the North East of the city.

(3) Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network – Bill Lawns highlighted the issue regarding the Council's Liveable Neighbourhoods work which split the area covered by Southside Housing properties over 2 areas, with Councillor Molyneux advising that each area had the same level of resource allocation, which included 3 projects to take forward to the next stage.

(4) Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) – Karen Venables advised that

(a) NRS thanked Police Scotland, SFRS and Elected Members for their assistance with firework reporting and the engagement with schools and the community prior to bonfire night;

(b) drain cleaning on streets that had been missed would be carried out by the end of November and further information could be found on the Council's website at https://glasgow.gov.uk/gullies;

(c) all resurfacing issues highlighted in the minutes of 12th September 2023, had been put forward for action to the relevant teams;

(d) issues with fly-tipping on or around Housing Association properties in Craigton had been referred to the Wheatley Group;

(e) the deep cleaning of streets within the Craigton area had been noted and NRS would arrange for a team to revisit the area around the festive season, based on a list of streets provided to them; and

(f) work was ongoing in Dumbreck with regard to the clearance of leaves.

(5) Craigton Community Council – Mary Williamson highlighted issues within Bellahouston Park advising that

(a) there was fencing that required replacing, including an area that covered 145 meters, however to date no communication had been received from NRS regarding this matter;

(b) they contacted the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, NRS to request a programme of works for the area, however to date there had been no response;

(c) the community had not been consulted on the design of the playpark and NRS had made a decision on the design; and

(d) they were dissatisfied with the length of time taken by NRS to submit tenders to contractors and subsequently carry out required work.

The Partnership noted

(i) the update, with Councillor Molyneux advising that he had also raised with NRS the issues regarding the fencing work following a recent meeting with the community council;

(ii) that Kevin McCormack, NRS had been working with a contractor with regard to Bellahouston Park fencing, with refurbishment to include re-using existing fencing and would try to ensure that the works be actioned as soon as possible;

(iii) that costs may have increased for the project, which may need to be approved by the Partnership; and

(iv) that Ms Williamson had highlighted this to NRS at the last meeting of this Partnership, however no work had been carried out to date.

(6) Police Scotland – Inspector Scott advised

(a) that officers had responded to complaints regarding speeding, loud exhausts, anti-social behaviour, drug dealing etc, with speed checks publicised on Police Scotland’s website;

(b) that the issues around cyclists who failed to dismount at Shields Road Bridge had been highlighted to Police Scotland's legal team and Inspector Scott would provide an update to a future meeting of the Partnership;

(c) of the Your Police survey, which Police Scotland encouraged all members of the public to complete;

(d) of the fireworks strategy and thanked NRS for the plan, which had been circulated to other Police Scotland divisions for reference;

(e) that police had been targeted with fireworks, which had resulted in 2 officers being injured;

(f) of the work with NRS around community safety;

(g) that there had been increased public concern and hate crime reports relating to the Middle East conflict, but no increase in anti-social behaviour; and.

(h) there had been an increase in bicycle thefts and the community police officers would monitor and provide safety and security advice to members of the public.

(7) Pollokshields Heritage – Ann Laing highlighted

(a) that Pollokshields Heritage had been involved in several planning applications that included different proposals within the area, and as a result had lodged objections with the Planning Applications Committee; and

(b) concerns around the safety at cycle lanes on St Andrews Drive and Nithsdale Road and the issues around traffic delays due to the temporary road and bridge closures.

(8) Pollokshields Community Council – Tabassum Niamat advised that

(a) they thanked local officers who continued to attend their meetings on a regular basis;

(b) they were awaiting confirmation as to whether the planned fireworks event by Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA) had gone ahead;

(c) drivers continued to park in front of communal bins and fly-tipping by residents continued to be problematic; and

(d) they had previously submitted a participation request on waste and cleansing matters however this was not being actively progressed.

The Partnership noted

(i) that Derek Spiers would provide an update on the YCSA activity funded via the Area Budget; and

(ii) that Karen Venables would re-engage with the community council regarding the participation request.