

## **Biggar Community Council**

### **Bonfire Subcommittee Meeting**

**25/10/21**

Present: Lesley Craise  
Al Stewart  
Peter Rae  
Laura Shirley  
Jimmy Ritchie  
Neil Ingram

7 members of the public

#### Paperwork

The Temporary Entertainment License application and the Parade application have been resubmitted in the name of the Community Council, as opposed to being in the name of the Cornets, as requested by the Events Safety Advisory Group (ESAG). We had to pay £30 to resubmit the Temporary Entertainment License application.

The insurance proposal form, the risk assessment, the site plan, and the event plan have all been submitted.

Noted that some of these items needed to be submitted more than once and that there is a level of duplication in how the ESAG operates.

The TTRO (temporary traffic restriction order) and the hiring of a traffic management company has still to be completed. We cannot ask for a TTRO until we are sure that the event will go ahead. We are still unclear as to how the decision is made that the event can go ahead and by whom. We will need to press this point at the ESAG meeting on 27/10/21. Al raised the possibility of the diversion being altered after the parade has gone past the Carnwath Road.

#### Support from Members of the Public

Members of the public are urged to write to their MP, MSP and local councillors asking them to assist with helping to ensure that the bonfire goes ahead. It was agreed to send a modified version of the letter Robin McAlpine wrote to Ken Wratten (Chair of the ESAG) and copy this to David Mundell, Mairi McAllan, Ian McAllan, Alex Allison, and Eric Holford. Lesley will send this, and a summary she has produced, to everyone attending the meeting. She will amend the letter to reflect the fact that it was Transco rather than Scottish Gas Network who were responsible when the gas pipe was installed.

It was felt that the ESAG do not really understand a town like Biggar, where it is extremely unlikely that someone would set light to the bonfire, prior to Hogmanay, for instance. Susan stressed that people might not prefer to go into all the information Robin has but should

write from their own perspective. Susan offered to draft a sample letter that others could use.

#### Covid

The biggest risk is probably in the pubs. Lesley asked people to consider the possibility of asking pub owners if they would consider the use of vaccine passports.

Al agreed to ask the Cross Keys and the Crown and Jimmy agreed to ask the Fleming Arms and the Elphinstone.

#### PA Equipment for bottom of town

Lucas Morris from AVTech Hire has offered equipment.

#### ESAG Meeting

Lesley will forward the link. Lesley expressed doubts as to whether the procedure for insurance was the same as in previous years because we had to fill in a proposal form which has never been the case before.

Stevie wondered if it would be worth approaching other insurance companies at this point.

Jimmy will ask people who know about insurance and Al will contact the insurance company recommended by Alison – Marsh Commercial.

#### Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged