**Dechmont Community Council**

**Approved Minutes of Re-connecting Meeting, 24 June 2020**

**Present:** Sarah Macdonald, Lynda Mcgivern, Ian Ferrel, Liz Swarbrick, Jim Watson

Siân Williams, Greg Colquhoun, Susan Gothard.

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Chris Horne, Cllr Diane Calder, Cllr Janet Campbell, Cllr Angela Doran, Mr & Mrs Orr

**Apologies:** Cllr Diane Calder, Vikki Kennedy, Diane Telfer, Gillian Anderson

The chair Sarah McDonald, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and their roles/reason for attending the meeting.

**Sculptures**

* Sarah provided an update on the sculptures commissioned by the community council reminding the group that the beds need to be cleared in preparation for them to be erected (date is yet unknown).

**Action**

**It was agreed that to conserve any remaining plants, clearance of the bed at the east end of the village would be organised approximately one week prior to the sculpture being erected and volunteers will work to help prepare the area (social distancing). Liz informed everyone that she has plants from the Bangour site which can be used to decorate the beds once the sculptures are in situ.**

**Bangour development**

* There was discussion and information exchanged about recent events relating to the Bangour site and many concerns were voiced from members, residents and the councillors.

**In summary**: over the last few weeks there have been increased incidences of disturbance, aggressive behaviour, damage and destruction to buildings on and around the Bangour development site, this has happened as the result of social media “advertising’ the area as a place to visit to see ghosts and party, viewed over 5,000 times on Facebook.

Groups of individuals have travelled from as far as Inverness and the south of England to visit the site, this is causing disruption to the privacy and safety of residents. It was agreed that the right to walk freely should not interfere with people’s right to live peacefully in their own homes.

In an attempt to prevent further problems, the Evening News published an article in which local councillors were quoted re-enforcing that Bangour should not be visited. Despite this and other methods implemented by Ambassador and the police to discourage visitors from outwith the local area, it is still an on-going problem.

Cllr Campbell informed the group that the recent Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO) has now lapsed, it was raised with the Police Divisional Commander and Section 20 was implemented (still applicable). This means that locals can still access the site to walk through and enjoy however the police have the authority to stop anyone behaving suspiciously. Several meetings have taken place between the Councillors, individuals and representatives of the Ambassador Group in an attempt to address and resolve the current situation. There are still a few options available and the Ambassador Group are waiting to hear the views of the community Council before acting.

**Action**

**Dechmont Community Council sub-group will meet on Monday 29th June 2020 to discuss the options. The Ambassador Group will be contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss the best way forward.**

**Cllr Doran will share contact details of the appropriate people with Sarah.**