



Jackton & Thorntonhall Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 18th 2025 at 7.30pm
Thorntonhall Tennis Club



Sederunt: Fiona Gardner (Chair), Christian Potter (Secretary), Lesley Whitefield, Bill Turner and Trevor Herrington.

It was noted that a quorum of members was present and the meeting could proceed in accordance with the constitution.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Sandy McEwen, Douglas Eunson, John McManus.

Councillors Present: No Councillors were present. Apologies had been received from Councillor David Watson.

Public Present: 62 members of the local community attended the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Warren and Sonja Bader.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The June minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were approved by Fiona Gardner and seconded by Lesley Whitefield.

Review of Action Points

A summary of the action points is attached at Appendix 1.

3. Updates:

BESS update

Trish Harvey from the BESS Group provided an update to the meeting. This is attached at Appendix 2. The application should go live in Autumn and the BESS Group will let everyone know when this happens. It is important that residents object. Every person in a household with an e-mail address can object. It is important objections are not copy and pasted / AI generated and in residents' own words. A drone video of the area in proposed BESS location was shown with a video of another BESS and the sound from that.

A number of questions were asked by residents:

1. Have there been any BESS sites rejected ?

Energy Consent Unit (ECU) – part of Scottish Government reviews BESS above 50 MW. The BESS group has not seen any that have been rejected by the ECU.

Below 50MW BESS is reviewed by the local council – eg Eaglesham and East Renfrewshire Council. Eaglesham has a judicial review running and a campaign going – they are holding ERC to task. A small BESS was denied in Ayrshire but then the ECU overruled that.

2. What about Scotrail. Are they opposed to the BESS

They will wait until the application goes live. They will go against it as it's so close to the railway line and the fact that the railway is now electrified – this is a huge thing in our favour.

Plus the 2 access points are from the 1 direction. This is very important to object about this.

3. Can we invite our MSP to listen to concerns.

We have met them all. They are not proactive.

4. Could we involve the H&S Executive to assess if there is a level of risk.

Scottish Fire & Rescue are a required consultee. They are generally underwhelming in their response.

We have been through all different political parties - MSPs, MPs and Councillors. Broadly underwhelmed by their response. A resident also said that she had written to all MSPs and MPs and received similar underwhelming responses.

The BESS group emphasised that residents should not be disheartened and should be ready to oppose this.

5. Who owns the land

There was general discussion about who owns the land with a resident saying that he believed Lord Dalkeith owns the land. John Henderson was then identified as the land-owner and he confirmed he owns the land. John said there is some misinformation about what's been said at the meeting. He didn't share this when asked but said he would wait until the application goes live. John said he has been a long supporter of the community and has lived here all his life and will continue to live here.

A resident said there will need to be technical objections not just "I don't like the idea of this". The BESS group confirmed residents will get a guide with all technical aspects covered. For example – information on fire risks.

A Busby resident asked to clarify – will the BESS application go first and then the LDES. This was confirmed by the BESS group.

6. Why can the BESS not go to Whitelee Wind Farm.

Christian Potter said she asked this at the recent meeting with JTCC / BESS group and Apatura and she would share Apatura's response on this in the minutes – see below.

- *Could you provide information as to why Whitelee Windfarm is an unsuitable site when there is a BESS there already.*
Whitelee 539MW windfarm and Whitelee 50MW share the same 16.5km of underground cabling circuits from Whitlee Substation to East Kilbride South 275kV Substation. These circuits are suitably sized for the 589MW combined maximum export capacity. If an

additional 150MW export capacity (whether that be solar/wind/BESS/LDES) at Whitelee, this would not be connected via the existing windfarm, as the cables back to East Kilbride South do not have the 'headroom' for such a significant increase in capacity. Therefore, this would require new 16.5km cabling from Whitelee to the East Kilbride South 275kV Substation. Therefore, from a national grid perspective, there is no value in having a 150MW renewables project at Whitelee as opposed to other locations.

Community Planning Partnership Meeting – 26th August.

Sandy McEwan had attended part of the meeting and had provided a summary of the meeting which Fiona gave. Minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 3.

Micro Grant Application

Warren Bader's application for planters / floral enhancements to Thorntonhall was approved by Fiona Gardner and seconded by Bill Turner.

4. Reports

Treasurer's report:

Since the June meeting the SLC Administration Grant of £515 and a top up of £4245 to the Micro Grant fund have been transferred to the current account.

Account balances:

Current:	£ 5359.90
Business reserve:	£ 1811.10

5. Correspondence

- South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) - Children's Panel Recruitment Campaign
- SLC Taxi Fares Reviews
- SLC – various correspondence regarding new Hairmyres Park and Ride
- SLC and SAMH – Free Mental Health Workshops
- SLC - Developing Sustainability in Bike Reuse & Cycling Organisations
- SLC - South Lanarkshire Charitable Trust – Applications for funding
- SLC - Community Partnerships - Register of Information
- Letter from Apatura regarding proposed BESS and advising screening request for LDES – 7.7.25
- Slides from meeting with Apatura and JTCC – 4th August
- JTCC representation to SLC's Local Development Plan 3 topic paper – 23.7.25

6. Planning Applications

- **Land 50M North of 1 North Hill View, Waterfoot Road, Thorntonhall**
On 28 July SLC's Planning Services served enforcement notices on both the tenant and the landowner for removal of the caravan, storage containers and other items from the site. Both these parties had 60 days to comply with **or** appeal the notices to the Scottish Government Planning Appeals unit. The tenant did the latter on 5 August to which the Council responded on 20 August. The case has been allocated to a Reporter to determine. As part of this the Reporter wishes to conduct a site visit which is pending.

- **Application Number P/25/0009/PAN**
Date registered – 23.4.25
Thornton Farm, East Kilbride – Residential development with associated infrastructure works (Bellway Homes Ltd).

7. Road Closures & Works

Noted as per Agenda.

- **Braehead Road, Thorntonhall between Braehead House and Thornton Road**
Period of closure 25th September 2025
Reason for closure: Scottish Water maintenance
- **Peel Road, Thorntonhall between Waterfoot Road and Gilmour Avenue** 16th September 2025 – 10am to 11.30am
Reason for closure: Scottish Water septic tank maintenance
- **Hayhill Road, Thorntonhall between Peel Road and Hayhill Cottage.** 13th to 17th October 2025.
Reason for closure: BT works

8. Other Business

Bill Turner said that a resident had reported to him about trees and hedgerows getting cut down at the gap along the fence a house on Braehead Road. This includes 40 hedgerow plants funded by a JTCC microgrant. Bill agreed to look into this further.

A resident raised the ongoing issue of hedges on Peel Road and onto Braehead Road. These are not getting cut back and this includes residents not cutting their own hedges back. He also mentioned the HGV vehicle problem on Peel Road and said these were also going to another farm.

Christian agreed to get further details from the resident to take these points further. Paul Harvey will help as it is part of the work he is doing with SLC on the Peel Road petition.

9. Next Meeting – AGM

16th October 2025 at 7.30pm, Thorntonhall Tennis Club.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Micro grant applications:

The Community Council can award grants of up to £500 to support local constituted and non-constituted groups and where appropriate individuals who need small amounts to pursue their objectives. Applications can be requested via the CC Webpage or by emailing jackthornncc@gmail.com

Litter Reporting.

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200233/street_care_and_cleaning/347/litter_bins_and_street_sweeping/3

For local road and lighting faults, potholes, broken slabs, damaged footpaths, signs, broken bollards, guardrails, flooding, blocked gullies please use the following link.

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200232/roads_lighting_and_pavements/337/road_and_lighting_faults

For council maintained landscaping enquiries such as overgrown bushes and fallen branches. Waste and Ground Service Enquiry form

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200255/land_management/338/maintenance_of_landscaped_areas

1	<p>Who is responsible for erecting Bus shelter at the two bus stops on either side of East Kilbride Road next to the Carmunnock bypass roundabout?</p> <p>Checking with Transport Scotland / Connect Roads / SLC. SLC have confirmed they are liaising with SPT and have requested patronage figures from First Bus to establish the demand for a new shelter at this location. Will get back to us once they have had these figures.</p>	Cllr Equi / Christian following up	<p>Christian chased SLC 9th June. SLC responded 12th June. If they don't get response from First Bus then SPT will get the patronage figures. Chased again 8th August. Awaiting response to reply on 22nd August. Response received 12th Sept – only 1 person used bus stop on day surveyed. Usage is too low to justify a shelter.</p>
2	Peel Road / East Kilbride Road junction - fly-tipping – Cllr Equi will contact land owner	Cllr Equi	Chased Cllr Equi 16 th Sept.
3	Land 50M North of 1 North Hill View, Waterfoot Road, Thorntonhall-	Sandy McEwen / Christian Potter	<p>On 28 July SLC's Planning Services served enforcement notices on both the tenant and the landowner for removal of the caravan, storage containers and other items from the site. Both these parties had 60 days to comply with or appeal the notices to the Scottish Government Planning Appeals unit. The tenant did the latter on 5 August to which the Council responded on 20 August. The case has been allocated to a Reporter to determine. As part of this the Reporter wishes to conduct a site visit which is pending.</p>
4	Hedges on Peel Rd and Braehead needing cut.	Christian Potter/ Cllr Equi/ Paul Harvey	<p>Reported to SLC 8th August. No response as at 4th September. Have asked Cllr Equi to chase. SLC responded 16th Sept. Christian and Paul Harvey will get further information on this and take forward with SLC as part of the Peel Road improvements / petition.</p>
5	Peel Road Petition / road improvements	Paul Harvey has had meeting with SLC and visit in June	<p>Paul has chased SLC and Cllr Equi – 1st Sept. Response received 16th Sept – see appendix 4</p>
6	HGVs on Peel Road	Sandy / Christian	<p>Christian has raised with Cllrs Watson and Equi – 4th September. Watson responded 16th September – chasing.</p>
7	Hedgerows on Braehead Road Theft of these / ongoing issue	Bill Turner	

Appendix 2 – Notes from BESS group presented at meeting

- Good evening, Trisha Harvey - part of the BESS group against the proposed Meikle Dripps Farm BESS. We have been fighting this proposal for over 18 months. If you have any questions, please hold on to them until the end and we will answer them as a group.
- Whilst we support the Scottish and UK Government aims for renewable and stored energy, we don't need this BESS in the semi-rural area of Thorntonhall/Busby and the dangers/risk/unknown risks, of what it brings with it.
- Our groups aim is to inform all residents about the various stages, represent and make known the feelings of the majority of Busby and Thorntonhall Residents.
- We are not nimby's,
 - an FOI from Scottish Government has revealed:
 - In order for the government to reach Net Zero for 2045 they need 7.4Giga Watt available stored energy
 - The ECU portal, Energy Consent Unit Scottish Government website has already got 14 Giga W consented with another 14 GW in the pipeline.
 - So why do we need this Meikle Dripps Farm BESS here? Surely enough is enough.
- Some of our main Concerns are
 - fire safety;
 - environment;
 - impact on community;
 - noise;
 - erosion of the green belt - industrialisation of Thorntonhall and Busby
 - lack of planning strategy and the mess we leave behind for the next generations
 -
- We would like to Play you a short video showing what we have and what we will get if we don't ALL object

It will change Thorntonhall and Busby for ever.
We are not alone,
these dreadful unregulated industrial, concrete rich developments, which are
NOT green and don't just store renewable energy,
are becoming a blight across the whole of Scotland.

These are some of the BESS GROUP – Actions so far:

- The flip charts show the range of actions we have taken so far. Far too many to read out, so please have a look as it's a lot! these are some of the more salient points
- We have mobilised residents: 4 leaflet drops, posters. collecting email address, regular updates, 2 drone videos, built a website, you tube awareness videos and a Facebook page.
- We have raised funds for consultants when the application goes live

- lobbying Government and having questions raised at Holyrood and Westminster.
- Engaging with MPs, MSPs, Councillors.
- BESS Group and JTCC are still continuing to engage with Government, MPs, MSPs, Councillors.

The Current situation.

Proposal 1 – Meikle Dripps Farm BESS

- This is 150mw BESS with a 108 shipping containers each containing up to 1000 lithium ion battery leaves. It is a 11.4 acre site equivalent to 7 football pitches.
- An Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required and has passed the pre-application stage with Scottish Government.
- We are waiting for this to go live on the Energy Consents Unit Planning Portal, we are monitoring their planning application database daily.

Apatura stated that they will submit their BESS application in early autumn of 2025, which is more or less now.

If APATURA get the go ahead for the BESS there is a second proposal

Proposal 2 - Busby - Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)

- An 86 acres (54 football pitches) is at the pre application stage that has been passed by SLC and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required
- It is Currently on the Energy Consents Unit Planning portal at “pre application stage”
- Apatura have advised they are currently considering if the LDES option is technically viable. They are consulting with Ofgem. Their longer term strategy would be to start LDES consultation in early 2026.

BESS GROUP – Current situation as of now

The BESS application will be considered first.

When it goes live on the ECU portal we have **28 days to object**.

The BESS group has an action plan ready to go when the application goes live.

- The JTCC and the BESS group will make everyone aware through e-mail distribution, Door to door leaflet drop Facebook and more posters of how to object. Don't delay object today!
- We will advise on who to write to and how.
- The BESS website will provide links of information you can use and a link to the objection page. We will also provide advice on what to write, but your objection must be in your own words. Quality objections count.
- Cut and pasting letters or using Ai generated letters have been discounted in previous applications.

How Can You Help - we all need to be heard

- Please object as soon as the plan “goes live” as times flies and Apathy favours the developer . If you have 6 people living in your house with 6 different emails they all count individually.
- If you have not already done so, please submit your email address to the BESS group
- Please sign and share the e-petition on the website
- Please offer your skills and expertise to our group
- please volunteer to become an Area Contact (1 street only)
- talk to your neighbours

Conclusion

Thank you very much for listening and if you have any questions please ask and we will try and answer them for you. Have a look at all the work we have done, now it is your time to help us by objecting when the time is right.

It is up to all of us to Save our Village and Busby from these gold rush companies.

Appendix 3 - Minutes from Community Plan & Partnership Meeting – South Lanarkshire Council – 26th August 2025.

East Kilbride and Strathaven Community Partnership

Minute and Action Log

tsen, Jennifer Kerr. Chief Executive Paul Manning, Cllr Joe Fagan (All SLC), Sharon Granger (Heathy & Active), Kimberley Keys (Vaslan), Craig Cunningham (NHS), Cheryl Burnett (Chair Camglen CPP), Vernica Doak, Kate Black, Gordon Smith, Doreen Smith (Jackton e, Claire Marr (Thorntonhall BESS), Dorothy Vann (EK seniors forum), Fiona Curran, Susan Fairfield,(rural Strathaven residents CC) East Mains CC), Alex Morrison, Rosemary (EK Seniors forum) Sonia Reid (Resident/EK HSCP) Simon Jeacocke, Kiem Doyle (EK Andrews Methodist church), Sandy McEwen (Jackton and Thorntonhall CC)

n (Strathaven & Glassford CC), Louise Long (NHS), Janis Lauchlan (Strathaven Resident)

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action
2.	<p>Councillor Fagan gave a quick overview of CPP (collection of public services and parties) and the outcomes we hope to gain from this platform and the importance of working together.</p> <p>Key Issues discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly-tipping and Overflowing Waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rubbish left on walkways for weeks ○ Overflowing bins in parks and dog-walking areas ○ Lack of clarity on waste bin replacement and disposal ○ High uplift costs discourage proper disposal • Council Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inconsistent enforcement ○ Residents must self-report hotspots ○ No clear accountability for private landlords and vehicle-related dumping • Impact on Vulnerable Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elderly, disabled, and socially isolated residents most affected ○ Feelings of exclusion and disengagement <p>Community-Driven Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration & Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partner with Social Work and Education departments ○ Consult Senior Citizens groups for targeted services ○ Encourage stronger resident collaboration and reporting • Environmental Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repurpose vacant land into community gardens or green spaces ○ Launch wildflower and biodiversity initiatives ○ Regular emptying of bins and increased bin availability • Awareness and Clean-Up Campaigns • Organise community-led clean-up days • Promote environmental education and civic pride • Use signage and local media to highlight fly-tipping consequences • funding and support • Apply for Social Justice or Charity scheme funding • Introduce “Skip Days” for bulk waste disposal and recycling • Offer support services for vulnerable households <p>Policy Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Bin Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clear guidance on bin replacement and disposal ○ Increase bin density in high-footfall areas • Enforcement and Accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crack down on illegal dumping by landlords and vehicle owners ○ Treat fly-tipping sites as environmental crime scenes with visible investigations 	<p>Council to follow up on collection. Clarify process for removal.</p> <p>Intention to build stronger collaboration with council, Environmental and Police Scotland</p> <p>Enforcement team is being reviewed with staff being recruited</p>

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cameras would be a great deterrent ● Transparent Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simplify reporting processes ○ Provide feedback loops to residents on actions taken 	
3.	<p>Urgent Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overgrown Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bushes and grass along rural paths (e.g. A71) are severely overgrown ○ Residents forced to clear walkways themselves using strimmer's ○ Visibility of public transport obstructed by unmanaged growth ○ Road signs obscured, posing safety risks ● Fly-Tipping and Neglect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wild, unmanaged areas encourage illegal dumping ○ Whirlies Roundabout in East Kilbride overgrown ○ Lack of visual appeal—no plants or greenery to brighten public spaces ● Maintenance Cuts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding reductions have led to infrequent grass cutting (only twice a year) ○ Trunk road closures required for maintenance, causing disruption ○ Community petition movements already underway to reverse grass cutting cuts ● Chemical Use Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbicides and weedkillers are damaging healthy grass and plants ○ Yellowing of green spaces due to indiscriminate spraying ○ Call for better staff training and alternative methods like hot foam <p>Community-Led Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repurpose Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Convert neglected areas into community gardens or biodiversity zones ○ Use vacant plots for wildflower planting to enhance vibrancy and ecology ● Maintenance Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase frequency of grass and bush cutting ○ Prioritise visibility and safety near transport routes and signage ○ Reject future budget savings that compromise green space upkeep ● Eco-Friendly Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replace harmful herbicides with safer alternatives ○ Train staff to identify what should and shouldn't be sprayed ● Beautification and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plant flowers and greenery in high-traffic areas ○ Encourage community involvement in planting and upkeep <p>Policy Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mapping Hotspots: Identify and prioritise areas most affected by overgrowth and dumping. ● Collaborative Maintenance: Partner with local volunteers, schools, and environmental groups. ● Funding Applications: Seek support through environmental grants or social justice schemes. ● Public Awareness: Use signage and local media to promote responsible maintenance and discourage fly-tipping. 	<p>Council to consider if can be cut back fu preventing overgrowt second cut.</p> <p>Council to share chem feedback with correct</p>
4.	<p>Local Authority Website and Communication Challenges : Barriers to Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital Exclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residents without internet access struggle to book uplifts or refuge site visits ○ Citizens Advice Bureau overwhelmed by older people needing offline support ○ Referrals to libraries and health hubs rising, but staff are unequipped to handle council-related queries ● Language and Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ English not being a first language for many residents creates additional barriers ○ Website lacks plain language and multilingual support ● Website Design Flaws 	

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “One size doesn’t fit all” approach excludes diverse user needs ○ Clunky navigation and poor categorisation make it hard to find services ○ Forms for reporting issues are confusing or inaccessible <p>Communication Breakdown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Customer Service Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No clear contact points for basic information ○ Automated systems replace human interaction, leaving residents frustrated ○ Complaints sent to senior officials (e.g. Chief Executive, Councillor Fagan) with no response ● Transparency and Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of clarity around council tax increases ○ No feedback loop for complaints or service requests ○ Categories on the website don’t reflect real-life needs ● Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No more Q&A sessions or drop-in centres for face-to-face support ○ Poor communication with local groups and residents ○ Underutilisation of local newspapers as a trusted communication channel 	
	<p>Proposed Solutions/Website and Service Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-design the website with local residents, especially those with lived experience of digital exclusion ● Use the NHS website as a model for intuitive navigation and accessibility ● Introduce simplified forms, multilingual options, and offline booking alternatives <p>Human-Centered Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reintroduce drop-in centres for in-person queries and support ● Train frontline staff at libraries and health hubs to handle basic council inquiries ● Ensure real-time customer service via phone or live chat—not just automated systems <p>Communication and Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publish council updates and service changes in local newspapers ● Host community forums or listening sessions to gather feedback ● Create a clear complaints pathway with guaranteed response timelines 	
5.	<p>Citizen’s Advice Bureau – Update from Michelle Campbell</p> <p>Cost of Living Support in South Lanarkshire</p> <p>Essential Household Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Air Fryers and Electric Blankets: These are being distributed to help reduce energy use and keep homes warm more efficiently. Air fryers are especially popular for their low energy consumption compared to ovens. <p>Digital Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mobile Phones (Android and iPhones): Provided to residents who lack digital access, helping them stay connected and access online services. ● Free Network Access: Some schemes include 1 year of free mobile data, making it easier for recipients to use their devices without added financial pressure. <p>Warm Welcome and Community Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding for community groups to host warm spaces and activities ● Free swimming for under-16s ● Vouchers for prepaid energy meters ● Support for foodbanks and weekend school meals <p>Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) across South Lanarkshire are playing a key role in distributing these items and helping residents apply for support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community organisations and local hubs are also involved, especially through the “Warm Welcome” initiative. <p>VASLAN</p>	.

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action
	<p>Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) – Dates for Your Diary</p> <p>Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Opened: Monday 25th August 2025 Closes: Monday 6th October 2025 at 5pm</p> <p>Grants available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Grants up to £10,000 • Multi-year Grants between £10,000 - £20,000 • Partnership Grants between £20,001 - £35,000 <p>More information can be found on the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Website, or contact funding@vaslan.org.uk for more information and advice.</p> <p>East Kilbride Locality Drop-in Surgeries</p> <p>The locality surgeries are designed to give voluntary organisations operating in East Kilbride, Strathaven, and Stonehouse the chance to meet with a member of the EK Locality Team. Douglas Smith (Volunteer Development Officer) and Kimberly Keys (Engagement Officer) can offer support with governance, volunteering, networking, funding, and more.</p> <p>The surgeries take place in a relaxed and welcoming setting and have consistently proven to be both popular and effective. With the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund now open, it also provides an ideal opportunity to explore potential projects and receive guidance on developing funding proposals.</p> <p>Please note that surgeries can be very busy, so we encourage attendees to allow sufficient time for their visit.</p> <p>The next round of surgeries will take place on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 9th September: EK Collective, 10am-3pm • Wednesday 10th September: Stonehouse Men's Shed, 7pm-9pm • Wednesday 17th September: The Crib Strathaven, 6pm-9pm <p>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</p> <p>Date: Thursday 25th September 2025</p> <p>Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm</p> <p>Venue: High Blantyre Hall, 22 Cemetery Road, Blantyre, G72 0HA</p> <p>Registration and refreshments will be available from 9.30am, allowing time to network with a range of funders, including The Robertson Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund, Cash for Kids, and others.</p> <p>A light lunch will be provided, followed by a live Funders' Q&A session – another excellent opportunity to pose funding-related questions directly to a panel of sector funders.</p> <p>To book your place email kimberly.keys@vaslan.org.uk, who will send further details.</p> <p>Thorntonhall Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)</p>	

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action
	<p>Concerns About the Thorntonhall Battery Development</p> <p>Scale and Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed site spans 86 acres, with plans for a 150 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). It's located on protected greenbelt land near Meikle Dripps Farm, Waterfoot Road. The development is considered out of character with the surrounding rural and residential environment. <p>Safety Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire Risk: Lithium-ion battery systems can pose fire hazards, especially if not properly managed. A fire could release toxic fumes and potentially contaminate nearby water sources. Noise Pollution: Residents are concerned about a persistent humming noise from the facility's equipment, which could affect daily life. Traffic and Infrastructure: Narrow roads like Waterfoot and Peel Road may be overwhelmed by heavy construction traffic, damaging the rural landscape. <p>Council Update : Planning and Transparency</p> <p>The planning process is still in early stages, with South Lanarkshire Council acting as a statutory consultee, meaning they advise but don't make the final decision.</p> <p>Many residents feel community engagement has been limited, and that alternative sites were not properly considered</p> <p>EK Collective</p> <p>Integration Efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The East Kilbride Integration Network (EKin) is actively working to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, sports, and social activities Monthly community cafés offering advice, clothing, and food Help with legal, medical, and digital access needs <p>Concerns About Protests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The charity raised questions about the council's stance on protests near asylum seeker accommodations or community events. While the council may not directly control protest activity, they are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure public safety Protect vulnerable groups from intimidation <p>Council Engagement and Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A post-meeting discussion was proposed to explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific challenges the group is facing Opportunities for collaboration and support Topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free access to council facilities for asylum seekers and support groups Potential use of leisure centres, libraries, and community halls for integration activities <p>Suggested Actions</p>	

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Access: Offer free or subsidised access to council-run spaces for community events, language classes, and wellbeing activities. • Community Dialogue: Host regular forums with charities, residents, and officials to address concerns and build trust. <p>Public Transport Gaps in Jackton</p> <p>Current Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing developments in Jackton, particularly around Newhouse Road, are not served by active bus routes. • Bus stops and shelters have been constructed, suggesting intent—but no follow-through. • SPT (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) is aware of the issue, but funding constraints are limiting their ability to expand services. Private companies might have availability to pick some of this up i.e.: dial a bus who already operates in Lindsayfield area. <p>What Could Be Done</p> <p>Community Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push for a feasibility study to extend existing routes or introduce a new loop service through Jackton. • Engage with SPT and South Lanarkshire Council to prioritise funding for underserved areas. • Document resident impact—especially for those without cars, older people, and families with schoolchildren. <p>Interim Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for temporary shuttle services during peak hours until full service is contracted. • Explore community transport partnerships or on-demand bus services (like DRT—Demand Responsive Transport). <p>Long-Term Planning</p> <p>Tie future housing approvals to mandatory transport infrastructure delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use data from existing bus stop usage and population growth to justify route expansion. <p>Date of Next meeting to be confirmed</p>	

No.	Discussion and Agreement	Follow Up Action

Appendix 4 – SLC e-mail / ongoing Peel Road issues

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Plant, Jonathan** <Jonathan.Plant@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, Sep 18, 2025 at 10:15 AM

Subject: RE: Thorntonhall Peel Road Safety - SLC roads Planning follow up and actions

To: Equi, Monique Councillor <Monique.Equi@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Paul J Harvey <christian.potter@Laird, Stuart

<Stuart.Laird@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>, Park, Colin

<Colin.Park@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>, Lang, Ian <Ian.Lang@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>

Dear Councillor Equi,

Thank you for your enquiry of 8 September 2025 in relation to road safety on Peel Road on behalf of Jackton and Thorntonhall Community Council. We would comment as follows.

With regard to the request for an update on the traffic survey due to be undertaken on Peel Road, Thorntonhall, we would advise that the Council collates several locations for which surveys are required which is then sent to tender in a package of works. This is done in order to be as cost-effective as possible. We would further advise that all traffic surveys carried out by the Council are undertaken during school-term time as this provides the most accurate reflection of the true nature of driving practices and vehicle numbers within the area.

We can advise that a contractor has been appointed to carry out this package of works. It is anticipated that we will receive the survey data from the contractor by the end of this month, after which we will consider the results and get back to you and the Community Council accordingly. Please note that in relation to the enquiry relating to the pneumatic cables that were installed by our contractor being detached from the road surface, we understand that this issue was rectified on site promptly.

With regard to the hedges being cut back on Peel Road, please be advised that we have contacted our colleagues in Waste and Grounds Services for an update and we will advise further. However, please note that this work is planned around the growing season and in line with our policy: [Maintenance of landscaped areas - South Lanarkshire Council](#). In addition, the Council may also need to liaise with adjacent landowners as responsibilities for maintaining vegetation can, in most cases, be with them. Please be assured that this will be taken forward in due course with actions taken as necessary.

With regard to the broken Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Peel Road which is situated close to the junction of Braehead Road, we would advise that this has also been included within a recently issued, separate batch of works within a tender package. We would advise that the successful tender is currently undertaking Health and Safety validation checks with the Council which is a legal requirement before they can carry out installation works on the public road network. As such, unfortunately we are currently unable to put an exact timescale on the installation of the replacement VAS sign, however we can confirm these works will be carried out as soon as practicable.

In the case of signing, following the ePetition hearing on 25 April 2025, a site walkover was undertaken in May 2025 to review the extent of signing and road markings on Peel Road. A signing package has been prepared following the outcome of this meeting which includes 'Thorntonhall' settlement signing consistent with other locations within South Lanarkshire to replace the existing signing which is present.

In terms of the supplementary 'Walking and cycling friendly road' signing requested by your constituent, please be advised that the signing package prepared for Peel Road includes new 'pedestrians likely in the carriageway ahead' signing localised to the railway bridge deck. This package of measures has been issued to our contractor and it is currently anticipated that the new signing will be erected in the coming months. Please be advised however that these types of works are weather permitting.

We trust that the above is of information and assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sent on behalf of Stuart Laird, Engineering Manager

Jonathan Plant

Team Leader – Traffic and Transportation

Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services

Community and Enterprise Resources

South Lanarkshire Council

Council Offices

Floor 7

Almada Street

Hamilton

ML3 0AA