



MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Monday 11th January 2016 in the primary school
Final for approval**

Members Present: - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Richard Arnold, John Gray, Elspeth Neill, Julie Hutchison, Willie Oswald, Grace Edmonds and Rob Davies.

In attendance: Cllr Ian Muirhead + 3 residents.

*(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust *
Denotes an action)*

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies – from Margaret Vass

MV welcomed all present to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

Apologies- Marian Lever, Avril Keen, Sue Rand and Police rep.

2. Declaration of interests – None

3. Police report – from PC Steven Graham, read by MV.

Few incidents to report but break-in and theft of a watch via an unlocked patio door highlight the need to ensure property is securely locked at all times.

The police will be communicating with all CC chairpersons to make contact and will try to attend every third CC meeting. During the contact meeting with MV the issue of parking on pavements and around the Coop was discussed. A new bill going through parliament should strengthen legislation re pavement parking. Strangely it is currently illegal to drive along or on to a pavement, but not to park a car on it!

Full police report on-line in **Appendix I** at www.strathblanefield.org.uk.

4. Minutes of November's meeting and matters arising.

No errors or omissions reported. Minutes approved by JG and seconded by EN.

Matters arising:

JH had contacted roads department regarding the condition of Campsie Road reinstatements adjacent to the Cala site. This will not be adopted by SC until one year has elapsed and an inspection has been made. Neil Pirrie of SC is the contact.

MV thanked JG, AK and WO for their submission on the evening buses timetable. JG mooted that disrespect of schoolchildren passengers by bus drivers may discourage patronage when they are older. MV suggested that the young representatives from Balfron HS be questioned on this (at a future meeting). Comment from the floor suggested that one of the problems was lack of continuity on local bus routes meaning that drivers are pulled in from a wide range of areas out with our own.

AH said lack of driver respect may reflect poor behaviour by some school children.

MV also thanked ML and GE for their submission on Social Care Integration.

5. Health and Social Care Integration.

MV raised again the concerns of our last meeting that local care homes were to be sold off as a prerequisite to funding a central care village in Stirling – the matter was to have been discussed at the next full council meeting. MV had in the meantime contacted Croftamie, Killearn, Balfron CC's and local councillors to share concerns. Strathendrick care home will not close until all current residents do not wish to remain there, or until a suitable alternative is in place. Peter Gillespie of SC wants urgently to talk to the CC and a meeting is planned for this Thursday in Killearn where MV and GE will attend as well as two members from the lunch club.

Another matter is that the emergency alarm response staff may be located closer to us in Balfron – an improvement on now.

As an independent action, WO had contacted all Councillors and leader of the social care group to raise queries regarding the care village. Does this need to be so large if only providing intermediate care? If size can be reduced so can costs.

AH queried whether the whole issue surrounding social care was indeed a social care project or was it a property management project to raise money? The title "Care Village" has all sorts of ramifications.

6. Issues for young people. None –no young people in attendance possibly due to exam commitments?

7. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) feedback and comments – from Margaret Vass

MV had done a large amount of work leading up to this meeting to comment on the PBB feedback document which was displayed to the meeting on screen. Various additional comments were added during discussions. The document and comments, as well as these changes made during the meeting is attached, on-line only, at **Appendix II** at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Various additional feedback suggestions were made during the meeting raising concerns regarding various matters:

CYE016 – WO had concerns that families might lose out

CYE017- proposals re PE and music were still a major concern.

SCS012- Family support and all related discretionary services will be reviewed in

relation to statutory services delivered – what is the current provision over and above statutory?

MV wanted to incorporate a statement in the check-list at the back of the document that CC's have been circulated and made aware- Community Empowerment!

The CC members thanked Margaret for the preparation work she had done on this and Rob for his input on financial risks.

8. Planning and Licensing – John Gray.

- a) 15/00797/NAG – formation of forest road 455m south of Auchineden Farm. There are no perceived issues with this except that the development must take into account the needs and safety of walkers and cyclists on the John Muir Way in proximity of which the road will run.
- b) Gambling policy – All we need is a list of changes to the policy. Changes have been minimal this year, but presentation of these was very poor and needs to be done in a more professional manner.

The planning application for Edenmill bunk house, raised at our last meeting has taken cognisance of our light pollution concerns and will now incorporate low level lighting.

MV pointed out that SC planning website was a “nightmare” at present and that planning application status was currently “unknown”.

9. Elected member report – Cllr Ian Muirhead.

Commented that the PBB goalposts had been shifted and the council now has to find further savings of £4.99M this year. Senior management have to bring forward additional options by the end of January and these will be made available to community councils for discussion and comment.

He thanked the CC for their input to the PBB consultation so far. This is very helpful to the elected members.

With regards Strathendrick Care Home there are cross-party concerns to ensure that the care village plan is achieved, but they additionally want local provision of some sort to be available. Val de Souza is in charge of this project and will be personally involved with discussions. Cllr Muirhead said he thought there were reasons to be optimistic in respect of this provision.

He indicated that enhanced home nursing services were being considered to allow people to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

Changes in care provision are inevitable, but CC views have been and will be taken on board.

10. Community comments

- a) Recently installed temporary traffic lights installed adjacent the Cala development, straddle the entrance to Dunglass View which is not controlled. This is causing confusion and is a potential danger to motorists.
- b) A member of the public had made a complaint about cars speeding in Kirkland Avenue. A mention could be made in the BVB asking drivers to be more considerate.
- c) A resident from Dumbrock Drive complained about the state of the roads following the protracted Scottish Water construction works contract. There have been potholes and damaged kerbs and a recent call-out to SC had taken five weeks for a response! Further, the quality of the repairs is poor. He was advised that the CC had been raising issues on behalf of the community during the project and that pre-contract photos of the approach roads had been taken by Scottish Water. JH was asked to take more photos now and come up with a remediation plan – with the responsible roads officer David Maley.

11. Finance – No report

MV relayed a note from SR to the effect that Current Account balance £3700 and Instant Saver balance £2318 remained unchanged from last month, with some income and expenditure to be added.

Website – the Community Connect grant award of £400 (for the web site) had to be spent by end March and the SC fund representative had offered to come out and talk to the CC. JG and RD had met and would continue to take this forward urgently.

This would be a web site for the CC only, not the whole village and would be under the control of the CC. Alan Campbell who is webmaster for the current village website must be been approached and appraised of our plans.

Additional funding up to £1000 was thought to be necessary so a balance would have to come from CC funds. RA to advise who did the Village Club website as a possible provider. JG and RD agreed to collaborate to take the project forward.

b) **War memorial** – the grant aid application is progressing, but £801 will have to be raised from CC resources, plus any contingencies for additional works found to be necessary as the work progresses. It was suggested that a percentage of the grant from the Bottomley Trust could help here.

12. Correspondence

At the last community forum meeting – the forthcoming community week at Balfron High School had been discussed. A planning meeting was proposed for Thursday 21st January at 4.00 pm and JH and GE agreed to attend this.

13. Date of next meeting – Monday 1st February 2016 in the school

Blane Valley Bulletin Copy date Monday 18th January 2016

Contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk . Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin.

Appendix I and II follow on line only at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Appendix I Full Police report on line only at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting Period:

January 2016 Compiled by PC 660 Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

On 12th December 2015 a complaint was made regarding a noisy party in Blane Avenue. More high spirits than anything sinister. Quietened down quickly and no issues.

Theft

Between 6th and 11th December theft of a watch occurred from a house in Kirkhouse Road. Perpetrator(s) gained access to the house by way of an unlocked insecure rear patio door. No suspects in relation to this theft.

Another example highlighting the importance of ensuring that your property is locked at all times.

Road Safety

There have been no road accidents reported since last month's meeting.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PCs Steven Graham and Raymond Murphy are the Ward officers in the Forth and Endrick area. It is our intention to engage with the local community more than in the recent past has allowed us to. Please feel free to email any concerns to the email address below.

**Other
Incidents /
Activity of
note**

One male was found in possession of a quantity of cannabis whilst with in Mugdock Country Park.

On 2nd January 2016 a dog, which would appear to be local, has attacked and killed a cockerel in the field near to Cuilt Farm. The dog is described as a black/tan terrier dog which answers to the name of “Fredo”, “Froda” or something similar. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to this and it is requested that should anyone know the identity of the dog/owner please let us know.

Issues raised

**Community
Council
Feedback**

Your Community Team are: Constables Steven Graham and Raymond Murphy
They can be contacted via the email address ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police or by phoning 101
We regularly publish information on the ‘Forth Valley Police’ Facebook page and tweet using @StirlingPol

Working with you to shape Stirling's future – CC Response sheet
Community Council: STRATHBLANE

Once again we are seeking public views on budget proposals. We are committed to delivering high quality services that meet priorities and outcomes which have been agreed with our communities. The Council is working to 18 priorities which can be found at www.stirling.gov.uk/key-priorities .

However the continued squeeze on public spending means we need to save £25 million over the next five years. We have already done much to identify savings in the last few years and will continue the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process to open up the discussion on how we direct spending and what is important to our communities.

We are looking for feedback on options that have been proposed by officers. Full details of the options can be found at www.stirling.gov.uk/shapingstirling as well as other ways of feeding into the process and being involved. This feedback will influence the decisions made by elected members when next year's budget is set in February 2016.

Please complete by **Friday 15th January 2016** for your comments to be taken into account when decisions are made. If you have any queries or need more information, please contact shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk .

This year the options are in split into six themes -

Theme 1 - **Transforming Learning** - redesign of management, youth and adult services; more efficient timetabling; review of nursery and family support; flexible choice options; more efficient use of resources; and re-profiling of 'Big Noise' funding.

Theme 2 - **Transforming Care** - review of emergency duty team; children's residential services; implementing preventative services; redesign of learning disability; remodelling of mental health service and Employability Service.

Theme 3 - **Transforming Communities** - review of third sector funding; transforming procurement; customer flexibility and interaction; transport review.

Theme 4 - **Transforming Operational Services** - redesign of waste, roads, land and housing services; review of facilities management and regulatory services such as trading standards and licensing.

Theme 5 - **Transforming Support Services** - review building and property arrangements; development of solar farm and energy reduction.

Theme 6 - **Chief Executive's Office** - using social media; income generation within communications and marketing; restructure of staff, reduction of funding to STEP.

You can choose to comment on as many or as few themes and options as you like.

Strathblane CC has always seen the PBB process as having real potential to engage and empower communities. In our comments last year we said that proposals lacked detail and expressed concern that elected members were being asked to agree options where the outcome for citizens was unclear. This year we have bland language yet again with the bad news hidden. We understand the financial difficulties that the council has which have been made worse by the recent financial settlement. As this is now an ongoing process we expect to be given greater detail BEFORE councillors make decisions. The use of words like “modernise” “transform” usually mean job loss. In future please tell us what is actually proposed. The detail must be known to produce the figure of the money to be saved.

Theme 1 – Transforming Learning

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Descriptions</i>	<i>Comments/Suggestions</i>
CYE001	Calibration of School Week in Primary Schools	Adopt an early finish one day per week and remove the element of non-class contact time for teaching staff	Unlikely to happen due to Scottish government intervention Major implications for parents and increased child care costs
CYE004	Rationalise Big Noise Funding	Phased reduction of Council funding to Sistema Scotland (Big Noise Project: Raploch) by £60K per annum per year over 5 years	
CYE012	Review and Redesign of Devolved School Management (DSM) Nursery	Review and redesign the current DSM allocations for nurseries	
CYE013	Review Commissioning -Therapy Services	Review the delivery of Artlink and Music Therapy	
CYE014	Review of the Role of the Inclusion Support Worker (ISW)	11.2 (Full Time Equivalent) posts helping to support children within their mainstream schools and their families	
CYE015	Review and Reduce Devolved Staff Cover Budgets	Reduce staff absence cover budgets for support staff within Additional Support Needs' Establishments - cover managed internally. Remove historical budget for additional support for the Principal Teacher in Ochil House – no longer needed	
CYE016	Re-model ASN (Additional Support Needs) Services - Outreach Teachers	Remodel service for children and young people with additional support needs (ASN). Improve targeted support to local communities by more efficient and flexible response and use collaborative working across teams	Very concerned re. families losing out
CYE017	Modernise the	Modernise the delivery	This community still has major

	Visiting Specialist Service in Schools	of visiting specialist teachers (PE and Music) by integrating these subject areas into the classroom curriculum as well as stronger links with community activities	reservations about this. Specialist staff with their expertise must provide a better experience for children.
CYE018	Review of the Role of the Family Support Worker (FSW)	Reduce from 6 (Full Time Equivalent) Family Support Workers (FSWs) to 5 who contribute to early intervention and prevention and provide support for children and families within their community	
CYE019	Early Years - Move to Sustainable Income Model	Recognise increased cost of providing childcare to younger children so increase costs for hours in addition to the minimum free childcare determined by Scottish Government	the most vulnerable must be protected from the increased fees
CYE020	Review and Redesign of Early Years Holiday Childcare Provision, Play and Out of School Care	Review the current provision and uptake of stand-alone nurseries during the holiday periods and identify demand for summer childcare provision. Review Play and Out of School Care Service to identify opportunities to increase income	
CYE021	Redesigning and Integration of Youth Service and Adult Learning	Redesign of existing services to create a Learning Community team	
CYE022	Review the Devolved Resources Allocation	Reduce the devolved supplies and services allocation to schools and early years establishments	
CYE023	Review of Devolved School Management	Review allocation of secondary school staffing, reducing management and support staff to schools for most efficient model	
CYE024	Review of Gaelic Language in Primary Schools (GLPS)	Review the deployment of peripatetic teaching of Gaelic across Stirling (urban and rural) schools - Gaelic Language in Primary Schools (GLPS)	
CYE025	Re-assessment of Funding for	Reduce the allocation towards projects within	

	Early Years Initiatives	Early Years which seek to deliver early intervention to support vulnerable children and their families – slight reduction in overall staff team with remaining staff being up-skilled and their capacity increased	
CYE026	Re-profiling of Continuing Professional Development Funding	Re-profile and reduce Continuing Professional Development Budget - transfer of £18K to centralised, Corporate Professional Development Service	

Theme 2 – Transforming Care

Reference	Title	Description	Comments/Suggestions
SCS001	Redesign of Learning Disability Services	Redesign of all Adult Learning Disability Services, using national policy - the Keys to Life (KTL which if successful diminishes need for traditional services	
SCS002	Implement Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) to Reduce the Need to Accommodate Children	Implement preventative evidence-based approaches (Multi-Systematic Therapy – intensive approach to working with young people) to help reduce the volume of accommodated children	If this approach works then the closure of children’s homes is acceptable however there still needs to be accommodation to deal with emergency situations presumably bought from external care providers
SCS003	Reducing Demand for Long Term Care	Implement 'Rebalancing Care' initiatives and preventative interventions to reduce current spend on care home provision for older people, by increasing care at home and reablement services	Hidden here is the closure of Strathendrick care home to part fund the ‘Stirling care village’. We need to be convinced that there is adequate provision for rural communities before this can happen. We fully support better care at home but services must be available before there is a crisis.
SCS004	Workforce - Review of Strategy Services	Review of requirements across the planning and commissioning, performance and quality assurance, learning and development teams and the future staffing model around the public protection agenda	The reduction from 7 to 3 staff will give a long lasting budget reduction
SCS005	Workforce - Review of Business Support and Infrastructure	Review and rationalise workforce in business support and infrastructure	
SCS006	Adult Services: Management Structure Review	Remodelling of the customer journey and expected reduction of number of teams	We need clarification of what this means in practice
SCS007	Rationalise and Redesign Provision of Current Children’s Residential Services	Re-provision accommodation for young people returning from external care providers post 16 /18, or moving on from internal provision post 18, would be provided by Housing services	Presume this links to the closure of children’s homes but there must be adequate support for the young people to be successful.

SCS008	Improving MECS Efficiency and Review of Emergency Duty Team (EDT)	Scope and consider whether the current service arrangements meet the needs in the most cost effective way, and consider cost of outsourcing, and opportunity for use of digital technologies which could generate income and employment for Stirling Council. Review Emergency Duty currently split across Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils to assess future requirements	This is fully supported if it means the service is improved and linked to more local care hubs. Marketing of the service is critical to have a better take up of the service rather than people purchasing from other private providers.
SCS009	Remodelling of Physical Disability Services	Following implementation of reablement for adults under 65, the service will extend this limited service to provide a more flexible, cost efficient provision of service	
SCS010	Remodelling of Mental Health Service	Following implementation of reablement for adults under 65, the service will extend this limited service to provide a provision of service to clients with mental health issues	
SCS011	Review of Employability Service	Proposal to review service which supports adults within learning disability and mental health services to become work ready	We are concerned that this means that the service will be no longer provided. Given the welfare reform agenda this service is very important to help ensure that people are not left destitute.
SCS012	Review of Family Support	Family support and all related discretionary services will be reviewed in relation to statutory services delivered	Is current provision above statutory requirements?

Theme 3 – Transforming Communities

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments/Suggestions</i>
CMP002	Customer Flexibility & Choice	Develop and promote simple and effective online ways to pay, report, book and apply for services	Hope this means improve the web site!
CMP003	Simplify Customer Interactions	Simplify customer journey by increasing collaboration, working with hard to reach communities, integrating services into ‘One Stop Shop’ and creating 24/7 Contact Centre to resolve as much as possible in one call	
CMP004	Commercial Excellence Programme	Building on the Purchase to Pay programme and continuing with the roll out of Easy Buy supporting lean processes and improved governance around procurement legislation and reform	
CMP005	Third Sector & Strategically Funded Organisations Review	A strategic and technical review of the funding of all 3rd sector and strategically funded organisations	To cut council staff and then to reduce the 3rd sector that brings in volunteers may bring about a worrying reduction of service/support to those who need it most.
CMP006	Transport Review	A strategic approach to the provision of transport across the organisation as a whole ensuring that communities are well connected and thriving	Very concerned that this will disadvantage rural areas with reduced subsidised services. More innovation is needed here to deal with the prohibitively high costs of bus fares that keep usage of services to the minimum. Transport within the Council?

Theme 4 – Transforming Operational Service

Reference	Title	Description	Comments/Suggestions
HSE003	Housing and Environment ADM (Alternative Delivery Model) Programme (Waste, Housing Property, Land and Roads Services)	Redesign of the Waste, Housing Property, Land and Roads Services: adapt working patterns, all operational services being centralised, integration of workforce across seasonal services and opportunities to take on external contracts to generate income	We only know about the changes to waste services. We support the change to a 7 day service and the reduction of 42 vehicles to 20. We are pleased that there will be more recycling. We hope that the closure of Balfron depot is not hidden in here. This is a vital service for those in the SW rural area. if it was to close fly tipping would increase. The integration of the workforce seems sensible. We wait with interest to hear details of the plans for land and road services. A more efficient service might mean that more maintenance is carried out.
HSE004	Review - Regulatory Services (Trading Standards, Licensing, Building Standards and Environmental Health)	Transform Regulatory Services delivery model, with a bottom up approach to service re-design focussed upon customer requirements and regulatory standards	
HSE005	Review – Facilities Management (FM)	Transform Facilities Management via a bottom up approach to service re-design based on review of delivery models and funding streams across; Catering, Cleaning and Janitorial. The Primary 1-3 Scottish Government grant to be used as investment in order to enhance catering service provision and increase uptake in schools	Janitors play a vital role in the school community. Rather than continually cut the hours could they be used in more innovative roles?
HSE006	Review of Management and Supervision - Housing and Environment	Review of Management and Supervision and optimise resource allocation and maximise outputs. This programme will also run in parallel with the transformation of operational services	Presume this means reduce staff

HSE007	Shared Resources Review - Waste, Land, Roads, Housing Property and FM	On the basis of consolidating operational services within the context of a 7 day working pattern and centralised primary depot arrangement, significant scope exists for a shared resources model (relating to plant, machinery and workforce) in order to deliver further efficiencies	
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Theme 5 – Transforming Support Services

Reference	Title	Description	Comments/Suggestions
COP001	Corporate Services Hub	Create a Corporate Services Hub which will transform how services are delivered to ensure corporate services are flexible, affordable and responsive	Less people will be needed to deliver this
COP002	Commercial Property Income Optimisation	Review existing Commercial Property arrangements, and challenge existing commercial arrangements to consider best value	Increasing rents should not be at the expense of service delivery. Is there a subsidy here from council tax or business rates?
COP003	HQ Offices and Depots Transformation	Review existing Headquarter Office and Depot arrangements to identify the most effective solution to support service delivery – minimising numbers of properties, with a focus towards a single Office and single Depot solution	this needs clarification and expansion
COP004	Community Property Transformation	Improved service delivery, through sharing and more flexible use of spaces, across internal council services as well as external public and private agencies	Unclear if this will affect revenue grants to community halls. Case hall management committees must have a say in this. Advice should be given to help reduce energy costs, insulation etc.
COP005	Development of a Solar Farm at Lower Polmaise	Establishment of a 5 mega watt solar panel facility to generate energy and subsequent income for the Council	
COP006	Staff Transformation	The Service will undertake detailed workforce planning to assess service requirements and align with priorities	Staff reduction
COP007	Energy Use Reduction	Variety of energy saving projects across Infrastructure Delivery. For example: energy awareness and use reduction projects, building retrofit, further solar PV implementation, Care Village, Data centre transition	This should apply to community buildings too

COP008	Treasury Management -Review of Loans Fund Provision	Review of budget for servicing debt portfolio, and the accounting arrangements for this will release some budget provision	This should be done carefully so that exposure not increased. Further costs can be saved if the passive investments and alternative strategies, exited.
COP009	Relocation of Library Service to within existing properties	A delivery model will be established that moves library facilities to within existing Council properties e.g. Primary Schools, Community Halls	While not opposed to this in theory, this should no reduction to the overall facility and service. happen in Strathblane unless the Library is extended/rebuilt school.

Theme 6 – Chief Executive’s Office

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments/Suggestions</i>
CEX002	Utilising Social Media on a Larger Scale	Use social media to avoid unnecessary use of printed brochures and leaflets	
CEX003	Loss of One Post: Communications, Marketing and Events	Small but highly skilled team compared to other Scottish local authorities, with 9 (Full time equivalent) staff reduce to 8	It would be good to know how much benefit this service
CEX004	Income Generation: Communications, Marketing and Events	Create a company, Viewforth Media, to provide communications, marketing and events for the Council, and other clients, using the CME team	The business case for this needs to be scrutinised
CEX005	Restructure of the Team within the Chief Executive’s Service	Review has shown that a different composition of administrative support is required within service. The proposal is that we change the grade of staff and reduce the overall number of posts	
CEX006	Reduction of Funding to Stirling Enterprise/STEP	Reduce the level of funding for posts at Stirling Enterprise and provide a different approach to delivering economic development	
CEX007	Crowdfunding for Christmas Lights/Hogmanay	Crowdfunding is an innovative and effective means of fundraising that gives ownership and encourages involvement	There are some serious questions about the crowdfunding, and this should be carefully evaluated