



MINUTES
Monday 5th December 2016 in the school
Draft for Approval

Members Present: - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Richard Arnold, Julie Hutchison, Grace Edmonds, Rob Davies, Sue Rand, Marian Lever, Elspeth Neill, Avril Keen, Willie Oswald, John Gray.

In attendance: Councillor Graham Lambie, Ian Denvir, Nelson? From Mugstock + 11 residents.

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

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

Apologies – there were no apologies

MV opened the meeting, welcoming those present, wishing everybody a Happy New Year and thanking those who helped with the Christmas activities. She apologised for the presentation from Mugstock being omitted from the agenda in error.

2. Declaration of interests –

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Police Report

No members of Police Scotland were in attendance, but the report had been provided in advance and MV briefly summarised the main points.

The report can be viewed on the website.

4. Mugstock - Nelson ?

Nelson showed a short video of the highlights from 2016.

Nelson asked if anybody had photos/videos of the festival, especially of Sunday.

These can be sent to him at Nelson@Mugstock.org.

This year the festival will take place from 28th -30th July and will have a dragon theme. Applications to perform will be opened this week on the Mugstock website.

MV was asked to contact Killearn and Balfron CCs to generate interest in the event. She will do this.

MV mentioned that the event last year was focussed on people coming from Milngavie in terms of signage etc. She suggested that people in this area should be made aware of opportunities for sponsorship for advertising. GL asked Nelson to contact SC regarding signage.

JG asked if the event is likely to be bigger than last year. Nelson said that they hope there will be some more people attending, but that they believe that it is big enough in terms of numbers of stages. This year they hope to use the castle as

well. The plan is that there will be fewer bands doing longer sets this year. MV said that the CC would be glad to support Mugstock in any way we can.

5. Minutes of December's meeting and matters arising

The minutes were passed; proposed by ML and seconded by JH
There were no matters arising.

6. Update on Gladman Developments proposal south of Campsie Road

The CC response to this is on the website.

Alastair Balfour has arranged a meeting with Charles Connell's representatives on January ? which MV and JG will attend. They are happy to meet with the community but made it clear that they are looking for value from their investment in the land. MV will report back on this meeting at the February CC meeting. We hope to prevent the developers from submitting an application in principle. Ian Swann asked about the purpose of meeting with Connell and MV said it is a face-to-face meeting to make contact with the landowner.

Sandy Kennedy reported that he had received 212 responses to the questionnaire of which 5 were in favour of the development, 206 were against and 1 didn't know. 6 people thought there had been adequate consultation and 199 thought there had not. 181 people have signed the petition and there have been over 160 individual comments submitted. MV recorded our thanks to Sandy and his team. GL asked if the respondents were an even spread throughout the village and not just near neighbours of the development. SK said that they were. JG asked if any of the responses by email were in favour and none were. Some people are in favour of more housing in the village, but not this type of development. MV said that the CC needs to take the lead on what type of housing we need in the area.

A member of the Strathblane Society for the Preservation of the Green Belt said that they are interested in helping the CC to challenge this development.

7. Refuse Collection

MV had emailed ID to ask for information from SC about late collections in the village since the new system was initiated. ID said that George Somerville had responded that the main problem is with the existing lorries. The new ones being sourced need to be adapted to meet new regulations which is taking time. The older ones tend to break down. They are working hard to reduce the backlog and increase efficiency in the New Year.

MV reported that some residents' bins are not being emptied as walkers are putting inappropriate items in them when they are out for collection. This is not the fault of the owners. ID suggested that the CC ask SC for more litter/dog bins in the village, especially on walkers' paths. WO asked if it would be possible to have a system where it is explained to a householder who inadvertently puts something in the wrong bin why the bin has not been emptied. ID said we could ask for this to be done. He will pass our comments on to George Somerville. AH

said that the paper bin has finally been removed from the library, but there is now no waste bin there. RA has written to SC asking them to put a bin at the library. ID will pass this on also.

EN reported that a bin lorry reversed at speed down Craigenlay Avenue with nobody walking behind it. This could have led to an accident. ID will report this back .

MV asked ID to ask George Somerville if he would like the CC to put something in the BVB regarding bins.

8. Elected Member's Report – Cllr Graham Lambie

GL said that any issues with refuse collection should be reported to one of the elected members who will pass these on to George Somerville. He has asked about the possibility of getting smaller grey bins.

Bus changes – GL asked us to give him any suggestions we have for the bus routes in light of First Bus changes. AK said has used the DRT service which worked well, but the driver told her that the companies operating these services are being paid less than expected as SC deducts VAT from their bill as councils are not required to pay this. However the companies have to pay VAT so they have a shortfall. AK is concerned that the companies will pull out of the service. GL is also looking for feedback on the situation with after-school buses from Balfron.

GL believes that the 40mph signs on the A809 have been put in the wrong place and he will ask for these to be moved.

GL reported that SC currently has no plans to raise Council Tax.

GL will contact Police Scotland regarding non-attendance at our meetings. They should attend at least every third meeting.

ML pointed out that, when SC shared out the number of houses they need to provide we were required to have 50. We have almost this number in the various smaller developments around the village.

The full version of GL's report can be seen on the website.

9. Planning and Licensing

[16/00734/FUL](#) conversion of hotel to 4 residential units.

AK said that our main concern with this application is that the historical side of the house should be kept intact which it is. The development does not impinge on the Green Belt and is really just a change of use. In terms of community benefit we should ask that the developer reinstate the footpath into the village. WO suggested that a footpath from the falconry could be extended into the nature reserve at Loch Ardingning. AH said that the community could raise money to pay for the path if the developers allowed access to the land.

Generally the CC does not object to the application, although we are disappointed at the loss of the hotel and local jobs. JG said that we should highlight the fact that 4 houses trigger the need for a contribution to affordable housing or to local amenities.

[16/00798-80/FUL](#) 4 houses SE of Aros House Moor Road.

Planning permission has already been granted for two houses in this area. Now another four are being proposed. The four sites are in different ownership but are subject to the same planning statement so will be considered as one application and subject to affordable housing contribution.

A member of the public queried the extra traffic on Old Mugdock Road. MV replied that we have previously tried to have a policy restricting building in this area due to the extra traffic but SC did not support this. It might be possible to ask for a contribution towards upgrading the road rather than for affordable housing. We should point out to the planners that this development meets the criteria for a contribution. There was some discussion about whether the development will change the nature of the area around the Punchbowl Dam but the general feeling of the meeting was that it is not really out of proportion in the area. MV suggested that we should express concern but not necessarily oppose the application. We will ask SC to apply its policy regarding affordable housing and express concern about increased traffic on Old Mugdock Road. We will also comment that we would expect Moor Road to be reinstated to its previous standard when the building is complete.

10. Roads

MV noted a disappointing lack of progress on improving traffic management at the Cala development. She has heard nothing since October.

The parking at the Co-op and on Old Mugdock Road remains as issue. Jim McGregor sent an email asking if we could suggest any ways of managing this, as the gritters cannot access this area. MV replied that we have been campaigning for months regarding parking in this area and nothing has been done. A member of the CC contacted Angela McGibbon regarding the inability of an ambulance to access the road at the Co-op and she plans to look at the situation in the next few weeks.

There is no update yet on the proposed narrowing of the bridge on Station Road. We need funding from SC to complete this work to allow us to expand the link path.

JH reported that a section of fencing is missing at the top of Station Road . This is a safety issue as there is a drop into the burn at that point. MV said this must be reported to SC.

MV and RD will attend a meeting in BHS on January 19th regarding the closure of the A81 for three months for bridge repairs before Ballat.

11. Community Comments

RA reported that some of the Christmas tree lights are not working and asked for agreement to return them to the manufacturer for repair. This was agreed and it was also suggested that a second set might be purchased next year.

ML expressed thanks from the residents in Kirkhouse Road who are delighted with the new road surface and with the courtesy of the workmen.

12. Correspondence

MV reported that our bid for funding from the Community Connect fund has been successful. The money will be used for succession planning.

We need to respond to the Boundary Commission consultation on Westminster constituencies. We want to remain part of the Stirling community. RD offered to liaise with Neil Bennie and WO and respond to the Boundary Commission on our behalf.

We have an invitation to attend a Resilience Seminar on January 21st to test our emergency plan and be given advice on updating it. RA and WO might be able to attend this. GE will notify Kimberley Campbell.

MV has written to invite the new owners of the Carbeth Inn to attend a CC meeting to discuss their plans.

MV has had an email from Scottish Water regarding H & S work being carried out around the hydro scheme later in the year. This will involve more heavy plant on the old railway line. Somebody from SW will attend a meeting later in the year to give us more details.

There is a planning meeting about a proposed Volunteering Festival on January 30th. MV noted that this type of consultation is always done in Stirling and ID will suggest that they could perhaps come to us instead.

MV suggested that the members of the CC have an in-house discussion about the Democratic deficit.

GE has received a letter from Dean Lockhart MSP giving details of his constituent surgeries during February and March. She also has a letter from Steven Peterson MP offering to support the efforts of OFCOM to legally separate Openreach from BT and reiterating his commitment to delivering fast broadband to our area.

JH attended a management committee meeting at Mugdock Country Park. They have installed boxes in stanchions in the car parks asking for donations towards parking. They also have new Friends of the Country Park cards and JH will ask if they would like us to put fliers for these into the BVB.

13. Finance

SR noted that we have not yet received the money from the Community Connect fund.

Current Account	£1,274.28
Instant Saver	£2,336.59

14. Date of next meeting Monday 6th February 2017 **in the school**

Blane Valley Bulletin Copy Date Monday 16th January 2017

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

POLICE REPORT

Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting Period:

December 2016 – January 2017 Compiled by PC Raymond Murphy

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Between 19th November 2016 and 6th December 2016, a motor car was vandalised on Kirkhouse Road, Blanefield. Enquiry to date has failed to identify any suspect. If anybody has any relevant information, they are asked to contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

On the evening of 13th December 2016, a man was found by police to be in possession of Cannabis whilst travelling on the A81 thorough Blanefield.

On the morning of 31st December 2016, an incident is reported to have occurred at the King George's Playing Fields, Strathblane, whereby a man is alleged to have kicked another man's dog and shouted and swore at him. Enquiry is ongoing in relation to this incident, but if anybody

Theft

There have been no reports of any thefts in the area over the reporting period.

Several reports were received over the reporting period about suspicious vehicles in the area. We welcome reports of any suspicious activity

Road Safety

In the early hours of 9th December 2016, a one vehicle road traffic collision occurred on an unclassified road in Mugdock village. Damage was caused to a wall and gate posts. Police enquiry resulted in one man being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for various road traffic offences.

On the evening of 11th December 2016, a road traffic collision occurred on the A81, south of Strathblane. Two men were arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for allegedly drink driving and various other road traffic offences.

Complaints have been received during the reporting period about the speed of vehicles and inconsiderate and illegal parking around

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PCs Ray Murphy and Steven Graham are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Both officers have access to this email address mailbox, and it is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at

Other
Incidents
Activity
note

/
of

Rural Stirlingshire – Dangerous Dog

A male has been charged with an offence under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 following reports of his dog allegedly biting members of the public in rural Stirlingshire. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Dog owners, and anyone who is in charge of a dog, are reminded of their responsibilities to ensure that their dog is kept under control. It is against the law to allow a dog be dangerously out of control, and this responsibility extends not only to public places, but to any place to which the public have or are permitted access. Additional responsibilities include the requirement to have dog's microchipped, to prevent fouling and, particularly in rural areas, to ensure that dogs do not worry livestock.

Anybody who has concerns about a dog being out of control, or posing a danger, are encouraged to contact Police Scotland on 101 or the Dog Warden service at Stirling Council Safer Communities Team on 01786404040. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public>.

Scams

In recent months, members of the public have fallen victim of various types of scams. These have varied and have consisted of telephone calls, letters and pop-up messages on computer screens. Some of them have purported to be from banks, law enforcement agencies or government

Forth and Endrick News – Strathblane – Monday, 9th January 2017

Arnprior Balfour Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen Fintry Gargunnock Killearn
Kippen **Strathblane**

Councillor Lambie Report

- **New Waste Collection Service:** There have been concerns raised about changes to waste and recycling collection policy. The new policy will see residents given 5 recycling boxes under the following collection timetable:
- **2 Week Collection:** Brown Bin (Garden & Food Waste); Blue Bin (Plastic, Cans & Cartons); Grey Bin (Non-Recyclables); Blue Bin Small (Glass)
- **4 Week Collection:** Green Bin (Paper & Cardboard)

The service are keen to work with residents and CCs on this. For example with people living in flats sharing of bins will be a preference which should cut down on the number of bins. The service are also planning on running collections on a 7 day week basis – what time will this be – early Sunday mornings may not be appropriate. The service will be investing in new, rear loading collection vehicles which are easier to operate. **Update:** Most rural villages have now received the new bins. I've received differing views of the roll out and am keen to hear from as many CCs as possible. Cllr Muirhead has contacted George Sommerville (Service Manager Waste) about collection delays and he has responded and highlighted some operational issues which are being worked through. I have had a number of bin enquiries from residents which have been passed onto officers.

- **First Bus Changes and DRT:** First Bus have changed or withdrawn a number of routes in the Stirling area. The council will be extending the Demand Response Service DRT to accommodate some of these changes to the scheduled services. Elected members are looking for the views from residents on these changes. At Croftamie CC the feeling was the DRT should be given the chance to work with a review if residents were unhappy with the service. **Update:** All 6 rural councillors from Wards 1 and 2 met with FirstBus and Council officers last October. A number of suggestions were made including establishing a reverse loop route using smaller buses: Balfour > Drymen > Croftamie > Bearsden > Milngavie > Strathblane > Killearn > Balfour. This suggestion came from Avril (Strathblane CC) and looks like an extension of the Number 10 service which has support from Drymen CC. The First Bus representative did not dismiss this idea, but smaller buses are not always the more economical. The council transport officers said that scheduled buses services in rural areas may be difficult to sustain over the longer period. It may be that DRT could be applied over the wider rural area with agreements with neighbouring councils for crossover routes e.g. Drymen <> Milngavie; Fintry <> Lennoxton; Killen <> Aberfeldy etc. The other area we are investigating is using the **City Deal Programme** under the Connectivity category to lever resources for – roads maintenance, public transport, and broadband for the rural areas. We would also like to look at other bus companies as it is felt that 1st Bus have a monopoly in West Stirlingshire, reflected in recent large fare increases.

- **After School Transport from Balfroon High:** I recently met with Kevin Kelman (Chief Education Officer) to discuss the after school bus transport at Balfroon High and am hoping to meet with the HT and the Parent Council to find a workable solution. Cllr Muirhead and I met with the Parent Council, Head Teacher, CC Chair, and Council transport officers on Tues 6th Dec and a potentially workable solution has been agreed.
- **Road Maintenance Programme 2016 – 2017:** Forth and Endrick programme:
A Roads: A811 (Redlairston – Buchlyvie) Inlay = £60K; A811 (Strewiebank – Kippen) Structural Inlay = £40K; A811 (Glinns Road on Kippen Gargunnoch Straight) SD + Patching = £45,000; A811 (Touch Bridge – Cambusbarron Turnoff – Ward 5) SD + Patching = £27K; A81 (Garrauld Balfroon Station) SD + Patching = £35K*; A81 (Balfroon Station) SD + Patching = £65K*; **A81 (Devil’s Elbow – Strathblane) Inlay = £55K*;** A809 (Finnich Blair – Croftamie) Structural Inlay = £45K
B Roads: B818 (Loch Walton – Fintry) Overlay = £50K; B822 (Balafark – Kippen) Overlay = £50K; B818 (Bogside – Fintry) Overlay = **£40K;** B837 (Milton of Buchanan) Overlay = £50K
C Roads: C54 (Ballochrui Rd – Balfroon) Structural Inlay - Passing Places = £20K; C56 (Mugdock Country Park) Overlay = £30K; C21 (Station Rd – Balfroon) Inlay = £40K
Unclassified Roads: Barnsford Rd. (Gartness) Full Reconstruction = £100K*
Streets: Kirkhouse Rd/Crescent (Strathblane) Inlay = £50K; Glinns Rd (Kippen) Overlay = £40K
- **Notes:** Key: SD = Surface Dress; * Questions to Roads officers
- **Strathblane – Roads Projects:** Last year I met with roads officers to look at two jobs. A81 (Devil’s Elbow) and Kirkhouse Rd/Kirkhouse Crescent. The overall impression I got was these were two very good jobs ably supervised with a motivated, hard-working team who took a quiet pride in their work. The challenge now is to provide the resurfacing team(s) with sufficient resources to keep this good work going. Kirkland Avenue and Craigenlay Avenue are resurfacing jobs we would like to complete. Another area of concern is the quality and frequency of the white lining. This is carried out by a contractor who I understand services more than one council. I’ve suggested that the white lining if brought in-house.
- **Strathblane – Road Safety A809:** The 40 mph signs were erected in December, and hopefully will help to curb the inappropriate speeds on this road. I had asked previously if the camera safety van could be deployed on this road and was told that +60 mph speeds are not the main issue on this road, as many of the accidents/fatalities are down to driver error and not necessarily breaking the national speed limit.
- **Roads Spend to Save Proposal:** Following a question to council and information supplied by roads officers at the May 2016 Strathblane CC meeting the council is currently resurfacing 2.6 % of the road network – it needs to do 4% to maintain the status quo. Cllr Muirhead and myself are looking at methods where the council can lever extra resources on a **spend to save** basis where it is more cost effective to resurface on a 25 year future proofing model than leave a road to deteriorate with ultimately a more expensive bill. According to roads officers we are looking at circa £90 million to fully repair the council road network of 1100 kms. We have asked if the **CDF City Development Framework** resource planning will factor in investment for rural roads.

- **Balfron Station Bridge Site Visit:** I met with Scottish Water onsite to inspect the works. This is a much more complex repair than was first thought as it involves damage to one or more of the 6 water pipes and the sandstone bridge structure. The water is currently being diverted via the Ross Priory facility as the pipes are being inspected. Scottish Water are hoping to setup a temporary traffic light at the bridge which will allow cars and vans to pass, but will restrict HGVs and wide vehicles which may include some agricultural vehicles. I'm assuming there will be some form of gantry setup on both sides of the bridge which will simulate the width and height of the restricted underpass. I drove under the bridge in both directions on Wed 7th Dec and the lights and gantries are in place. I would also make the point that the damage was caused by the carelessness of a non-local contractor who has underestimated the height of the bridge. **Update:** There is a meeting to discuss the above at Balfron High school at 7pm Thursday 19th January as it looks like there will be a further road closure from Feb to May.
- **Roads A811 Motorway Slip Road Proposal:** The **City Deal** has included the proposal to link the M9 to the A811 with a slip road development thus allowing north flowing traffic to move directly onto the A811, part of the proposed City Park project. At a recent meeting in Buchlyvie this development once again raised the issue of upgrading the A811 to trunk status.
- **Balfron High School – Community Day Year 3:** I attended this event on Tuesday 20th Sept and was very pleased to see the number of stands from local community groups, including Strathblane CC. We are hoping that this will be repeated in following years and would extend my thanks to the Head Teacher Elaine Bannatyne and her Deputy Tracey Patrick for facilitating this.
- **Stirling City Deal:** There is cautious optimism that both the Scottish and UK governments will be backing this, and it is anticipated that it will feature in the Scottish Government draft budget statement on 15th Dec. While fully supporting the City Deal project, rural councillors are concerned about all of the high profile project being urban centric and would like to be reassured that part of the funds will be allocated to Rural connectivity > Roads > Public Transport > Broadband. **Update:** This has now been approved and indeed was referred to in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Elected members attended the 'official' launch of the **City Deal Programme** at the Scottish Parliament on 29th November and it was pleasing to see among the over 300 guests, many business owners, small and large, urban and rural. More details about the city deal on the following link: <http://www.investinstirling.com/why-stirling/city-development-framework/>
- **Stirling Council Budget:** This is due to be presented to Full council in late February and, partly due to council elections this May, is unlikely to yield any contentious proposals. At this stage I do not have any specific details of the administration proposals and the PBB (Priority Based Budget) community meetings did not reveal much clarity. However, we would like the budget to address areas such as – Road/Bridge/Footway Maintenance, Road Safety Mitigation, Public Transport, Broadband Communications, Care Services, and Community Support Services.

- **Policing - Report:** Alongside the ward officers are response officers who provide 24/7 cover for the ward. For major incidents such as serious road collisions ward officers could be called to assist with these. Contact details for local police are ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk or use the 101 number. For Stirling Police matters check the **Stirling Police Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/stirlingpol> This site had recently reported a driver caught at 47mph, in Station Rd Killearn, with the consequence of a £100 fine and 3 penalty points. From a property protection perspective the use of **SmartWater** and similar products have been discussed at the Public Safety committee with reference to the encouraging results from the Killearn SmartWater operation. SmartWater is traceable liquid which carries a unique forensic 'code' which is registered to an address or location. Once applied it is almost impossible to remove and can only be seen under **UV light**. Forensic analysis provides conclusive proof of ownership. SmartWater is guaranteed to last for a minimum of 5 years outdoors.
- **Stirling Council – Local Government Boundary Changes (LGBC):** Following the sensible decision not to change the Forth and Endrick ward boundary, there are plans to reduce the number of constituencies for the next West Minster election, from **59 to 53** in Scotland. This includes Stirling where the city would be split according to the boundary proposals - into **Clackmannanshire and Stirling North** and **Stirling South**. The consultation on the proposals will run until 11 January 2017.
- **Planning – Rural Stirling Housing Association RSHA:** Cllr Muirhead and myself met with Tony Teasdale (Director) to discuss housing projects in the ward including the 6 affordable dwellings on the Devil's Elbow site. I noted the extensive and very informative comments from Strathblane CC in the last full council agenda. At that meeting the LDP was approved with no changes to the allocated sites for Strathblane. This may be open to challenge from developers who will argue that the council has not met its proposed housing development target. However, if proposed developments at Duries Hill (near Plean) and Airthrey Kerse for example, were actioned then both the council's base and aspirational targets could be met. I've asked Christina Cox (Senior Planning Officer) for clarity on this and also an update on the cemetery proposals i.e. have land and finances been allocated to develop it.
- **Planning – Stirling Council:** Both the Park of Keir Tennis Centre (Dunblane and Bridge of Allan), and Airthrey Kerse (Graham's Dairies at Bridge of Allan and Causewayhead) are now subject to appeals by the applicant as they were both rejected – Park of Keir by the planning panel and Airthrey Kerse by full council. Cllr Muirhead and myself supported both applications. **Update:** A public enquiry for the Park of Keir application was held in Dunblane chaired by a planning reporter with findings sent to Scottish Government ministers.
- **Broadband Suppliers Meeting Balforn High– 7th Dec:** I attended this session which included representatives from Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband, BT, Forth Valley Leader, and a number of commercial suppliers of Satellite and Wireless solutions. Contact Person is Douglas Baillie at Stirling Council webpage: <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/business-and-trade/advice-and-support-for-businesses/broadband/broadband-enquiry>
- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk

