



MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Monday 9th May 2016 in the primary school
Final for approval**

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

In attendance: Jamie Wright and Gordon McLachlan of SC Roads dept. + 4 residents.
(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust *
Denotes an action)

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

Apologies – Sue Rand, Rob Davies and Police Scotland.

2. Declaration of interests –

MV declared her interest in Rural Stirling housing association

3. Police report – compiled by PC Raymond Murphy, read by MV

There had been a further case of sheep worrying by a dog and the owner had been charged. Various problems of vandalism to cars at Mugdock Park, theft of fencing from Old Mugdock Road and a vehicle accident on the A81 were noted in the report. As ever, the Police are looking for any witnesses.

For details see full police report on-line in **Appendix I** at www.strathblanefield.org.uk.

4. Roads – from Jamie Wright, SC Roads and Transport Manager

A very interesting presentation outlining the work of the Roads Department and the difficulty of allocating meagre funds to maintain and upgrade these was given. Topics covered included Road maintenance condition surveys, measurement of traffic volumes, approved matrix for condition assessment and prioritising works, severe winter weather and how officers make their recommendations.

Annual surveys of the SC area roads and indeed all of Scotland's roads are made annually; 100% of A roads, 50% of B roads, 50% of C roads and 10% of all other unclassified roads are assessed. Data is sent to Audit Scotland who collates it and produce an annual national report on the state of the nation's roads. SC has 1111km of roads in its care, of which more than 400 Km are in need of attention; ie 44% of roads in the area are defective to some extent. The Scottish average is 36%, so SC lies in about 30th position, very close to the bottom of the Scottish league table of road condition. The current resurfacing cycle is 2.6% of roads per annum. Just to maintain the status quo would require this to increase to 4%, so our roads are getting steadily worse! The budget for this year 2016/17 is £5.57M compared with over £7M 10 years ago and inflation has eaten further into this by about 30%! To fix all current known defects would require expenditure of around £90M !!

An interesting fact quoted was that one 40 tonne lorry journey does damage to the road system equivalent to 15000 car journeys!

Information on the progress of our roads infrastructure can be seen at <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/transport-and-streets/roads-and-pavements/roads-and-pavements-maintenance>

It is recommended that when embarking on any journey in Scotland the web site www.roadsscotland.org be consulted for details of all road works across including details of closures and diversions.

Gordon McLachlan, Team leader, Rural Areas, then took to the floor to discuss local works here in Strathblane. The road survey can detect the condition of the road below the surface and it is economically better to resurface a road before condition deteriorates beyond a certain level. This level has been reached at the “Devil’s Elbow” on the A81 and he is recommending that a budget spend of £85K be made here rather than further out, before Spadeworks which also needs repairs, but this sum would only cover part of that job. It would also have to be done in stages over 3 years. Further, with a possible adjacent housing development by Westpoint Homes it is desirable to have the road up to a good standard before the start of the development to ensure it is handed back in good condition at the end of the contract. If the job is done now the cost per square metre would be around £30; if left a year this could rise to £200.

There was unanimous approval from the CC for the local project at the “Devil’s Elbow” to be undertaken – likely in October this year and requiring a road closure of up to one week.

General questions and discussion from the floor called for better communication of dates and times of closures – maybe a longer window of dates for potential closure be intimated.

MV asked about the desired lower speed limits, white lining and formation of a speed deterrent chicane at the bridge in Station Road; also to explore 20mph zones within housing estates.

Gordon said that often perceptions of speed in built-up areas can be higher than actual so speed calming was a contentious issue. 30mph electronic signs had, however, been proven to be very effective in encouraging slower speeds.

There was discussion about the good outcome of the road safety works at Carbeth junction and the start point for the 40mph limit, hopefully encompassing the scout camp entry. A desired anti skid surface in the area cannot go ahead as the road condition is inadequate.

MV thanked both officers for attending and giving a very interesting presentation.

5. Minutes of April meeting and matters arising

There were no changes or omissions. Minutes were approved by JH and seconded by JG.

Matters arising: a) AH – said that the three paths which were being upgraded should be completed by end May. Danny’s Brae was delayed by hand rail delivery, but there was also a worry from neighbouring house owners regarding water cascading down the steps from the Edmonstone Hall and damaging their gardens. It was severe water erosion which had destroyed the original steps. A site meeting would be held next week with neighbours and the project manager to try to devise a solution.

The link path from the water works to the Gowk Stane road was near completion, although it had been rerouted slightly to avoid soft ground.

The railway path was not yet open awaiting construction of a chicane at the Station Road end. It was currently unsafe until this was done. A bridleway follows the path so far and a further extension towards the water works end is being investigated to keep horses off the main path. Signage and benches are forthcoming.

b) Item 9 Issues for young people –the presentation session at Balfron School had been postponed until 20th Sept. There were apologies for lack of notification.

6. Community panel for new housing development - from Avril Keen

The panel, comprising AK, JH, EN, ML T.Teasdale from RSHA and two resident neighbours had convened with Westpoint homes for its first meeting. Agreement from SC had been obtained for the proposed access on to the A81 as per the preliminary drawing. The proposal is for a total of 18 houses on the site including affordable homes. There had been no discussions re the septic tanks of the houses in Milndavie Road backing on to the site. More discussions and a site investigation were needed over the next few weeks. Discussions regarding flows of traffic within the development had taken place as well as pressing for a footpath link direct to Old Mugdock Road.

RSHA would construct six properties and will decide on the mix of bedroom types once the Campsie Road allocations had been made.

Edward Pickard asked whether the developer had made release of land from the corner of the garden of “Blue Risk” for a crossroad improvement at the junction of Milndavie Road and Old Mugdock Road a condition of purchase of the site from the owner. If not there may be an opportunity to still seek some land for crossroad improvement. He suggested that it is highly likely that the sale of the land to Westpoint is contingent on planning consent being gained. In that case the owners of Blue Risk may still be able and interested to make the contribution that was offered earlier. Others commented that improvement of the junction may make heavy lorry access more feasible and might, therefore, be undesirable!

AH commented that the access to Old Mugdock Road should also be made suitable for cyclists and horses.

7. Health and social care integration/ Strathendrick Care Home – from Marian Lever

The next meeting of the panel was not until next week. A report will be going to SC on Thursday week and it has been agreed that Strathendrick House is now safe and its sale has been removed from the matched funding requirements for the Stirling Care village. It is planned that the home will be developed as an intermediate care facility for the area once current residents have moved out.

It will come under the auspices of the Integration Board and its costs will come from the IB budget. More community involvement may lever in more funding.

There is a huge need for respite care facilities in this area with a waiting time of one year from making a booking!!

The Dementia and Community Care exhibition at the Kirk Rooms on 30th April had been a success with many care and voluntary organisations for the elderly attending with stands and able to answer questions and provide advice. An interesting presentation, one of several, had been given by Blanefield Care Home, now under new ownership. The new owners seem to be striving to raise standards and offer innovative services such as, daycare facilities (first booking taken), dementia cafe, producing a playlist for life and forging links with the library and the school. The home was majoring on dementia care. A steering group has been established to carry the day's work forward and ML has offered her services to this.

8. Bungalows for older people proposal. – from Margaret Vass.

There is still an offer on the table from SC for six older person's bungalows (per Steve Mason who is leaving SC). A proposal drawing (APFM00449) for two such units which could be sited on the land at the corner of Kirkburn Road and Southburn Road had been prepared and was shown on screen to those present. These are designed to be dementia friendly. The houses would be allocated to transfers aged 55+ applicants when available and then waiting list aged 55+.. Another site at Park Place is council owned and could accommodate all six properties if the will of the community was behind this although there are some in the community who do not want the site to be developed. Likewise there was anti comment against the above-mentioned corner site and a suggestion that this might make future development of the greater school site more problematical. A further possibility for two units was suggested for the triangle of land at the end of Kirkburn Drive, adjacent to the telephone exchange and which was heavily overgrown with mature trees. If the access road to the transformer was also SC land or could be used for access, this could make the location more feasible. There was general discussion on the subject and a query was raised about use of the public toilets and adjacent land, but this can only be used for a garden. Another location at Ballewan had access difficulties. It was proposed that the matter should be put to public consultation and discussion at the forthcoming summer fair.

9. Blanefield Printworks continuing issues.

The completion of this decontamination project has left considerable drainage problems in the gardens of residents. The soil has been badly consolidated and is water logged and this has left affected residents highly distressed. SC has awarded a contract to install drainage in the affected gardens. Cllr Berrill has offered his services to try to progress the matter which has been made all the more difficult by constant staff changes at SC as there is a perceived lack of openness when dealing with the new staff. The CC agreed to use the press as a last resort in needed.

10. Planning and licensing – from Avril Keen

16/00268/FUL land north of Aros House, Moor Road. The style of house has been changed from that submitted to a more traditional style house. The CC did not wish to offer any comment on the development.

11. Elected member report – from Cllr Alistair Berrill

Balfron School had been reported unsafe as of 4.00pm last Friday afternoon. Stair cracking and collapse of a wall had necessitated closure to most pupils and future bussing them to disparate Stirling schools. There was comment from the floor that possible impending problems with the building were known about some months ago and that someone had to be made accountable for this highly dangerous situation.

The Airthrey Kerse housing development proposal for 600 homes had been put to a free non-partisan vote by the council and Cllr Berrill had voted against this on the grounds that it was a green belt site. He has worries about the implications on the security of the green belt elsewhere if this is given the go-ahead.

There had been a brainstorming meeting to discuss the preferred uses of the £2M allocated as mentioned at our last meeting for the rural areas. This could be used for tourism based projects but the matter is open to the community for suggestions.

12. Community comments.

There was some discussion regarding a worry from a resident about tree removal by BT contractors on Old Mugdock Road for broadband cable installation. The tree officer had been consulted and a license may have to be gained for the work. Work would not proceed until this had been done. EN agreed to keep a watch over the situation.

Edward Pickard appraised the meeting of another Douglas academy school party on his land which had resulted in much residual litter. A call the next day to the school by EP had resulted in a spotless field by 2.30! This had been followed up by an apology from the head teacher. EP much impressed!

GE raised the matter of the disappearing dog bin from the foot of Danny's Brae. This had been removed as damaged and would be replaced shortly.

13. Finance

Current account: £2640

Instant Saver account:£2318

14. Correspondence – None

15. AOCB – RSHA is celebrating its 25th Anniversary and is willing to sponsor the community to the sum of £250. It was suggested that the Summer Fair and Community Event at Mugstock might be suitable recipients.

MV intimated that the next Area Forum meeting next Monday might be in doubt as it uses Balfron High.

16. Date of next meeting – Monday 6th June 2016 in the Primary School following the AGM. MV reminded office bearers to send in their reports for the annual report.

Blane Valley Bulletin Copy date Monday 16th May 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.

To follow :

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

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Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting Period:

April – May 2016 Compiled by PC Raymond Murphy C0384

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

On the afternoon of Thursday, 7th April 2016, a sheep worrying incident occurred at a farm on Old Mugdock Road, Strathblane. The dog owner was traced and charged, and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On the afternoon of Friday, 15th April 2016, two tyres on a motor car that was parked and unattended in Mugdock Country Park were pierced in an apparent deliberate act. The paintwork was also scratched.

On the evening of Sunday, 24th April 2016, four tyres on a motor car that was parked and unattended in Mugdock Country Park were pierced in an apparent deliberate act.

Overnight between Tuesday, 3rd May 2016 and Wednesday, 4th May 2016, a vandalism and theft occurred at Mugdock Country Park near to the Visitor Centre. Signs were damaged, the car park barrier forced open and a stone wall kicked down.

Enquiry is ongoing in relation to the above incidents, but if anyone has any information in relation to any of them, please contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

Over the reporting period, a total of ten people have been found in possession of Cannabis within Mugdock Country Park and Queens View Car Park by police on routine patrol.

Theft

Between 1200 hours, Thursday 5th May 2016 and 0900 hours, Friday, 6th May 2016, a quantity of plastic fence posts were stolen from a field at Old Mugdock Road, Strathblane. Enquiry is ongoing in relation to this incident.

If anyone has any information or remembers observing any suspicious activity around this time period, please contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

Road Safety

On Friday, 29th April 2016, a one vehicle road traffic collision occurred on the A81, Strathblane. Minor injuries were sustained.

Between Thursday, 5th May 2016 and Friday, 6th May 2016, police conducted speed checks on the A81 at Strathblane as part of a week-long National Speeding Campaign. Numerous motorists were stopped, with four local motorists being issued with Conditional Offers of Fixed Penalty for speeding.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PCs Steven Graham and Raymond Murphy are the Ward officers in the Forth and Endrick area. They have continued to carry out high visibility patrols in the local area and have liaised with local schools and businesses. They can be contacted at Balfron Police Office, or by email at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Other Incidents
/ Activity of
note

Sheep Worrying

A three month Police Scotland campaign was launched on Tuesday, 1st March 2016 to raise awareness amongst dog owners about the devastating effects of livestock worrying. Unfortunately, there have been several reported incidents of sheep worrying in the Forth and Endrick area, some of which have resulted in owners being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Owners are reminded to ensure that their dogs are under control in or around fields containing livestock. Full details of the campaign can be found at

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2016/march/campaign-launched-to-raise-awareness-of-livestock-worrying>

Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey - Your View Counts

The Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey was launched on Thursday, 7th April 2016. In previous years, the survey was paper-based and involved community officers delivering and collating the surveys from members of the local community. This year, the survey has been placed online.

The survey allows local communities to provide feedback to Police Scotland in relation to a variety of topics, including the views of local people and what they feel local policing priorities should be in their communities.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and everyone is encouraged to participate in it.

The survey and further information can be found at www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts .

Issues raised

**Community
Council
Feedback**