



MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Monday 4th April 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, and Rob Davies.

In attendance: Stewart Nelson of Mugstock, Cllr Ian Muirhead + 8 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, Willie Oswald, Elspeth Neill and Police Scotland.

2. Declaration of interests –

MV declared her interest in Rural Stirling housing association
RA indicated a potential interest in the discussions on the web site.

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

There had been a number of drug possession arrests, a malicious fire, a number of property thefts, two hit-and-run road accidents and a driver caught driving without valid car documentation.

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

4. Mugstock – from (Stewart) Nelson

Nelson advised the meeting of the current state of progress of this year's festival plans. These are progressing satisfactorily and in due course posters and publicity materials will give details of acts involved. There are four fundraising bodies working to provide financial support and Stirling Council is also providing support.

Local involvement and engagement is a high priority at this family-friendly event. IN connection with this RA reported to the meeting that he was part of a sub-committee chaired by George Thom helping to drive this involvement and at this stage encouraging local musical performers to come forward to perform at the event. At the moment it was envisaged that a two hour slot would be available on the second "chameleon" soundstage. Details of local acts would be announced in due course.

For village supporters attending the festival there would be a 50% discount rising to 75% for over 60's.

Transport to and from the site was discussed, it being hoped that a shuttle bus might be arranged at suitable times to take performers and their "fans" to the site. Nelson is looking into this and will get back to us. There will be adequate car parking adjacent to the sound stage for performers and their equipment. With regards publicity, AH had been asked by Alan Govan about possible routes, which included the BVB, the village website and Facebook pages as well as notice boards and the library.

MV confirmed that there was enthusiasm for local involvement and asked if Killearn and Balfron were also likely to be involved too. They are being invited to become involved.

5. Minutes of March meeting and matters arising

GE had erroneously been listed as being present at the last meeting.

The minutes were otherwise accepted as correct, approved by JH and seconded by AH.

Matters arising: ML advised that the new batteries and electrodes for the defibrillator had not yet been purchased. MV indicated that a donation towards replacements had been received. There were queries regarding such a short timescale replacement cycle for these items. It was also pointed out that there is now a relevant App available for defibrillators.

ML also reported feedback from the NHS following on from the letter written to Bruce Crawford MSP which stated that for our area of NHS Forth Valley, the preferred hospital destination for emergencies will be Glasgow Royal Infirmary, unless a preference for Larbert is stated. ML was pleased that we now know who is Director of Policy and Planning and that we now have good lines of communication. Confidentiality will, however, preclude involvement in specific medical cases.

Should there be any further problems we will get back to Bruce Crawford.

In reference to the elected member report and the possible inclusion of Cambusbarron into the ward, we want to make it clear that we wish the rural area councillors to represent our local interests and issues.

Regarding the possibility of upgrading road A811 to trunk road status we need to be aware that this would have the effect of depleting the SC road budget, so there may be no advantage in pursuing this. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the area forum.

Further discussions regarding the walkers car park close to Glengoyne would be carried out with Killearn CC. This is a borderline area with the ward division line through the centre of the distillery, but the proposed car park is thought to lie in the Strathblane area.

There are no further matters to report yet regarding the Killearn Hospital site.

6. Community panel for new housing development

Proposed meeting dates of 19th or 21st April mooted with the latter being preferred. CC volunteers will be ML, JG, JH, AK and EN and from the community, David Grierson and Graham Ogilvie have offered their services. A notional place and time will be the Village Club at 7.15pm on Thursday 21st April. Any comments from the community, such as those received by EN, will be passed on to the panel.

MV stressed that at this stage the project is not at the planning stage. In due course a full community consultation will take place at a public meeting.

7. Health and social care integration/ Strathendrick Care Home – from Julie Hutchison

JH had attended a Planning meeting on behalf of the CC. Alison Campbell of the Intermediate Care group will map out all facilities available in each village area. This will be shared with the Community Council.

There had been discussions about proposals to enlist “ambassadors” – volunteers from the village who could take responsibility to help elderly residents in need in an emergency (e.g. after a fall). Training would be given in the use of specialist equipment (e.g. lifting hoists) which may be needed when assisting. Louise Barker was our liaison person at the community care emergency team. ML indicated that there was hope for a locally based MECS team based in Balfron.

AK had worries about the risks of volunteer care if, say, the resident in need had sustained injury.

A further interesting development, being trialled in Killearn by Dr Cumming was the use of Telecare where modern TV and communication technology would be used for video conferencing, medical follow-up consultations etc exercise classes and related patient care uses and which could preclude the need for hospital visits for routine medical follow-up consultations.

MV indicated that housing associations were helping their tenants to become more IT literate by providing suitable training

Mealmakers was another initiative discussed which was already being used in Dundee, where local people prepare a meal and then take this to a local (vulnerable) recipient resident and sit down and eat it with them. There are some issues of red tape to be considered such as Disclosure/PVG etc.

David Niven indicated that a draft of the Integrated Strategic Plan is in place and is at the final stage of being signed off. Finances for this had to be discussed on the 30th March ready for the 1st April deadline. Unfortunately the draft committee report about Strathendrick Care Home was not available as promised. This does not allow time for discussion in the community and ML will contact Pam Campbell on the matter.

The next meeting is on 17th May at 1.30pm.

JH also reported that deeds for Strathendrick Home are being looked for lawyers to check. SC is, however, still committed to keeping it open.

Respite care will be charged for but everyone is entitled to a free assessment.

MV commented that there was now a huge change in attitudes regarding social care in the rural areas.

8. Paths upgrade update – from Alan Hutton.

1. Railway path is well under way and a Toptrek final surface preparation will be laid this week. Total completion is planned in two weeks. Some discussion took place regarding lack of separation of walkers and horse riders. This is not possible given the width limitations in certain areas. It is, however, important to make horse riders aware that at anything more than walking pace, the Toptrek surface will be damaged. There must be no trotting, cantering or galloping on the new track surface. Signage may be required to reinforce this.

2. Danny's Brae – work should start here during this week with completion expected in 3/4 weeks during which time access would be restricted.
- 3) John Muir link path – from the Scottish water site to the Gowk Stane track. This has been funded by SW. Work started today, but ground conditions are bad due to the wet weather. Programmed to take 4 weeks.
- 4) "Scary path" – this was a community undertaking completed last year and the final worry of a dangerous wall is now being addressed. The path is now deemed safe and is less scary as it has been straightened out.
- 5) SWT Ardinging – looking for support from the community council to raise funding to have a walkable footpath route around the loch. RA to deal with this.

MV on behalf of the CC, thanked AH for the huge amount of work he has done in connection with the various paths projects.

Future developments:

- 1) Link path from the railway track into Station Road. It is hoped to get funding from Sustrans during the coming year to complete this. This section would be on Duntreath Estates land so negotiations will be required. It is hoped that SC might become involved by treating the road over the bridge as a one way priority speed calming chicane which would release extra width for the footpath.
- 2) Walkers welcome accreditation for the village – application later this year
- 3) Route from village to L. Ardinging - longer term search for a walking route. One may exist from the railway track to Lennoxton, if a little circuitous.
- 4) Upgrade of the footpath up the "Glen" as part of the safe routes to school network, which currently becomes unsatisfactory in wet weather.

It has to be noted that whilst the lead has been taken by the Path Development Group within the umbrella of the SCDT these several projects involved the help and co-operation of many others. We must acknowledge here the help of SCC, SPPC, SW, SWT and a number of individuals.

Just as importantly we should recognize the generous funding of many of these projects by: SUSTRANS; Clackmannan & Stirling Environmental Trust; The Forbes Brown Memorial Trust; and Scottish Water.

9. Issues for young people.

a) arrangements for 20th April – meeting at school at 9.00am for school assembly. MV,GE,JH and possibly SR and WO to attend. It is also desirable that there is also representation from the CDT.

10. Planning and licensing – from Avril Keen

Auchengillan Scout camp – there is a planning application for timber pods to be used as camping accommodation in lieu of tents. They will be located where tents would normally be pitched. The CC is happy to support this application.

Also discussed was the possibility of an extension of the Carbeth 40mph limit to beyond the Auchengillan access. Scout buses are currently discharging their passengers adjacent to a 60mph main road which is not very satisfactory. It is not known how SC will deliver on this.

Easterton Equestrian centre – this is a modified re-application for a pavilion adjacent to the main riding arena. The CC is happy to support the application

Licensing – there is yet another review of the licensing policy under way. Suggested that AK approach SC for a list of changes to the policy to save time and effort.

11. Elected member report – from Cllr Ian Muirhead

1) Stirling city is applying for funding under the City Development Framework to fund infrastructure and environmental enhancement to help accelerate growth in the City. There is match funding available through the Scottish Government which could provide £400m -£500m if SC borrows £40m itself. Examples of improvements could be formation of a city park at the west entrance to Stirling below the castle; enhancement of the River Forth to improve it as a tourist attraction; new civic and council buildings etc. A big question is about what is in it for rural areas. £2m has been allocated for rural project funding, but discussions between CC's and rural councillors would take place to decide on how this would be allocated. – suggestions were: digital infrastructure improvements; remediation at Killearn Hospital including site purchase; promoting tourism in this gateway to the Trossachs; extend national cycleway etc.

A new refuse regime is in the pipeline, starting Sept 2016 requiring householders to have four wheelie bins and a recycling box for glass.

There were concerns about how flat dwellers and residents with limited gardens would deal with this.

There is a sum of £300K per annum extra money allocated to the broadband budget to try to smooth and speed up roll out in the rural areas. A Broadband Czar, Douglas Baillie had been appointed to oversee this. There is a broadband delivery group in Killearn chaired by Douglas Ashworth which is trying to expedite affairs.

12. Community comments.

MV reported on several issues raised by local residents:

- 1) Paper recycling bins, despite past complaints and assurances, are again not being uplifted, encouraging mess in the area. They should be emptied on a regular basis or removed altogether – who is using them anyway when paper is being uplifted from our doorsteps? Cllr Muirhead to contact Mr Somerville at SC.
- 2) At the shepherd's cabin at W. Arlehaven where teas coffees and food are being dispensed for charity, there are concerns about recent earthworks and tree felling which may be unauthorised and where a danger is perceived at some excavations. There is also some concern about hygiene and lack of toilet facilities which had thought to have been a requirement of the planning application.
- 3) Ongoing problems of severe flooding of road drains outside the co-op. They seem to be totally silted up.
- 4) It was suggested that roads issues might be a major item at our next meeting, perhaps asking David Maley to come along to address the meeting. Some avenue to address local problems is seen to be needed – complaints seem to be falling on deaf ears!

13. Finance

The Current Account stands at £2466.40 and the Instant Saver account at £2331.48.

RA advised the meeting that formalities had been addressed to allow SC to place the order for the upgrade works to the War Memorial as they could not hand over the site to the CC which did not have appropriate insurances etc. Payment from CC funds and grant funds would be handed to SC who would in turn pay the contractor.

a) Website – Mock ups have been received for evaluation, but illness by JG has precluded meeting up with the developer. Progress is being made. It was confirmed that there would be a direct link from the site to the SC planning portal

14. Correspondence - None

MV indicated that Cllr Benny was looking for a representative for the CC for the Broadband Delivery group. RD volunteered.

15. Date of next meeting – Monday 9th May 2016 in the Primary School Blane Valley Bulletin Copy date Monday 11th April 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 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:

March – April 2016 Compiled by PC Raymond Murphy C0384

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

On Sunday, 6th March 2016, a male was found by police to be in possession of Cannabis at Queens View Car Park, A809.

Between Saturday, 19th March 2016 and Monday 21st March 2016, a quantity of building materials and a bin were set alight at a property on the B821, Blanefield, in an apparent deliberate act. No persons have been identified as being responsible, however if anybody has any information that may assist with the police investigation, please contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

On Saturday, 2nd April 2016, a male was found by police to be in possession of Cannabis near to Carbeth, A809.

Theft

Between Wednesday 30th March 2016 and Thursday 31st March 2016, both the front and rear registration plates of a motor vehicle were stolen from a parked and unattended van on Old Mugdock Road, Strathblane.

On Saturday, 2nd April 2016, two bicycles were stolen from the area of the visitor centre at Mugdock Country Park. One bicycle was recovered dumped nearby but the other has not been recovered.

Enquiry is ongoing in relation to both these thefts, however if anybody has any information that may assist with the investigation, please contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

Road Safety

On Tuesday, 1st March 2016, a motorist was found by police to be driving on Kirkburn Road, Strathblane, without insurance, road excise or a valid MOT. She was cautioned and charged with these offences and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and DVLA.

On Friday, 4th March 2016, a hit-and-run road traffic collision occurred at a property on the B821 during which a car struck a wall and an electrical box causing damage to both. A motorist was subsequently traced, cautioned and charged with this offence, and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On Friday, 11th March 2016, a hit-and-run road traffic collision occurred on Old Mugdock Road, Strathblane, near to the Post Office. A parked and unattended vehicle was struck by another vehicle, the driver of which failed to stop and report this matter to police or to the owner of the damaged vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to this incident.

On Monday, 28th March 2016, a single vehicle road traffic collision involving a motorcyclist occurred on the A81, Strathblane. No serious injuries were sustained.

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 Balfour Police Office, or by email at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Other Incidents / Activity of note

Mountain Rescue

On Monday, 28th March 2016, Lomond Mountain Rescue Team, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland assisted in removing a walker with an injured ankle from The Whangie at Queens View Car Park where she was subsequently airlifted to hospital for treatment.

Sheep Worrying Campaign

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>

Issues raised

Community Council Feedback