

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday 3rd October in the school Final for Approval

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

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In attendance: Ian Denvir, Community Link Officer, Councillor Graham Lambie, Gordon MacLachlan from Roads + 12 residents.

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

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

Apologies – John Gray, Police Scotland

MV opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public who attended.

2. Declaration of interests -

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Police report – No officers from Police Scotland were available to attend the meeting once again but the report had been sent out in advance to members. The full report can be viewed in Appendix 1 GL requested that the CC ask for the Police report on the serious accident at Carbeth on October 2nd so that he can contact the roads department regarding the safety of this stretch of road.

4. Minutes of September meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved by EN and seconded by ML

JG has submitted our comments on the Local Development Plan consultation. ML attended a meeting in Stirling regarding Larbert Hospital and the Scottish Ambulance Service. She reported that Larbert is trying to improve the efficiency of bed usage and now has a discharge ward where patients can wait prior to discharge. This enables beds in the main wards to be put back into use as soon as possible. There are nurses in attendance in the discharge ward. A Rapid access clinic for the elderly has also been introduced. If a GP is uncertain of a diagnosis the patient can be referred to this clinic where all necessary tests can be carried out in one visit. Two beds are kept free in the hospital in case a patient needs to be admitted. A Geriatric consultant is in attendance. It is hoped that this facility will avoid patients being admitted to hospital unnecessarily. The Scottish Ambulance Service attended the meeting and talked about how they want to improve their service. They are currently trying to recruit more paramedics and

are also enhancing paramedic training. The bad news for our area is that, while in an emergency situation the ambulance will take a patient to the nearest hospital, in a non-emergency the crews have been instructed to go to Larbert. Acute admissions via the GP will be taken to the nearest hospital also. ML suggested that in a non-emergency it would be best to go to Glasgow where you will be treated. MV will write again to Bruce Crawford about this situation.* MV reported that SC will remove the obsolete paper bins at the library but have no resources to remove the wooden fences around the area. It was agreed that members of the community will remove this if necessary, but GL and ID said that this should be the responsibility of SC and suggested that MV writes to Ian Crichton. She will do this.*

5. Roads - Gordon MacLachlan

The A81 will be closed at the Devil's Elbow from October 17th between 9 and 5. There will be diversion signs at the Killearn roundabout and in Milngavie, directing traffic along the Stockiemuir Road, but most local traffic will use Mindavie Road and Old Mugdock Road. Gordon asked for any suggestions for controlling this rat run as in his experience most drivers will ignore the diversion signs. MV said that we could use the BVB to ask local people not to use this route, but she acknowledged that this will probably have little effect. These roads are not suitable for lorries Gordon agreed that signs to this effect will be prominently displayed at the diversion signs. School buses will be a problem. Service buses will not be able to get through during this week but Gordon was unaware of what first Bus plans to do. The CC has had no information about alternative bus routes either. GL will contact the relevant people in SC to find out what is happening.

Graham Dunnigan suggested that putting cones along the left side of Old Mugdock Road would help traffic flow. Gordon agreed that this could be done. The planned resurfacing of Kirkhouse Road has slipped, but Gordon is hopeful that this will still go ahead later in the year. ML asked for assurance that, if the work cannot be carried out in this financial year, it will be automatically scheduled for next year, but Gordon was unable to guarantee this.

AK raised the issue of resurfacing at the junction of Carbeth Road and Stockiemuir Road, which needs to be done before an anti-slip surface can be laid there. SC is still working on this. A member of the public noted the improvement to the line of sight at this junction but said that the grass growth has impinged on this again.

MV has emailed Jim MacGregor regarding the traffic calming at the Cala development and he has passed on her concerns. So far there has been no response from SC.

Graham Dunnigan asked if the lines on the road at the Devil's elbow will be replaced once the resurfacing is complete but Gordon said this might not be possible.

WO reminded all present that members of the public have a duty to report all blocked gullies, pot holes etc. to the council.

6. Parking on the pavement campaign

In response to complaints about this around the village MV asked if we should run a campaign to highlight the issue. WO pointed out that there is proposed legislation about this and that we should find out about this and when it will come into force. It was agreed to review this issue at a later date.

7. Community Council Elections

These have been moved from November 2017 to some time in 2018.MV has emailed Alan Milliken to ask for a date in 2018 but has had no reply. The Chief Governance Officer has said that all co-opted members of Community Councils will need to be elected. In our case those seeking election will be JG, RD and GE. MV asked all other members how they feel about staying until 2018 and suggested that all co-optees should be elected to allow other members to resign prior to 2018 if they wish.

WO asked about the rationale for moving the election and MV said it seems to be due to local council elections in 2017, although there would appear to be no reason why both cannot take place in the same year. WO volunteered to write to Bruce Crawford to ask about a proposal to have a common national day for CC elections. There was a suggestion that CC elections should be held on the same day as local authority elections. An electronic version of the nomination form was sent this afternoon.

8. Transport Strategy Consultation

AH has sent many comments on this on his own behalf and MV proposed that we adopt these as our official response. AH will circulate his comments to CC members for approval.

9. Broadband

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RD reported that BT had approached the Scout camp regarding faster Broadband but has not yet given them a quote. RD introduced Virgin Media which has undertaken to survey the technical and financial aspects of providing 100mb to the Scout camp due to the high level of usage there. Properties on the cable route could then benefit from faster Broadband via new cabinets. The alternative for the Scout Camp is microwave, which is likely to be less expensive, but which cannot be accessed by anyone else. BT has undertaken to carry out a local survey regarding Broadband, which will take about a month to complete. It is clearly in our interests that the Scout Camp chooses cable, but this will have a substantial installation cost. RD has contacted Neil Benny at SC and Dean Lockhart our MSP to see if any financial help might be available to us. Virgin Media will contact the Scout camp with the results of this. MV reported that Doug Ashworth's report from Killearn mentions that BT intends to install two new cabinets in our area. Keith Vass mentioned that the Broadband in the library is too slow to run computer courses there.

10. Community Comments

ML voiced concerns about the street lights in Kirkhouse Road which are out again and have been out on several occasions recently. She has reported this to SC.

SR gave a brief report on the Community Partnership Event at BHS on September 20th, which four members of the CC attended, along with a number of different groups from the area. It was aimed at S3 pupils who came round in groups to talk to the organisations represented about opportunities for volunteering. The event was interesting but more meetings prior to the day would have ensured that both the pupils and those providing stalls really understood what was expected of them.

EN had a phone call from a member of the public regarding the poor state of the pavement from the church to Dunglass View. We presume that Cala will repair this.

AH raised a potential problem with the wall beside the Kirkhouse Inn. Several stones have fallen out and need to be replaced to ensure that the banking does not fall. AH will report this to the SC with photographic evidence.

RA mentioned that the damage currently apparent at the edges of the park is due to the planting of daffodil bulbs.

EN said that the tubs will be cleared this week.

Joan McDougal reported that she met a woman struggling with a pram on Station Road. She has to go onto the road when the bins are on the pavement. There seems to be no answer to the bin issue, but MV thanked J McD for raising this. SR suggested that we could use the BVB to ask people to complain about this type of issue to SC.

John Cushley mentioned seeing a dog walker letting several dogs out into the park and queried how any mess could be cleaned up. MV said this could also be reported to SC but AK cautioned that there is no evidence that the dog walker did not clean up any mess.

A resident reported that his shed had been broken into and that the police thought the thieves must have investigated the contents earlier and returned at night to steal them. It appears that there are thieves operating in this area, targeting sheds. Members of the public should contact the police if they see anybody acting suspiciously or any suspicious vehicles. The police report welcomes an increase in such reports recently and all are investigated.

11. Planning and licensing

- a. Ardunan Lodge. The owner told the meeting that he needs to be able to sell the lodge, because he is unable to rent it himself due to financial constraints connected to the new build. The CC agreed to support his plea to remove condition 17 from his application to allow him to sell the property.
- b. House east of Dorran bungalow. AK said that this is the same house as was previously passed but that the planning has lapsed. A local resident voiced concerns that the house does not fit with the rest of the cluster and that several residents had protested but had been overruled. Detailed plans were not available at the meeting but these will be circulated to CC members and discussed by email. MV noted that if the house is the same as the previous

application we will not be able to protest. GL asked to be informed of the outcome.

c. Agricultural shed at Edenmill Farm. A resident asked how long an agricultural building has to remain agricultural as local residents suspect that the owner will apply for a change of use once the shed is built. The owner says the shed is needed for seedling trees, tools etc. as existing sheds have been converted for alternative uses. The CC has asked the owner for a master plan for his property as things keep changing, but this has not been provided. MV suggested asking the owner to attend a CC meeting to discuss his wider plans. In the meantime the planning group will carry out a site visit.

12. Elected member report - Cllr Graham Lambie

GL asked if the new bins had been delivered in our area. MV said they have not. He talked about the road repair programme in our area and agreed that Kirkhouse Road should be a priority. He told the meeting that he and Cllr Muirhead have been looking at ways to implement a spend to save programme for roads which would allow more repairs to be carried out. He noted that the new rumble strip at the distillery looks like a crossing area, which may confuse foreign visitors. The roads officers have been informed about this.

GL attended the Community day at BHS and was impressed by the number of stands and by the enthusiasm of the pupils.

He noted that First Bus has withdrawn a number of buses from our local routes and SC will be extending the Demand Response Service to accommodate some of these changes. AK referred to the fact that there is no longer any bus service through Carbeth and informed GL that we had suggested the provision of a loop service to link this area with transport hubs in Milngavie and Bearsden.

The full text of Cllr Lambie's report can be viewed in Appendix 2

13. Democratic deficit

Due to time constraints this item was held over to the next meeting.

14. Finance

Current Account: £1256.95 Instant Saver Account: £2336.59

SR has not yet received the admin. Grant

SR has transferred the war memorial money to the council and asked for guidance on paying the remaining £900, as we cannot access the £750 in the War Memorial Trust. WO suggested that we ask SC again for the money, copying this to the Audit Commission. SR said SC does not have a procedure in place to access the money in these trusts. GL will try to find out about this. MV asked for agreement that we should continue to pursue the money from the trust. This was agreed. SR will pay £150 to the council and say that the balance will come from the trust.

15. Correspondence

GE had a letter from Dean Lockhart, MSP for Mid-Scotland and Fife introducing himself and offering his help with any local issues that may arise.

16. Date of next meeting – Monday 7th November 2016 in the Primary School

Blane Valley Bulletin Copy date Monday 17th October

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.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



APPENDIX 1

Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting

September 2016 – October 2016 Compiled by PC Raymond Murphy

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Overnight between 24th September and 25th September a vehicle was damaged whilst parked at the front of the Blane Valley Inn.

There are no suspects at this time however should anyone have any knowledge of the culprit(s) then please contact 101 or Crimestoppers.

Theft

Overnight between 3rd September and 4th September sheds at the allotments and the football pavilion were broken into. Nothing stolen from the sheds and a quantity of alcohol stolen from the pavilion.

On 19th September a bottle of wine was stolen from the Strathblane Co-op. One female was issued with a recorded Police warning.

Overnight between 29th September and 30th September a house was broken into and cash and 2 vehicles were stolen using the keys retrieved from the house.

Enquiry is still ongoing in relation to the housebreaking incidents, but if anybody has any information, they are urged to contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

Several members of the public contacted police to report suspicious activity locally. Each incident was investigated. Such reports are always welcomed and encouraged, and the information gleaned from them can be invaluable to police enquires and investigations.

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Road Safety

On 21st September an RTC involving one vehicle occurred on the A809 near to Stockiemuir Farm. Male driver sustained slight injury as a result of the RTC.

On 22nd September a vehicle collided with a motorcyclist in Glasgow Road, Blanefield. Rider sustained a wrist injury.

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

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol www.twitter.com/policescotland

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Other Incidents / Activity of note

Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey - Your View Counts

The Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey was launched on Thursday, 7th April 2016, and is <u>still available for members of the public to complete</u>. 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.

Air Weapons Surrender Scheme

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 comes fully into effect on 31 December 2016. The new law will require any person who possesses, purchases, uses or acquires an air weapon to have a certificate to hold them legally.

It will be an offence not to have a certificate for these purposes from 31 December 2016, unless you are exempt, but you are now able to apply to Police Scotland for a certificate.

The new Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act will:

- Clearly define the air weapons which will be subject to licensing
- Broadly follow the principles and practises of existing firearms legislations
- Enable a fit person to obtain a licence to own, possess and shoot an air weapon in a regulated way without compromising public safety
- Ensure appropriate enforcement of the new regime with robust offences and penalties to deal with any person who contravenes the regime

Unwanted air weapons can still be handed into designated police offices. Your local designated police office is Balfron.

	designated police office is barron.
	Further information can be found at http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/airweapons/
Issues raised	
Community	
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APPENDIX 2

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Councillor Graham Lambie Forth and Endrick Ward Stirling Council

Forth and Endrick News - Strathblane - Monday, 3rd October 2016

Arnprior Balfron 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);
- 4 Week Collection: Grey Bin (Non-Recyclables); Green Bin (Paper & Cardboard); Blue Bin Small (Glass)

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. It is important that residents and CCs make their views felt as I understand the revised service is due to be 'live' by September 2016. Update: At a meeting on Monday 19th Sept the only rural village that appeared to have the new bins was Doune?

- 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 Gargunnock Straight) SD + Patching = £45,000; A811 (Touch Bridge Cambusbarron Turnoff Ward 5) SD + Patching = £27K; A81 (Garrauld Balfron Station) SD + Patching = £35K*; A81 (Balfron 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 (Ballochruin Rd Balfron) Structural Inlay Passing Places = £20K; C56 (Mugdock Country Park) Overlay = £30K; C21 (Station Rd Balfron) 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
- 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. Clir 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.

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- Roads Spend to Save Example A81 Devil's Elbow at Strathblane: A
 request was made to Roads officers, after a message from Strathblane CC, to
 switch the above job to the A81 stretch west of Blanefield, this move was also
 supported by Killearn and Balfron CCs. However, the road condition at the Devil's
 Elbow is such that if left will cost the council considerably more. A spend to save
 plan could provide the resources to complete an individual road within one/two
 financial years. This could include all of the outstanding works on the A81.
- Roads A81 Devil's Elbow Planned Works: There are concerns about the
 detour down Station Rd. and the poor conditions of the footpath taking residents
 onto the old railway line and the allotments. An email has been sent to the
 Stewart Carruth (Chief Executive) on this matter.
- A809 Works: The 40 mph signage has been approved and will be installed near the Carbeth Inn and will extend to just beyond the Edenmill Farm entrance well before the Queens View. We are very pleased to see the big improvements at the Turn Off for the B821 (Cullts Rd) at the A809 which has greatly improved sight lines, and removed the near suicidal right hand turn from the B821. The Edenmill cafeteria car park has also been approved and the mitigation conditions attached to the original application can now be implemented the combination of these and the council works should make a significant contribution to road safety at this location. Update: I note the new rumble strips and friction surface at the turnoff to Edenmill. I've contacted Roads officers and Mark (Gibson) at Edenmill to check what remaining works are required and when the council are planning to install the 40 mph signs.
- Roads A811 Motorway Slip Road Proposal: The CDF City Development Framework 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. I'm pleased to say that this was raised by a member of the Strathblane delegation.
- A81 Distillery Safety Signage Installation: This came about after a meeting with my-self, distillery management, and council officers. This represents a significant safety benefit for distillery staff, customers, and all road users. As part of the agreement the council are now required to install speed mitigation measures including road markings and rumble strips. Update: Following the installation of the speed warning signs by the distillery I note the rumble strips which I assume have been installed by the council. I will chase up on the speed signs. At a recent Killearn CC meeting concerns have been raised that the red strip represents a form of pedestrian crossing and may be confusing for foreign visitors. The roads officers have been informed about this.
- Planning Killearn Hospital Site: I note the reference to PAN-2016-001(Planning Advice Note) in the Council Planning Portal. This looks similar to the one submitted in 2013 and it will be informative to know what the planning officer's views are on the self-build units. There are some other progress issues here as both the Director of Corporate Operations (Gerard O'sullivan), who was involved with the site, and the senior planning officer (Peter Morgan) have left the council. The case officer is likely to be Richard Callander who lives in Blanefield and knows the site well. He was also involved with the LDP.

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- Balfron High School: As reported in the press and on the BBC website there are ongoing structural building checks including the stairwell, and the missing wall ties between the atrium walls. The school will be closed for S1 to S3 pupils who will be accommodated in other sister secondary schools until temporary accommodation is installed. Senior pupils will be able to sit their SQA exams including Highers and Advanced Highers in Balfron High. At this stage the reasons for these structural defects are still been ascertained. Clir Muirhead and I met the Head Teacher, Assistant Head of Education, and Director of Environment at the school and we left very satisfied about the contingency planning for SQAs etc. However, there are still questions to be addressed about what is a structural failure, and not a wear and tear issue to be expected in a 15 year old building, which will be transferred to full council ownership in 2027 and will be expected to last for a further 25 years. Update: A motion for an independent audit was made at a previous full council meeting but this was rejected by the administration.
- 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. 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.
- Policing Report: It was good to see community ward officers at a number of
 recent CC meetings, and the 2016 Drymen Show. Alongside the ward officers are
 response officers who provide 24/7 cover for the ward. For major incidents such
 as serious road collisions ward officer 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.
- Stirling Council Local Government Boundary Changes (LGBC): I have spoken to a number of Community Councils on this issue and there is consistent opposition to this proposal. This is also the view of the Forth and Endrick Ward elected members. The final decision will likely be made after the May Scottish election. Update: I have viewed the Boundary Commission recommendations and the good news is there is to be no change to the Forth and Endrick and ward boundary. This is excellent news and vindicates the clear position of the Forth and Endrick CCs that they did not want the ward to be expanded to include Cambusbarron. Cambusbarron also remains as part of the Stirling West ward. The only significant change I can see is the formation of a new ward called Stirling North which includes the old Stirling Castle ward, the University and Riverside. This new ward will be a 4 member ward which will bring the elected member number up to 23 councillors.

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- Planning Stirling Council: Both the Park of Keir Tennis Centre (Dunblane and Bridge of Alian), and Airthrey Kerse (Graham's Dairies at Bridge of Alian 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. Clir Muirhead and my-self supported both applications. Update: A public enquiry for the Park of Keir application was held in Dunblane chaired by a planning reporter.
- Planning Campsie Rd Development: There have been concerns about the
 entrance to the site and positioning of safety bollards etc. Ian (Denvir) has some
 images of this and will be contacting officers about this. The development looks
 very impressive and I was sorry to miss the opening ceremony due to a teaching
 commitment.
- 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. I and my colleague Clir Thomson recently met with council transport officers to work on better coordination of transport across the authority as there does not appear to be a lead partner in Stirling as compared to Transport for Edinburgh or Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).
- Mugdock Management Committee: It was good to see Elspeth deputising for
 Julie especially as 1 rescheduled the meeting for 2pm due to the Balfron High
 Community event. A range of topics were covered including Mugstock (Year2),
 Commercial activities including the new shop, events, donation posts, friends of
 Mugdock etc. Some improvements to the car-parking have been made and new
 no parking signage has been installed. A request has been made to resurface the
 entrance strip onto the A81.
- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk

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