



MINUTES
Monday 4th March 2019 in the Village Club
Draft

Members Present: Marian Lever; Julie Hutchison; John Gray; Evelyn Macdougall; Philip Graves

In attendance: Councillor Robert Davies; Police Constable Martin, Police Scotland; M Vass, SCDT; Alan Harris, Co-op; Pam Campbell, Senior Community Link Officer; plus 5 residents.
(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust * De

Apologies and Declarations of Interest:

Apologies: Grace Edmonds; Mandy Watson;

1. Welcome from the Chair

ML welcomed everybody to the March meeting of the CC.

2. Police Report

Over the first weekend in March minor damage to a shed within the primary school was reported. If anyone has any information please contact police.

On 23rd February a report was received of quad bikers in the grounds of a farm on the outskirts of the village. They left prior to Police being contacted and no complaints were made. Extra attention has been given to the school in the last few weeks and there have been no issues.

On 7th February two males were found in possession of cannabis within a vehicle at Mugdock Country Park.

On 18th February a male was found in possession of cannabis within a vehicle at Queensview Car Park.

On 22nd February a male was found in possession of cannabis within a vehicle at Mugdock Country Park

Theft

There have been no thefts reported since the last meeting.

Road checks have continued to be carried out in the village to deter travelling criminals.

Road Safety

Hand held radar has been continuing in order to detect and deter speeding drivers.

On 10th February a vehicle came off the road on the Stockiemuir Road.

On 12th February a vehicle rolled into a wall within the village. Details were exchanged between both parties.

No injuries were sustained as a result of these accidents.

Police attended a breakdown of a vehicle on the Stockiemuir Road. Due to the location of the vehicle traffic control was carried out.

3. Co-op

Alan Harris reported that he would postpone the Showcase. Six or seven organisations had replied with support but there had a lack of response from others. He is looking for a new date in the Autumn. The CC has agreed to talk to groups to encourage an interest in this event. The Co-op is hosting a small Fairtrade Event on Saturday 9th March from 10 till 12 noon. AH contacted the head of the primary school to have some children involved. He talked about an initiative from Veg Power called Eat Them to Defeat Them. The co-op is partnering this initiative to tackle childhood obesity. AH also talked about Keep Britain Tidy which is launching the Great British Spring Clean from March 22nd till April 23rd. The co-op is going to provide kits and promotional material. The Eden Project is involved in The Big Lunch and the co-op is hoping that the Lunch Club Cuppa Time will host one. Last year the co-op supported planting in the village tubs and AH indicated that there would be support again this year. The co-op is buying a football for Blanefield Thistle. The co-op is also supporting the Police Event on

Tuesday March 12th at Balfron High School. After running a promotion for Cuppa time in the shop a new volunteer has been enlisted. AH has volunteered himself to do a Buddy Holly Event at Cuppa Time in May in the Kirk Rooms.

4. Minutes of February meeting and matters arising

The minutes were accepted, proposed by JG and seconded by JH

Matters arising:

Councillor Graham Lambie has followed up an enquiry from a resident concerning red oxide water flow at Edenkilt by visiting this site on 15th February. GL also discussed parking bays at the co-op. The CC will take this forward when discussing parking in general in the village. GL also looked at the erosion in the burn on Station Road. He has tasked Council Officers for a solution to the damaged wall at the bottom of Kirkhouse Road. GL has asked for removal of the old noticeboards in the village.

There was a good response from residents to Marian Lever's article in the BVB concerning Health Care in the villages.

Scottish Water have agreed to remove the plastic covering on the fence at the Ash Track. MV stated that the covering was a result of the previous CC trying to keep children safe. MV asked if the fence was going to be removed as it was badly corroded. The CC will follow this up with the Water Board.

Richard Arnold reported that the sharp edges of the fence at the burn near the football park have been repaired.

5. Feedback from the February Participation Meeting on Road Safety

After a good discussion at the February CC meeting where a consensus of opinion on the A81 at the village club was reached this will go ahead. There were still concerns about the Campsie Road issues and an urgent meeting of the participation group was set up so that these views could be expressed. Marian Lever referred to the concerns of residents on Campsie Road, in particular the speed of cars entering the village from the Lennoxton direction. The road's engineer took those concerns on board and after discussion it was agreed to re-site the 40mph bufferzone close to the entrance of Ballagan House and the roads department will decide the distance between this and the 30mph limit sign. There is also the possibility of having a speed activated Slow Down Sign within the buffer zone. Anything that is being installed will be monitored over a 3month, 6 month and 9 month period. Police will continue to monitor the speed on this road. The island will remain close to the church but it is a traffic calming measure and not a pedestrian crossing.

A resident drew attention to the fact that children crossing the A891 near the Kirkhouse Hotel are in danger from speeding cars coming from the A81 on to the A891. He suggested some form of safer crossing at that point. ML pointed out that we had a very limited budget this year but that it did not mean that this was the end of what could happen. Councillor Davies stated he would approach the council on this matter. Another resident asked about the possibility of a 20mph limit but ML stated that this is not allowed on A roads.

This CC is the first to have taken part in a Participation Request; specifically Road Safety.

6. Local Health Initiative

ML's article in the February BVB has produced some very distressing stories. Residents are keen to say that they have absolutely no complaints about the local GP's. The main issue seems to be about knowledge and instructions. Local ambulances are told to take people to Larbert unless it is a life threatening situation. If a resident drives him/herself to any other hospital he/she could have issues with continuing care and be sent anywhere e.g. Dunblane or Callander for physiotherapy.

A few years ago the CC seemed to have solved this situation and had a letter of authority where residents could be treated in Glasgow. Out of hours they have no control. If a resident is referred to the Out of Hours GP service he/she has to go to Stirling Community Hospital. To try and resolve this situation a meeting has been set up at the Village Club on 11th April at 11am. Hopefully this will get a decision about protocols. Groups responsible for health care,

Bruce Crawford and Service Providers will be invited. RD asked if elected members will attend. ML will ask if this is possible. If a local campaign is needed the CC can facilitate this.

7. Neighbourhoods of Care Meeting

ML attended a recent Neighbourhoods of Care meeting in Balfron. At the last meeting there had been concern expressed about Strathendrick House. We heard that its future was not under threat. Stirling Council had allocated £300,000 for maintenance over the next two years and it would continue to offer respite care. It is not practical to offer specialist medical care there so discharge from Larbert will be at the Bellfield Centre. The development of the facility will be a standing item on the agenda and community representatives will be fully involved in decisions. In future the group will meet in Strathendrick.

We also received an update on the main issues raised at the meeting held in the McClintock Hall in January and how these aligned with local priorities. This will inform the development of the Strategic Plan for the next three years.

Volunteering Matters told the meeting about Handy persons' service they have set up across Clackmannanshire and Stirling. This service has been grown and developed over time by establishing a volunteer base to do small and minor jobs (1-2hrs). The jobs are ones which are generally too difficult/dangerous for an elderly person to do on their own such as hanging curtains, assembling flat pack furniture or changing light bulbs. but not sophisticated enough to be done by a professional tradesman. Under the project the volunteers are covered by PVG and are covered by insurance. Interest was expressed about trying to set up a project in this area and ML will write about it in the BVB.

We were updated on the local team who now have a weekly huddle to establish links and to discuss complex/multidisciplinary cases. They are preparing to move to Buchlyvie and now have a team coach.

Finally the meeting heard about the Tea and Tunes initiative in Balfron and that pre-planning talks had taken place with Cala Homes about the Killearn Hospital site and its potential community use/.

8. Resilience Plan

ML asked the committee for a volunteer to look at the Resilience Plan. Philip Graves volunteered.

9. Elected Member's report – Robert Davies

It was pleasing to attend the formal opening of 12 new RHSA houses in Killearn this morning. There were 100 applications for these units which is a clear demonstration of the need for housing in the ward.

Last month Stirling Council approved the budget for the coming year. The important news for all residents is the 4% rise in Council Tax, which is less than the permitted amount of 4.79%. Council house rents will rise by 4%. This leaves the council with a projected deficit of £838,000 for the forthcoming year. However, the projections for the following 4 years are far worse with projections with deficits of over £7m in each year leading to a cumulative deficit of £31m by the end of 2024. The reason for the projected shortfall is the reduction of General Revenue Grant from the Scottish Government from £120m to £113m over the five years and a decline in Non-Domestic Rate income from £44m to £42m which is not compensated by the expected increase in Council Tax income from £49m to £57m. Spending is forecast to rise from £223m to £252m.

Councillor Lambie has pursued action on parking bays opposite the Co-op, noticeboards and loose blocks at the bottom of Station Road. A 40-mph buffer zone is to be installed on the A891 as a speed mitigation action.

The Council is in the process of reviewing its Housing in the Countryside planning policies and that will go out for consultation later in the year.

In preparation for the introduction of 1140 hours a year free nursery care for children between the ages of 3 and 5 from August 2101, there is a proposal to close the nursery at Croftamie and build a new one at Drymen where most of the children come from.

10. Planning and Licensing

John Gray told the meeting that there was consultation on Planning Guidelines for developer contributions. It will be circulated and Pam Campbell will clarify timing of it. JG raised the flag that changes are afoot. The CC could make any comments they felt necessary,

SCC has been invited to annual Licensing Forum in Stirling. JG will reply that we will not attend as we have no issues.

19/00103/FUL – Erection of one and a half storey dwelling house

Land adjacent and East of Ard Choille Bankend Strathblane
CC oppose this application as it does not comply with Green Belt policy.

19/00029/FUL- Proposed dwelling house and detached garage

Former Dineiddwg Sunken Garden, Mugdock Road, Strathblane
CC would oppose this application as it does not comply with Green Belt policy. However it is effectively renewal of a permission previously granted.

19/00022/FUL – Siting of temporary coffee shop/takeaway in carpark.

Carbeth Inn Blanefield G63 9AY
CC would like clarification on the term temporary and can only support this proposal on condition that the new road entrance is open.

11. Community Comments

EM reported that a local landowner has agreed the use of his land as a safer route for West Highland Way walkers as the existing route along the B821 is extremely dangerous. This is a work in progress.

ML reported upon a bird nesting project run by Glasgow University. This is bio-diversity study looking at how Blue Tits and Great Tits have had to change their diets in urban areas. This has severe implications for offspring, physiology and survival. They are looking to install 8 to 10 bird boxes inside the village of Strathblane and the same in any woods surrounding the villages.

PG asked if the CC would be interested in a joint litter pick with Mugdock. He would coordinate it. He also mentioned road issues in Mugdock. PC said that all issues should be logged on the info@stirling.gov.uk site as they will be logged

ML reminded the CC of the South West Forum meeting on 18th March at Balfron High School.

Finance

Current Account: £2087.84

Instant Saver: £1338.33

11. AOB

There was no other business.

12. Date of next meeting April 1st 2019 in the Village Club

Copy date for the BVB - March 11th

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