



**MINUTES**  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 in the Village Club**

**Draft for Approval**

**Members Present:** - Marian Lever; John Gray; Evelyn Macdougall; Mandy Watson; Kate Ramsden

**In attendance:** Councillor Berrill; M Vass (SCDT) & 9 residents  
(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust \* Denotes an action)

**1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies**

ML welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new session. Apologies from Philip Graves, Grace Edmonds & Julie Hutchison. There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Co-option of new member**

Kate was co-opted as a full member of the Community Council (proposed ML, seconded EM). ML again appealed for more people to join the CC to increase the numbers.

**3. Police Report**

The police were unable to attend the meeting but had provided their report. There was a Road Traffic Collision at the edge of the village and two cases of drunk driving reported. The A811 has been monitored for speeders, a small sample was provided with some speeds of over 100 mph recorded.

There have been some more cases of housebreaking in the area, the Bowling Club and local businesses have also been targeted. The public are asked to continue to report suspicious activities; the police have attended incidents in the past from a resident's concern, and they will continue to do so. It was highlighted in a previous meeting that doors and windows should be fitted with anti-snap locks. Dick Arnold told us that current locks can be easily modified and he would provide information for the BVB on how to do this.

ML is going to follow up with the police about the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area as incidents appear to be on the increase with reports of car theft/dumping in the area. MV reported a recent increase in house break-ins locally and police activity in Wood Place. ML will contact the police for comment.

**4. Minutes of June meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted as correct; proposed by JG and seconded by KR

Matters arising:

ML is keeping tabs on the participation request. She has been assured that funds are still available and that the work will be carried out. There is some issue with the availability of the necessary equipment but hopefully this will be resolved soon.

ML is still trying to resolve the estrangement from the Trossachs Search and Rescue as we are keen to re-establish this relationship.

The results of the Your Stirling/You Decide vote was discussed. Whilst there is no doubt that the weighting of the votes made for projects in areas with lower populations helped with their success (Arnprior and Buchlyvie being the successful villages), the very low turnout in larger populated areas did not help either. Strathblane proposals received just over 100 votes. The system of local participation will operate again next year and the voting system will be raised at the next Rural Stirling meeting. It was **again** voiced by the committee and residents alike that the idea of pitting one community against another for funds was contrary to how the rural Stirling villages wish to behave, so perhaps the entire approach should be reconsidered.

SCDT advised that their AGM has been moved from the originally advertised date in August to Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> September. They are about to launch the housing survey, in conjunction with Rural Housing Scotland, and we look forward to an update on the responses.

## **5. Invasive Species – Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust**

Malcom McCormick from the LLFT joined the meeting to tell us about the work he does as the Ops Manager for Loch Lomond Fisheries in tackling Invasive Species.

The River Blane has several rare species so Malcom monitors anything which may negatively impact these; invasive species being the main. Their chief concerns are giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. The first two are treated by Malcom and his team due to the chemicals required to treat and the dangers of coming into contact with their sap, however balsam is easily tackled by everyone due to their shallow roots. It was noted that at this time of year their exploding seed pods can be an irritant if they get into your eye so care should still be taken. June/July is the best time to tackle the balsam and stop its growth choking out the native species that help to stabilise the soil on riverbanks.

The work of the LLFT is usually funded by SNH however this year support was not available therefore the National Parks has funded due to the Blane feeding

into their area. Areas that are cleared must be monitored for 15 years as they currently work to the theory that the seedbank can remain dormant underground during this time and so may re-establish itself.

We are invited to report sightings of knotweed and hogweed in the area as, being upstream of the targeted areas, any fragments of the plant can easily drift down the river and regrow in areas already cleared. We discussed finding a way to collate all reports for passing to Malcom, as well as putting pressure on the council to take this threat to native species seriously. New legislation is now in place forcing landowners to take responsibility for eradicating invasive species on their land or face a fine of £40,000. 'Landowners' includes the council, so they need to start taking action at roadsides and laybys!

Finally, the issue of plastic in the river was raised and Malcom agreed this would be something that the community could get involved with tidying up on a regular basis. He said that he would contact the school. ML offered to inform the community of any activities in which community involvement would be helpful to encourage community action days.

## 6. Feedback from Neighbourhoods of Care

Following ML's attendance at the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July the following updates were available:

- **Solicitors for Older People Scotland (SOPS):** SOPS offer a free first appointment and will check eligibility for Legal Aid as many home owning pensioners qualify; otherwise you will need to pay a contribution. Legal Aid covers some advice such as Wills, Power of Attorney and Advanced Directives. SOPS offer home visits for those who cannot get to a solicitor's office and if you opt for this service you are entitled to have a relative or friend with you. Information packs about this have been put in the library.
- **Adult Support and Protection:** This is the legal protection of adults at risk of harm, and statutory agencies have a duty to intervene and investigate, provide benefits to the individual and offer the least restrictive options available. Adults at risk are those who because of disability, mental disorder, illness or disability are unable to safeguard themselves. Harm includes physical danger, psychological harm, unlawful conduct to deprive people of their property or rights or risks of sexual harm, neglect or harassment. If you are concerned that someone is in immediate danger call 999 and ask for the police. Otherwise contact Stirling Council on 01786 404040. They have a statutory duty to investigate but will not act unless action is needed to safeguard an individual so it is safe to refer.

- **Handy person Service:** volunteers have stepped up so the service is now available locally. The handy person is fully vetted and available for all sorts of jobs around the home.
- **Ambulance Agreement:** Ongoing progress in our discussions with both Glasgow and Forth Valley health Boards. Bruce Crawford continues to address.
- **Trossachs Search and Rescue partnership with HSCP Mobile Emergency care Services (MECS):** The partnership when set up will reduce waiting times and improve outcomes. Once the scheme has been set up all users of MECS will be informed and will be able to opt in or out of receiving help from SAR Volunteer Responders as well as the MECS team.
- **Drop in Sessions:** As part of the care Team's support to the communities Ian Denvir, the team's resource worker, will be arranging Drop-in sessions at community venues and GP premises. This has started this week in the library and posters publicising this are on view.
- **Strathendrick Care Home:** Strathendrick will continue as it is currently and plans for investment in the building will continue, however the model of respite care on offer is still undecided and discussion of this will be the main focus of our September meeting.
- **Cherry Trees** is now closed and a Demolition Order has been submitted. The team are continuing to benefit from the joint location in Buchlyvie which is supporting communications and team working. There is still no single point of contact number, so you are encouraged to use the current routes to contact the team.

## 7. Telephone Boxes

The community still owns two telephone boxes purchased to house our defibrillators, however we have been informed that this is not feasible so the community must decide how they are to be used. The Co-op have indicated that they are able to house one – however it is still desirable to use the box at The Edmonstone Hall for the other due to its visibility from the road.

The CC is to enquire further as to what aspect of the boxes make them unsuitable and consider the cost to adapt them, or else find another use for the boxes e.g. local information.

## 8. Elected member's Report

Your Stirling You Decide was discussed (see also Matters Arising)

At very short notice a meeting was announced by First Bus regarding changes to the existing timetable. There are some small charges to the Balfron-Glasgow Route, however the majority affect the Balfron-Stirling route tying in with previous

concerns over Ambulances taking patients from Blanefield out to Forth Valley Hospital in Larbet. A definitive solution to this is still being resolved, in the meantime it was asked if Transport on Request could be made available for the journey into Larbet. More information on this will be provided when available.

The planning panel was meeting on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the future of Croftamie Nursery

Bruce Reekie has been appointed as the head of 'Environment and Place'. We agreed to invite him to a meeting to discuss local issues such as flooding.

The new seat has been put in place on the John Muir Way between Lennoxton and Strathblane – residents are invited to go along and enjoy!

## 9. Planning and Licencing

[Gladman appeal PPA-390-2060-1 - 17/00434/PPP](#). Over the summer recess the planning group members had collaborated to prepare and file a response to the new reporter. A copy is on the website. Some members had glanced at Gladman's own replies. The main argument concerns housing land calculations, which would be for Stirling Council to answer, better than the CC.

[19/00174/LWP](#) To use the property as a dwelling house with not more than 4 looked after children living together as a single household with 24 hour non-resident care at Dumbrook House Old Mugdock Road Strathblane G63 9ET. JG reported for information that this application discussed at an earlier meeting was refused but being appealed. If unsuccessful the applicant can apply for change of use.

[19/00318/FUL](#) Application to extend operating hours to 07:00 - 21:00 at Edenmill Cafe Blanefield G63 9AX. During the CC recess, members had agreed to present at a hearing on 3 Sept 2019, representing the CC and the neighbour objectors. SCC always has concerns about the dangerous A809 junction. Neighbours were concerned about light disturbance, traffic and night-time party noise. JG explained that the existing restrictions were a deliberate compromise that should not be disturbed. The bunkhouse was approved for walkers and was now being transformed into a guest house with no supervision of overnight revelry. JG and ML would attend, and JG would speak for the objectors.

[19/00543/FUL](#) Stone wall with associated solid timber gates Corrie Glen House Glasgow Road Blanefield G63 9AJ. Reviewed with concern for traffic safety. Agreed not to oppose.

[19/00682/FUL](#) Change of use of land for siting of 2No. static caravans (tourism pods) 10 Milndavie Road Strathblane (Stables) New application not yet reviewed.

[19/00444/FUL](#) Demolition of existing house and erection of 2 buildings each containing two self-contained flats. Bluerisk 2 Milndavie Road Strathblane G63 9EL. JG confirmed that this application was still not decided. In the meantime, a resident had pointed out that Bluerisk is prominent on the skyline from within the village, as well as on the approach, therefore the proposed flats would impact the skyline. JG also noted comments had been filed by members of the public supporting the provision of more flats in the area. The development should not be mistaken for low-cost flats. JG to write to Stirling adding these points.

[19/00592/FUL](#) Single storey rear extension to existing dwelling house and erection of an adjoining dwelling house at 12 Edenkiln Place Strathblane G63 9EB. Applicant had presented the concept previously. Agreed no grounds for objection.

[19/00498/FUL](#) Partial change of use and alterations to form meeting space and residential accommodation, 78A Glasgow Road Blanefield G63 9HX. No objection.

Consultations had been open on planning "Supplementary Guidance" in three areas:

- SG10 - Housing in the countryside + Design Guide
- Flood Risk Management and the Water Environment
- Transport and Access

JG had not been able to review all of these but the Housing in the Countryside policy was something we know about. Those present confirmed that the current policy is balanced and working as intended. JG to review the draft SG and submit comments if any weakening of protections, especially in the local Green Belt.

Some members of the CC attended a meeting with regards to the proposed building of 89 homes on the former Killearn Hospital site. The corresponding affordable housing will be built elsewhere due to the lack of public transport options from this area, the CC agreed to ensure that the housing would still be provided in the Rural Area. It was noted that the most direct impact of these additional houses would be felt by our village, and others along the A81, rather than in Killearn itself.

## **10. Community Comments**

The ongoing affects of the severe flooding at end of July were discussed with particular reference to:

- a) The complete erosion of the footpath/payment from the care home into the village. MW confirmed that the resulting ditch where the footpath has been washed away leaves pedestrians having to walk in the road. Her

enquiries to the council for when this will be rectified have met with a negative response. CC will refer to Bruce Reekie.

- b) The damage caused by the 31<sup>st</sup> July flooding of Jenny's Burn has left a number of issues unresolved. The damage caused to the wall supporting the road alongside the A81 is still unrepaired; the subsequent road collapse has been fenced off by the council but the hole in the road remains. Resident Sheena McDonald confirmed the damage was caused by sawed off logs/trees that came down with the flood water; the appearance of a further log since the initial flood suggests someone upstream is felling trees and allowing them to be pulled into the raised water. The large fragments of stonework carried downstream continue to clog the burn and subsequently raise the level of the water to a point where it continues to flood a residence along the water course.

It was agreed that the flooding issues in general need to be addressed, either on a CC level or within a smaller group. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

## **11. Finance**

Current Account : £1,708.87 – including church sponsorship of the BVB  
Savings Account : £1,339.89

The order of the wreath was discussed for Remembrance Day in November.

## **12. Correspondence**

No further correspondence to discuss

## **13. AOB**

No other business to discuss

**Date of next meeting – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Village Club**

**Copy date for the BVB September 10th 2019.**

Contact us at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk) Also on our website [www.strathblanecc.org.uk](http://www.strathblanecc.org.uk). Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin