



## MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2017 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Colin Cameron (Chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt (minutes), David McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson, Stuart Youens

**In Attendance:** Joanne Ballantyne, Stuart Ballantyne (Trossachs Search and Rescue), Jim Burns (First Bus), Viv Casteel (Balfron Development Trust), Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Kenny Hendry (Woodland Experience), Cllr Graham Lambie (Stirling Council), Lesley Moir (Woodland Experience), Christopher McKenna (Stirling Council), Mark McKinnon, Lee Rooney, Janet Rutherford, Carolyne Shaftoe, Alan Whitelaw (First Bus)

### 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Fraser Allan, David Dougans, Pat Thomson and Police Scotland.

### 2. **Minutes of Previous meeting 4 May 2017**

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Stuart Youens.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

- It was noted that this was the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive meeting without Police attendance. The lack of Police presence at Community Council meetings is due to be discussed at the September meeting of the Rural South West Forum.
- Colin noted that Spark of Genius has kindly agreed to make a donation to the Balfron Bash 2017.
- A meeting with Alan Milliken (Head of Communities & People) and other Stirling Council departmental heads is planned for 24 June to discuss the Space for Living project.
- Colin attended the Community Sounding Board meeting which was held by Stirling Council to inform its Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- Carol Murphy is exploring the feasibility of having a feed of power from the Library to enable Christmas tree lights.

### 4. **Police Report**

BCC noted a written report by Police Scotland (see Appendix 1). No issues were raised.

### 5. **Councillor's Report**

Colin congratulated Councillor Lambie on his re-election to Stirling Council, and expressed our appreciation for the work of former councillor Ian Muirhead.

Councillor Lambie provided an update report on:

- The new Stirling Council administration, led by an SNP/Labour coalition.
- The roads maintenance programme for 2017/18
- Road safety issues at Finnich Glen ('The Devil's Pulpit') and Glengoyne Distillery

- Stirling Council plans for income generation. Potential options include a solar array at the Killlearn Hospital site and at Mugdock Country Park.
- Barnwell Drive waste ground
- Haven SUDS: Scottish Water commitment to increase the size of pond by 2020.

Jim Burns raised ongoing issues with overhanging greenery causing damage to First Bus vehicles and posing an increased risk of road traffic accidents. Councillor Lambie will raise this with Stirling Council officials.

## **6. Balfroon Business Hub – A Proposal**

Lee Rooney highlighted the lack of suitable premises in Balfroon to support the development of local businesses. He has approached Stirling Council (SC), emphasising that it is the Council's stated aim to keep and encourage local businesses in rural areas. SC is open to helping develop new work spaces in the village. Lee is carrying out a survey of local business owners to find out what their needs are, e.g. workshop space, office space, storage etc. He is keen to find a site for a local business hub to be used by a number of businesses. The Council Depot site next to the recycling site has been identified as a potential location as it is approved in principle for commercial use in the Local Development Plan. SC recognises the site is under-utilised. The Community Council fully supported this initiative as a positive way of encouraging employment within the village.

Colin noted that SC intends to market the 'Bunker' site (beneath 151-159 Buchanan Street) commercially. There is still a desire to explore the use of the site for community use. The Council has agreed to delay commercial marketing until Balfroon Development Trust (BDT) and the Community Council (BCC) has developed a proposal. This could also include the use of one of the rooms as the sorting office for the Post Office. It was agreed to form a small working group to develop a detailed proposal for submission to SC.

## **7. Woodland Experience**

Kenny Hendry and Lesley Moir of the Woodland Experience explained that the business was expanding with three events over the year: (1) Fairy trail (15-20,000 visitors), (2) the light show (10,000+ visitors) and (3) Christmas (15,000 visitors). Individual shows can have up to 1,000 visitors per night, exceeding the on-site car parking capacity (350 car parking spaces). They are keen to work with the wider community to ensure that traffic impact is managed and suitable additional parking elsewhere in the area is found. They welcomed the support from First Bus and hope to improve access by public transport. They also flagged up the impact of the poor road infrastructure in the area on the visitor experience, as well as the urgent need for more signage. The Woodland Experience is now a major tourist destination and needed to be recognised as such to ensure that the wider benefits to the area can be harnessed. A number of possible solutions were explored. The Community Council welcomed this ambitious local initiative.

## **8. Balfroon Bash**

A Bash planning meeting will be convened before the end of June.

## **9. Playpark Update**

Bill and Christine explained that they are waiting for an update from Stirling Council on progress with the playpark preparations. Fundraising is progressing well and the tendering process is underway with nine notes of interest so far.

## **10. Treasurer's Report**

Bill provided an update on BCC finances:

- The Community Pride Fund grant for which BCC had applied on behalf of Incredible Edibles, has been received (amount £400).
- The application for Event Funding for this year's Bash was submitted. With the increase in funding available, the bid submitted amounts to £1,260.
- After discussion at last month's meeting, Lynne McKinley of SC was informed that BCC welcomed the opportunity to take Trustee's Liability Insurance and also requested that Legal Expense Insurance be looked into. To date no confirmation had been received from the Community Engagement Team.

## **11. Planning and Correspondence**

Alison Lamont Chalmers reiterated that there would be a significant period of road closure after summer to allow for the repairs to the Ballat aqueduct. The road would be open during the summer holidays.

Stuart Ballantyne mentioned that a new public access defibrillator was due to be installed outside the Coach House Inn in addition to the existing one at the High School.

A local farmer had highlighted issues with dog walkers letting their dogs off the leash along the new White Yett Glen walk. This can cause distress and potential damage to livestock. It was agreed that this needed better signage to raise awareness and a bid will be submitted to the Connect Fund. Viv Casteel agreed to supply two quotes

Jim Burns shared the new bus timetables for the services being restored to the Balfroon – Stirling route. First Bus were also looking to brand the Balfroon service and to have the same vehicles operate from Glasgow via Balfroon through to Stirling.

## **12. Business from the Floor**

Christopher McKenna explained the Community Sports Hub Commonwealth Games 2014 Legacy project to increase sports participation. This was a pilot project for one year to establish a community sports hub, building on existing sporting strengths in the area and linking with community groups.

It was noted that there continued to be inconsiderate parking at the school that prevents access by buses for journeys after school. It was agreed that there was a need for more Police support.

## **13. Any Other Business**

None.

## **14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 3 August 2017, 7.30pm, **McLintock Hall. There is no meeting in July.**

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

June 2017    Compiled by PC Steven Graham

**Ward Plan Priorities**

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

Further calls were received regarding the flats in Buchanan Street, Balfron across from the Police office. Again, they were dealt with at the time. One of the residents has moved out so hopefully this will help to alleviate the issues. A couple of separate calls have resulted in two separate females being arrested for a breach of the peace.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Police were called to a house due to a drunk male who was unlimitedly within a house. Police were contacted and attended. The male was under the influence of alcohol and took an earlier chat with the house owner as an invitation into the house. Matter resolved amicably.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 a complaint was received by Police about 4 males within the woods at the fire station who were shouting, swearing and had alcohol in their possession. Police attended and traced the males. They were looking for a pair of glasses which one of them had lost and were not in possession of any alcohol.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 a call was received from a local licenced premises about a female refusing to leave. Police attended and the female left accordingly.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 damage was reported to the newly laid athletes track at Balfron High School. Someone has walked on the track causing foot marks on it. Enquiries are continuing.

### **Road Safety**

There have been no RTCs in the Balfron area since the last meeting.

Speed checks have been carried out at both ends of the village and this will continue.

### **Theft**

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 a report of a theft of car batteries was received from a local garage. This was investigated which resulted in a male being cautioned and charged for theft.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 youths were observed appearing to break into a shed of a local farm. Police were contacted and attended however youths had left prior to their attendance. Damage was observed however nothing was stolen. Enquiries are continuing.

### **PC Craigie**

PC Craigie has now started in his role as ward officer, replacing PC Murphy.

### **Community Engagement and Reassurance**

PCs Steven Graham and Scott Craigie are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). 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](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision)

[www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)

[www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol)

[www.twitter.com/policescotland](http://www.twitter.com/policescotland)

## **Other Incidents / Activity of note**

### **Rural Watch Scotland**

"'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and Forth valley Rural Crime Group aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.

- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.

- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and members responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

- Log onto [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)
- Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.
- Follow the on screen instructions."

#### **PARKING DECRIMINALISATION**

From 3rd May 2017, Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) came into force. The responsibility for parking enforcement has been transferred from Police Scotland to Stirling Council. The council have displayed several notices to inform the public of this change in responsibility. Any vehicle found to be in breach of a parking restriction will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for £60. Should this be paid within 14 days, it will be reduced by 50% and if ignored, will increase to £90.

Details are contained on the Stirling Council website under the link <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/transport-and-streets/parking-and-car-parks/parking-fines>