



## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2017 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Jim Burns (First Bus), Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Cllr Robert Davies (Stirling Council), Paul Cookson (Green Aspirations), Lee Rooney, Janet Rutherford (Balfron in Bloom)

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Viv Casteel, David Dougans, John Nicholson, Dorothy Simpson and Police Scotland.

### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 7 September 2017

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Christine Wilson.

### 3. Matters Arising

- Ian Denvir mentioned that an Officer had now been appointed to deal with the paths around the church.
- Christine Wilson and Bill Noblett explained that the deadline for the play park tenders was 4 September. The submissions were being reviewed by Stirling Council and a decision was expected shortly.
- Cllr Davies had raised the missing priority road markings at Easter Balfunning with the Stirling Council roads department who confirmed that the work would be carried out shortly.
- Cllr Davies had spoken with Paul Henke about access to the path connecting Endrick Gardens and Buchanan Street. Mr Henke disputed the existence of a right way. Colin agreed to contact Mr Henke about a site meeting.

### 4. Police Report

BCC noted a written report by Police Scotland (see Appendix 1). Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of speed monitoring in the village as there was no indication that this included the entrances to the village at Station Road and Roman Road / Dunmore Street.

### 5. Councillor's Report

Councillor Davies provided a verbal update on recent developments within Stirling Council.

- He highlighted the forthcoming review of Community Councils to update the 1973 Stirling Council arrangements for Community Councils. This would include an 8-week consultation period.

- He advised that Stirling Council will aim to overturn the Scottish Government planning decision to approve the development at Park of Keir, Dunblane.
- Stirling Council is aware of ongoing parking issues at popular tourist spots such as Finnich Glen and Queen's View. Some landowners may be prepared to open up space for additional parking capacity and options were being considered. Parking at Glengoyne was discussed. Jim Burns queried if there might be a possibility of the distillery funding parking and a bus bay to allow buses to move out of the way of traffic when stopping.
- Grass cutting by Stirling Council was raised, highlighting the large volume of grass being left after grass cutting as well as the variable intervals between cutting, which appeared to be longer in rural areas compared to the city.
- Cllr Davies noted the ongoing complexity and slow progress with the rollout of fast broadband, in particular in rural areas.

## **6. Chair's Report**

Colin mentioned that there had been little progress with Space for Living following the meeting in September. Stirling Council officers were due to liaise with HubCo to explore options for consultant input to move the project forward. An update on the first meeting with HubCo was anticipated within the next few days after the BCC meeting.

Lee Rooney updated BCC on progress with the business hub proposal. Responses had been favourable but there had been difficulty in moving this forward to a tangible solution. Preparatory work was still being carried out by Lee but a firm decision had not yet been made by Stirling Council.

No progress was reported regarding The Bunker. The Bunker site was due to be marketed commercially by Stirling Council but BCC had been promised previously to be given sight of the specification first and nothing had been received as yet. Residents of the building were pressing the Council for action to contribute to the maintenance of the building. Cllr Davies agreed to follow this up with Stirling Council. During the winter months other residents of the building had to provide heating to the basement at direct cost to them to prevent frozen pipes as there was no heating in the basement itself.

Paul Cookson informed BCC about Green Aspirations Scotland, a social enterprise based at Tir na nOg. He noted that he was pursuing an application to the Climate Challenge Fund for Killearn and Balfron. As part of the application he needed to demonstrate engagement with the community, and to that end he was launching a survey as well as liaising with existing groups. The proposed project would be a two year funded project, looking at four areas:

- Establishing a local tool library
- Improving local transport e.g. car sharing and increased use of bikes
- Utilisation of green space similar to work done by Incredible Edibles and Balfron in Bloom
- Running skills workshops, e.g. on upcycling

Fraser noted that there was policy funding available to support initiatives like. BCC undertook to support and publicise the initiative.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Bill provided an update report on BCC finances:

- BCC was waiting to hear back about the Community Pride Fund grant application to cover the cost of refreshments at this year's Christmas lights switching-on ceremony.
- He highlighted a funding opportunity for up to £10,000 to community groups that work to reduce inequality, support welfare and promote social inclusion.
- He mentioned that there had been difficulties with the accessing the BCC bank account as Bank of Scotland appeared to have erroneous records of the authorised signatories. This issue appeared to also affect other local organisations but was being addressed.

## **8. Planning and Correspondence**

A meeting with Stirling Council was scheduled for the following day to discuss the playpark tenders. A preferred bidder had been identified but the full details still needed to be confirmed before a contract could be signed. The start of the actual works was to be confirmed and would depend on weather / under foot conditions.

## **9. Rural South West Forum**

Alison reported on the recent Rural South West Area Forum. Sgt Alasdair Matheson attended the meeting and confirmed that the target was for 1 in 3 community council meetings being attended by a Police Officer. However he identified practical challenges due to shift patterns. BCC agreed that this issue needed to be escalated with senior management in Police Scotland to address the underlying structural issues that prevented attendance by officers at community council meetings.

- The Stirling City Deal was also discussed. The main contact is Steven McDonald.
- Forth Valley and Lomond Leader Programme funding is available for rural projects. The application deadline is mid October.
- 'Farmer's market' stalls are available for hire through Stirling Council. It was suggested that these could be used for the Balfron Bash.

## **10. War Memorial**

Christine reported that during the cleaning of the war memorial structural damage was noticed. This requires a professional assessment and feasibility study by a conservationist. Funding options for this and the subsequent work were discussed. This may include a Community Pride Fund application to support feasibility, which was agreed in principle by BCC. A suggestion was made to seek funding from the War Memorial Trust, who covered up to 75% of the cost of restoration. The other 25% could potentially be sourced from the community through crowdfunding.

## **11. Business from the Floor**

- Janet reported that work on the planters outside the library was expected to finish in November. As this was too late in the year for any planting there would be an option to use the middle planter to hold the proposed second Christmas tree outside the library, in addition to the tree opposite the Co-op.
- Jim Burns raised ongoing issues with car parking at the school. Repeatedly, cars were parked in the top bay, thus not leaving enough clearance to allow buses to go through the school grounds, as had been requested by the community and agreed to by First Bus. He confirmed

that this was not an issue during school hours, but the early evening services regularly encountered difficulties. It was agreed that this issue required better enforcement and communication. A simple 'A'-board reinforcing the parking ban was proposed. Colin will raise this issue with both the school and Stirling Council roads department.

**12. Any Other Business**

Laura queried social housing policy as she was aware that Stirling Council was buying back 1 and 2 bedroom properties, despite the unmet need for 3 bedroom properties in the area. Cllr Davies agreed to pursue this within Stirling Council for clarification. It would be helpful to have an officer attend a future meeting to explain policy.

**13. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 2 November 2017, 7.30pm, Balfour Campus.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

October 2017    Compiled by PC Scott Craigie

**Ward Plan Priorities**

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

There have been two matters of note since the last meeting. The first relates to a house within the village that was causing some concern over its use and a 'party house'. This issue appears to have been dealt with no further calls re the loud music or anti-social behaviour. This will be monitored over the coming weeks.

The second relates to an incident in Spinners Street which relates to an allegation that unidentified local children smeared dog excrement onto a car windscreen. This appears to have been a standalone incident with no further issues reported.

### **Road Safety**

A report was received regarding an uninsured vehicle being used in the village, enquiries were made regarding this and the vehicle appears to have been sold on and is no longer frequenting the village.

Once again hand held radar has been carried out at both ends of the village. These speed checks will continue.

### **Theft**

There was a theft by shoplifting at the Co-op, following enquiry a local male was arrested and charged regarding this.

There was also the attempted theft of a charity tin from a local public house, this too was investigated and a local male arrested and charged.

Reports regarding both of these incidents have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Stirling.

An electric wing mirror was stolen from a vehicle parked overnight in a residential street within Balfon. It appears this has been carefully removed by someone looking for spare parts. Surprisingly this is the second incident of this nature to occur in a short period with the other being wiper blade taken from a car parked in a residential driveway within Killearn. They are from two different makes of vehicles but there may be someone 'on the rake' for spare vehicle parts. Due to the nature of the items taken it may be someone local who is responsible for the theft(s). Enquiries continue into both thefts, however should anyone have any information then contact Police or CrimeStoppers.

#### **Community Engagement and Reassurance**

PCs Steven Graham and Scott Craigie are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfon 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

<a href="http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision">www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision</a>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/policescotland">www.facebook.com/policescotland</a>
<a href="http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol">www.twitter.com/stirlingpol</a>	<a href="http://www.twitter.com/policescotland">www.twitter.com/policescotland</a>

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

#### **Your View Counts**

Our online public consultation process 'Your View Counts' launched on Friday 4 August. Members of the public are invited to help inform our policing priorities across the country by telling us what's important to you.

This is the second year we have run the 'Your View Counts' consultation. Analysis of survey results, together with crime stats and other community and partnership meetings are used to determine our priorities.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation/>

The confidential survey only takes 15 minutes to complete and is open all year round meaning that if an individual's priorities change a survey can be re-submitted.

The response to the consultation process will be continuously monitored and quarterly progress reports will be published on the Police Scotland website and the intranet.

#### **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 member's 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."