

Balfron Community Council

Balfron Community Council met at the Balfron Campus on Thursday August 24th at 7.30pm.

Present: Archie Bell, Jean Browning, Pam Campbell, P.C. Campbell Dunn, Gladys Farquharson, Kate Griffith, Elizabeth Holmes, Duncan McLaren, John McLean, Betty McVean, Sandy Shearlaw, Mike Stone, Mary Young, Keith Harvey (for Co-op update). Co-op People: - Eric Calderwood, Anne Hamilton, Craig Hanson, Joan McPherson, and Peter Stevens.

Apologies: Bill Astley-Jones and Colin O'Brien.

Co-op Situation

Mr McShane, the Operations Manager for the area had taken on this role in January. His first goal was to improve cleanliness of store and this had been achieved. Regarding the grave shortage of staff last year, steps had been taken and six new staff members had been added, with currently one staff member short. The layout of the shop caused even a queue of four to present appearance of congestion and so, Joan, Eric and he had made regular visits to consider how improvements could be made within the footprint of the existing building because the ideal solution of a new building was not financially viable. Recent improvements to Killearn Co-op had resulted in increased sales figures and the good summer had also increased Balfron sales by 3.5%. Co-op authorities plan to have a meeting in Balfron for members, Community Councillors and all interested to check out ideas and suggestions and get the store involved with the community.

In response to questions, the following information was given: - the downstairs board room is currently used for training staff in area; the Co-op had compiled a list of top 250 items and weekly monitoring of this had shown 98% sales; deliveries were now three times a week and this was helping availability; notes would be taken at check out of customer requests; Peter and team should be consulted immediately about complaints or problems and if no satisfaction obtained, refer the matter to Joan who is the locally elected representative.

Mike complimented the Co-op on the grants available to local communities, one of which had helped with funds to establish the Film Society. He thanked the staff for their attendance and explanations and they left the meeting.

Minutes of 8th June 2006: One omission noted, John McLean was present. Adoption proposed by Duncan seconded by Sandy.

Matters Arising

1. Fair Trade – Public "Drumming For Justice" event had taken place in July.
2. Post Box – is well used.
3. Upper Endrick Nature Trail – Final report now in and map display in Library will show three proposed routes. Local one will be first and Stirling Council are helping with signs and car parking; second route – hill one and third one – walkers and landowners to be consulted and meeting is to be held for them and then another one for members of public.
4. Notice Board – to be erected in next few weeks.

viable but possibility of separate footbridge advanced. Meeting to take place with Stirling Council, Military Aid to local communities. Mike from Community Council and Peter Craig from BCFDT to investigate footbridge possibilities.

- Stirling Council letter from G. Gardner re grass cutting problems. Willie Inglis to contact Community Council to discuss summer bedding requirements.
- Letter from Central Scotland Police – Inspector Findlater assigned to project. His replacement not yet named.
- Stirling Council Draft Core and Community Path Plan – Available in Library for comments.
- Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Stirling Council Licensing Policy.

A.O.B.

- Pam showed "Balfron Today" booklet. Launch was successful and review of it in January.
- Name plate for Printers' Row – in place at last.

Next meeting Thursday 28th September.