

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Frances Hamilton, Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, Claire Gibbons, Sam Shortt

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor David Goss, P.C. Meek, David Callander (Bridge of Allan Sports Club), Peter Pearson (Stirling Before Pylons), Jean Houston (Notes)

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Christie, John Gill, Marjorie Russell, P.C. Paul Colquhoun

**BA393 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minute of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

**BA394 POLICE REPORT**

P.C. Lindsay Meek presented the Police Report in P.C. Paul Colquhoun's absence.

Total crimes reported	24		
Total detected	19	–	79% detection rate
Under investigation	5		
Total Road Traffic detected	21		

P.C. Meek reported that many of the incidents had been related to the Meadowpark and Freshers Week at the University. The Police had been active during that period, arresting 7 people for urinating in public and 6 for breach of the peace. There had only been a couple of incidents unrelated to the Meadowpark, including one incident of fire-raising of a bale of hay in the Carse.

There was still no word of P.C. Paul Colquhoun returning to work or being replaced. P.C. Meek advised that this came under the responsibility of Inspector Brian Sharkey at the Dunblane Police Office.

**BA395 MATTERS ARISING**

**Area Community Planning Forum** – Les stated that the Community Council had had growing doubts over the relevance of continuing participation in the Forum. A vote was taken on whether to take part any further. Five members were against continuing and two abstained, both having insufficient knowledge of the matter. Claire pointed out that if the Community Council were to withdraw, it would need to develop a local plan for Bridge of Allan. It was agreed that Les/Frances would contact Joyce Allen, Committee Officer, to discuss any implications of withdrawing and a final decision would be taken at the next meeting of the Community Council.

**War Memorial** – Everyone present was reminded of the Coffee Morning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October to raise funds towards the restoration of the War Memorial. Alison said that contributions would be required for a Tombola stall and baking. She had tickets available. The community had funded the original War Memorial and it was hoped they would support this fundraising. Flyers had been printed and circulated throughout the village.

It was confirmed that the Merchants had contributed generously to the Tombola and the Meadowpark had made a donation of £500.

The Chair gave a vote of thanks for the efforts being made.

**Chalmers Church development** – The Community Council had been notified 6 weeks ago that work was due to start in one week. There was still no sign of works commencing and it was agreed to pursue this with the developers.

**Parking - Blairforkie Drive** – Les stated that it looked as though nothing could be done until the review of parking throughout the whole of Bridge of Allan was completed.

**Parking - Keir Street** – There was a significant impact from University students/staff parking in Keir Street. It was suggested that double yellow lines for 15m from the roundabout may help.

**License Board Forum** – As Marjorie Russell was still on holiday, this was deferred to the next meeting.

**Airthrey Road** – It was proposed that there would be two Toucan crossings provided on Airthrey Road, one Puffin crossing on Causewayhead Road, and roads would be traffic calmed with a 20mph speed limit on Airthrey Road.

The new road opposite the Institute of Sport access road was field access.

**Pavements** – The new surfacing on some pavements was a slurry seal to extend the life of pavements that did not have very heavy footfall. Work on Forglen Road had been delayed due to the contractor and would now be carried out during the school holiday week – commencing 8<sup>th</sup> October. This work would be of a higher standard than the other pavements to suit the heavy use.

**Roads** – The next tranche of money would include work to Inverallan Drive.

**Action:**

- Les/Frances would contact Joyce Allen to discuss any implications of withdrawing from the Area Community Planning Forum
- The developer of the Chalmers Church development be contacted regarding start date for works
- A request be sent to Stirling Council for double yellow lines to 15m from roundabout at end of Keir Street
- Defer License Board Forum to next meeting

**BA396 TREASURER'S REPORT**

It was confirmed that arrangements had been made to have the Accounts audited. These would subsequently be submitted to the Community Council for approval and then put forward to Stirling Council to enable the administration grant to be paid.

**BA397 BRIDGE OF ALLAN SPORTS CLUB**

David Callander, President of the Sports Club, attended to outline options for the long-term viability of the Club to the many residents present. To continue its current operation was untenable option, with the existing borrowing requirement, insufficient new members, and competition of facilities of other clubs.

He advised that the Club had been approached by a developer who is interested in building on the present site. It is his duty to report this expression of interest to the Members. However it would mean looking to relocate, and he is exploring the feasibility of the site at the end of Keir Street. The adjoining landowner is willing to agree to such a proposal.

The Club is providing a coaching service for both members and non-members to try and stimulate interest in future individual and family membership. There are two full-time coaches who spend 20-25% of their time on non-members (schools). This coaching scheme is supported by Stirling Council and Active Stirling.

Stirling Council have shown willingness to consider the relocation and there have been sporadic discussions, which are ongoing.

Mr Callander emphasised that in its present state, the Club did not have long-term security and that he had an obligation to put the facts in front of the Committee. However it would be the decision of the Committee and not the decision of the President whether or not to relocate.

Those present were invited to put their questions to Mr Callander. Issues were raised as follows:-

- He confirmed that the proposal would improve the financial situation, making funds available to add facilities such as a larger gym for aerobic exercise and an area for junior members. In its current state, the Club did not have the resources to add facilities and the existing site was not large enough to allow this.
- He did not know if the facility of free tennis courts for the community would be made available elsewhere in Bridge of Allan if the Club took over this site. He would like to see this and thought the Primary School may be an option, but this was for future discussion.
- He confirmed the social impact on residents in the area of Keir Street was being considered and this was why he had attended the Community Council as part of awareness raising.
- He was unaware from legal advisers of any conditions or restrictions in the title deeds that would prevent the Club selling the current site. Mr Callander understood that the Club has outright ownership and the legal right to sell. He also was unaware of restrictions on any other use of the current site. He assumed Stirling Council would have examined this issue, but would investigate further. He stated that the only restriction on the Club was that it was not entitled to take profitable gain from the disposal.
- He confirmed the neighbouring landowner was Grahams Dairies and that the proposed site was the existing tennis courts and adjoining field.
- In respect to vehicle access, increased traffic congestion and safety issues, Mr Callander thought this was the remit of the Planning Authority. Residents were concerned that not only was the area already congested, there would be a detrimental impact on the Memorial Park.
- The issue of current flooding problems on the field was brought up. It was thought that this would be exacerbated by Wallace High School development.
- He indicated that the Club wants to “mirror image” the present facilities with the additional facilities mentioned above – an aerobic area and area for junior members.

- Residents stressed the need to reproduce the facilities currently on Keir Street elsewhere in Bridge of Allan, as they are very well used, and wondered where they would move to. Mr Callander pointed out that the options were only being discussed in principle and not specifics at present.
- Some residents could not understand the logic of relocating to across the road from the University, when the Club was in competition with University facilities. Mr Callander pointed out that the facilities sometimes complimented each other – the coaching programmes, Club access to Gannochy during winter (which is very expensive), and University use of Club facilities.
- He was asked, if the Club wasn't economically viable in its current location, how the economics of a move would be workable. Mr Callander replied that the Club needed to expand and build for the future. Selling the current site would provide a cash surplus to invest in improved facilities. Again he pointed out that this was a decision for members of the club to vote on.
- Dialogue with the Council had not given indication of approval in principle, but he thought discussion would not have continued if there was no possibility of approval. There was the concern of whether the Club's proposal was of value to the community.
- With regard to telecommunications masts, Mr Callander gave an undertaking that if he were President and the Club moves, there will be no mast at the new site. The mast at the current Club site had been agreed to alleviate financial problems. The problem of the current mast for any developer would be resolved by the lease expiring. Again, this was a matter for the committee to vote on.

Mr Callander concluded by stating that he just wanted the community to be aware of options being considered so that everything was above board. He was aware that there would be strong feelings both for and against relocation.

However the Club had not proved to be good at raising funds to maintain the fabric of the existing Club and maintenance was going to become more expensive. Applications for Lottery funding had been unsuccessful. He also wanted to break down the perception of exclusivity of the Club and hoped that the coaching programme to the Primary School (at a cost to the Club) would help achieve this and encourage family membership.

Les thanked Mr Callander for coming to face the community with these controversial proposals.

## **BA398 PLANNING**

Claire Gibbons reported on current planning issues –

Planning applications received – 4  
 Recommended for approval – 0  
 Delegated to Planning Committee – 0

Claire declared an interest in one application – 53 Fountain Road.

She notified one enforcement action relating to deviation of plans for an Airthrey Avenue application.

One planning application was to install an awning at 17 Henderson Street (previously the Gents Outfitters) to prevent sun damage to goods in the window. The premises had been taken over by The Running Company who proposed a change of colour to blue and white. Claire would investigate this further to make sure it was not inappropriate to the environment of a conservation area.

**Action:**

- Claire to check whether proposed awning for 17 Henderson is appropriate for a conservation area.

**BA399 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Community Council:

- A letter from Mr Price, Forthpark regarding flood prevention, the pedestrian crossing in Henderson Street, and yellow lines on Blairforkie. Frances had already responded that the issues were already taken up with Stirling Council.
- A Public Partnership Forum meeting would take place on 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Victoria Hall, Dunblane on dental services. Ian Anderson agreed to attend.
- Proposed waiting restrictions on Henderson Street, east of the Police Station – staggered restrictions on the south side, with most of the north side restricted. This did not appear to be compatible with the message from Stirling Council that no changes could be made to parking restrictions until the total review of parking was complete. It was questionable whether any yellow line restrictions installed on Henderson Street would ever be enforced. There did not appear to be any policing of this in Bridge of Allan.
- Recycle a Bike Doctor Events - Fallin Community Enterprise run this operation. They can be booked to attend a primary school for £120 a day to give a general check of bicycles. They can usually check around 20 bikes a day and provide estimates of costs to do any necessary work.
- Safer routes to schools – A response from Les Goodfellow with details of the proposed Toucan/Puffin crossings and road calming. Everyone present agreed that the safety of pedestrian children along Airthrey Road had not been adequately considered. There did not appear to have been a Traffic Impact Assessment undertaken. On the south side of the road, there was no footpath. This means that pupils to Wallace High School will be forced to cross the road to the north side before the University, then cross over Kenilworth Road and the University entrance (both of which are dangerously busy in the morning), and then cross Airthrey Road again. It was agreed that Sam Shortt should write to Stirling Council to see if a safer option can be developed.

**Action:**

- Ian Anderson to attend Public Partnership Forum on dental services
- Sam Shortt to write to Stirling Council regarding concerns about pedestrian pupil safety on Airthrey Road

**BA400 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Lighting at Avenue Park – Residents complained that the lighting around the back of the flats at the car park and drying area had been out for two weeks. This did not appear to be connected to the street lighting and residents did not know who was responsible for the lighting. It appeared that owner/occupiers had to pay for this service. It was agreed to send a letter to Peter Nowek, Street Lighting Officer, about this matter.

- Merchants Association – It was reported that at a recent meeting David Berrie had stood down as Chair. Les gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Community Council to David for his past work and efforts on behalf of the community. The new Chair is Robert Graham, snr. It is hoped that there can be a close relationship with the Merchants Association in the future and Mr Graham is welcome to attend future meetings of the Community Council.
- The next issue of the Bridge of Allan Times is due early November. This will be in a magazine format.
- Ian Anderson, whose wife uses a mobility chair, raised the issue of no drop kerb crossing at Avenue Park. The only crossing has no visibility for people in chairs of traffic coming down from Henderson Street and is dangerous. It was agreed that this should be raised with Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads & Transport.
- Councillor Goss advised the meeting that at a recent meeting of the Licensing Board, Voyager Taxis had not had their license renewed.
- Avenue Park Play Area – This area was badly in need of upgrading. Sue Gutteridge, Play Services, was currently carrying out a review of all play parks, however Frances agreed to pursue this now. A grid is urgently required to prevent dogs going into the area.
- Peter Pearson of Stirling Before Pylons updated the meeting on the Public Inquiry into the Denny to Beaulieu Powerline which started back in February. The Inquiry was presently at Newtonmore and would come to Stirling mid-November, when the group would be able to present their case. The proposal is that the current route is unacceptable and an underground route west of Stirling is proposed. This is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and Stirling Council. Whilst there are good technical reasons to consider alternatives to this powerline, this is not within the remit of the Public Inquiry and cannot be heard.

Richard Simpson, MSP, is due to speak at the Parliament as part of the debate.

The defence costs are estimated at £70,000 for a Q.C. and fundraising continues to meet these costs. Another race night is scheduled for November.

- Cawdor Gardens – Residents reported potholes since 1992. These had only had patchwork repairs and the roads and pavements were in a bad state. Inverallan Road was also reported to be bad.
- Overgrown shrubbery affecting pedestrian access to pavements – at a previous meeting, it had been reported that pedestrians should approach the landowner and ask them to prune trees/shrubs that caused an obstruction to pedestrians. It was brought to the Community Council's attention that in many cases the Council is the owner – Blairforkie Drive on the river side being one place in question.

Councillor Goss reported that there was a sum of £10,000 allocated to Core Paths for the whole Council area – however that was to be spent on signposts and a study of what needs done.

**Action:**

- to send a letter to Peter Nowek, Street Lighting Officer, about lighting at Avenue Park.
- Ian Anderson to raise drop kerb crossing at Avenue Park with Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads & Transport
- A letter to be sent to Sue Gutteridge, Play Services, about Avenue Play Area
- A letter to be sent to Stirling Council regarding overgrown shrubbery at Blairforkie Drive

**BA401      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm.

**AGENDA**

1. Present/Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes/Matters Arising
3. Police Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Planning
6. Correspondence
7. AOCB
8. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm