

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2008**

PRESENT: Les Ferguson (Chair), Jim Christie, Claire Gibbons, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, Alison Logie, Marjory Russell, Sam Shortt

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor David Goss, Councillor Graham Houston, Sgt Adrian Wright, Anne Law (Project Architect), Alan Petrie (Facilities Officer, Community Services), Douglas Ross (Merchants Association), Jean Houston (notes)

APOLOGIES: Keith Ironside

BA421 POLICE REPORT

In the period since the last meeting of the Community Council on 20 November 2007, there had been 27 offences reported – 12 detected and 15 still under investigation. These included 8 offences reported related to the University, 6 of which remained undetected. 15 road traffic offences had been reported.

Sgt Wright thought there had generally been a reduction in crime in the area which may be linked to higher visibility by officers.

He reported that a community constable would be starting at the university in February and it was still planned that Bridge of Allan would follow.

Sgt Wright stated that community policing is an integral part of the policing plan for the area. Whilst the appointment of a community constable does not necessarily depend upon the crime rate of an area, there is a relationship with the population. He wants community constables to work in a team for the wider area and to be more proactive on reported crime.

He thought the Fun Day had been a great success.

The Chair thought that the village was already benefiting from the presence of Sgt Wright.

Decision

The Police Report was noted

BA422 RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR MEMORIAL

Anne Law, Project Architect, attended the meeting to update the community on the project. Going back to the original structural report, she advised that a proposal for a repair scheme would have run into thousands of pounds and only be guaranteed for 5 years. This was seen to be poor use of money and therefore reconstruction would take place instead. Funding was now in place to proceed.

Anne gave details on the proposed works to renovate and reconstruct and confirmed that the work would include an additional plaque for names to be added post-WW2. Alan Petrie, Facilities Officer-Community Services, was also present and stated that the design would be costed and go out to tender. Community Services are happy to facilitate this work and invoice the Community Council.

He confirmed that work would be complete for November 2008. Anne stated that the work was likely to be undertaken over the summer months. She suggested that residual funds could be considered for other work in the park.

It was agreed that whilst a ramp for disabled access was not in the original proposal, this would be costed as there may be funds available.

Decision

It was agreed that

- Community Services should facilitate the project costing and tender process
- Disabled access should be costed
- Works should be completed by November 2008

BA423 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 21 November 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings, proposed by Frances Hamilton and seconded by Alison Logie.

BA424 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Bus stop markings – As a result of no road markings, buses are currently stopping on Fountain Road in a way that obstructs traffic on Keir Street. Markings are urgently needed to stop this. An order was issued last June to remove the old bus stop markings – which still need to be removed.

Museum Hall Funds – Jim Christie confirmed that the amount required for the War Memorial from the Museum Hall Fund was £9,500. He was uncertain what the balance of the fund stood at – Stirling Council had never confirmed whether any costs had been deducted and, if so, how much. He also wondered if this money was invested in an interest-bearing account – Councillor Goss confirmed that this was the case.

Les added that SPAR had confirmed that they would be making a donation – this was related to a policy where stores ordering carrier bags are required to make a charitable donation.

Community Planning Forum – Claire awaited contact and an invitation to go to a Forum meeting this month. Jean Houston agreed to contact the Clerk of the Forum.

Charity Fun Day – Douglas Ross confirmed that this had been a most successful event. The invoice for the Playbus would be forwarded to the Community Council.

Public toilets – Les confirmed that a paper would be going to the next meeting of Stirling Council. It was hoped that they would reach an early decision on how to proceed. Douglas Ross advised that the toilets were not being opened on some Saturdays and Sundays.

Forglen Road – Les advised that the resurfacing was breaking up already. He had been advised that the contractor was obliged to carry a one-year warranty.

Bridge of Allan Times – the community newspaper would welcome any positive comments on the new format. The deadline for contributions to next issue is 14th February, with the magazine due in early March.

Decision

It was agreed that the following matters should be pursued

- Bus stop markings
- Saturday/Sunday opening of public toilets
- Forglen Road surface

BA425 TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no Treasurer's Report due to Keith Ironside being absent. In Keith's absence, Les agreed to ensure that 2007 audited accounts be submitted to Stirling Council so that the administration grant could be received.

BA426 PLANNING

Claire Gibbons reported on planning issues since the last meeting –

Planning applications received	8
Recommended for approval	6
Recommended for refusal	1 – new house on Cornton Crescent
Not yet determined	1 – block of flats at “The Coppice” - issues with access & flood risk

There was discussion on a planning application submitted for a garden development at Allanwood Court. Neighbours had concerns over access, which was planned from Sunnyslaw Road with very poor visibility; and whether the foundation of the proposed house would interfere with the foundation of the existing wall. Objections had to be lodged by Monday 21st January. The Community Council had not yet received any notification from the Planning Authority.

Marjory raised the fact that Stirling Council had a policy of ‘no garden developments’ in Bridge of Allan – had this policy changed?

It was agreed that the Community Council would support the objections, but neighbours were encouraged to lodge individual written objections.

Old Manor – John asked if there was any update as he understood a licence had been applied for.

Structure Plan alteration – Local Plan Inquiry – Councillor Houston indicated that briefings were still taking place, but there was no update on the timetable yet.

Decision

It was agreed that

- The Community Council would support objections for proposed house at Allanwood Court

BA427 CORRESPONDENCE

- Stirling Public Partnership Forum is looking for a representative on the Community Health Partnership Committee. Marjory, who already attends, agreed to represent the Community Council.
- Waiting restriction – “No waiting at any time” markings at Allanvale Road/Queens Lane. This appears to be a reinstatement of worn out road markings.
- Anne McGuire surgery details – 25th January

- Community Council elections – elections are being held to fill vacancies at Community Councils across the council area. Nomination forms are available for interested parties. Co-opted members were required to stand for election. JH offered to get additional nomination forms for the Secretary and Chair to distribute as required.
- Proposed Post Office closure – University – As a result of the Cultenhove Post Office reprieve, there was now a proposal to close the University post office. Students and staff were opposing this closure, which provides many supporting services to international students in particular. Councillor Houston indicated that a meeting with council officers would take place in a couple of weeks.

It was agreed that the Community Council should contact the Student Union to let them know of the Community Council's existence and the role it plays, and to offer support for their campaign to retain the post office.

Decision

It was agreed that

- Marjory Russell be nominated as representative on the Community Health Partnership Committee
- The Student Union be contact with offer of support to retain post office at the University

BA428 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A meeting on flooding had been attended by Claire and Sandi Grieve. Discussion had taken place on ways to take precautions for the future such as better drainage, better land management upstream, reforestation, reinstating wetlands, stopping building on flood plans, etc. The Scottish Executive were being asked to fund a pilot study. A follow up meeting was planned for early this year.

It had to be noted, however, that Bridge of Allan was not a high priority area for flood prevention and that all property and land owners had to take responsibility for protecting their own property.

Sam said this did reinforce the concerns over the proposed link road.

- Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust had approved a grant of £4000 for new playpark equipment for Fountain Road playpark. Frances was still pursuing improvement of the play area at Inverallan Road / Avenue Park
- Les advised that the Community Council would be asking the community for suggestions of projects that should be undertaken with money from the Museum Hall Fund. Once a list of suggestions was compiled, a public meeting would be arranged to discuss the options.
- Chicken run – residents reported that this area is in a disgusting state with dog fouling, and is supposed to be a "safe route to school". Whilst ultimately the dog owners must take responsibility, there needs to be agreement on ownership and responsibility for maintenance so that this area is kept clean.
- Frances advised that there have been approaches for a pedestrian crossing between the Post Office and Somerfield. This will be passed on to the Council.
- Marjory had noted that work appeared to have stopped at the Museum Hall. It was confirmed that severe cracks had appeared in Coneyhill Road and an engineer's report was needed before work could progress.

- Donald Gardiner, resident, asked if it was possible to have a Slow Down speed sign installed on Henderson Street. These signs can be of a temporary nature and moved to different problem areas. There was concern with HGVs as well as cars speeding along the street, at a wide range of times. It should be possible for the Police to get a monitor to establish traffic volume and speed to support the request for a speed sign. It was agreed that this may be an issue to raise at the Community Planning Forum as it was likely to be a problem common with other Community Councils.
- Angus Cameron, resident, made suggestions on the renovation and rehabilitation of the entire Memorial Park, ultimately to create a railed-in and gated park. He thought that sources of funding were available and if the Community Council were interested would like to create a proposal for consideration.

Les confirmed that there were already plans by Stirling Council to improve the condition of paths, flower beds and cut back undergrowth, and thought that in the first instance the Community Council should wait to see how this work progresses. The suggestion was a major and very exciting proposal and needed more time than was available so late at this meeting.

Les thought this topic should be subject of further discussion at a future meeting.

Decision

It was agreed that

- Responsibility for maintenance of the "chicken run" be pursued
- Request for a pedestrian crossing between the Post Office and Somerfield be passed to Stirling Council
- Proposals for renovation and rehabilitation of the Memorial Park be discussed at a future meeting

BA429 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 19th February 2008 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