

# BORESTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting held in Borestone Primary School Wednesday 20 June 2007

- Present:** Jim Bruce (Chair), Maureen Allan, Alex Black, Mary Bruce, Mary Burns, David Cooke, Pat Coyne, Ian Crawford, Matt Curry, Alex Smith, George Weir
- In Attendance:** Ian Anderson, Andy Davis (Stirling Council), Councillor Scott Farmer, Caroline Hamilton, Jean Houston (notes), Donald Johnston, Grace Scott, Councillor Andrew Simpson
- Apologies:** P.C. Hogg, Raymond Knox, Gerry McLaughlin

### 1. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of the meeting held on 16 May 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

Proposed by Alex Black  
Seconded by Pat Coyne

### 2. Police Report

The Chair presented the Police Report in P.C. Hogg's absence (on holiday).

It was noted that Sgt Chase has taken over from Sgt McMenemy at Stirling Community Policing Office as from 11<sup>th</sup> June. Sgt Chase has previous experience as community officer for Bannockburn and prior to that Aberfoyle.

In the past month there have been 30 crimes detected, and 17 remain undetected. Of the 17 undetected, five have positive lines of enquiry or named suspects.

In general the Borestone area has been quiet. Plain clothed, uniform and cycle patrols at the weekend appear to be having a positive effect on the levels of antisocial behaviour committed by youngsters. However there did appear to be a rise in the number of vandalism, especially smashed windows during the week (6 in the past month). P.C. Hogg intended concentrating on this area on his return.

Of note, another 6 persons had received £60 fines and had 3 points on their licenses for driving whilst using their mobile phones. These are not local drivers, and all were driving on Glasgow Road.

P.C. Hogg has spoken with the Council regarding vehicles exceeding the weight limit using Gateside Road, and asked if they can resolve the signing issue. There is only one sign which is on the Gateside Road end and is faded. There are no signs on the road if vehicles are coming from the Quarry/Polmaise Road direction.

### 3. Planning

Ian Crawford explained plans for the new mini roundabout at Milton Road/Milton Terrace as part of the next phase of the A872 Glasgow Road improvements, recommended by the Atkins Report.

This roundabout was proposed to slow down traffic coming into Stirling, and to give residents better access onto Glasgow Road. This should also ease the situation at Bruceview.

The Chair confirmed that he had invited an officer from Roads to attend the meeting. This had been declined as “there had been consultation with residents”. This was not the view of the residents.

The residents raised the following issues -

- There was a need to widen access road to Milton Terrace – 90° bend and the road is too narrow;
- Milton Terrace road should be widened by removing the gravel path;
- Access to Milton Terrace should be restricted, with “Access Only” signs, to prevent through traffic using the street as a bypass when buses hold up traffic at the bus stop;
- Each driveway should be lined-marked to prevent access being restricted. The road is too narrow and access/exit to driveways has to be at a 45° angle;
- There needs to be road signs and clear markings large enough to slow down motorists approaching the mini roundabout from Stirling/Glasgow directions;
- The street road surface is in dire need of resurfacing – it is cracked and breaking up in areas.

These matters would be raised by Councillors with appropriate officers of Stirling Council.

#### **4. Stirling High School**

Ian Crawford reported on a meeting attended by Mr Greg Ingram (Headteacher), Bob Gil (PPP Project Manager), David Cameron (Director of Children’s Services), Andrew Bain (Active Stirling).

The new High School is scheduled to open late February 2008. The existing Torbrex Farm Road is to be widened with footpaths on both sides. The mini roundabout will be enlarged and the parking area removed during the summer holidays. A speed control system will be installed.

Parents taking pupils to the school will travel up the new farm road, drive into the school to turning area, drop off pupils and exit the same way. Residents of Torbrex Village are seriously concerned that parents will exit via the village road, and any form of traffic queue or hold-up in wet weather will result in parents dropping off pupils and exiting via the village.

In addition, residents at Beechwood are concerned that if traffic difficulties result at the farm road, parents will start to turn into Beechwood to drop off pupils from where it is only a short walk to the school.

Facilities at the school will include an all-weather pitch behind the ice-rink, and indoors will be four badminton/multi purpose courts, dance studio, gym, swimming pool and there will be a running track. Access to facilities will be via a booking system for clubs only – not individuals, including some access during holidays and weekends. Daytime access to the community room is restricted due to security and the school timetable.

It was noted that the present school has a capacity of 900, and the new high school capacity will be 1200.

## 5. Whins of Milton School

Ian Crawford also reported on a meeting he had attended at Whins of Milton School. He reported that School Boards were due to be wound up and Parent Councils established in September. He had been asked to join the Parent Council as a co-optee until Whins of Milton merges with Kildean School. Ian was very pleased to report that a hydrotherapy pool will be installed at the new school. No name for the school had been agreed yet, but Castleview School has been suggested.

It was noted that there had been no contact from Borestone Primary School regarding the Parent Council.

## 6. Kings Park

Ian Crawford gave an update on the situation relating to the proposed acquisition of Kings Park. This is currently owned by the Crown and is on the market. Stirling Golf Club had made a proposal to acquire the land the course is on, but this had been objected to by the Friends of Kings Park. It was noted that the Golf Club had installed and maintained footpaths at the back of the park for the good of the community.

Ian indicated that there were also implications for the Kings Knot and Gowan Hill which are also owned by the Crown.

## 7. Area Community Planning Forum

David Cooke attended the Area Community Planning Forum on 1<sup>st</sup> May at the Mayfield Centre and made the following points:

- If Broomridge Community Council are allocated to another Forum, the Area Forum will need a new Chair and Vice Chair;
- Each Community Council needs to list their priorities for their area for the next meeting in September. Each Community Council needs to name a volunteer for each priority, to join a working group to come up with proposals for each of the priorities put forward;
- David had raised the problem of financing and providing organisers for youth activities in the Borestone Community Council area. Barbara Allan had shown interest in working with such a group;
- Of interest, Torbrex Community Council had spent their special grant money (£1000) hiring leaders to take activity classes, such as Thai Chi and dance, in the Scout hut. Having proved there is a demand for such activities, they are applying for further funding via the St. Ninians Trust. Borestone Community Council area does not have a similar hall, but does have the Primary School. However Barbara Allan indicated this could not be used because of janitor costs.

Andy Davis agreed to look into the level of use of the new changing rooms. (The flooding problem is now resolved.)

It was generally agreed that the Area Forum doesn't have "teeth". Council Officers are invited to attend and don't turn up, and issues go round in circles with no outcomes. It was a talking shop with no decisions ever taken.

## **8. NHS Forth Valley**

Councillor Scott Farmer indicated that he had received a letter advising that a meeting would take place on the future of Orchard House on 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 7pm in the Mayfield Centre.

The Chair felt that discussion with the community had been quite inadequate.

## **9. St Modans PPP – Planning Gain**

The Chair had circulated a briefing for Elected Members by Bill Eadie, Head of Children & Families Services, Stirling Council.

David Cooke had prepared a statement on the briefing. He thought that Stirling Council's policy for funding play areas/spaces only with monies from development gain was flawed. He also criticised the policy of providing prestigious central facilities for children as opposed to a network of smaller facilities.

David quoted from a Scottish Executive Guidance (PAN65) which recommends a minimum play space of 4 acres should be provided per 1000 population for outdoor sport, plus 2 acres for children's playing space. The guidance also provides details of funding sources. David did point out that the guidance was not a statutory requirement, and that the Council did not have to adopt it and had chosen to ignore the recommendations.

He also pointed out that the existing schools provide facilities/services across Stirling and that the planning gain should also be made available across the area. The new housing developments will take away open spaces and existing facilities, whilst increasing the population requiring these facilities.

Councillors Farmer and Simpson supported the position of the Community Council and felt that the planning gain should be to the benefit of the local community and not Kings Park/ Beechwood.

George Weir pointed out that most urgent was not necessarily the need for playparks and equipment for small children, but provision of facilities for teenagers. It was agreed that there would be an inevitable increase in antisocial behaviour from this age group if they have no recreational spaces.

It was also agreed that the increase in population in the area increased the need for a community centre and local office.

Councillor Farmer was asked if the Royal Bank of Scotland funding scheme for play areas could apply to Borestone, and this would need to be investigated.

## **10. Correspondence**

As the Secretary was unable to be present, and there had been no correspondence of an urgent nature, this was deferred.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Goerge Weir brought to Councillor Farmer's attention ongoing issues concerning Paragon. He indicated that standards were not sufficiently high and thought they were shying away from their responsibilities. Councillor Farmer suggested that perhaps the tenants should form a residents' group to address the issue of maintenance of common ground.

Ian Crawford brought to the meeting's attention conditions attached to the planning consent for the Wordie Road development. There were no conditions to prioritise children and provide play area/space, but there were conditions to provide a dog exercise area and public art.

#### **8. Date Of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7.00pm. No meeting would be held in July.