

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2007**

**PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Jim Christie, Claire Gibbons, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, Alison Logie, Jamie Nicol, Marjorie Russell, Sam Shortt

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Calum Campbell, Councillor Graham Houston, Douglas Ross (Merchants Association), David Faichney (Floodwarning Units Manager SEPA) & Michelle Stone (Communications Officer SEPA), Jean Houston (notes)

**APOLOGIES:** Keith Ironside

**BA412 POLICE REPORT**

Sgt Adrian Wright, who had been appointed recently to Bridge of Allan, had come along to introduce himself and present the police report. This was taken as first matter of business to let Sgt Wright away to deal with police business.

In the period since the last meeting of the Community Council there had been

- 17 offences reported (inc 7 for the University)
- 9 detected (inc 7 for the University)
- 8 still under investigation (inc 4 for the University)
- 10 road traffic offences detected (inc 1 for the University)

It was evident that a substantial percentage of policing was required at the University. Sgt Wright made it clear that he was looking to address the lack of community constables in the whole area. At present there was only one (Cornton) whilst there should be four. Interviews were planned for a community constable at the University in the first instance, and Bridge of Allan would follow.

The matter of parking on both sides of Keir Street around the tennis courts was raised. This was narrowing the road right up to the roundabout. The culprits were probably students/staff from the university and the situation was exacerbated by contractors from the Museum Hall.

Sgt Wright agreed that traffic management problems needed to be addressed and was looking at getting traffic wardens active in the village.

There was also a request for a crossing from the Post Office to Somerfield to be considered.

Marjorie Russell raised the issue of the old bus stop markings outside The Post Office not being removed. However it was confirmed that a contract had been issued in June for removal of the markings and the work should be carried out soon.

**BA413 SEPA**

The Chair introduced David Faichney, Flood Warning Unit Manager, who made a presentation on SEPA's role in the event of flooding. This was part of an annual awareness campaign on what people and organisations can do to reduce the impact of flooding.

He outlined the major causes – rainfall, rivers, tides, storm surges, flash floods, surcharging of drainage systems. The flooding of December 2006 had been as a result of 2½ times the expected rainfall over 4 weeks.

Mr Faichney confirmed that the local area of the rivers Forth, Allan and Teith had no formal flood warning system. However residents could check the likelihood of flooding by phoning a floodline number

## **0845 988 1188**

Organisations involved in responding to flooding are the Scottish Government, local authority, SEPA, emergency services and Scottish Water. It was pointed out, however, that landowners and householders have a role in protection of their land and responsibility to have insurance in place.

Current planning advice to councils was to discourage building on flood plains. It was also agreed that there was an increased need to manage the drainage system better, eliminating blockages.

It was predicted that as a result of climate change, by 2080, there would be a 20% increase in river flow; 30cm increase in mean sea level; increased wave and storm surges; and that daily mean temperatures would increase by 4° resulting in more intense rainfall. All this means that there will be increased flood risk needing new approaches to flood risk management.

Mr Faichney was asked what influence SEPA had on the planning authority, as there were concerns over building on the flood plain, and this was where the new link road was proposed, with associated housing developments. He replied that SEPA were a statutory consultee, if there was flood risk. They could give their opinion and if necessary arrange a flood risk assessment. There was a map available at the meeting showing areas under risk.

In response to an enquiry about dredging the river, he stated that it was not considered it would make a difference on the Forth. The river is too big for this to be effective.

SEPA publication “Preparing for Flooding” was made available to everyone attending the meeting.

The Chair thanked David and Michelle for attending.

### **BA414 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minute of the meeting held on 16 October 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment - Any Other Business, bullet point 5, should read Desiree Ashton not Claire.

### **BA415 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

War Memorial – Jim Christie announced that the fund now stood at £23,500. However the Provost’s Panel had not been in a position to approve the residual funding from the Museum Hall funds as expected.

Councillor Campbell explained that the Provost’s Panel had met for the first time and discussed the best procedure for disbursing the proceeds from the Museum Hall. It had been agreed that when matters arose concerning this Bridge of Allan fund, that all four Councillors should be involved in the decision making. Whilst no formal decision

could be taken at this meeting of the Provost's Panel, the Panel had been unanimously in favour of providing the necessary funds for the War Memorial.

An item to decide the process to disburse funds had been withdrawn from a previous Council meeting, consequently a formal decision needed to be taken at next meeting of full Council on this process. Council would meet on 13 December and another Provost's Panel had been scheduled immediately after this date to formally approve the funding.

Jim Christie was still not happy that the Community Council were not consulted on this whole procedure – and they had not been informed of any management fee to be deducted from the proceeds of £405,000, from the sale last year.

He was pleased to announce that the developer of Chalmers Church had pledged a donation. (It was noted that the developer of Chalmers Church had missed a scheduled slot with the demolition company and this had resulted in a 3-4 month delay.)

Beaconhurst School were also keen to support the community more in future and would be making a donation.

Jim concluded by stating that the Trust was awaiting registration as a charity.

Les gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the community for all the work that Jim has undertaken on this.

Safer Routes to School – Sam had received a letter from Environmental Services confirming that a footway on the south side of Airthrey Road would be on the priority list next year.

However the speed of traffic through Bridge of Allan was a concern and it was agreed that Frances should contact Sgt Wright on this.

Merchants Association – Douglas Ross stated that the next meeting would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Community Planning Forum – Claire had attended a meeting of Area 2 Forum on behalf of Les. However this had been scheduled specifically to look at flooding and there had been the opportunity for only a brief word on Bridge of Allan's interest in joining Area 2. Claire felt that Members support for this and there had been an invitation to go to a Forum meeting in January.

Double yellow lines – Regardless of whether there were lines or not, there was no policing. There is an urgent need for lines to be reinstated on Allanvale Road after its resurfacing, particularly as the disabled parking facility has now disappeared. This is causing serious problems for a disabled resident.

Charity Fun Day – Douglas Ross confirmed that this would take place on 9<sup>th</sup> December from 12-5pm. The Community Council stall, which would be provided by the Merchants Assoc, would be located outside the Westerton. There would be an announcement in the Stirling Observer this week.

Douglas asked if the Community Council would, as in the past, sponsor the Playbus. This usually costs in the region of £152, and this was agreed. It was also agreed to help with the nativity scene.

'Community Council' badges would be available for members.

## Decision

It was agreed that

- The Secretary write to Sgt Wright regarding speed of traffic through Bridge of Allan
- A donation of £152 be paid to the Merchants' Association to sponsor the Playbus on the Fun Day

## BA416 TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no Treasurer's Report due to Keith Ironside being absent. However he had informed Les that the Accounts had now been audited. The actual balance of the War Memorial Fund stood at £21,131.27 (additional pledges had been made), and the balance of the Community Council account was £822.96 – the administration grant had yet to be applied for.

## BA417 PLANNING

Claire Gibbons reported on planning issues since the last meeting –

Planning applications received	9
Recommended for approval	2
Recommended for refusal	1
Delegated to Planning Committee	4
Enforcement orders issued	2

There was discussion on one application received for a new house to be built in the current garden of 26 Cornton Crescent. It was acknowledged that this would set a precedent for the neighbouring property, however it was a substantial garden and there were no objections from neighbours. In the circumstances, the Community Council would not object.

## BA418 CORRESPONDENCE

- Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust had written to advise that the request for funding for new playpark equipment should be considered at the next meeting. If, for any reason, this did not happen, a new request for funding would have to be submitted in March.
- An audit of public art was being undertaken. It was agreed that the only examples were the mural at the toilets and carved tree faces in Mine Wood.
- Toilets – notice had been received that it was likely that a paper would go to Committee possibly January.
- Central Scotland Police Annual Report
- Central Scotland Police questionnaire on community policing. Councillor Houston pointed out the importance of completing this questionnaire, as the consultation exercise would help determine future strategy on policing to be submitted to the Police Board.
- Green Force – a letter had been received from Alan Speedie, former Environmental Policy Officer, expressing concerns that this fund may disappear – the Community Council applied to this fund for money for the hanging baskets.

- Anne McGuire, MP, surgery details

## **BA419 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Marjorie attended the annual review of NHS Forth Valley by the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, held at Stirling Royal Infirmary. Questions had had to be submitted in advance and Marjorie was extremely surprised to see that the names and addresses of people submitting questions were circulated for everyone to see. Transport to and from the new acute hospital was the main issue, and Marjorie thought answers provided were not satisfactory. In addition there was the issue of insufficient parking at the Orchard House development.
- Memorial Park – Les had met with Stevie Harrower, Streetscape Officer, on 9<sup>th</sup> November. There had been agreement on the decline of the Park and the need to restore it to its previous standard. Overhanging trees have been pruned already and dead trees have been marked out for removal. Remaining trees will be properly tended and the area landscaped. Flower beds, which are currently overgrown, will be cleared out completely. Some 900 roses have been ordered and works should start in January.
- Mrs Rankin, resident, asked if it was possible to include the flower bed at the bottom on Coneyhill Road with some winter planting. Les agreed that this should be put forward.
- Problems with young men playing football on the grassy area at Graham Street continued to be a problem for a local resident. The Community Council was getting weekly emails on this matter and Les recommended that the resident should contact their local councillors. He still thought that the area probably needed to be landscaped in such a way to make it impossible for adult football to be played. This need not take away the facility for young children.

To make sure there were facilities for young people, it was agreed to continue the campaign to have the remaining two tennis courts upgraded with all-weather surface. Residents confirmed these were well used on a daily basis.

Councillor Houston thought there was potential in the area surrounding the primary school to develop facilities for young people. The Community Council would support additional facilities at the school.

- Forglen Road resurfacing – Copy of a letter to Roads, criticising the standard of resurfacing, had been received. The surface had started to break up already; drains were full of small stones; stones were being thrown up by vehicles onto pedestrians – a safety issue for children going to/from school.
- Netta Malcolm, resident, asked if overgrown bushes at Allanvale Road could be cut back.
- Marjorie congratulated the Bridge of Allan Times on their last issue.

### **Decision**

It was agreed that

- Streetscape be asked to include the flower bed at the foot of Coneyhill when upgrading the Memorial Park
- Active Stirling be contacted with regard to upgrading the surface of the two remaining tennis courts on Keir Street
- Streetscape be contacted with regard to overgrown bushes at Allanvale Road

**BA420 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There would not be any meeting of the Community Council in December. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 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 9.00pm