

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2006**

- PRESENT:** Joan Kerr (Chair), Bobby Halliday, Jim Christie, Les Ferguson, Frances Hamilton, Alison Logie, Robin McKinlay, Sue Pringle, Marjory Russell (to item 331)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr Nicki Baker, P.C. Colin Muirhead, Mr Ian Rice, Jean Houston
- APOLOGIES:** Ian Anderson, Declan Bannon, Councillor John Holliday, Peter McIntyre

BA327 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 19th September 2006 was submitted for approval.

Decision

The Minute of the meeting held on 19th September 2006 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

BA328 POLICE REPORT

P.C. Muirhead presented the latest Crime Report. Since the last Community Council meeting, a total of 11 crimes had been reported, 7 of which had been detected and 4 were still under investigation. Fifteen road traffic offences had been detected – mostly for use of mobile phones. It was noted that this offence was on the increase. P.C. Muirhead advised that it was necessary for there to be two eye witnesses to report use of a mobile phone by a driver, for the Police to take any action.

Crimes under investigation include theft of a bicycle from the Golf Club, a housebreaking at Westerton Drive and two incidents of assault.

P.C. Muirhead reported some success over the past six months tackling drug-related crimes. Over 300 charges had been brought and drugs with a street value of £170,000 had been seized.

P.C. Muirhead asked everyone to note that there was new legislation requiring children under the age of 12 and under 135cm to have booster seats and belts.

Decision

The Crime Report was noted.

BA329 CCTV

At the last meeting of the Community Council, there had been a discussion on whether or not Bridge of Allan would benefit from installation of CCTV on Henderson Street. When asked, P.C. Muirhead said that in his opinion CCTV was a good tool to help reduce crime and would welcome it. However CCTV should not be regarded as a "cure" to all problems. He indicated that CCTV proposals were invariably assessed on cost effectiveness and as Bridge of Allan is a low crime area and there is currently no funding available, it is unlikely to be considered. Operating costs for one camera were as high as £30-£40,000.

P.C. Muirhead advised that any request should be sent to the CCTV Co-ordinator, Malcolm Strachan. It was agreed that a letter would be sent.

Frances Hamilton asked that it be minuted that she was now in favour of CCTV for Bridge of Allan. She also offered, if necessary, to undertake a survey of public opinion in Bridge of Allan.

Decision

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the CCTV Co-ordinator asking for Bridge of Allan to be considered for CCTV.

BA330 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Holliday's monthly report was circulated.

BA331 PLANNING

Since the last meeting of the Community Council, 11 new applications had been received by the Planning Authority. These included:

- change of use from house to office at 109 Henderson Street;
- external air conditioning units and change of external colour to the new hairdresser premises on Henderson Street. There were concerns that this work should be in keeping for a listed building;
- demolition of house and erection of two new houses at 27 Cornton Road (Forglen Cottage). It was agreed that a letter of objection be sent to the Planning Authority expressing the view that this would be over-development of the site.

Five applications had been recommended for approval including development of 15 flats at the Museum Hall. Members noted the conditions attached to this approval.

Decision

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Stirling Council objecting to the application to demolish existing house and erect two new houses at 27 Cornton Road.

BA332 FLOODING – CORNTON ROAD

Mr Ian Rice, developer of Munro Gate flats adjacent to the level crossing, addressed the meeting on flooding problems at that part of Cornton Road which had arisen immediately after the cycle path had been instated. Mr Rice had made repeated contact to Stirling Council, who are responsible for surface water, and with the Water Board, who are responsible for the sewerage pipe system to get this fixed.

It had been ascertained that the situation had been made worse when the pump station at Pullar Avenue changed from one pump to three pumps. In the event of flash floods the pumps came on automatically and the increased pressure was too powerful for the pipe system to take away the water. As a result the water was rising up, manhole covers starting to lift, and water and effluence was coming onto the road. The situation was helped once Scottish Water reduced from three pumps to two.

In addition, the inner pipe system, leading to the river, had been blocked. This had now been cleared by Scottish Water.

Finally, checks were carried out on the gully traps and drains. It was found that the gully traps were full of concrete and there was a concrete slab down a drain. There had also been incorrect connection to the sewerage system instead of the rain water pipes – this was rectified and the blockages were removed. Water now appeared to be flowing freely. It now remained for the area to be resurfaced.

Mr Rice passed a copy of his correspondence with the public bodies to the Community Council along with the photographs of the gully traps and drain before obstructions were removed.

The Community Council expressed sincere thanks to Mr Rice for the efforts he had made to get Stirling Council and the Water Board resolve this problem.

BA333 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- A response had been received from Community Planning regarding problems at Memorial Park. This referred to an offer to meet with the antisocial behaviour team to discuss this matter.
- Advice of an application by the Round Table for a licence for bonfire night.
- Advice of temporary closure of Coneyhill for piling works to take place this week.
- Notification that subsequent to consultation on revised Community Council boundaries, Bridge of Allan will retain the Carse.
- Sue Pringle advised that she had submitted an objection on behalf of the Community Council to the proposed Mart site and that this application had been refused at Committee.
- Nomination forms for Street Cleaner of the Year were circulated.
- A letter had been received from Colin Mackay of Play Services regarding the “boulder” planned for Fountain Road playpark. It was anticipated that the

contractor would carry out the work during November/December. Play Services said they would keep the Community Council informed of progress. A local contractor would complete the foundation work during October. It was noted that no work had been started as of this date and weather was now deteriorating.

- An invitation had been received for a representative of the Community Council to attend the Provost's Awards on 27th October.
- Frances Hamilton advised that she had received a response concerning the closure of the public toilets. Stirling Council were measuring to see if subsidence was worsening over the next three months. There were currently no long term plans for the building, and there would be community consultation prior to any decision.

BA334 PYLONS

Nicki Baker updated the meeting on the Public Inquiry. The first session which would take place at Perth, would consider strategic matters and could last up to 6 weeks. It would examine, for example, justification of the necessity of the powerline and technical practicalities of undergrounding.

The area sessions, one of which would take place in Stirling, would probably take a more informal approach, with round-table discussion instead of formal cross-examination. Stirling Before Pylons requested a representative of the Community Council be available for precognition. They were also keen for individuals to give such support. A pre-meeting was planned for 2pm on Tuesday 31st October in the Albert Halls and anyone interested was encouraged to attend.

Nicki reminded everyone that fundraising started with a Race Night on Friday 20th October at the Rugby Club.

BA335 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

After discussion, current members of the Community Council indicated they would not submit nomination forms as they were disillusioned by the lack of support and lack of response by the local authority on a variety of issues which had been raised repeatedly, in some cases over months and indeed years.

BA336 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- It was noted that litter bins had been installed at the new picnic tables by the River Allan.
- Frances Hamilton indicated that, in an effort to have a closer relationship with the Merchants Association, she would be attending the next Association meeting on behalf of the Community Council.
- Les Ferguson raised the problem of overhanging trees at Memorial Park. He also stated that no action had been taken to repair the fencing at the tennis courts. Flooding continued to be a problem on Keir Street and the wall at the bottom of Coneyhill had worsened. The temporary fencing was now not fixed in position.
- Les also suggested that the Councillors other than Councillor Holliday who cover parts of Bridge of Allan but never attend Community Council meetings, should be invited to attend.

- Alison Logie again suggested that Bridge of Allan should have a heritage/ cultural centre such as that in Doune. She wondered if a public meeting to gauge public opinion might be the way to take this forward.

This led to discussion on the Chalmers Church site – the development of which appeared to be struggling – and continued interest by the Haldane Trust. Money from the Museum Hall could assist, but this would not be available until the property formally changed hands. The amount would depend on how much Stirling Council would take in management fees. The Trust Fund Committee however was in place ready to take this forward.

- Sue Pringle sought agreement that the Community Council needed new letterhead. Bobby Halliday agreed to progress this and have options produced for consideration.
- Sue advised members that a field adjacent to Keir Roundabout, which was an area with a large number of wild orchids, had been cleared of scrub by the Wildlife Trust.
- Jim Christie confirmed that Stirling Council had agreed to provide core funding for renovation of the War Memorial. However considerable funding was still required and he would be writing to possible sources. He asked members to think of ways to raise money from the public.

Immediate ideas included a coffee morning, collection around Remembrance Day, and an appeal in the Bridge of Allan Times. Ideas would be brought to the next meeting.

- Bobby Halliday stated that over the past 1-2 years he had written to Stirling Council on a number of issues without getting many responses. He had written to Les Goodfellow on outstanding issues, inviting Les to attend the meeting of the Community Council, but had received no response. This was why, after 10 years on the Community Council, he would not be submitting a nomination form. This was supported by the Chair and other Members who generally felt that Stirling Council was not supporting Bridge of Allan as a community. All that was wanted was that basic issues such as keeping the village clean and tidy, fixing kerbs, roads and walls be addressed. Members felt they were putting in a lot of effort for little in return.

Decision

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Stirling Council stating the intention of Members not to submit nomination forms for re-election to the Community Council and the reasons for this.

BA337 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 21st November 2006 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Community Council Election
2. Appointment of Office Bearers
3. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.