

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2008**

**PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Claire Gibbons, John Gill, Sandi Grieve, Frances Hamilton, Alison Logie, David Middleton, Marjory Russell, Mike Watson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Calum Campbell, Councillor David Goss, Councillor Graham Houston, Kieran Hamilton, Barbara Allan (Community Development Manager), Jean Houston (notes)

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Christie, Keith Ironside, Sam Shortt

**BA477 LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

Barbara Allan, Community Development Manager, attended to inform members of the Community Council on the benefits of a local community plan and how to go about developing one. For the past 6-7 years communities, urban and rural, across the Council area have been developing community plans highlighting the issues in their area and the ways these can be taken forward through working with other planning partners.

Whilst community councils know the issues needing addressed, this process enables consultation with the wider community to agree the priorities for the area and ensure that services meet local needs more effectively. If the Community Council involves providers of services in the development of a community plan, it can be a negotiating tool when approaching providers to address priorities and can assist in attracting additional funding for projects. Examples are evident in surrounding and rural areas.

Barbara gave examples of different methods of developing a community plan.

- go out on the streets and talk to residents
- use consultants to help with consultation
- Publish questionnaire in community newspaper

Funding support is available from the Community Planning Partnership to help as it takes considerable time to consult properly and a lot of work is involved in collating the information. Barbara is first point of contact for the Community Council if they wish to proceed with a community plan.

Barbara was asked if she could provide specimen questionnaires and different models of community plans available.

**Decision**

- The Chair thanked Barbara for coming along and members would consider the information provided.
- Barbara Allan to provide sample models of community plans and consultation questionnaires.

**BA 478 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minute of the meeting held on 16 September 2008 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

## **Matters Arising**

Doorstep Crime – Leaflets had been distributed to the Library and Health Centre, and were also available from Carers. Signs had yet to be put up and Streetscape needed to be consulted on suitable sites. Signs in the Western Villages tended to be on the main street and it was agreed that these should be erected at the entrances to Bridge of Allan – Cornton Road and at each end of Henderson Street.

Parking on Keir Street – It was unfortunate that P.C. Alexander had not been able to attend as there were increasing concerns about the problems arising from vehicles parking at the east end of Keir Street. The problem stems from the University policy restricting parking on the campus, which was followed by parking restrictions on surrounding roads. The situation is now exacerbated by the contractors working on the Museum Hall and War Memorial. Cars are now parking on both sides of Keir Street and photographs showed the narrow single lane remaining for traffic. The problem needs to be addressed urgently by the Police.

Sandi informed the meeting that she had spoken to Alan Ogilvie (Development Control Team Leader), who recommended that a letter be sent to Stirling Council requesting double yellow lines on the park side of the road. It was agreed to follow this approach.

Road markings – Work started on this day – thanks to Councillor Houston.

Parking around the Primary School – There were ongoing problems relating to people parking and obstructing access to and from the driveway entrance to the janitor's house. The line markings were badly worn.

Netta Malcolm, resident, raised the matter of parking on the pavement at Hawes Park when football was on, restricting access to mobility scooters. Signage advising that no parking is allowed on the pavement may help and Councillor Houston advised that Alan Ogilvie should be contacted on this. It was also thought that a police presence and ticketing would help.

Toilets – Les Ferguson, Frances Hamilton and Mike Watson had attended a meeting on site with Councillors Thomson and Houston subsequent to receiving survey information. The structural surveys had shown that there was still movement, but there was no clear indication of the state of the foundations. There were 3 options for consideration:

1. Demolition and reconstruction on the existing site. Costs were uncertain and subsoil surveys would be required. This could cost in the region of £150-£200,000. These resources were not available in the current year's budget nor probably the following year.
2. Sell the ground and build new facilities in Fountain Road car park. However there was uncertainty concerning title to the ground and local opinion was that this was not the Council's to sell. There could be lengthy legal proceedings as a result.
3. Demolition with retention of front wall and mural (which still shows no signs of cracks) and installation of a self-cleaning unit, with maybe an additional unit in the future. These units cost in the region of £80,000 and it was anticipated that this could be carried out in spring 2009. There would be proper disabled access.

As option 1 had a timescale of 2-3 years, and option 2 would incur lengthy proceedings with no known outcome, there was unanimous agreement to support option 3.

Chalmers Church site – Councillor Houston reported that an agreement had almost been reached between the developer and planners.

Memorial Park – Landscaping had been completed at the Graham Street grassy area, however residents were unhappy about the unkempt state of the paths and other matters. The Chair announced that the Memorial Park would be on the agenda for the November meeting and there would be the opportunity for full discussion.

War Memorial – The Chair announced that whilst work had started on the Memorial, unfortunately the contractor had gone into receivership and work would not be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday. This was a great disappointment to everyone. However, the Chair pointed out that no money had been paid out and the stone was cut and ready for construction, but remained in the contractor's yard at present. The plaques were with a separate sub-contractor and the ground works were subcontracted. Ann Law, Architect, did not consider there would be difficulty getting an alternative contractor to complete the works and Stirling Council Legal Services were working on regaining possession of the materials. In the meantime Stirling Council would be asked to cover the Memorial for protection.

Jim Christie would, in due course, arrange a rededication ceremony and it was agreed to raise with him the possibility of asking the retired Minister from Lecropt to carry this out.

Youth Representative – The Chair was happy to announce that Kieran Hamilton (Wallace High School) was willing to be the new youth representative. A motion for Kieran to become youth representative was

Proposed by Marjory Russell  
Seconded by Les Ferguson

The Community Council awaited to hear if Fraser Robertson, Head Boy at Beaconsfield, was willing also to become a youth representative.

Safer Routes to Schools – A consultation document had been issued proposing improvements to the cycleway, widening it and having a shared cycleway and pedestrian footpath up to 3 metres wide. However there were concerns about the plans around the dairy, where the pathway narrowed.

#### **Decision**

- It was agreed to write to Stirling Council requesting double yellow lines on the park side of Keir Street.
- Alan Ogilvie to be contacted regarding cars parking on the pavement on Cornton Road.
- It was agreed to proceed with the option to demolish the toilets, with retention of the mural wall, and install a self-cleaning unit.

#### **BA479 TREASURER'S REPORT**

John Gill reported that the first payment had been received from the Museum Hall Fund - £8913. This was to cover works to the Fountain, repairs to the circular seat, painting the railings and a new bench at Blairforkie. The Treasurer had been advised that if contractors invoice Stirling Council direct rather than the Community Council, then the VAT can be reclaimed and as a result the community can get more for their money.

Other payments received were £600 from the Community Pride Fund and the annual Administration Grant of £476.

## **BA480 PLANNING**

Claire Gibbons reported on planning issues since the last meeting –

Planning applications received	9
Recommended for approval	3
Enforcement actions	2 – including the Museum Hall boundary wall on Coneyhill Road

An application had been received for a helicopter pad at Drumdruids Farm and plans were available to view. John Gill asked if more information could be requested on future use.

There was discussion on an application for “renewal” of outline consent for a 150 bed hotel and golf course at Park of Keir. It was agreed that since the consent was given in 2005, there was increased density of traffic at Keir roundabout. In addition the applicant had not complied with given deadlines. As a result a letter of objection would be submitted.

### **Decision**

It was agreed to request further information on proposed use of the helipad at Drumdruids Farm.

A letter would be compiled objecting to the Park of Keir application.

## **BA481 CORRESPONDENCE**

- An enquiry had been received regarding the degradation of the Darn Walk, in particular the area below Arthur/MacLachlan stables. It was also noted that steps have been put in which restrict access for pushchairs, etc. Stirling Council are responsible for the upkeep of the path and it was agreed to write and ask what plans there were to improve the path and why steps had been installed without any consultation to the community.
- Map showing plans for the car park at Somerfield asking for comments.
- Helen Geddes had written asking for the 2009 schedule of meetings to be completed. The Chair proposed that these should take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, with no meeting in August and December. The AGM will be held in April. Seconded by Marjory Russell.
- A letter had been received from Heather Burn, descendent of Dr Paterson, appreciating work done on the clock.
- A letter from Bruce Crawford stating that there would be no parking charges at the new hospital.
- Notice of a meeting on flooding on 27<sup>th</sup> October – Claire and David to attend.
- Association of Community Councillors – forms to vote for members. Frances to respond.
- Notice of meeting of Community Planning Forum, Wallace area, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Claire to attend.
- Notification of extension of closure of Coneyhill Road until 15 April 2009.

- Letter from Helen Geddes advising that money would be available to cover minuting support.
- Letter confirming that Roy Baker will be presented with a Provost's Civic Award on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Decision**

It was agreed

- to write to Stirling Council and ask what plans there were to improve the Darn Walk and why steps had been installed without any consultation to the community.
- that in 2009 community council meetings should take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, with no meeting in August and December. The AGM will be held in April.
- that Claire and David would attend meeting on flooding
- that Claire would attend Community Planning Forum

## **BA482 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Frances Hamilton advised that
  - the pavement at the railway crossing was being measured for some reason
  - the patching on the pavement outside the Royal Hotel was very poor quality
  - the railings had been painted at Blairforkie and Provost's Park
  - paint analysis had been carried out on the Paterson Clock to try and identify the original colour
  - the recycling bins at Somerfield car park had been cleared up – thanks to Jim Fisher of Streetscape
  - no reply had been received from Active Stirling about the tennis courts in Keir Street
  -
- John Gill raised
  - Problem of dog fouling on Keir Street
  - Speed of traffic entering Henderson Street from the west – once again a request should be lodged for a flashing speed sign
  - Footpath to Carse has been cleared as well as pavement past Lecropt Church.
- Ian Anderson raised the problem of dog fouling on the chicken run
- Claire reported on the mess that had been left at Alexander Drive after tree felling. Desiree had seen Jane Begg, Woodland & Greenspace Officer, checking the area – some wood has been removed by people. It was thought that any remaining trees could be cut into smaller pieces for people to remove. It was also noted that there had been damage to the wall on Well Road as a result of the tree felling.
- Kieran asked if there was any likelihood of the Co-op not abiding by any agreement made with Somerfield on the car park. The Chair hoped that they would honour this.
- Marjory Russell reported on a Health Partnership meeting she had attended on future proposals for GP practices in Stirling, subsequent to the Orchard House development plans falling through. There was now a proposal to split practices between Orchard House and SRI with two practices moving to Orchard House and three practices moving to SRI.

The Health Board intended consulting with practices and the public, but had committed to an outline business case by December 2008 which did not seem realistic for any meaningful consultation.

There had also been a presentation on the future Stirling community health facility at SRI and an update on emergency service planning.

The new community hospital would provide day hospital services, outpatient services, intermediate care and rehabilitation, with relocation of Kildean and Bannockburn services. Other services would include child health, rehabilitation, a range of outpatient services including minor injuries, mental health, and older people including approx 90 inpatient beds which would provide post acute hospital care closer to home.

Whilst acute services would begin transfer to Larbert in 2011, this would be phased over two years concluding 2013.

- David Middleton advised that youth surveys were coming in. Still awaiting surveys from Wallace High School and Beaconsburn and then the results could be collated.
- Residents of Graham Street advised that whenever works are undertaken in the area, this street is always missed. A letter would be sent to Jim Hamilton, Roads, to see if the street could be improved.

#### **BA483 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 7.30pm.

#### **AGENDA**

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

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm