

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

Members present	Heidi Bryce, Caroline Carrick, Andrew Donaldson, Susie Henderson, Elizabeth Jones, Hilary McGregor, Jim Ptolomey (Chair), Fiona Rennie
Apologies	Doug Ashworth, Jessie-Anne Malcolm NHS Forth Valley, Police Scotland
In attendance	Cllr Rob Davies, Graeme Fraser KCFC, Crispin Hayes Cycle Paths Services Ltd, Euan Shaw, 35 members of the public, Christine Bauwens (Minute Secretary)
How to contact us	Go to www.killlearncc.org.uk and click on contact button.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the KCC meeting on 15 September 2021 was held via Zoom.

CC1085 – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

CC1086 – MATTERS ARISING

- **CC1078 – Roads and General Maintenance Report**

There is an ongoing dialogue with KCC and Susan McDougall of SC regarding the 20 mph scheme for Killearn.

- **CC 1081 – Question Time**

Further to KCC contacting Edmonstone Estate, some of the spreading pontium (rhododendrons) have been cut back in the copse above Lettre Farm.

CC1087 – PRESENTATION BY CRISPIN HAYES, CYCLE PATHS SERVICES LTD

Jim welcomed Crispin Hayes, Principal Consultant, Cycle Paths Services Ltd to the meeting to present the design proposals for the cycle path project between Killearn and Balfron. Crispin outlined the proposed route along the King's Mile, through a field to the woods behind Heron's Court, across Ballochruin Road, behind Boquhan, along Jenny Gunn's Loan and across the bridge to Balfron. Following discussion and several objections from the floor raising safety, security and privacy issues, KCC offered to facilitate a meeting with local residents to try to find a way forward.

CC1088 – POLICE MATTERS

As Police Scotland was unable to attend the meeting, due to it being held via Zoom, Fiona presented the following Police Report:

- Road rage incident at Finnich Toll involving two males. Enquiries continue to trace the offender.
- Accident on A875 near Glengoyne Distillery involving a vehicle which crashed into a tree. The driver suffered minor injuries.
- Delivery vehicle struck from behind by a dirt bike whilst parked in Drumore Road. The bike rider rode off without stopping and was not showing a registration plate. Ongoing enquiries to trace bike and rider.
- Continued problems regarding vehicles parked near Finnich Glen. Vehicles have been moved and Council Enforcement Officers have issued tickets.
- Continued speed checks at Station Road and Balfron Road following complaints of speeding vehicles.
- Enquiries are continuing into theft of alcohol at Killearn Co-op.
- Vehicle stolen from property in Lampson Road using a cloned key or similar.
- Report of suspicious males looking at gardens was investigated but no issues identified.
- Attempted burglary from sheds in Strathblane recently.
- Warning of telephone frauds in other villages. Residents are advised to see police advice on full police report.

A local resident requested that cyclists adhere to the 20 mph speed limit within the village and that the police issue fines when that is exceeded.

The full police report is available on KCC website www.killearncc.org.uk

CC1089 – KCFC UPDATE

Graeme expressed grateful thanks to those involved in producing the latest issue of The Killearn Courier which was distributed during the summer.

The Killearn Heritage Trail website is being well used and many people are walking the route.

Appreciation was expressed for the beautiful flowering tubs in the village.

Village Hall activities are starting up again with weddings and day to day activities resuming.

Graeme explained that due to the ongoing uncertainty about COVID, the annual Fireworks Display has had to be cancelled. Alternative plans for something in the Village Hall are being discussed instead.

KCFC AGM will take place next month, but details to be given at a later date.

CC1090 – BROADBAND

As Doug was unable to attend the meeting, there was no formal report this month. Euan, however, informed the meeting that the proposed broadband scheme for the

Branziert and Drumbeg Loan is going forward but that poor connectivity at Killearn Primary School is still an ongoing issue.

CC1091 – PLANNING

Following the summer recess and the backlog of planning items, Jim explained that he proposed only to highlight those items he felt were of particular significance and pointed residents to the KCC website to see the full planning schedule.

Planning Schedule

- **Valid Planning Applications Received**

21/00552/FUL Erection of 4 no Dwelling Houses at Land at Former Glenshee Cottage, Boquhan, Balfron
KCC objected to this application and awaits a decision.

- 21/00553/FUL Alteration to Existing Dwelling House, Including Removal of Steeply Pitched Roofs, Construction of Additional Storey and Shallow Pitched Roof, Enlargement of Terrace on Entrance Level and Construction of New Double Garage and Driveway at Ronachan, Drumore Road, Killearn G63 9NX
KCC objected to this application as being out of character with the surroundings. Notwithstanding this, the planning officer has recommended approval subject to conditions.

- 21/00563/FUL Erection of 3 no Dwelling Houses at Red Cottage, Blane Smiddy Road, Killearn G63 9QQ
KCC commented on this application regarding over development of site and the previous objections to the removal of an oak tree to gain access to houses. No decision has yet been made.

- 21/00510/FUL Erection of Dwelling House at Land 580m South East of Little Carbeth, Drumtian Road, Killearn
KCC commented on this application as this was originally submitted for a farm manager's house. Notwithstanding this the planning officer's recommendation is for approval.

- **Planning Enforcement**

EN/21/040/UHW Formation of Access and Creation of Hard Standing with Erection of Gate at Main Street, Killearn G63 9RJ
KCC commented on this case as it took away the right of way.

The full planning schedule is available on KCC website www.killearncc.org.uk

Other Planning Matters

- Former Killearn Hospital Site

SC has now fully quantified and priced the works involved to install a new footpath along Station Road, from Killearn to the Cala Site. SC is currently in negotiations with Cala Homes regarding a possible funding contribution towards the footpath construction as outlined in the Planning Application.

- Development of Former Killearn Hotel

The former hotel has now been demolished and it is hoped building work will begin towards the end of September. Phase 1 is due to be completed in 44 weeks with the full completion in 52 weeks.

- RSHA Development at Lampson Road

There is no further information on this development.

CC1092 – ROADS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

It was noted that there are regular complaints about speeding in the village and lack of support to police the new 20 mph speed limit. KCC is in ongoing discussion with SC regarding this and other road safety requests. KCC has been informed that a SC site visit will be undertaken this week to check that everything has been installed correctly. SC will also be installing a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) unit in Killearn on a temporary basis to highlight vehicle speeds to drivers.

KCC agreed to report some residents' concerns about consequential speeding on rural roads and their claim of a lack of evidence from SC traffic statistics over a 30 year period to support 20 mph speed limits.

As a result of the closure of the Fintry Road B818 near Branshoggie Bridge and also the recent closure of Ballochruin Road, more traffic is driving through Boquhan at speed. Local residents requested the current 40 mph speed restriction be temporarily lowered to 30 mph and that speed monitoring cables be used to give an accurate picture of the problem. KCC has submitted a letter to SC on behalf of residents in Boquhan which Susan McDougall, SC Transport Planning Officer, has acknowledged and will discuss with colleagues. It was agreed Cllr Davies take this matter forward.

The meeting was informed that the repairs to the bridge near Branshoggie on the B818 will take longer than first anticipated. An update is awaited from SC but it is hoped the work may be completed by the end of the year or by the first quarter of 2022. The suggestion of using a temporary bridge was discussed and it was agreed KCC write to Susan McDougall in support of this idea. *(Action JP)*

Branziert Road will be closed on Monday 20 September for water repair works.

CC1093 – COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Davies reported on the following:

- Issues arising from closure of bridge at Branshoggie.
- Concern about inadequate provision of good broadband connectivity to enable Killearn Primary School pupils to use Chromebooks. The meeting learned that Euan Shaw had been approached by SC back in March to investigate improving the situation at the school. Euan made a preferential offer of assistance on 6 March with full details for a special 6 months minimum term contract instead of the usual 24 month contract. KCC was extremely disappointed to hear that Euan has received no feedback from SC and that nothing has been done to improve the connectivity to the school. It was agreed that Cllr Davies investigate the situation further with SC Education Department.

- The first face to face Councillor Surgery was held in Killearn Village Hall this week since the first lockdown. It is hoped to have monthly meetings in the future, prior to community council meetings.
- SC meeting on Thursday 16 September to discuss improving live streaming of Council Meetings.
- Full SC Meeting to be held on 7 October.
- Changes to the bin collection will take place as from next week. Drymen and Balmaha will have bins uplifted on Thursday instead of Sunday in order to ease weekend tourist traffic problems in the area.
- SW Area Forum due to meet on 20 September has been cancelled.

CC1094 – TREASURER’S REPORT

Elizabeth informed the meeting that the current bank balance as at the end of July is £926.32. The grant of £834.49 is in the process of being issued by SC.

CC1095 – QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

CC1096 – CORRESPONDENCE

Fiona informed the meeting that everyone should have received a new bin collection calendar from SC explaining the changes to the service. Otago classes focussing on movement and balance have restarted at Killearn Kirk Hall. Local residents who may have old photographs of Killearn Police Station from 1950s/60s are requested to contact KCC on behalf of a former resident.

CC1097 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In view of the ongoing COVID pandemic, the future format of KCC meetings was discussed. It was noted that more people have attended the online Zoom meetings compared to those held at the school and that generally, Zoom seems to be accessible to most people. Concern about the continuing surge in infection rate was expressed and that meeting physically was perhaps not to be recommended. It was agreed, therefore, to continue via Zoom for the foreseeable future while trying to ensure that those residents who do not have access to Zoom are still included.

CC1098 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next KCC meeting is scheduled for 20 October 2021 at 8.00 pm. Details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be issued nearer the time.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.