

CROFTAMIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
held on online
Wednesday 10.02.21 at 7.30 pm

Attendees: Peter Lloyd (PL), Margaret Firth (MF), Mary Dickie (MD), David Armstrong (DA), Henry Braid (HB), Donald Watson (DW), Alistair Berrill (AB), Willie Nisbet (WN) and five local residents

1. **Apologies** - none received
2. **Previous Minutes** Proposed DW by Seconded MD
3. **Police Report**
Forth and Endrick, Croftamie Community Council February 2021 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Antisocial Behaviour

There was 2 cases of sheep worrying in the field on the A811 across from Fraser Robb's. We went along the following weekend at the material time to try and trace the dog/owner but to no avail. No further reports have been made since.

Road Safety

Local officers have and will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to improve road safety. We're aware that speeding is an issue within the village. We have access to a "Pop up Police Officer" which we have recently used in Croftamie. A picture is below of it operating in Gargunnoch. This seems to have a positive effect in slowing traffic down. We will use it again and also carry out speed checks personally.

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.

Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.

Please ensure that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.

Theft

There has been a theft of a CCTV camera located on the wall at the gable end of Edmond Terrace, near the Stove Centre car park.

Last month there was a Theft by Housebreaking to Killearn Country Cycles whereby several high value bikes were stolen. That was the retail premises I referred to in last month's report. A van would have been required to carry out this theft.

Enquiries are continuing into both of these. If anyone has any information then please contact Police.

All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

We remind residents to be ever vigilant and contact the Police should anyone see anything suspicious. Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it harder for the thieves.

Please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

There are guides on the Police Scotland website giving other ideas to protect property in rural areas.

Fraud

Fraudsters can make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information such as bank details or they might be someone offering you a deal or a prize. Recently calls have been made by persons purporting to be from HMRC stating that there was a warrant out for the receiver of the call and was asked to contact the number that was given. This is clearly a false call so please heed the below advise:

- Consider making your phone number ex-directory.
- Don't give out any personal information unless you are the one who made the call and you are certain of the identity of the person you are speaking to.
- Don't give out your credit card or bank card details to strangers on the telephone.
- NEVER tell somebody your bank PIN number, even if they claim to be the bank or police. If the caller is genuine they will never ask for this information.
- Don't give out information which may infer that you live alone, are older or vulnerable.
- Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Contact local trading standards – they may be able to use approved 'call blocking' technology.

Covid 19 fraud

Criminals are using the Coronavirus as a cover story to trick you into parting with your money or information. Always take a moment to Stop, Challenge and Protect before making any payments.

It's important not to let the criminals rush or panic you into making a decision that you later come to regret and remain vigilant and guard against criminals using the publicity around Coronavirus as a chance to target you with fraudulent emails, phone calls, texts messages or social media posts.

With fake news articles on the internet and in the press promoting remedies, cures and false advice around coronavirus, it's also important to only share articles from trustworthy sources. If you are in any doubt, then visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or www.who.int/ for updates and information.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think: it could protect you and your money.

If you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message purporting to be from the government, HMRC, the World Health Organisation (WHO) or a coronavirus-related charity, then take a moment to think before you part with your money or information.

Never click on links or download attachments as criminals may infect your devices with malware or ask you to enter your personal or financial information into fake websites. In some cases this can lead to your identity being stolen

Community Engagement and Reassurance

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems

PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland

MF commented on the Fly tipping of tyres near the Brownie Hall on the back road.

4. Planning Report - MD

Nothing new has been submitted but 4 houses which were to be built on the former gun site on Stockiemuir Rd, the application has been withdrawn.

5. Roads Update - DW

Nothing for this area on the scheduled report.

Q to AB- after the last meeting works were done at Finnich Toll but they had not been indicated in the roads schedule. AB will investigate and report back.

HB advised that there was a lot of rubbish piled near the traffic light sites.

DY- asked the workmen and they were from Open reach to take the fibre connection to the telephone mast. Minor roadworks consent may not have been published.

6. **Treasurer Update - DA**

No activity this month. Balance remains at £2514.75. PL is due to be reimbursed for Zoom monthly fee.

7. **Stirling Council Update - Councilor AB**

Council have an area Engage Stirling – consultations, sent a petition but is having some teething issues with closing dates not being correct.

Concessionary business support funds for very small business - closed today but might still be worth applying.

Issue of the bin collections going to 4 weekly and £35 permits for the brown bins- Meeting on 18 Feb to make administration revisit the issue and try to get them to change the minds Nursery- update website still says nursery closes in May but AB unable to provide further update. AB will attempt to get further info. PL asked if there was a timescale by which the nursery had to close after the consultation.

8. **LL&TNP -WN**

Apologies for not attending the last meeting.

Meeting for stakeholders on 13 Jan was cancelled as not enough people could attend. Follow on is that change of circumstances is that budget from Scottish Government has been approved. There will be £1.3m extra requested due to Covid. ie portable toilets etc. For Part capital resources awarded- £2.6M. £1.56K for resource extra, 500K Covid one off and 540K for Capital.

Capital budget is for 5 years not just for the 1 year. 1.7M for each of the next 5 years.

Figure out between now and spring as to

3% wage rise to come out of the budget also

We also have a new Government minister.

Caringorm have also had an uplift in Budget.

This summer may have restrictions like last year and we are more prepared.

PL asked re Community partnership will it still be disbanded.

DY- can the funding only be spent in the Park or can it be spent outwith the Park

Recognition that the Rural have had to deal with issues due to Covid that are outwith norm

9. **Outstanding points from last meeting**

Participation Request

- PL- have been circulated. Traffic Calming within village and Pavement & Walkways to Drymen. DW and MF have confirmed that the ideas excellent.
- Suggestions are: Reduce speed limit to 20 MPH in the village, potential for traffic leaving the village, rumble strips in both ends of the village, MF described about lights if speeding on entering village automatically trigger a pelican light ie red light stopping the traffic. Suggestion for Pelican crossing John Muir way nursery and Cattermills. Speed cushions speed bumps in middle of road.
- LA commented that rumble strips can be too noisy for the residents. WN- agreed to careful not to put them next to housing and comment around the cushions in other villages.

- Pavements – state of the roads and speeding have been added to Action plans since 2008. Concern that it takes until someone is injured or worse until action is taken.
 - PL will check with Pam Campbell to review the forms and submit the forms.
- Pavements are not wide enough and not fit for purpose. Uneven cannot use wheelchairs and prams.
- MF has walked with Council representatives in the past to review the pavements, they agreed not fit for purpose but also stated no funds
- DY- there is a pavement from the village to Finnich Toll and the neglect means that it has overgrown. How can these pavements be reinstated.
- PL has asked for pavements in the village and route to Drymen but long term could include the Finnich Glen.
- PL asked if National Park could provide funding to support the upgrading of the pavements.
- WN says that there have been suggestions in the Park to upgrade the pavements from Gartocharn to Balloch.

Food Bank- But and Ben is collection point for local food bank. PL- 3 bags were collected and thanks to those who have donated. If you know of anyone who would benefit please let us know. Next time you pop in for a coffee please drop off a tin or two. You can also make a donation using the the Go Fund Me page - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/drymen-covid19-support-fund>

10. Correspondence received

- Stage 2 survey about how Community feedback- councillors have been sent a link and is open until 15 Mar.
- Rural south west forum- MF will attend the dial in meeting on Monday 15th Feb. The agenda includes Roads & Traffic Management – How RSW Communities can inform and influence road maintenance e & traffic management programs.
- Health and social care partnership – 18 Feb – 2pm to 4pm this has been circulated.
- Non domestic rates- for the storage Hut at Nursery no action required MF scanned copy to DA.
- Sad passing of one of older residents Mrs Marion Dow.

Marion celebrated her 90 th Birthday last year.

She lived & worked in this community most of her life.

After serving an apprenticeship in Glasgow, she joined Stuart Cameron the Haulage Company until it close (they operated from the old station yard).

Moved to Alex & then Sandy Mckenzie Veterinary Services and worked well into Marions late Eighties . Remising Sandy stated better than any computer, paperwork & accounts immaculate.

Marion married Willie one of the Dow Brothers both were our local postie's, the couples living within the village. Played an active role in the Community from Sunday School Teacher and various other roles with our Parish Church - Kilmarnock .

Held various posts like Secretary for the Croftamie Rural for many a year.

Marion more recently looked after her twin sister who passed away a couple of years ago with Dementia.

Will be missed by neighbours & friends.

- MF confirmed that Stirling Council, enforcement team includes Dog Wardens, ccenquiries@stirling.gov.uk a request sent if there could be possibility to be included within their patrol area

11. Any Other Business

Nothing new about the development in **Buchanan Cres.** Plans approved by Park. Cyndy has agreed to be on the Consultation Board.

Litter Pick had been postponed last year but there is concern that there is an increase in litter.

Previously the Croftamie Community Trust arrange a date in April before the grass verges camouflaged the rubbish. AE to suggest a date next meeting

WN suggested that the Park could support – Access teams Dave Robinson is access officer.

Confirmation of next **Meeting Wednesday 10.03.2021**

Commencing at 7.30 pm online