



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 14th May 2007 in the School.

1. Members Present: - David Anderson, Robert Flashman, Philip Graves, John Gray, Willie Oswald, Alastair Smith.

In attendance: - PC Barr. 4 public.

Apologies: - **Fiona Murray, Marjorie Peddie, Elspeth Posnett, Margaret Vass.**

(*SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council*)

2. Welcome – The chairman Willie Oswald (WO), welcomed PC Barr and members of the public.

3. Minutes of last meeting - Agreed. Proposed - John Gray. Seconded – Alastair Smith.

4. Matters Arising

a) Bowling Club centenary - CC members endorsed WO's letter, circulated to the members by email, congratulating the Bowling Club on reaching its centenary.

b) Presentation request – It was agreed to allow the Community Development officer for Forth Environmental Link to make a 20 minute presentation at the June CC meeting. WO will inform the gardening club. (ACTION WO)

c) Councillor representation – It was noted that there was no councillor present at the meeting because the procedure for community representation had still to be decided following the Council elections and introduction of multi-member wards.

5. Police Matters

PC Barr apologised for his absence from the last meeting because of night duty. He updated the meeting of events since the beginning of April and answered questions.

a) Crime report – There had been 20 crime files raised of which 10 crimes had been detected, including a breach of the peace and various traffic offences, one of which was a drunk driver. Undetected crimes included a man seen with a firearm, or imitation firearm, in the horses field one afternoon; a series of fire raising incidents at Auchineden where hay bales, placed at the side of the road, had been set alight; weekend vandalism at Carbeth loch where the boat house had been broken into and the boat taken onto the loch, possibly for poaching; theft by shoplifting at Mugdock Plantaria; a break-in and theft of a hand bag from a car at Mugdock Park car park; house thefts in Dunglass View and Milndavie Road due to unsecured windows and patio doors; and eighty,16 foot, decking planks stolen over night from the Country House Hotel.

b) Road Traffic incidents – There had been 6: one serious on A81 at Duntreath; 3 with slight injuries; and 2 with no injuries. Over the past weekend the police had mounted a rural action

initiative concentrating on road traffic offences and handing out tickets. It was noted that 70% of serious and fatal accidents take place on rural roads.

c) Wildlife Crime – During the past 2 months PC Barr had conducted several training sessions for colleagues.

d) Speed traps – PC Barr clarified that a recent speed trap at the junction of Kirkhouse Road and A81 was carried out by SC.

e) Speed activated signs – John Gray asked if these signs were more accurate than a car speedometer. PC Barr explained that the latter vary between vehicles but the police usually give leniency to the driver.

f) Edenmill Farm – Robert Flashman (RF) referred to the issue of fire raising mentioned earlier in the meeting.(see 5a). He had been informed that the hay bales had been used to support large signs and that there was a danger that they could be obstructing the line of sight for traffic. PC Barr had not received any complaints and said that this was not a police matter. RF reported that the flames had at times been very high and reached across the road. Margaret Vass, the CC planning correspondent, had referred the matter to SC planning department.

g) Disturbance at tennis court – Willie Oswald told of a disturbance the previous Saturday night between 11pm and 2am, caused by youths who had arrived in cars and left a lot of broken glass. The police had been called but were mistakenly directed to the bowling green. PC Barr agreed to make inquiries about the misinformation.

6. Planning – (A written report from Margaret Vass (MV), planning correspondent, was read out in her absence.)

a) Structure Plan – Comments on the third alteration have been submitted along the lines discussed at the previous CC meeting with the inclusion of some of the comments submitted by the Green Belt Committee.

b) Outline proposal for a new house in the grounds of The Firs, Moor Rd - The CC has asked that SC wait for the Council's policy document on the capacity of Old Mugdock Road to be produced.

c) Proposal for replacement house at The Wildings, Moor Road. - The CC has neither supported nor opposed this but has commented on the lost opportunity to build a house of real quality and to better position the house within the site.

d) Proposal for new house in the grounds of Glenarden, Milndavie Road. – The CC has neither supported nor opposed this but has expressed concerns about the access onto the A81.

e) Notification for an agricultural shed at Edenmill – MV had received clarification regarding the location – it was the same shed as was previously proposed, but slightly bigger, and has now been accepted by the planners.

f) Burns Cottage, Old Mugdock Road – MV had made inquiries about the sale of this building as a residential property as it had been operating as a business for many years, but SC planners have no record of a change of use. The CC agreed to take no further action.

g) Edenmill Farm – MV has alerted the planners to the problem of signage at the junction of the Drymen Road to Edenmill Farm. (see 5a & 5f). They are checking to see if enforcement procedures can be used.

h) Moor House, Old Mugdock Road – Following inquiries about the extra entrance onto Old Mugdock Road, MV has been told that it is not a planning issue but may be of interest to the Roads Department.

i) Telecommunication masts – MV has received information about all the masts in our area.

j) Outline proposal for a house in the grounds of Aros Cottage, Moor Road. – It was noted that Aros Cottage had been demolished and permission had been given for a replacement house which was still to be built. The current proposal is for an additional house.

After looking at the plans the CC agreed to respond as they had for a similar proposal at The Firs, Moor Road. (see 6b). WO noted that the policy document should be out for consultation in June. (ACTION MV)

k) Ongoing issues – The CC is waiting for responses from SC about an illegal caravan at Edenmill Farm, Auchineden; a proposal for a house at Valhalla stables, Old Mugdock Road; and outline proposal for a house in the grounds of Tamarac, Moor Road.

l) Proposal for a new House in Station Road – Philip Graves (PG) reported that this had been approved by SC and would include the provision of off-street parking.

m) Activities at Mugdock Country Park – PG referred to two reports in the planning schedule. He was concerned that efforts to increase visitor numbers to the country park by introducing more commercial ventures and events was threatening the rural character of the park. He noted that there had been 250 countryside events in the past 4 years. WO suggested that PG draw up a critique for discussion at a future CC meeting. He noted that the expansion of commercial activities was causing over capacity use of the access roads which could become a health and safety issue. John Gray (JG) commented that many of these events were of an educational nature and were enjoyed by families locally, as well as from Glasgow, but there was a need for more parking spaces within the park. PG will try to access the basis of the reports and wondered if it were possible to have a local representative on the park committee. (ACTION PG)

7. Roads – (Up-date from Robert Flashman (RF) roads correspondent.)

a) Traffic management – SC has acknowledged receipt of the steering group's recommendations for prioritising the remaining areas of the scheme, and will discuss this once the budget has been finalised. RF had asked about the areas still to be completed for the Safer Route to School from the Kirkhouse inn car park, namely the pedestrian ramp and the hatching at the island; he had also asked when the 20mph roundels would be painted. He had learned that legal technicalities are still being finalised regarding the ramp, but the hatching at the island, and the 20mph roundels, will be painted shortly. A member of the public had raised concern about the lack of hard standing at the re-sited bus stop; RF will follow this up. (ACTION RF)

b) Old Mugdock Road – Alastair Smith(AS) reported that rocks had been placed on a bend beside a passing place on Old Mugdock Rd and could prove a safety hazard. It was generally agreed that the rocks presented less of a danger than did cars parked on this bend, but the rocks needed to be moved further back. RF was asked to investigate. (ACTION RF)

8. Environmental issues

a) Helicopter flights – RF referred to complaints from the public about noise nuisance caused by helicopter flights from Strathblane Helipad, at Muirhouse Farm, passing directly over houses during recent weekends when residents were outside enjoying the warm weather. Details were given by a concerned resident who was present at the meeting - 1 or 2 flights per hour from 9.30am to 5pm; machines flying low and hovering over gardens; engines running between landing and take off. It was noted that planning permission is not required unless flights take place on more than 28 days per year. WO thought that there was also a restriction on the number of movements over a given period of time. JG considered that those responsible should be asked not to hover over gardens, and he suggested that the number of movements should be monitored, the sooner the better. It was also suggested that inquiries be made to SNH as to whether or not the noise could have an adverse affect on wildlife.

Reference was made to an incident 2 years ago when a horse had to be put down after it was injured when startled by a low flying helicopter. RF was asked to find out details. PG recommended that the CC ask SC for information, and JG agreed to draft a letter for consideration by the members. (ACTION RF & JG)

b) Population statistics – David Anderson, secretary, reported that SC had sent information showing that Stirling had the fifth highest rise in population in Scotland, with a rate of 1%. He was asked to forward the information to all cc members. (ACTION DA)

c) Estate Agent signs – AS raised concerns about the number of signs being displayed and pointed out that it was illegal to put signs anywhere other than in the grounds of the property for sale. It was agreed that he should draft a letter to be sent to the agents. (ACTION AS)

d) Loss of trees – JG reported that SC would not replace the trees that were taken down in Kirkburn Road because of potential damage to property, but they would reinstate the verge. JG suggested that small trees with root retainers should not pose a problem.

e) Community Service by Offenders – A letter received, inviting suggestions for projects that would benefit the community, had been passed to Elspeth Posnett who had responded expressing interest. She will follow this up on return from holiday. (ACTION EP)

f) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) – WO introduced Dermot Hawkins who had asked to speak to the CC about a proposal for a MUGA, on the school playing field. Dermot outlined the proposal and progress to date: he was a member of the School Board and the Football Club and had been looking for funds to drain part of the field and install a MUGA for the use of the school and the wider community; the court would be 36 x 18 feet with an astro- turf surface; the Scottish Football Association, SC Children's Services and Active Stirling had each pledged £10,000; £15,000 had been granted, through the CC, from the Council's Local Community Grant Fund, subject to the rest of the money being secured; the proposal had been extended to include floodlighting making the total cost £75 –£80,000; it was intended to apply for a lottery grant from Sports Scotland for the remaining funds; although theoretically planning permission is required, SC had said that this was not necessary provided there is evidence of active consultation with residents around the school; Dermot would like to make the application in the name of the CC as it was important to show community support.

WO questioned whether or not the CC was eligible to apply to the lottery. Concerns were expressed about the impact of floodlighting and the need for thorough consultation. JG referred to the arrangements at the tennis club regarding the use of floodlighting, and offered to forward to Dermot a copy of the agreed hours. JG asked if there were any arrangements for parking and was told that access would be via a new footpath to be created from the school playground, and also from the surrounding public paths. Following discussion the CC offered to act as banker, if it was eligible to do so, provided that no CC money was involved, and that the necessary consultation was carried out by those drawing up the application. RF suggested that the Community Development Trust Steering Group might provide an alternative channel for obtaining a lottery grant, should the CC not be eligible.

g) CCTV – AS referred to the recently installed cameras in the school grounds. He questioned the rationale for these and asked if the CC would ask for the poles to be painted a more environmentally friendly colour as was done for the floodlighting at the roundabout on the A81; it was agreed to do so. It was noted that no consultation had taken place regarding the introduction of CCTV, and neither the local councillor, local police, School Board nor Community Council had been informed of this. WO wondered if the CC should make inquiries as to the justification for the decision. It was reported that a member of the public had emailed the Council with a number of questions about this and AS agreed to forward the email to cc members. (ACTION AS)

h) Collapsed gabions – AS reported the problem of erosion of the river bank between the football field and gardens in Southview Drive, around the area of the public bench. SC had been informed of the problem and AS agreed to follow this up. (ACTION AS)

9. Correspondence

A list of correspondence was circulated to members prior to the meeting and David Anderson (DA), secretary, referred to the following items.

a) CC conference on Sat. 16 June – WO hoped to attend. There was still time for others to decide.

b) Friends of the Earth training regarding planning applications – To be referred to MV.

c) SC Grass Cutting Service consultation – The response time was very short and so DA was asked to put a note into the local papers seeking public response. (ACTION DA)

10. Finance

It was reported that SC's Local Community Development Fund had been withdrawn by the Scottish Executive and that £1000 is now the maximum grant to be obtained from SC.

11. Area Community Planning

JG and others had attended the April meeting. They received feedback from the previous meeting and were given presentations about planning for community facilities and economic business opportunities. Dates of future meetings - 25 June, 24 September, 26 November.

12. AOB

A member of the public reported that the Council mobile unit is in the area every day and will respond to any complaints about litter if reported to SC contact centre - 0845 700 2777 or info@stirling.org.uk.

WO reminded members that there would be an informal meeting before the next CC meeting.

13. Dates of next two meetings – 11th June, also AGM, in the school. 6th August in the Village Club.