



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 1st October 2007 in the School

1. **Members Present:** - David Anderson, Fiona Murray, Willie Oswald, Margaret Vass, Marjorie Peddie, Elspeth Posnett, Alastair Smith, Robert Flashman, Finlay Fountain, Philip Graves.

In attendance: - PC Barr, 9 public

Apologies: - John Gray, Pam Campbell (SC), (Patsy Fischbacher, minute secretary.)

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

2. **Welcome** - Willie Oswald (WO), chairman, welcomed all present and thanked Councillor O'Brien for attending.

3. **Minutes of last meeting** - Agreed. Proposed – David Anderson. Seconded – Elspeth Posnett.

4. **Matters arising** - Councillor O'Brien mentioned the Christmas Tree lights and WO stated that it would be brought up later in the meeting.

5. **Police matters** - PC Barr updated the meeting and answered questions

a) Crime report - In the past month there had been had 11 crime files and these included thefts, Road Traffic and Drug use.

- On the 12th September the Post Office at Strathblane was broken into. This opportunist thief gained access by a side door and a sum of money was stolen. PC Barr said that this crime may well be linked to other thefts in the area of a similar nature and that their enquiries were ongoing.
- A Lawnmower was stolen from St Kessogs on 22nd September.

- 27th September a Drug Search Warrant was issued on a house in Strathblane where a quantity of Ecstasy tablets and a sum of money was seized. A 22 year old male will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal under the misuse of drugs act 1971. This was part of 'Operation Overlord' the object being to coordinate and target drugs in the Stirling area. PC Barr stated that in his six years in this area, this was the first time he had been in attendance in a house search for such a crime and it was believed that the drugs were not for distribution locally.
 - There were two break ins at Mugdock Country Park and also at the Khyber Pass and the Beech Tree Inn. The police are following a line of enquiry. Additionally there will be a Plain Clothes initiative which will involve Strathclyde Police to monitor these areas as the boundaries cross over.
- b) PC Barr also had a number of leaflets available for anyone who wished to avail themselves and said that an initiative was in progress to raise awareness of steps that householders could take to secure their property from opportunistic house breakers. The Police were also to leaflet individual properties that could be identified as being at risk.
- c) Road Traffic collisions: - There were 5 reported with 3 being slight. 1 with damage only and sadly 1 fatal on 14th September which involved an 18 year old female from Dryman whose car crossed the road, out of control onto an oncoming vehicle. It is believed that a contributory factor may have been that the road was slippery, there having been rainfall after a very dry period. PC Barr said that the Police were constantly raising awareness of the need to slow traffic and make drivers more cautious.

6. Correspondence - (DA), secretary, had circulated a list of correspondence to the members prior to the meeting. He referred to the following items.

- a) Correspondence was received from Strathblane Bowling Club who expressed dismay that the CC has contacted SC on the height of their hedge. David Anderson responded to the Bowling Club to assure them that the CC had not been in touch with SC regarding this. A member of the Public stated that it may have been more community spirited if the individual who contacted SC had instead gone directly to them. WO assured him that his comments were noted.
- b) David Anderson has been requested to complete the pro forma for the nominations for National Office.

7. Environmental Issues

- a) Christmas lights must be erected by a qualified electrician.
- b) Up-date from Elspeth Posnett (EP), environment correspondent
- EP contacted Jenny Elliott regarding the overgrown hedge on Campsie Road . This has been made a priority and the work has been carried out.

- EP reported that the Criminal Justice department were keen to do any odd paint jobs in the area and that further to her email to Norrie Gilmour the outstanding work of painting the wooden hand rails in Danny's Bray and also Kirkburn Drive has since been carried out.

c) Community Action Day – This work was carried out on 16th Sept and although there was a poor turnout, owing to the inclement weather conditions, those in attendance agreed that it had been worthwhile.

8. Finance

Alastair Smith reported that as there had been no movement in Finance, there was nil to report. Also that the budget for the 2007 Christmas Tree stood at £850.00.

9. Roads

a) Public meeting on Old Mugdock Road policy.

- Robert Flashman (RF) has drafted a letter re OMR and the CC position, vis a vis the improvements that were proposed. There was lengthy discussion on this, however it was felt that as the CC had not yet seen the draft, that WO and RF would meet to discuss the content, prior to circulation of the letter to the CC and before submission to SC. RF broadly outlined the content and emphasised that Transport Planning should be persuaded to produce another plan uninhibited by financial constraints (the developers contribution as it stands represents about 5% only of their gain).

b) Maintenance

- RF reported that due to constant pressure on the funds available within the road budget, roads are the big issue which are in extremely poor repair. RF had stressed this point at an Area 5 Forum meeting he attended to Head of Maintenance Stirling Council and councillors. He invited Colin O'Brien to comment. CO'B confirmed that for a number of years Roads had suffered in the budget process due to major projects such as a new Balfroon School but that the time had come for appropriate remedial action to be taken and it was a line he would pursue.

10. Planning

a) Margaret Vass reported that:

- The West Arlehaven replacement house had been approved
- The house at 41-53 Glasgow Rd had been refused

- There have been a number of house extensions
- Planning enforcement action may be taken on a fence in Kirkburn Ave
- The 3 planning applications at Moor Rd: Tamarac, the Firs and north of Aros house have been reconsidered by the Planning Panel who are minded to approve the applications subject to a section 75 agreement to pay for improvements to Old Mugdock R.

b) The following applications were considered following a break to allow community council members and the public to view the plans and drawings:

- House NE of 26 Campsie Dene Rd: It was agreed to neither support nor oppose this application, Philip Graves will submit the comments to avoid any conflict of interest as this application relates to a neighbour of the planning correspondent.
- Outline permission for a house in garden ground at 40 Old Mugdock Rd: It was agreed to neither support nor oppose the application but that we recommend that a section 75 agreement is put in place to contribute to the cost of improvements to Old Mugdock Rd as this policy is not yet approved. It was also agreed to draw attention to the fact that the access proposed was between 2 sharp bends.
- 2 Outline applications for houses at Edenmill Farm and a detailed application for a large farmhouse at Edenmill Farm were continued for the planning group to discuss and recommend a response to the next community council meeting on 5 th November. Margaret was to seek an extension from Stirling.

c) It was also confirmed that enforcement action is being checked re the residential caravan at Edenmill and the caravan close to Valhalla where an enforcement notice has already been served.

11. Finance

Alastair Smith, treasurer, reported that the annual admin grant of £371 had been approved. He also reiterated that there was £850.00 available for the 2007 Christmas Tree.

12. Area Community Planning

Due to lack of time it was agreed that Alastair Smith's report should be attached as an appendix to the minutes

13. Dates of next two meetings – 5th November and 3rd December at 7.30pm in the school.