

Draft Minute of Strathblane Community Council Meeting

8 June 09 Strathblane Primary School, 7.30pm



Attendees

Philip Graves	Chair of the Community Council
Margaret Vass	Vice Chair and Planning Convenor
David Anderson	Secretary
Bob Flashman	Roads
Elspeth Posnett	Environment/tubs
John Gray	Web/IT
Willie Oswald	Community Council member
Graham Lambie	Councillor, Forth and Endrick Ward, Stirling Council
Pam Campbell	Rural Development Worker Stirling Council
David McNally	Police Constable, Central Scotland Police
Members of the public	

Apologies

Fiona Murray	Treasurer
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Agenda

- 1 Welcome from the Chair & any apologies
- 2 Minute of the Strathblane Community Council meeting, May 09
- 3 Police Report: Police Constable David McNally
- 4 Planning Matters
 - a) House in field East of Old Mugdock Road - rejected
 - b) Wind Energy: Stirling Council Consultation paper
 - c) other
- 5 Community Development Trust
 - a) Report from Robert Flashman on latest developments (£106,000 Grant, Village Survey)
 - b) Further SCC Representation on the Community Development Trust?
- 6 Roads
 - a) A81 and Speed/Traffic Management
 - b) other
- 7 Local Development Plan/Housing Needs
 - a) Feedback from last month's meeting
 - b) Strathblane Community Council's Initial Response
- 8 Environmental Issues
 - a) Village signs and notice boards
 - b) Village tubs
- 9 Finance
 - a) Minute-taker grant

- b) Photocopier future?
- 10 Correspondence
- 11 AOCB
- 12 Confirmation of next two meeting dates

1 Welcome from the Chairman

Philip Graves welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 The minute of the last meeting was approved subject to one minor amendment. The minute was proposed by Margaret Vass and seconded by Elspeth Posnett.

3 Police Report: Police Constable David McNally

- 5 May, break-in at the Art and Craft building at Mugdock Visitors' Centre. A window was broken and jewellery stolen
- There had been some housebreaking in the village:
2 break-ins at Campsie Road and Kirkhouse Avenue: jewellery and a computer were stolen. Those responsible were thought to come from outwith the area. The modus operandi was to break a window and obtain keys
- 24 May, an adult with a knife was apprehended
- 26/27 May, a shed in Moor Road was broken into with the theft of a mountain bike and 2 lawnmowers
- There were no other reported thefts of a serious nature.

Road Accidents

- 13 May at the Glasgow/Station Road junction, there was a collision, a car went through metal fencing
- 24 May at Duntreath, a car was badly damaged: the stray cow was uninjured
- 6 June at Campsie Road/Ballagan Farm, a car went through the stone dyke
- 6 June at the Carbeth fishery, a car hit a telegraph pole
- A dog was hit by a car, two vehicles were involved

The zebra crossing

At the zebra crossing, there was still no School Crossing Patrol Officer. P.C. McNally had discussed the matter with the school and discovered there had been no applicants for the post, despite advertisements in The Blane and around the village. In addition, the lines on the crossing were faded and cars were not stopping. The crossing was positioned on a bend.

P.C. McNally offered to continue to supervise the school crossing in the meantime and to contact the Roads Department to have the crossing re-lined.

Elspeth Posnett pointed out that trees block the view of the crossing. P.C. McNally agreed and added that drivers tended to observe cars ahead and that peripheral vision was poor.

Philip Graves suggested re-advertising the post in The Blane.

There was some discussion on the Council Report. Advice had been sought from Stirling Council regarding the positioning of the crossing. A lit crossing had been considered to be the more dangerous option as drivers might then have been tempted to accelerate through traffic light changes. Parents had felt traffic lights would have been safer, at a cost of £30,000 to £40,000. P.C. McNally pointed out that pedestrian/traffic flow was a determinant in the positioning of traffic lights.

2 Planning Matters

- Margaret Vass reported that there were a considerable number of live applications to be discussed and more were in the pipeline but not yet on the schedule. The Planning Group would therefore be required to meet and take decisions, if the extensions of time to comment, until August, were not possible.
- John Gray spoke of the planning officer's recommendation to refuse the planning application for the house in the field east of Old Mugdock Road. This had been a test of the new policies and these had stood up to the test so far. There had been no justification for referral.
John Gray was thanked for his work and contribution to the Community Council's response to the policy document.
- Wind Energy: Stirling Council Consultation Paper
Philip Graves had intended to make some comments on this, but thought the deadline was too tight to do this now
- Ardunan Lodge 09/00342/FUL
A revised application had been submitted to move the proposed house back from the main road. John Gray explained that difficult technical challenges had arisen. The original house was found to be leaking and its foundations cracked. Both John Gray and Philip Graves felt that screening and landscaping would minimise its effect on the surrounding greenbelt. However there was concern as to whether a modern house, perched on the skyline of a hill on the greenbelt, was appropriate. The Community Council would submit comment on the need for landscaping to Stirling Council as a condition to building.
- Planning Application 10 Close Care units 09/00358/FUL
Planning application had been submitted for 5 semi-detached houses linked to the Blanefield Nursing Home. Margaret Vass suggested the matter be remitted to the planning subgroup. Margaret Vass questioned as to whether the layout of the houses was designed to meet client needs. The houses had an upstairs floor, no wheelchair turning area and downstairs there was a small bathroom with no room for a hoist. The layout did not in the first instance, appear match the needs of community care housing. An opportunity to discuss this application for 5 two storey, two bedroomed houses with the care home management, was suggested. The initial assessment suggested opposition to the building of 10 houses in a greenbelt area.
It was suggested that the matter be referred to the Planning group with a time extension; until the second week in August. John Gray suggested offering the owners an opportunity to present their case.
It was agreed that the application would be opposed subject to further clarification from the applicants. Pam Campbell advised that asking for an extended deadline would be acceptable, as Community Councils do not as a rule meet during the summer break. It was agreed to request an extension until August.
- 22 Campsie Dene Road 09/00350/FUL
Margaret Vass had requested revised plans as there was concern over the height of the house. [The plans had not yet arrived.]
- Retrospective application from Edenmill Farm, Mugdock Road 09/00341/FUL
The plans were not yet available for discussion. The planning sub group would consider the application, but until the access to the Edenmill developments was sorted out, Margaret Vass

suggested that we were likely to oppose. Cllr Lambie said that a roundabout at Carbeth at the junction of the B821 and A809 was a possibility, to curb excessive speeding and ease vehicle access to Edenmill. It was agreed that the representative of the Council should attend the initial preview of the site, which would take place within the next 10 days. It was considered important that members of the public should have an opportunity to comment on any planning decisions.

- Houses at Land north of Aros House, Moor Rd 09/00380/FUL
These were replacement houses for previous approvals.

- Houses on land west of An Larach 09/00372/OUT
Local residents expressed concern regarding 25/30 tonne lorries crossing the bridge at Milndavie Road, at weights well above the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. Residents also expressed concern that during the reconstruction of the new bridge, houses would be deprived of emergency vehicle cover. However, an integral part of the building application was that a new bridge was to be built. Mr Pickard said the road would be upgraded, but not widened. There was also concern expressed about on-site parking of the lorries. It was agreed that lorries should not be parked in private driveways. Philip Graves suggested scheduling a more detailed discussion of these issues at the next meeting in August.

- Community Development Trust
Date of the AGM: 17 June in the Village Club

6 **Roads Report:** Bob Flashman

- The re-painting of pedestrian crossing was with the contractors. Work should begin within the next week. In terms of the safety, the positioning of the crossing was considered satisfactory and based on the report of the Police Collision Unit [Jim Allen].

- B 821 Traffic lights would help at the Station Road junction, but would not solve the problem. Traffic needed to be slowed down. One solution at the Netherblane end would have been a chicane, but this would have disturbed the verge and it was considered that residents would have been reluctant to lose the grass verge. It was thought that people travelling through the village might have been satisfied with a chicane, but the people who lived there might have had objections.
There was to be an extension until 24 June. 8 representatives from the village would meet, within a 7 to 10 day timescale to discuss the issue.
It was pointed out that the speed of traffic travelling north to Killearn would be reduced but not traffic coming from the north. Some considered the verge inconsequential, if traffic were to be slowed down.

- Residents expressed concern about the huge lorries accessing Valhalla and the resulting safety issues. It was pointed out that weight limit signs should be there. Graham Lambie referred to the 1985 Road Traffic Act and suggested that the tonnage restriction signs should be replaced.

- Bob Flashman suggested restricted tonnage signs on Old Mugdock Road leading off from the A 81. The original entrance to Valhalla was from the A81. It was noted that access from the A81 would not comply with normal agricultural access. Bob Flashman will suggest to the Roads department to make contact with Valhalla. The sub group would re-convene. Margaret Vass asked for details on the membership of the working group.

Robert Flashman
Richard Callender
Murray O'Donnell
Patsy Fischbacher
Finlay Fountain
Jane McCallum

It was suggested that the group include Community Councillors and that the Blanefield ward should of course be represented.

- Mr Pickard will make a contribution to the repair fund for Moor Road.
- Cuilt Brae will be resurfaced as part of Stirling Council's road maintenance improvement programme for Strathblane.

7 Local Development Plan and Housing Needs: Margaret Vas

Main Issues report 26 June 09

Ideas for the Local Development Plan should go to Margaret Vass. Any member of the public should email Margaret Vass within the next two weeks. Councillor Lambie said this date could be extended.

The scoping document contained several ideas:

- A Regional Park for the Campsies
- Supported Housing for people with Additional Support Needs
- A play park
- A centre for the village
- Small scale work spaces

Schools had been involved in the consultation process through Parents' Councils

- Councillor Lambie spoke about a paper moving forward on the Regional Park idea.
- Patsy Fischbacher noted that she had attended a Stirling Council workshop and one of the main outcomes was the recognition that the Council would look at each village independently and responding to specific matters.
- Councillor Lambie spoke about his proposal to develop Strathblane Primary School through a community solution, with a view to integrating the primary school, library provision, community arts facilities in a single high quality new building. The community would be involved at all stages of this feasibility study. Imaginative, speculative possibilities to fit into the Development Plan were welcomed. Ideas should be submitted either to Margaret Vass or, directly to Councillor Lambie.

8 Environmental Issues Elspeth Posnett

- John Gray, Fiona Murray and Elspeth Posnett will form a working group to discuss village noticeboards.
- Village tubs: Elspeth Posnett will organise a tubs day.
- Thistle Pavilion committee are unable to repaint the pavilion until the autumn, due to cost.

9 **Correspondence** David Anderson

Letters

- Stirling Council Notice of Petitions panel meeting on 21/05/09
- Stirling Council Joint Rural Forum meeting 28/05/09
- Stirling council Rural South West Area Forum meeting, Area Community Planning Forum 01/06/09
- Email from George Thom to Community Council regarding the Energy Audit
- Forestry Commission Environmental Impact Assessment on the Auchineden Hill Planting
- East Stirling Community Forum Invitation to attend a meeting on 22/06/09 in Stirling regarding the new Acute Hospital in Larbert
- Association of Scottish Community Councils Invitation to nominate a member of Strathblane Community Council to be the area representative. Form to be returned by 30/06/09
- Walk Our Way to a Healthier Forth Valley. Details of a conference at the Raploch campus, Stirling 19/06/09
- Stirling Council Notice of Executive Meeting 04/06/09
- Stirling Council Notice of Planning Panel meeting 04/06/09: nothing listed for our area
- Letter from SCC regarding Strathblane library

Circulars and notices

Nil

10 **Dates of next 2 meetings**

7.30pm 3 August in the Village Club

7.30pm 7 September in Strathblane Primary School

The meeting ended at 9.45pm