



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 2nd March 2009 at 7.30pm, Strathblane Primary School

Present

Philip Graves (Chair), David Anderson (Secretary), Margaret Vass (Vice Chair/Planning), John Gray, Elspeth Posnett, Willie Oswald, Robert Flashman, Fiona Murray (Treasurer), Marjorie Peddie

Cllr Alistair Berrill (AB), Patsy Fischbacher (*The Blane*), 7 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chair & any apologies.

Apologies Pam Campbell (Stirling Council); PC David McNally (*via* ChInsp Findlater)

2. Minutes of January's meeting.

The Minutes of the 2 February 2009 meeting, circulated in advance, were approved subject to a correction and a clarification by WO. Proposed WO, seconded MV.

WO requested clarification of the petition process discussed at previous two meetings. AB explained this is a Stirling Council initiative. A Petitions committee sits to consider petitions. [See further comment below under Roads.]

3. Police Report

It was noted with concern that PC McNally was absent due to injury in a car accident, though a full recovery was expected. PG would pass on SCC's best wishes.

PG advised that the culprits behind the **burglary** at his house (past Minutes) had been apprehended. JG & MV reported remarks by ChInsp Findlater at the recent Area Forum meeting that maybe two out of three gangs actively locally have been apprehended. A major contribution was for the public to note down and report registration numbers of suspicious cars and other behaviours. This led to the good result in this case.

5. Planning Matters.

Extension to function suite at Country House Hotel – no problem seen, and should improve this local facility/employer. Agreed to Support.

Detail for house to rear of 29 Glasgow Road. Outline application already approved. Suggested neither support nor oppose. No adverse comments received by CC. Agreed.

Valhalla Appeal. Thanks to JG who had put together brief submission to correct applicant's suggestions that CC enthusiastic about project. Site visit by Reporter is imminent. PF to forward detail to PG in case he can attend as an observer.

Training for Local Development Plan 21 Feb 2009.

MV JG attended. Useful but daunting. LDP will replace the current Structure Plan and Local Plan (with alterations). Will be joined up with development of housing strategy. Strathblane CC will have real advantage if forthcoming village survey being organised by CDT can feed into this programme. MV, JG believe CC joining up with CDT will be critical. Positive direction in community engagement seems to be there. MV recommends CC has an extra meeting to plan campaign.

Area Community Planning Forum.

MV JG attended this also. Topic was **housing**. Unfortunately SC housing chief couldn't take part at short notice. Director of Rural Stirling Housing Association did excellent job as stand-in. Introduced Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) which shows Stirling has ambitious plans for investment in new 'social' housing, both by council and housing associations. No locations are fixed in our village, but there are some blanks in the plan that we could flag as potentially coming to suitable sites in Strathblane/Blanefield.

MV, PG, WO, JG, EP are interested to meet CDT. **RF to liaise with CDT to set up.**

Housing in the Countryside

Council adopted the revised policy as considered at our previous meeting, which we believe has major safeguards over the original. MV noted with satisfaction that JG's comments submitted for SCC appeared in minutes in Planning Schedule. Council further decided to require officers to consider varying the requirement for contributions to affordable housing, to catch single dwellings of very high value, which had been a shortcoming highlighted in JG's comments. Good news for a *Blane* article, which JG had agreed to write. **Action JG.**

Question re Edenmill –

The applicant's agent had been unable to attend the CC meeting – MV will try to arrange for planning group to meet with applicant's agent. **Action MV**

PF queried **replacement house in Blane Avenue** - house looks huge for the site, towering over neighbour bungalow. It was recalled that the house was approved for extension then found unsound, so applied for replacement house instead. WO, in a personal capacity, had queried the scale of the development at the time of the application and had been advised it was within guidelines. PF could check if plans do not reflect reality, otherwise it was agreed we cannot raise objections now.

4. Roads.

a) A81 and Speed/Traffic Management

RF noted that the **bollards** for central parts of A81 in Blane field are still awaited – new style bollards have been specified and these are delayed.

Speed activated sign at Ballewan is still in repair, but expected back within 2 weeks (though this has been said before).

RF tried to take up visibility issues at **Zebra crossing** with Police collision unit. Council officers say they don't see a problem but a new person at the police may bring a fresh eye. EP notes lack of crossing officer since October. Resident contacted Mr Izzard and found there is nobody to cover it due to sickness. In the meantime, there is more than one incident of concern:

A resident (HS) reported an accident at the Zebra 23 Jan 2009, morning. A car behind shunted a car which had stopped to allow teenage boy to cross. May not have been reported to police. Offence being committed by drivers but now seems to be council rather than police responsibility.

Other incident reported by EP at previous meeting was an evening, 14th January 2009. Therefore there were two serious incidents within a week.

Discussed whether poor lighting was a factor, either by the nature of the installation or due to foliage around the lamps.. WO recalled that upgraded lighting was proposed in original scheme and perhaps should be revisited – was it lost in design of new installation? WO suggests writing (i) on lighting and (ii) on crossing patrol. AB will also take feedback.

Action RF to write on (i).

PF wonders if crossing sign approaching crossing are effective – maybe a bit obscure. Problem direction seems to be vehicles heading north. MV believes paint too faded and agreed this should also be mentioned by RF.

Re **crossing patrol**, can we assist finding a local candidate? PF will highlight vacancy in *Blane*. Unattractiveness of hours & commitment are a definitely obstacle to recruitment. AB will enquire how SC haven't managed *any* days covered, and will try to clarify whether there is active recruitment. WO also suggests petition option if other avenues fail. HS raised concerns with Stirling Council Leader but was referred to Cllr Lambie (GL). AB will liaise with GL to see if he has learned anything by now.

Q: Why no traffic lights at this crossing? WO recalled statistics didn't satisfy designers' criteria. Accidents actually increase if crossings with signals are put in places where the traffic doesn't justify it.

There was a query re Siemens engineers noted taking measurements at **Station Road**. Does this indicate progress? RF recalled that SC are awaiting report from consultants; presence of staff probably indicates investigations are well in hand. Report should come any time now.

b) General

Residents from Edenkiln Place were present, who had raised the issue of the **crash barriers at brae** on A81 (see JG query in Feb Minutes). Surely suitable barriers could be found, even if old style barriers not suitable to be replaced? History of accidents does exist e.g. lorry jackknifed. Vehicle cab went through opposite hedge but trailer could easily have breached hedge into house gardens. Noted that Police should have reports. AB learned that new flats residents association (Station Lofts/Cockalane View) also complaining about their barrier (A891) had been removed because damaged. Stephen Todd replied to them that barrier would no be replaced because criteria for presence of such a barrier were not met. WO aware of barrier being logged at Cuilt Brae. WO had also enquired about Cockalane View barrier but had no reply.

Action RF to write to Hunter Jamieson at SC re barrier issues, and residents encouraged to write as well. WO recommends to copy all enquiries to info@stirling.gov.uk .

Petitions - DA now has copy Petition on **Cuult Brae Road (B821)** state. This needs work & discussion before submission. Guidelines for the petition process suggest that petitions process is really for cases where 'normal' channels have been tried, with unsatisfactory response. Key issue seems to be getting research, evidence of contributions. Agreed petition should not be submitted until other enquiries confirmed the problem: key question for this example is, what works are to be covered by the funding tranches allocated to B821?

6. Environmental issues.

a) Village signs

WO reports on grant application to Community Pride Fund for gateway signs. We promised in our application to consult with roads. WO found the response from Roads was disappointing, suggesting flexible plastic signs for safety. Awaiting further response from Roads to open more sympathetic negotiation.

b) General

DA received notification of meeting re **forestry planting at Auchineden/Burncrooks** and meeting Wed 4th March. Interested members could attend.

Leylandii – Doesn't seem to be anything we can do. WO would prefer that licence required to grow them but knows that there is no such regulation.

New CC Noticeboard at Bank

JG reported that permissions had been received from the three businesses which own the grassed area. JG was pursuing enquiries with SC planner to confirm whether planning consent would be required for this development. **Action JG**

7. Area Community Forum (Meeting 23 Feb 2009)

MV and JG had attended the recent meeting. MV mentioned she had identified Killearn as an example of good CC practice, which involves young people, visiting speakers and minimal mundane business at CC meetings.

Single Outcome Agreement – M had become aware of this consultation and meeting 25 March 2009. The SOA is under revision which, which governs relations between Council and central government and other agencies. Consultation is under way . Too soon for us to answer by Friday, but members will provide comments to MV for a late entry. Members will confirm who can attend meeting on 25 March.

8. Correspondence.

Correspondence received alleging concerns about bookings in halls. WO (one member of Village Club committee) felt the intervention was unhelpful. There have been issues in organisation of VC but these were being addressed. There had also been an article in *The Blane* encouraging new members on VC committee. VC committee was trying to get booking forms on website & standardise access arrangements. Edmonstone Hall a different topic – no information available.

9. AOCB.

None

10. Community Development Trust – update on Village Survey project

MV, JG were keen to see progress in this, because of the potential for answers to feed into Local Development Plan, housing strategy etc.. Council officers had indicated that there is probably a ready-made set of questions that can be included on housing. **Action RF** to check timescales with CDT – SCC ready to join and help move this forward.

14. Confirmation of next two meeting dates.

DA confirmed the next two dates and proposed dates for all 2009: **6 April***, 11 May, 8 June (AGM), 3 August*, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December 2009,

All 7.30pm in Strathblane Primary School except * in **Village Club**.

APPROVED AT APRIL MEETING