

Minute of Strathblane Community Council Meeting

5 October 09 Strathblane Primary School, 7.30pm

Attendees

Philip Graves	Chair of the Community Council
David Anderson	Secretary
Fiona Murray	Treasurer
Bob Flashman	Roads
Elsbeth Posnett	Environment/tubs
John Gray	Web/IT/Planning
Willie Oswald	Community Council member
Keith Hutton	Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group
Alistair Berrill	Councillor, Forth and Endrick Ward 2
Pam Campbell	Rural Development Worker Stirling Council

Apologies

Margaret Vass	Vice Chair and Planning Convenor
David McNally	Police Constable, Central Scotland Police

Agenda

- 1 Welcome from the Chair and Apologies
- 2 Minutes of September's meeting: additions to Planning minutes
- 3 Police Report
- 4 Environmental issues
 - a Keith Hutton of the Carbon Neutral Group: Village Energy Audit launch
 - b New village notice board – potential users/key holders
 - c Stirling Council's Wind-farm Planning Policy Consultation
- 5 Planning Matters
 - a Erection of building containing 2 flats south of No.10 Dunglass View 09/00639FUL
 - b Proposed house near Edenmill Farm 09/00584/FUL
 - c Extension to Rockfield, Mugdock 09/00602/FUL
 - d Strathblane Community Council's complaints about Stirling Council's online Public Access coverage
 - e Other decisions recently made and pending; see Stirling Council's Public Access at http://planpub.stirling.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx
Scroll down and enter Strathblane Community Council in the Community Council box
- 6 Roads
 - a A81/Station Road Junction: report on letter to Stirling Council
 - b Other
- 7 Finance
 - a Administration Grant and The Blane contribution.
 - b Photocopier future and alternative sources of revenue
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 AOCB
- 10 Confirmation of next two meeting dates and a potential change to the December meeting

1 **Welcome from the Chair and Apologies**

Philip Graves welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Margaret Vass, Vice Chairperson and from David McNally, Central Scotland Police.

2 **Minutes of the last meeting**

There was one amendment to draft 4, in section 9 Finance. The approved minute was proposed by Elspeth Posnett and seconded by David Anderson.

3 Fiona Murray spoke appreciatively of the Police presence and speed cameras on the Glasgow Road effectively deterring speeding motorists.

4 **Environmental Issues:**

Presentation by Keith Hutton of the Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group

The Aim:

The key aim of the project was to assist the community to reduce energy usage in their homes and thereby reduce costs and carbon emissions.

The Offer:

A free energy survey and appropriate advice to every household in the community, consisting of:

- A home visit to discuss energy usage and to complete a standard national energy questionnaire.
- Review of appropriate energy efficiency options.
- Review of a coloured thermal image of the front of the property to assess if there were any major cost-saving opportunities.
- Offer of assistance to get the benefit of lower-cost social tariffs on energy bills, depending on circumstances.
- Offer of assistance to get appropriate grants e.g. for installation of energy-saving insulation.
- Offer of additional in-depth review of possible energy-saving measures (detailed thermographic survey, renewable energy etc).

The Process:

Householders would receive a letter and a flyer explaining the project and proposing a date and time for the survey at their home. There was no compulsion to take part.

The thermal images would be processed by [IRT Energy](#), based in Dundee. This company had developed a method of processing the images that helps to quantify the amount of heat loss, and thus estimate the potential cost savings.

The thermographic photos had to be taken at night, when the conditions were appropriate, i.e. when the heating systems were on, and the weather was dry and cold. In order to keep costs down, all the photos would be taken in as few nights as possible. On the nights that the photos were to be taken, the police would be notified that this is what was happening, and posters would be put up in the village to let people know. The process would be silent and would not create any disturbance - flashes were not required!

The People:

The advisors, who have been employed from the community to carry out the work, are Philip Graves and Alan Sharpe. They have undertaken detailed training.

The project was being managed by Solas Insulation. Graham McLennan was managing the project, and Jim Percival was taking a lead role for Solas.

The Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group (BVCNG) was administering the project on behalf of the Strathblanefield Community Development Trust, through which the funding was awarded. Keith Hutton and Blair Armstrong were overseeing the project on behalf of the BVCNG.

The Funding:

The BVCNG applied for funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund. This was approved in March 2009. £106,885 of funding had been allocated to run the project over the period 2009-2010

Questions

- When would the project start?

The project would start immediately.

- How long would the energy survey take?

30 to 40 minutes per household.

- When would the data be available?

The data would be available in a couple of weeks.

The thermal image would capture the front of the building. Householders would be required to pay for the rest of the house.

- Pam Campbell asked if those in fuel poverty would be given advice.

Advice would be given and there would also be referral to other agencies and advice bureaux

David Anderson alerted the meeting to Philip Graves's vested interest in the Energy Efficient Project. This was not considered by the rest of the community council to contravene any regulations. As Willie Oswald pointed out, no council decisions were being made. Pam Campbell clarified the position from the Good Practice Guidance for Community Councils, in that Philip Graves would not be able to vote on any decisions by the SCC on this Project.

There were no further objections and the council meeting continued.

- **Village Notice board**

Gordon Posnett, Philip Graves and John Gray erected the new village notice boards. Space on the board was now available for posters and notices. Three suggestions put forward were: a map of council wards, notice of elections and information from the Community Development Trust, possibly a poster advertising the village survey.

John Gray wanted colour in the display and suggested including the current front cover of The Blane.

Key holders to the notice board were John Gray and Elspeth Posnett, with two spare keys to be decided.

- Wind Farm Planning Consultation

Philip Graves believed at the moment, there was no future for wind farms in the Stirling area. Copies of the response document may be obtained from Philip Graves.

- **Equipment for the Playpark**

The School/Community Development Trust grant application to Sportscotland had been unsuccessful. Stirling Council then conducted a feasibility study into the possibility of draining of the playing fields, but this was not a viable alternative as it would have been very expensive and would have involved fencing off the area for a year, with no guarantees that it would have been effective. Stirling Council was thus reluctant to put any money into the scheme and there was little time to investigate this further before the 20 October deadline. The £15,000 grant had to be utilised quickly.

The CDT had been given an option to use the money to purchase play equipment for the play park but required permission from the Community Council, as the Council had obtained the grant.

The Community Council unanimously decided that the money should be spent on the purchase and installation of play equipment of a wide and lasting appeal.

Pam Campbell suggested contacting Nicole Paterson, to discuss insurance cover and the maintenance of the equipment with Stirling Council.

- The Glen path was permanently covered in horse droppings. Mothers with young children were no longer using the path as a route to the Primary School. Willie Oswald suggested speaking to Fiona Aborida. The path needed regular clearing. Possibly the horses could be kept to one side. It was agreed that the Council should write to Fiona Aborida.

- Helicopter noise

The noise has lessened, as the flight path has changed from over the village houses, to the Campsies. This however affects some houses above the Kirkhouse.

5 Planning

A Planning hearing had been arranged for Thursday 8 October 2009. Unfortunately no one from the Community Council was available to attend.

- The erection of 5 dwelling houses and associated garages adjacent to the East of Balauchan Lodge, Mugdock Road
- The re-siting of the landscape business at Edenmill

The recommendation on the schedule was to refuse both applications.

There was some discussion on whether the chair of the meeting would allow a presentation and some debate on the difference between a meeting and a hearing. Objectors could speak, but this required a hearing.

Pam Campbell would clarify and obtain advice from the chief planning officer of Stirling Council.

Leslie Malkin, a neighbour, would be available to attend. Even at a hearing, generally only one speaker is allowed to present on behalf of all objectors. John Gray suggested Leslie be approved to speak on behalf of the Community Council and represent the opposition in the Edenmill case. This was agreed.

Councillor Alistair Berrill offered support and assistance.

- **Proposed house near Edenmill Farm 09/00584/FUL**

Mark Gibson wished to re-site his business from Glasgow to Edenmill. The proposed house application had been refused. Elspeth Posnett questioned the reason for a meeting as the application for a house had already been refused in the schedule and had been had been resoundingly turned down.

The Edenmill application did not satisfy certain criteria.

There was no supporting statement. The submitted plans contained misleading errors, crucial to the application. The bungalow was actually a shed and the site plan didn't show sheds, also the Doran bungalow was about to be demolished. These were considered serious faults in the site drawing, as the shed and buildings were crucial to the cluster.

Philip Graves to write with a provisional submission to SC, indicating that a full comment could only be provided when the missing items and corrections had been filed.

- **Erection of building containing 2 flats south of No.10 Dunglass View 09/00639FUL**

There were no footpaths linking the development to other footpaths. It was pointed out that any infill should have been in keeping with the surrounding houses. The rest of the houses were bungalows whereas the proposed building was a one and a half storey house: the house had two floors. It was considered to be an incongruous siting.

Willie Oswald suggested that the planners request a photomontage to demonstrate how this building would fit in with the surrounding houses. Philip Graves suggested that neighbours could write to Stirling Council opposing the development.

John Gray would draft a submission and file it after giving members the opportunity to comment.

- **The extension to Rockfield Mugdock was extensive**, four or five times the original size of the house. The extension was opposed.

Stirling Council's online Public Access coverage

John Gray reminded the meeting of decisions coming out without accompanying reasons justifying decisions. Important information was often missing, e.g. a letter of opposition from Strathblane Community Council. Peter Morgan [Head of Planning] told Pam Campbell that these would be available on-line but John Gray was clear that the SCC submission was still missing on at least two applications. Pam Campbell would ask Peter Morgan to contact John Gray, as the whole picture was not available. Not all documents which the public could view in Stirling were available on-line. This indicated a systems failure. It was thus difficult to collate and review reports, meetings and agendas.

John Gray suggested a planning group meeting around the website.

- The matter was raised of 2/3 residential caravans parked next to the dressage arena at Boards Farm. No planning applications had been received. Enquiries would be made.
- There was a brief discussion on the car park to be sited at the old treatment works. The positioning of the car park was considered dangerous, but had gone through. The matter was now in the hands of the Reporter. The Community Council agreed to support an appeal.

6 Roads Bob Flashman

A81/ Station Road improvements

Community Councillors met at the site and with Mr and Mrs Robert Gray. Mr Robert Gray provided a consultant's report from MHA Planning and Transport, on the Glasgow Road proposed traffic-calming scheme. This report challenged the layout of the chicane in particular, in relation to the horizontal alignment for eastbound traffic, which was considered hazardous. The report recommended a full safety audit.

A copy of the report was sent to Stirling Council. Stirling Council had acknowledged receipt of the letter and would reply in writing before the November Council meeting. No traffic lights will be installed until traffic is slowed down.

7 Finance

There was no report. It was suggested that priority on future agendas be give to the financial matters. Fund raising needed to be discussed. There followed a brief discussion on the ancient photocopier in the library and the on-going need for its replacement.

The agenda would be changed to allow full discussion of financial matters.

The donation of £80.00 to The Blane would remain unchanged.

8 Correspondence

A copy of recent correspondence may be obtained from David Anderson

9 AOCB

Community Council Elections: October/November 2009

Community Council elections were now underway.

Timetable

Publication of Notice of Election	Wed 7 October & Fri 9 October 2009
Nominations to be submitted by	Fri 30 October 2009 (4pm)
Nominations to be withdrawn by	Fri 30 October 2009 (5pm)
Publication of Notice of Poll	Wed 11 & Fri 13 November 2009
Issue of Ballot Papers	From Monday 16 November 2009
Ballot Papers to be returned by	Friday 27 November 2009 (5pm)

Stirling Council would call the first meeting after completion of the election process. Existing members would remain in place until midnight on Thurs 29 Oct 2009.

Where more nominations were received than there were places, postal ballots were required. Existing members would continue until midnight on Thursday 26 November 2009.

11 Confirmation of the next meeting date

Stirling Council would call the first meeting after completion of the election process. Pam Campbell indicated that 7 Dec 2009 was pencilled in. Philip Graves tendered his apologies in advance for that date.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm.

