



MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2nd Draft Monday 9th January 2012 in the school

Members Present: - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Willie Oswald, John Gray, Richard Arnold, Fiona Murray.

In attendance: - Cllr Graham Lambie, PC David McNally & from Tesco, Andrew Perrie(Manson Architects), Gloria Coats (Corporate Affairs Manager, Northern area) & Kirsty Leiper(Community Consultation).

+ 12 members of the community.

*(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust * Denotes an action)*

1. Welcome from Chair and apologies:

Margaret welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone all the best for 2012.

Apologies had been received from Elspeth Posnett, Marian Lever, Philip Graves, Mike McNulty and Richard Begg.

MV thanked all who helped to erect the Village Club Christmas tree twice and advised that the ceremony associated with the switching on of the lights had raised £79.12 for the VC.

2. Declaration of interests: - there were no conflicts of interests to note.

3. Presentation on behalf of Tesco Milngavie: - by Andrew Perrie & Gloria Coats

The main thrust of the presentation was to compare the current revised plans with those previously rejected . The new building is lower and has three distinct elements and is constructed using themes and materials sympathetic to those employed already in Milngavie , rather than the monolithic structure previously proposed. There would be some non-Tesco space for two retail shops and a café. The west elevation had been set back and stepped to preserve the presence of Gavin's Mill.

This presentation was advisory and formed part of the public consultation process which was ongoing. This would be followed by council consultations an exhibition and a public meeting.

A question and answer session followed regarding car parking facilities – doubled to 600 spaces, split between basement car parking in the new store and a two storey car park on the site of the existing store. Vehicle and delivery access would be via the existing route. Queries regarding the Woodburn Way elevation elicited the answers that there would be more access points and signs of life entering the building and that the store would have more connectivity with Milngavie. It was also commented that the retail area was about the same as Asda Bearsden, but the footprint was smaller. Cllr Lambie asked about additional employment opportunities – headcount would increase.

4. Minutes of December's meeting:

The projected minutes were shown as final draft, yet the web site version was 2nd draft. This was explained as being due to the addition of Appendix III after original publication. On page 4 a correction was required – it was Robin Thomson, not Robbie. Minutes were approved by Fiona Murray and seconded by Alan Hutton.

5. Matters arising

MV reminded everyone that Community Council elections were forthcoming and that nominations for two councillors from Strathblane and Mugdock wards were required by 3rd Feb 2012. More candidates were needed. There were no other matters.

6. Police report – from David McNally

Various issues raised for December, including cable and scaffolding thefts from construction sites, a house break in Carbeth (thieves apprehended and stolen; Xmas presents recovered!), yet more car thefts at Mugdock Park (be warned!) and a house fire in Cuilt Pl. still under investigation.

During the 3rd Jan storms approx 20 trees fell across local roads at various locations. Thanks to the supreme efforts of the public (Council inundated) the roads were cleared and made passable within 5 hrs. This would have been much longer without this help and PC McNally congratulated all who helped.

MV reiterated this praise.

Cllr Lambie queried the drink drive statistics for the area over the festive period. Only three people had been charged, but this would probably have been greater if local testing facilities were available. Borderline cases who, in this area, have to be taken to Stirling, had “sobered” during the delay prior to final testing.

7. Role and operation of a Community Council – from Margaret Vass.

MV commented first of all on the revised seating layout used this evening. This is to reflect the fact that this is a CC council meeting with the public in attendance, rather than a public meeting. It is hoped that this will foster more debate between members of the CC, with opinions based on councillors' networking and e-mail communications governing how we are informed on issues. The public will, of course, have the opportunity to question the CC and to make their comments. There was general approval of this from other CC members.

8. Communication Strategy – from Alan Hutton.

A working group is investigating the feasibility of a monthly CC newssheet. It is hoped a final decision will be given at the Feb meeting once technical, funding and other details have been decided. Advice from SC is being sought, but they have said that this should be a CC-only newssheet. It is hoped the first edition will be distributed in the third week of March.

Public discussion ensued and the following additional points were made:

As this will be a monthly newssheet there will be an opportunity for other groups and organisations of the village to publicise/ report on their events.

With reference to the village website, residents will be encouraged to obtain further information about headline issues from the website.

It could also be used by Stirling Council as a conduit for local communication.

Many people have already expressed an anticipatory interest in the “what's on” feature of the newssheet.

9. Current Planning Applications – from John Gray

There is little to report this month. There is, however, a planning application, (11/00823/FUL), in for a “hut” on the opposite side of the road at Carbeth from the main body of huts. This appears to be a holiday-letting hut.

Cllr Lambie spoke about the Allotments application and indicated that the decision was in the hands of the Chief Planning Officer. He would decide how this application was dealt with.

With regards the Local Development Plan, he said that this had the effect of making the green belt policy tighter than previously.

10. Community Comments

A query was raised re the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Was the village planning any event(s)?

MV indicated that this had been discussed some 3 months ago and that a beacon was proposed for the Campsies (Earl’s Seat?). Edward Pickard suggested that he was willing to discuss location of this beacon, instead, on Dumbrock Moor – his land.

It was pointed out that the street lights were still burning continuously in Park Place despite our previous notification to SC.

11. Financial Matters- from Fiona Murray.

A grant of £800.00 from the Community Pride fund had been expended on an additional CC notice board in Blanefield. This was now erected. We had received from the Library £127.00 – donations for community equipment hired, although we are not sure at this stage over what period. Funds at present stand at Current account £1252.37 and Gold account £2720.97, giving a total of £3973.24.

MV thanked the volunteers who had erected the notice board.

AH queried whether having such a balance of funds at the end of a financial year was wise – we might jeopardise future grant aid. It was pointed out that some up-front funding might be needed for the newssheet. Also a sinking fund for equipment repair and replacement should be established.

12. Health and Wellbeing – from Margaret Vass

ML had reported that due to storms she had lost her e-mail and has no update on the meals on wheels pilot project. Support is likely to come via Pam Campbell.

A change to the service has been slowed down awaiting the outcome of a pilot plan in Stirling. This will give more time to develop our local plan.

13. Environment and Roads – from Willie Oswald

There was no report from Elspeth Posnett. WO continued by raising the issue of the contamination study for the area where Weir houses were built in the Blane Cresc environs in the 1960’s and which was instigated by legislation from 1990/1991. Why was a desktop survey instigated without any reference to the residents?

There had been no developments re the tree pruning at the Kirkhouse Inn.

If and when Muirhouse quarry is reopened, the wheelwash facilities must be operational. Clearance of the grit build-up at the side of the main road has to be cleared and if this has to be done by Roads Dept, this will be charged to the operators.

Following the last snowfall, WO had pressed for refilling of the grit bins. This had been done but some bins were in poor condition. Please advise any damaged or defective bins to WO.

He had also queried the cost of average speed cameras, but the only local data available related to trunk roads. The Home Office may have to be contacted for information.

Comments were made about the number of blocked drainage gulleys in the area. This was much worse than in the past.

14. Elected member's report- from Cllr Graham Lambie

Various roads issues were raised recent storm disruption, advice that the Cuilt Road works should complete end February, the extremely poor quality of the A81 between Glengoyne Distillery and Strathblane, damage at Drymen Bridge and forthcoming discussions about the roads maintenance budget for 2012/13.

A number of planning issue were mentioned including the Allotments application which is under consideration.

The Local Development Plan, Craigievern Wind Farm and new ownership of Blanefield Care Home were mentioned., as were some details of the Provost's Panel meeting to consider community support for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There would

be an extra holiday on Tuesday 5th June and the moving of the late May bank holiday to Monday 4th June would provide a long weekend for celebration.

Full report details at Appendix I at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

15. Correspondence

- a) A letter from David Brown of Stirling Council and details from an explanatory e-mail were read out giving information on revised bus timetables within the Stirling area. It was noted that the last bus from Glasgow to Balfron Mon to Thurs was at 10.30pm. It appeared that this timetable may only apply to subsidized buses and that clarification would be needed by obtaining a full timetable from First Bus.
- b) A letter from Bell Ingram with accompanying map gave proposals of planned forest management works and replanting from 2012 – 2031 in Craigallian Forest. These works were generally welcomed but there were some concerns about damage and disruption along the roads used as extraction routes. Cllr Lambie would pursue the possibility of a clawback from the operators towards refurbishment of roads used. Bell Ingram would be requested to keep the CC fully informed.
- c) The CC had been advised that there would be no elected member attendance at meetings in April and May due to forthcoming local elections.
- d) There had been a report of the possible sale of Craighend Castle.
- e) A letter of reply to the CC letter to the editor of the Blane magazine dated 28th October had been received. This was not read out, but would be made available for viewing by members of the community on request. The CC will respond to this letter.

16. AOCB

The October CC meeting will be on 1st October 2012, not 8th as originally shown on the schedule. The schedule will be amended.

17. Date of next meeting – Monday 6th February 2012 at 7.30 in the school.

Appendices follow –on-line only at: www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Appendix I

Forth and Endrick News - Strathblane - Monday, 9th January 2012

Arnprior Balfron Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen Fintry Gargunnoch Killearn Kippen **Strathblane**

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Roads – Tree Damage:** I drove along the A81 and Cuilt Brae roads on Thursday 5th January to assess the tree clearing operations. Confirmation with roads officers is that the majority of the work is carried out by the council's own workforce with the use of hired plant/machinery to lift the larger trees out of the way.
- **Roads – Cuilt Brae Traffic Lights:** Both the sets of traffic lights on the B821 Cuilt Brae are the responsibility of Scottish Water. The works are programmed for completion at the end of February.
- **Roads – A81 Distillery to Strathblane:** This is one of the poorest quality stretches of A road in the Forth and Endrick ward. I was hoping that we could get some re-surfacing work done in this calendar year, and was disappointed that the short section, yellow marked, from the distillery to the new re-alignment stretch was not done. (Note: The road officers have indicated that some projects have not been cancelled but have been transferred to 2012).
- **Roads Budget – 2012/2013:** I will be meeting with the council administration over the next month to look at aspects of the budget for 2012. I am preparing a list of what I think the top priority routes in the ward requiring repair/maintenance are. These include A, B, C and some unclassified routes. I am anticipating that we can maintain the budget we got in the previous year and will ask for more resources as well as my annual request to have the A811 raised to trunk status. I have used the LDP as a possible lever here. (**Note:** I am aware that there are residents in Forth and Endrick who may not wish a major trunk road to run through West Stirlingshire).
- **Roads – Drymen Bridge:** Although this is not in Strathblane CC area there may be some local drivers who may use this route to get to Drymen and Loch Lomondside. Just after the flood I drove over the road in both directions and the contraflow was working reasonably well, with traffic moving smoothly but slowly. The delay in fixing this problem appears to be associated with the repair of the original retaining wall – the council are currently in negotiations with the landowner about this. Images indicate that the carriageway is largely intact and I am concerned about the delay this is taking.
- **Planning 1 – Mugdock Applications:** I have been contacted by the applicant's agent, with a request for a referral to the planning panel. In my opinion this does not require a planning panel referral as the Greenbelt policy is well established, and I cannot see any agricultural/rural business enhancement that these applications will bring to this site. I would also make the point that the LDP (Local Development Plan) – Draft Propose Plan, indicates a reinforcement of the existing Greenbelt Policy – under Policy 4: Green Belts (Page 24).

- **Planning 2 – Allotments:** Having considered all of the arguments for and against the Allotments I formally withdrew a referral to the Planning Panel based on the lack of a concrete material planning policy reason, although I appreciate that there has been considerable general concerns over the proposal. However, after my decision, I was contacted by a resident, - indicating that there was a petition with some 290 signatures. Although, I have not received a copy of the petition, the case officer has confirmed receipt of the petition, and the application is currently being reviewed by the Chief Planning Officer, who has the authority to refer the application to the planning panel. (**Note:** If the recommendation is to approve the application I would request that the officers make reference to the Strathblane CC comments re. vehicular access, allotment management, site restoration etc. The CC note also refers to a GNA (Good Neighbour Agreement) which as I understand is within council policy but not subject to a binding condition. Also, the council's own allotment tenancy agreement could be considered by the applicants, as part of the management structure).
- **Local Development Plan:** I attended all of the LDP drop in sessions in the ward and was very impressed at the number of residents who attended with a lot of constructive comments about – housing, open space strategy, transport, business space etc. I also note the comments and public discussion from the Strathblane CC of 5th December including the: need for affordable housing; concerns about the Singh Field; impact of traffic; and requirement for local involvement in the LDP process.
- **Craigievern Windfarm:** Along with Provost Wood I attended a packed meeting in Gartmore where the developers – Banks Renewables presents their case for a windfarm on this site. However, I note that their intended planning application is for fewer turbines but for an increased height – of over 110 metres – base to tip of rotor. The site is on a designated area of search where the advised maximum height is 50 metres. As this is still a proposal I would pose my current response as a hypothetical question – If this becomes a live planning application - are the developers then asking planning officers and elected members to support an application that is twice the advised height of 50 metres, which forms the basis of a wind farm policy that has been approved at full council? (**Note:** I understand the developers are intending to submit an application around April 2012).
- **Blanefield Care Home:** Marion contacted me about this and I raised the following points with Maureen Dryden (Service Manager). Is it the intention of the administrators to seek a buyer of the care home? Can we guarantee standards, quality, and staffing numbers during this time? In the event of a closure do we have enough available beds in the authority? (**Update for January Meeting:** The new care provider is Blanefield Care Limited who have been registered with the Care Inspectorate. The council had 14 residents in the home at the time of the transfer and the council have been liaising with the new provider and Care Inspectorate to ensure the quality of provision.
- **Queen's Diamond Jubilee:** The Provost's Panel met on Tuesday 20th to consider ideas to support community participation in this event. These ideas included – Garden/Street Parties and use of the Community Pride fund. The Scottish Government have also confirmed that the extra holiday on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 would apply to Scotland, and that the traditional late May Bank Holiday would be moved to Monday, June 4, 2012, providing for a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty's 60 years on the throne.
- **Other Issues:**

- **Quarry Mud on A81:** I note that SEPA are still involved with the Muirhouse Quarry Site and a suspension notice has been placed.
- **Footpath Condition – West End of Village:** This issue has been passed onto Stephen Todd with a request that this be considered alongside the traffic speed mitigation measures. The new care provider at Blanefield Care Home will be worth contacting over this.
- **Issues for Feedback from Community:**
 - **Meals Service:**
 - **Printworks - Contaminated Land:**
 - **A81 Tree Pruning:**
 - **Larbert Hospital Transport:**
 - **Tesco Application:**

Councillor Graham Lambie
Stirling Council
Old Viewforth

Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk