

MINUTES OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

(held in the Allan Centre)

Present:

Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Michael Burt (MB); Leslie Harkness (LH); Margaret Sprunt (MS); Nicos Yarrow (NY), Joanne Chisholm (JC), Sandra Davidson (SD), Marie Gardner (MG), Iain McCusker (IMc) Victoria McDowell (VMCD)

In attendance:

Councillor Graham Houston, Councillor Alastair Majury, Councillor Alasdair Tollemache. Andrew Davis (Stirling Council)

Apologies:

Mike Watson (MW) (Chair), Cllr Dodds, Siobhan Hencher (SH);

Abbreviations - Community Council (CC); Procurator Fiscal (PF)

B1437 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest

SD welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised she was Chairing the evening's meeting due to MW's absence.

B1438 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2017 were approved (Proposed: Janie Meikle Bland; Seconded: Michael Burt).

Updates were provided from LH on three of his actions from previous meetings.

1. Item B1432 which related to ascertaining when Stirling Council are intending to allocate resources for the repair of the Inverallan Road surface. Jim Hamilton, Area Roads Officer was contacted and replied that the Council sets its annual budget in February so he will not know what budget allocation he will receive for roads maintenance until Feb/Mar 2018. He also indicated that if the budget is at least the same as this year, it is "more than likely" that Inverallan Road will be included in the 2018 Capital Works Programme. He regrets he can not be more positive.

2. Item B1434 relating to the Causewayhead resident who raised the issue of a large scale Hogweed infestation along the Alloa railway line. LH wrote to the Scottish Head Office of Network Rail. David O'Neill replied to advise that it was scheduled

to be treated by 13th September 2017 weather permitting. He did underline the fact, that it can take several years to fully resolve the problem. The communication was forwarded to Mr Roy Sexton. A representative from Causewayhead CC advised she has also been in contact with Network Rail regarding the giant hogweed.

3. Regarding item B1435 (Car Boot Sale), two residents had raised the issue of the legality of a commercial enterprise (car boot sale) taking place at a residential property in the village. Cllr Dodds contacted Stirling Council's Legal Services and they have written to the property owner involved to explain the licensing requirements for such an enterprise. In addition, LH wrote a letter to the property stressing the CC was not taking sides and had not formed a view on the issue but, simply in the interests of fairness, were letting him know that the matter had been raised in a public forum.

B1439 Police Report

PC Paul Gilliland submitted the police report for September and sent his apologies to the meeting due to being on rest days and that PC Chalmers would also not be available to attend due to Annual Leave.

He also advised that he has commenced duties as the replacement for PC Currie and will be working alongside PC Chalmers in the Dunblane/Bridge of Allan ward area.

As a means of a brief introduction, he advised that he has 19 years policing experience and has worked in response policing in Stirling, Bannockburn and community policing in St Ninians. He has also worked as a police/council liaison officer and in the Community Alcohol Violence Reduction Unit.

He hopes and trusts that he can bring some of his experience to the ward area and our community where and when required and looks forward to serving the Bridge of Allan, Dunblane and Blair Logie communities.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

On 18th August a male was verbally abusive to another male within Tesco's, Henderson Street having earlier been involved in a minor vehicle/driving dispute. The male offender has been traced and received an official police warning.

DRUG MISUSE

There have been no recorded crimes involving drug misuse at the time of submission of the community council report.

VIOLENT CRIME

I am pleased to report that there have been no violent related crimes since the last community council meeting.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

Sometime between 2215hrs on the 20th and 0815hrs on 21st August a ladies pedal cycle then secured to a drainpipe at Monument Court was stolen. Various enquiries have been carried out and to date no suspects have been identified. If you have any information regarding this please contact 101 ref: CF0118950817.

On the 3rd September, Thefts by Shoplifting occurred at Wood Winters Wine and Whiskies and Tesco's, Henderson Street, Bridge of Allan. Up to four males would appear to have been involved and all four have now been identified during the course of the investigations. One of the accused party has been arrested and efforts are ongoing to trace the outstanding suspects. Both thefts will be fully detected and relevant reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 6th September attempts were made by a foreign sounding male (not further described) claiming to be working for BT, to obtain credit cards details from a female complainer via telephone. The female complainer who resides in Bridge of Allan became suspicious during conversation and having initially answered some questions regarding her internet banking, refused to make payment or disclose her bank details to the suspect. Subsequent enquiries revealed that no persons from BT contacted the complainer on the date in question. There was no financial loss to the complainer and all lines of enquiry have been carried out. No suspect has been identified. This was recorded as an Attempted Fraud. CF0125590917 refers.

On 14th September a theft occurred within the Scottish Institute of Sport, Stirling University Campus whereby monies were removed from a wallet left in a rucksack within a gym changing room. The rucksack was not within a locker and was left insecure and unattended. This is an ongoing police enquiry however to date no suspects have been identified. Given that the new student intake has arrived and due in part to this theft potentially being opportunistic the university will be contacted and advised of the need for basic security measures to be brought to the attention of the students. If you have any information or observed anyone acting suspiciously in and around the above locus please contact 101 ref: CF0129940917.

ROAD SAFETY

On the 13th September within Cornton Road, Bridge of Allan two males riding a motorbike were stopped by police. One was carrying a pillion passenger whilst having a provisional licence only and the other was not wearing a crash helmet. Both parties will be subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal for traffic offences.

The Community Policing Team have recently responded to vehicular related complaints in and around Inverallan Road and Cawder Road, Bridge of Allan regarding potential obstructions of pavements by parked vehicles. To date a driver of

a vehicle was traced and advised regarding his parking with engagement and education being utilised rather than enforcement. The relevant complainers have been contacted and updated regarding the approach utilised by police.

The parking situation in the area has previously been raised at Community Council meetings and has been periodically monitored by Police. There have been no other offences identified on Police attendance, however the Ward team will continue to monitor the area. Should any parking offences be discovered, they will be dealt with accordingly.

OTHER MATTERS OF NOTE

There is likely to be an increase in footfall with Bridge of Allan due to the new semester commencing at Stirling University. This will be borne in mind by local community officers and foot patrols will be carried out in and around the University and the Henderson Street areas where and when possible. This will allow for positive engagement with the student population many of whom will be new to the area.

The ward officers have carried out foot patrols in and around Henderson Street and other adjoining streets. Such activity will continue over the coming months.

B1440 Road Safety

Resident Mr Duncan attended the meeting to raise the issue of road safety following a cycling accident on the cycle path beside the university when another cyclist collided head-on with him. This resulted in Mr Duncan being seriously injured with a broken neck. He felt that he had received a dissatisfactory response from the Police and had raised this with them. He believes the contributory factors to the accident were: lighting (covered by branches and also evidence of it not working); signage (is it right for cyclists going from the university to Stirling to be allowed to use the southbound cycle path when there is already a cycle path on the northbound side); the narrowness of the track itself. Mr Duncan is requesting the CC and Cllr Tollemache to raise these issues with the Police and also the Council to lobby to improve the cycle track.

Cllr Tollemache responded that he had spoken with the Police and they have appointed an officer to this right away. He has also spoken to the relevant person within the Council. He would de-brief Mr Duncan, initially in private, on the responses received.

Sem Curley also raised issues with the cycle path on Cornton Road (between the Fire Station and Pullar Avenue). Another resident raised the issue of an incident involving a resident's son who hit a car emerging from a driveway whilst on a cycle path. It was noted that these issues need to be resolved which involved not just the physical layout of the road and pedestrian areas but also education of the local community.

JMB thanked Mr Duncan and other residents for raising the issue on the week that Stirling Council have announced multi-million pound investment in the cycle network primarily from the city to the university. The CC will request to Stirling Council (David Hopper) to work with us on a community-led programme of works. **Action:**
JMB

JMB also reported two near misses on Cornton/Fountain Road at the crossing at the fire station. There are multitudes of distractions.

A further incident was reported on 14th September an the fire station side involving two children on bikes and traffic not driving with due care and attention. The police are investigating.

VMcD advised that there were three separate incidents of cars hitting the kerb this week with tyre blow-outs.

JMB also advised of communication from two residents from Museum Hall to thank for the double yellow lines and the positive impact these are having. However there remains issues with motorists speeding; cyclists using the pavement; drivers using mobile phones; and some motorists failing to stop at Henderson St/Keir Street roundabout

Action: JMB A road safety meeting of the various road safety officers and elected Councillors.

B1441 Parking Restrictions (LH)

LH provided a brief update on this matter on behalf of MW who is leading on this item. After last month's meeting, Cllr Dodds contacted Stuart Geddes, Traffic Manager Team Leader with Stirling Council about the parking petition organized by Mr Littlejohn (SL). Mr Geddes understands the rationale behind the petition and reminded us that the current parking restrictions are the outcome of the 2011 short life Parking Strategy. His main point is that when the Council applies to Parliament for DPE (Decriminalised Parking Enforcement) powers, it agreed to follow Transport Scotland Guidelines on current best practice and part of that involves an annual review of the parking restrictions strategy and, and more significantly, thereafter maintaining the restrictions unchanged for a full year until the next review. He suggests no changes to the present restrictions until May 2018 but sees no impediment to considering the suggested changes further "in preparation for potential implementation".

The CC also received an email from marketing consultant, David Gowen, on behalf of Simon Littlejohn. Since it was felt at the last CC meeting that not all local businesses were represented in the survey, Mr Littlejohn's survey had been extended to encompass the remaining businesses; this was undertaken on 28th and 29th August. Mr Gowen has listed these and there are now 39 businesses in total lending their support for the petition.

Following the update from LH, SL raised concerns about the timeline for reviewing the restrictions and was hoping for something to be addressed in time for Christmas trading. A lively discussion ensued with views that ranged from surprise at the request to re-visit the restrictions to sympathy for those retailers who wished to have them reviewed.

It was summarized that at the last meeting, two things were agreed. 1) SL would extend his survey (which has now been concluded) and 2) with CC agreement the Chair (MW) would revive a consultative group to work on the issue. It was agreed at this meeting that the CC were happy to move forward with this issue now and not until the official review date of May 2018. Cllr Houston offered to request the timeline from Mr Geddes to ensure that the consultative group were fully informed of the necessary steps.

Action: MW to form consultative group; Cllr Houston to request timeline from Mr Geddes.

B1442 Park of Keir (SD)

The CC has drafted a letter to the Minister to express our dissatisfaction with the outcome of the Appeal. IMc was at the site walkthrough, which was well attended. It was noted that there was meeting of the action group RAGE to be held at the Allan Centre on Thursday 21st September. Cllr Houston advised that the decision is not irreversible. The Scottish Reporter is minded to approve in principle subject to certain conditions. This is now back to Stirling Council to negotiate with the developer. SC are taking legal advice on what their process is to look at the conditions. When queried whether a Judicial Review is now out of the question, it was commented that legal advice is that a judicial review would not be successful. Dunblane CC have written to Planning to provide their view and it was suggested that Bridge of Allan CC may wish to follow suit.

Action: (IMc) to contact Dunblane CC to understand what issues they have raised with SC with view to drafting a similar response from our own CC.

Action: all Community Councillors to review draft letter

B1444 Flood Group (VMcD)

There is still a lack of volunteers for the Flood Group. The reason the group is needed is that there is survey work being undertaken by SC to cost various schemes. Significant investment is expected. There is a fear that the survey work will not be consulted properly with the local community.

B1445 Scottish Flood Forum

Related to item B1444 Flood Group, Paul Laidlaw (PL) attended the CC meeting from the Scottish Flood Forum who are a charity who work with those who have suffered from flooding and to take action to prevent flooding in the future. Given

the challenges with resourcing the local flood group, Paul presented on how other communities have addressed this issue and how flood action/resilience groups take many forms. In some communities this group has become a sub-group of the community council which means it benefits from the already existing governance structures. PL offered to provide examples of other governing documents. The CC recognized that the current situation for the flood group is not sustainable and that further work was required to address the risk of it folding.

Action: The re-constitution of the Flood Group needs to be considered by the CC and all implications. A separate issue needs to be investigated in the lack of volunteers to participate in this group. Propose that this is discussed at a development meeting of the CC.

Action: Paul Laidlaw (Scottish Flood Forum) to provide contact with other CCs or community flood action groups who have undertaken a transformation for any flood group.

B1446 Christmas Lights (SD)

Money is being collected for sponsorship of the lights. Five volunteers are to set up a Christmas Event group.

B1447 Planning Update (IMc)

Comment on a proposal for a garage next to 13 Kenilworth Road. Comments are requested by the end of this week and a return will be submitted.

B1448 Chair's Report (SD)

Nothing.

B1449 Secretary's Report (LH)

1. Stephen Kerr (MP) has written to us by way of introducing himself. He has opened an office at 49 Borestone Crescent, as well as setting up his own website, and he has started to hold surgeries throughout the constituency. He is a strong believer in local democracy and the work of local community councils, something he believes is worth defending. He intends to visit CCs in the months and years ahead and is happy to have brought to his attention any issue where a CC feels intervention would be helpful.

2. Stephen Easton Traffic Management Officer has written to Douglas Dodds concerning the upgrade of the pedestrian crossing on Henderson Street. Part of any delay is due to the need for a survey for the lamps which will illuminate the crossing in addition to the Belisha beacons. A report has now been received from the contractor and the lamps have been ordered. SE is not in a position to provide an

exact date, however he is hopeful for the end of October.

3. Cllr Dodds has been active on two further fronts and has contacted us about these.

Firstly, a local resident about what he felt was an eyesore, namely the fact that, at the steps going down from Henderson Street into Allanvale Road, adjacent to WoodWinters, there are now 7 bins, with the 3 grey bins overflowing and with several black bags at the side (Cllr Dodds noted 7 full black bags and also noted the presence of bins and bags on the river bridge itself). The resident asked Cllr Dodds if he could see if these bins could be uplifted timeously and so the Cllr has referred the matter to the relevant senior officer with SC Waste Services. He was also planning to visit the adjacent businesses to discuss the matter. The Council is uplifting the bins on the bridge and those will not be returned.

Secondly, Cllr Dodds(as has Gavin Drummond and LH) has been chasing up the confusing issues of the so called temporary bus stop in Allanvale Road. In response, the matter was dealt with by Brian Roberts and Alistair Dawson of Stirling Council and it is understood that both stops will remain (it was apparently never the intention to remove one), that the confusing notices have been removed and that the shelter has been moved to be aligned with the yellow bus stop bay. It was noted that the shelter would be cleaned.

4. Two CC meetings ago, a resident complained about heavy lorries allegedly parking overnight in Inverallan Road, in the vicinity of the Allanbridge Social Club. LH contacted Sgt Matheson and PC Chalmers volunteered to ask the night shift officers to look into the matter. LH has written a formal letter to Sergeant Matheson.

B1450 Treasurer's Report

No minutes expenditure was occurred in August and September. This raised the matter of identifying a new minute taker as Lucy McCormick has tendered her resignation due to work commitments.

Action: SD to contact Deborah Wood to ask if she would be interested in assuming the role of minute taker.

No expenditure since the end of May. The bank balance is currently sitting at £5109.26. We have now migrated from old account at the Clydesdale Bank to a new account at Bank of Scotland.

A revised contract has been received from BT in relation to adopting the BT Phonebox outside the Old Bridge Inn. The cost of purchasing the phone box is £1. There is no liability on BT whatsoever and we are responsible for insuring it £5 per annum for public liability. MG highlighted that in future there may be costs associated with maintenance.

Action: MG will circulate the contract for review by the CC.

B1451 The Residents' Voice

Gavin Drummond requested for an update on the enforcement notice on 79 Henderson Street regarding the high wooden fence. Request that the CC contact Planning again for an update.

Action: IMcC to pursue an update from SC Planning Department.

B1452 AOCB

Cllr Alastair Tollemache mentioned that a number of residents have raised issues with works being undertaken by SPEN on a path at Dumyat as a result of Buely-Denny works. SPEN have issued a statement today as has Cllr Tollemach.

CC member Nick Yarrow highlighted a new consultation by Minister of Transport regarding the building of low emission zones. Consultation started on 6th September and is due to conclude on 28th November.

Action: Cllr Tollemache will raise this issue on the CC's behalf

Cllr Tollemache advised that the Pendreich Road burst water pipe has been repaired by SW and they have now inspected it to undertake repairs to the road.

There being no other business, SD declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 17th October 2017 at 7.30pm.