



MINUTES OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 23 January 2018

(in the Allan Centre)

Present: Leslie Harkness (LH) (stand in Chair & Secretary); Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Iain McCusker (IMc); Victoria McDowell; Nicos Yarrow (NY) and Deborah Wood (DW) (Minute taker).

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alastair Majury.

Apologies: Sandra Davidson; Mike Watson; Andrew Davies (Stirling Council); Marie Gardner; Margaret Sprunt; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Dunblane/Bridge of Allan Community Policing Team: PC Gilliland and PC Chalmers.

(Abbreviations - Community Council (CC); Stirling Council (SC))

B1481 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest

LH welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 7.31pm. He confirmed that he would chair, if there were no objections, as Mike Watson and Sandra were not able to attend and had given their apologies. Other apologies were given as noted above and there was no conflict of interest to note. November 2017 minutes were proposed (JMB) and seconded (SH).

B1482 Matters Arising

LH - In relation to item B1478 and the resident who raised personal concerns about the volume of cars parking in the vicinity of the Railway Station, particularly in Cawder Road, Councillor Dodds has forwarded 2 sets of emails on this issue:

- One is a response from Stuart Geddes, Stirling Council Traffic Management Team indicating that, within the council, a cross service group will shortly begin work on a new parking strategy on which communities and individuals will have an opportunity to comment; it is intended that the strategy will generate settlement parking management plans which will allow parking provisions to be tailored to meet individual community needs.
- The other emails are a chain of correspondence involving responses from Stephen Easton, Stirling council Traffic Management Officer, to a frustrated Station Road resident who found a car parked across the entrance to his driveway. In one of his responses, Mr Easton indicated that he is drafting a traffic order for parking restrictions on the south west side of the road in order to allow freedom of movement for larger vehicles as well as cars. Out with those restricted areas, street parking would be permitted in marked areas.

Councillor Dodds added that there had been an issue with the C48 bus navigating the road (near the top of Cawder Road) due to parked vehicles on both sides of Station Road.

In the absence of Police representatives present at the meeting, Councillor Dodds confirmed that he will approach the new Police Commander to question the monitoring of Henderson Street traffic.

B1483 Action Log

SD will respond regarding the Christmas lights at the February 2018 meeting.

IMc had 2 actions to update:

- Approach to Dunblane CC regarding Park of Keir. IMc confirmed that the Chair of Dunblane CC has been in contact with LH and MW regarding this issue, IMc confirmed that he replied to Dunblane CC chair to instigate a meeting. That meeting has not yet been arranged.
- Planning response to the Gordon Crescent proposal was issued on behalf of the CC – the Planning application has since been withdrawn.

B1484 Bank Closures

LH stated that the news of the proposed closures of RBS and Bank of Scotland branches in Bridge of Allan has generated much concern. The CC received an email from a local resident requesting that the closures be discussed at this meeting (CC January 7 2018) and that strongly expressed representations be made to Bank of Scotland (BoS). The resident's email underlined that in her experience, the bank is always busy, with queuing being the norm and stated that they were aware that a number of accounts transferred to the BoS when the Clydesdale Bank closed in BofA. The resident asked that consideration be given to the possibility that accounts were also transferred from the TSB branch when this too was closed. In conclusion, the resident suggested that the closure of the branch was designed to force customers to use online banking and suggested that this move may be discriminatory against some customers who face travel difficulties, and to those who may find online banking problematic.

LH explained that there had been 2 developments:

Firstly, the CC had received an email from MP, Stephen Kerr, indicating how he is giving his support to keeping the RBS branches in Dunblane, Bannockburn and BofA open and also the BoS branch in BofA. He explained that he had written directly to the Chief Executives at both banks and also initiated a debate in the House, during which he emphasised the impact of the closures on the communities and reiterated his call to keep the branches open. He has also spoken separately, in Parliament, on the need to stop the closures, made his case in the press and social media and has asked CC members and residents to contact him by email if there is more we feel he could do. LH confirmed that a response letter had been received from the RBS confirming their position, that after careful consideration, the branches would close and stating that there had been a significant reduction in usage as customers were now increasingly using online and phone banking.

LH explained that the Bank of Scotland have confirmed dispatch of a mobile bank in Dunblane and that community banking service will tie in with Local Post Offices, to ensure that the majority of customers to the banks will live in the vicinity of banking services. Telephone banking services will be available 365 days a year and will be serviced by a taskforce of experts who will be able to provide training in digital skills. Also, that local banking teams will organise customer events to outline the changes, and LH encouraged attendance of these events where issues can be raised.

Secondly, just prior to Christmas, 3 of the CC councillors met outside the RBS BofA branch, representing the CC. Intention was to meet with customers and ascertain their views on the proposed closures. Many of the customers were dismayed at the prospect of the bank closing. LH added that the volume of customers and the business of the branch was noteworthy, even at an early hour in the day.

LH asked for comments:

Councillor Houston stated that he had written to RBS to highlight leaving Bridge of Allan with no bank

access at all. The nearest one being Pitt Terrace, Stirling. This issue was not addressed in the reply he received which stated that the closure was a commercial decision. Councillor Houston confirmed he also wrote to BoS and has not received a reply, as yet.

A resident commented that there is nowhere to do cash transactions now in Bridge of Allan and this is not conducive to encouraging small, local businesses to set up.

A resident stated that they were aware that a planning application had already been submitted to change the BoS to a restaurant.

JMB highlighted that a lack of banking cash in the town raised a safety and security issue for businesses, leaving them potentially vulnerable. It was also noted that many small businesses would not be able to bank cash after they closed of an evening as the Post Office would be closed too.

LH suggested that he write to the two Banking Executives and agreement to do so was given by the CC.

Action LH

B1485 Active and Thriving Community (JMB)

JMB explained the Active and Thriving Community is an umbrella term and has evolved to look at a few things, she gave some updates and actions as follows:

- Reduction of the speed limit (from 40 mph to 30 mph) along Airthrey Road (Memorial Park to Causewayhead) will go ahead. CC are continuing to work with Stephen Easton (SC) to implement and manage this i.e. signage for walking and cycling for travelling to/from the University of Stirling and the schools. JMB feels the need to further invest in highlighting the changes going forward.
- Stirling Cycle Hub: An Active Travel Survey was (tying in SCs Active Travel plans) made available via CC social media pages and paper copies were also available. The Hub are pleased with the response they received. JMB confirmed that there was a meeting at BoA Primary School this evening and a focus group was gathering at Wallace High School on the following evening; BofA PS have an Active Travel Plan to encourage other ways to travel to school, other than by car. These meetings will help to motivate this and will bring together stakeholders, parents, pupils, school. This also ties in with SCs Green Strategy.
- JMB asked CC if they would agree to a visit at the February CC meeting from an Active Stirling representative. LH asked for responses and it was agreed unanimously.
- JMB expressed that, regarding initiatives such as road crossings etc., a highly consultative process should be followed.

B1486 Parking Arrangements Proposals and Outline of Community Engagement/Consultation Process (JC)

LH opened this item by explaining that a group of the traders in BofA had, last year, approached the CC regarding the proposed parking restrictions by SC. A group was formed comprising JC, MW and Councillor Houston, to look at the planning of these proposed restrictions. The group met with Stephen Easton (SC) in November 2017. As an outline of the proposals, to outline the proposed community engagement and seek agreement to this approach, JC issued a report at the meeting. The contents were discussed and are summarised as follows:

- Parking in Henderson Street – proposal to mix 30 and 60-minute waiting/parking zones in order to accommodate different parking needs. JC reported that Stephen Easton saw no issue with this proposal.
- Improve signage to Public car parks: It is proposed that signage is improved to direct visitor to the available car parks.

- Implement a restriction to the Fountain Road Public car park: possible restriction to parking for 2 or 3 hours, after which charging could be implemented. Views will be sought during the community engagement process.
- The group recognize that there are other parking issues e.g. Keir Street, at the railway station etc. It was acknowledged that discussions need to be had with e.g. University of Stirling and other appropriate bodies e.g. Scotrail, in order to propose/provide any potential solutions.

JC confirmed the next steps and stated that views were not being sought at this meeting; and that she would report back in March 2018 with findings:

- Agree consultation approach (may be nominal costs for the process admin etc.)
- Identify and secure appropriate provided by SC to help with the process)
- Draft and issue letters to traders
- Prepare consultation event/display paperwork
- Commence consultation
- Analyse and present findings from consultation
- Implement changes in line with consultation

LH thanked the group and JC for drawing together a comprehensive and clear way forward. He asked for any comments.

Councillor Houston thanked JC for the report and suggested that the CC could ask SC to reproduce the maps of the parking to include the proposals which could be displayed at sessions where the community could meet to discuss and comment.

A resident voiced concern as he had been involved in a previous consultation a few years ago: 30 / 60-minute parking mix may cause confusion and perhaps should be standardized throughout the village. JC responded that this will be covered by the consultation process and perhaps it would be best to base any decision on those findings. The resident also commented on Union Street parking, where there appears to be a van that is permanently parked in the same spot and also highlighted that it is lack of space and not restriction, in his opinion, offering that BofA could not make use of parking along its dual carriageway (like Dunblane has), as the road was not wide enough to accommodate this.

MB added that we as a community, are faced with changing issues (since the last review) e.g. The University have stated that more students use cars to travel as there are more students now living at home. This has resulted in pressure on the university car parks and, therefore, increased use of Bridge of Allan streets for parking. In addition, more commuters are using public transport which has caused an increase in the number of cars using the station car park.

Another resident suggested Lecroft Church may provide a car park that could be used. Councillor Houston responded that this would be ground owned by the church and therefore, not for public use. SH commented that there were plans for new building and hall at the church.

LH commented that Wallace High School car park is being used by people parking their cars who are not attending the school for any reason.

A resident suggested that the University of Stirling have a responsibility to the community and Keir Street parking (which appears to overflow from the University) is dangerous. LH confirmed that the University would not be able to police students/staff parking out with the University grounds. JMB/JC raised dispersal issues in that the changes and restrictions to the parking in Dunblane have had an effect in the parking in Bridge of Allan, particularly around the station. MB's comment was reiterated in that, there are changes that have happened over the time since the last review, and we need to look at the big picture through this consultation process. CC need to work with all concerned to find solutions. JC closed this section and offered her availability to chat (or to volunteer to help) after the meeting or

via email/telephone. Comment was also made by a resident that the future increase in housing would lead to greater pressures on the parking.

B1487 Stirling Council Review of Community Councils (LH)

SC is currently undertaking a thorough and rigorous review of its 40 plus community councils with a view to concluding all 3 phases of the review in time for the Community Council Elections being held in September of this year. The first phase has now been concluded and the team's findings have been distilled into a series of significant headline issues. A community councillor conference was held to discuss these issues. LH attended this on behalf of BofA CC. A resultant document has been compiled summarising the outcomes. LH commented on the helpfulness of this document. LH confirmed that BofA CC will hold a development meeting to consider some of these findings, particularly those that refer to the governance aspects of community councils and codes of conduct that CCs must observe. The next CC meeting (February 2018) will include a report of this development meeting.

LH explained that the CC had been asked to comment on the draft of the Council's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for the 10-year period (2017 to 2027). Although, he added that the timescale for this is very short as the survey closes on 29 January 2017. The plan will be published in March 2018. The emphasis in the Plan is on addressing issues of inequality throughout the SC's area by establishing specific and targeted Local Action Plans which will attempt to tackle deprivation in the most disadvantaged communities in the Stirling area. LH commented that the document is an aspirational one, and the objectives are very much what the CC would endorse. He encouraged residents to read this as it is available online (SC website).

B1488 Student/Youth Representation (JMB)

JMB stated that the CC does not have a lot of representation from the younger community. Therefore, CC are looking to recruit younger members of the community. She asked if anyone is aware of someone that would like to come along to encourage them to get in touch with CC. JMB stated that the CC should consider how it engages with the community. DW offered to put JMB with the Student Union representative at UoS who is also secretary for the Mercat Cross CC as he may have ideas that could help us with this (Action DW). A resident suggested that Wallace High School may be interested as their engagement with the CC was previously successful (until those pupils left school) and there was a drop off in communication. JMB will follow up with Mr Pennock (Head teacher) (Action JMB).

B1489 Roads Report (NY)

NY confirmed that all issues were weather related.

B1490 Planning Update (IMc)

IMc confirmed a letter had been received from SC to state that planning permission had been approved for 12 Alexander Drive. He also confirmed that a report was being submitted with regard to the handling of this.

A resident voiced his concerns over this approval, commenting that there are access issues now made and that as far as he was aware, roads dept. had not been consulted on this. IMc stated that he had sent CC concerns to SC and asked them to get Roads Dept. consultation, also stating that there appears to be a fence now around what was public land. The resident then raised the matter of the Fence in Henderson Street which he stated warranted an enforcement order and this should now be further addressed by CC. Councillor Dodds confirmed that he has emailed SC about this issue, however, suggested CC could write to the SC Planning Department, to raise a formal complaint and that this

would be fully investigated. Concerns were raised as to the lack of action on enforcement. Councillor Dodds stated that he would report back to CC on the above. IMc stated that he will write to SC to ask for an explanation as to why this planning has been approved (Action IMc).

B1491 Treasurer's Report (MB)

MB gave the Treasurer's Report in MG's absence and issued printed report for January 2018 to the CC.

MB stated that the Community Connect Fund would soon be depleted completely as the website designer will be paid. The remaining, unused funds will be returned to SC.

MB asked for agreement to pay a provider to host the CC website at a rate of £72 per annum. This was unanimously agreed.

B1492 Secretary's Report (LH)

LH commented that there were a large number of items to cover at this meeting.

- The CC received a letter from Westminster MP, Stephen Kerr, inviting Community Council members to feed any relevant comments on broadband and mobile phone coverage to the Scottish Affairs Committee which has launched a public inquiry into this matter.
- Councillor Dodds forwarded a communication about the proposed installation of a radio base station on the grassed verge in Easter Cornton Road, he also forwarded Network Rail communication providing a very detailed update of the Kerse Road Bridge project, the first phase of which started on 8th January 2018.
- LH explained that the CC received a letter from Stirling Council inviting comments by the end of February 2018 on its proposal to distribute the funds of a small number of charitable trusts of which the Council is sole trustee and which have relatively small level of funds and are outdated and/or historic in nature; the distribution of these will relate to the original purpose of each trust but in the context of contemporary social needs.
- Councillor Dodds forwarded an email to the CC from Derek Leitch of Stirling Council's Land Services explaining that, over a two-week period in November/December, the Council's Deep Clean Squad had removed 22.76 tonnes of detritus in Bridge of Allan.
- Councillor Marjury has emailed CC on behalf of the Inverallan Drive resident who first raised with us the issue of the unsatisfactory road surface on part of Inverallan Road. Conforming that the resident has been successful in persuading the Council to effect a temporary repair covering the worst of the potholes.
- The CC has received a Stirling Council Land Services communication informing of the decision not to replace broken pole mounted dog waste bins, and to replace these with large free-standing litter bins which accept both litter and dog waste. Although the communication stressed that these are expensive and cannot be located everywhere.
- At the end of November, the Council leader, Scott Farmer, issued a copy of his letter to the Scottish First Minister indicating his concern about the Park of Keir decision and CC have also received a copy of the response from the relevant Planning minister, Kevin Stewart, underlining the fact that the appeal was recalled due to the benefits of the original decision being of significant regional and national interest.
- Councillor Dodds forwarded to the CC, a copy of a communication he has sent to the Council's Planning and Enforcement Officers, voicing his current concerns about Domino's Pizza. This is relevant to the firm being given permission to make internal changes on the condition that all waste be stored within a bin store inside the building. Councillor Dodds expressed that this condition was not being observed by the firm.
- In relation to Stirling Council's proposal to cut funding for the Smith Museum, Councillor Dodds

sent the CC email to inform that Stephen Kerr had lodged an Early Day motion in the House of Commons. In describing the move as an act of cultural vandalism, the motion stresses that the Smith Museum is a significant cultural asset, attracting over 40,000 visitors a year; it notes its vision to serve the people of Stirling and further afield; it underlines its purpose as a custodian for future generations and it highlights the contribution of staff and volunteers. LH added that there will be a relevant feature in the Stirling Observer (24/01/2018 edition).

JMB stated that the Smith was an asset and that this raised concern, inviting community comment. Councillor Houston commented that this proposal should show no reduction to the funding this year and there would be no threat at the moment and he reiterated that these were proposals. JMB said that she felt there was a call for better communication here.

A resident commented on the grass cutting which, he said was to reduce from 15 to 10 cuts each year. He asked if CC will do anything re these proposals. Another resident stated that there is a huge amount of detail in the proposal and that comments were due for 5th of February; there was a proposal to withdraw Psychology services for young people and many other issues that needed looked into. Councillor Dodds confirmed that there would be a meeting in the Raploch the next evening and JMB confirmed she would attend this. JMB stated that there appeared to be lots of conflicting and compelling needs. LH confirmed that CC would comment. He would draw up a priority list so that CC could further discuss at the development meeting. JC suggested each member of the CC take an action and summarise back to the key points (Action All).

MB asked Councillor Houston about the level of outgoings from SC on PFI/PPP (Private Finance Initiative/Public Private Partnerships) interest payments. He asked if there was a way this could be negotiated. Adding, there was no mention in the summary proposal document of this. Councillor Houston responded there is some engagement ongoing, with the Scottish Government, to buy out these contracts. Anything from this will not be before this year's budget however.

B1493 Residents' Voice

The issue of the recycling bins was brought up by a resident who commented that these had been missed in the deep clean. LH referred this to Councillor Dodds who confirmed ongoing communication with the Cooperative and SC as to the responsibility of this matter. Councillor Dodds will pursue.

A resident commented on the pothole repairs, as he felt the method of repair was not successful in addressing the problems. He stated that he hoped councilors would take this matter up. LH commented that SC are providing temporary repairs until such times as a full fix can be done. Councillor Dodds confirmed that this was in an ongoing works programme and that it might take some time but will be done.

A resident who is the developer at Monroe Gate raised an ongoing issue he has with the collection and subsequent return of the wheelie bins to these residences (by SC employees). This is a recurring issue and although he has been in contact, and met with the management and the employees, it is still not resolved. The resident stated that he hoped the elected members present would take this forward. There was suggestion made by a resident there may be some friction between employees and SC. MB announced the new CC website was now live and that comments can now be added to this (if you log in) and to the CC Facebook page.

There being no other business, LH declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 20th February 2018, at 7.30pm.

Police Report Summary

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

On 9th December 2017 a male was arrested at Steuart Road, for acting in a threatening and abusive manner to police. The male was taken to custody in relation to this and a report will be sent to the PF in due. Should be of note he was also found in possession of a controlled substance.

On 5th January 2018 Henderson Street two males known to each other were fighting. Both were traced at the time by police and found not to be injured. Both males were issued with recorded police warnings in relation to a breach of the peace.

DRUG MISUSE

On 8th December 2017 at Sherrifmuir Road, a female was found in possession of a controlled substance. The female was issued with a recording police warning in relation to this.

On 12th December 2017 at Cornton Road a male was found in possession of a controlled substance. The male was issued with a recording police warning in relation to this.

VIOLENT CRIME

No reports of violent crime.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

Between 5th December- 3rd January 2018, at Inverallan Road, Bridge of Allan jewellery was stolen from a house believed to be by a known person. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to this. If you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20180105-0796.

On 10th December 2017 at Airthrey Road, an unoccupied house was broken into, albeit nothing of value was taken. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to this. If you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20171211-0246.

On 15th December 2017 at Coop, Fountain Road, a large quantity of alcohol was stolen. It is believed to be a gang targeting smaller supermarkets, and similar incidents have occurred over the Forth Valley area in different shops. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to this. If you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20171215-3755.

On 15th January 2018 at Station Road a male was arrested for a theft from a motor vehicle. The male was traced quickly by police and taken to custody. He appeared at court the following day.

ROAD SAFETY

On 20th December 2017 the community team conducted speed checks at Cornton Road - pleased to say all drivers were within the speed limits.

OTHER MATTERS OF NOTE

On 19th January 2018 at Upper Glen Road a car was set on fire deliberately. This is currently being investigated by CID. As such, there is an increased police presence in this area for reassurance. If you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20180119-2334.

ENDS