

LARBERT, STENHOUSEMUIR & TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING – 25 January 2016 LOWER HALL, LARBERT OLD CHURCH

Attendance Details

Committee:

- Colleen Hurren (CH)
- Yvonne Weir (YW)
- Ted Bingham (TB)
- Denis Shovlin (DS)
- Lauralin Scott (LS)
- Eric Appelbe (EA)
- Charles Gillespie (CG)

Also Present:

- Chris Cox, Falkirk Council
- Kevin O'Connor & Fraser Pennie, Larbert High School
- Pc Alec Clarke, Police Scotland
- Mark Craske, NHS Forth Valley
- David Frize and Paul Crawford, Falkirk Council Community Safety Team
- 6 members of the public
- Councillor Carleschi

Apologies:

- Gillian Bellingham (GB)
- Jim Cowan (JC)
- Jim Kelly (JK)
- Peter O'Rourke (PO'R)
- Cllr Tom Coleman

1. Welcome

- EA welcomed everyone to the first meeting in 2016 of the Community Council.
- EA advised that it was with extreme sadness that we heard the news that our fellow Community Councillor Margaret Cheyne passed away. EA advised that Margaret joined the Community Council in 2009 and served as both our Vice-Convenor and acting Convenor during that time. Margaret was well-known in the local community and brought a substantial range of both personal and professional experience and knowledge to the Community Council. Margaret will be greatly missed by all and our thoughts are with Margaret's friends and family. EA advised that Margaret's funeral will take place at 11am at Grahamston United Church and then 12pm at Camelon Cemetery.
- EA advised that our thoughts are also with Iain Fraser who previously served on the Community Council. Iain recently lost his son.
- Apologies were taken.

2. Police Report

- Police Constable Clarke reported that between 1st November and 26th of November 2015:
- During the period of 1st of January to today's date there have been a total of 53 recorded crimes in the Larbert, Torwood and Stenhousemuir areas. 25 of these have been detected meaning a person has been charged. Enquiry is ongoing into the remaining ones. They include speeding in Torwood, low level Anti-Social Behaviour and minor assaults. During the same period last year 91 crimes were recorded in this area meaning there has been a marked decrease in offences and most importantly victims of crime during the two years.
- Two bogus workman incident have been reported to Police on the 15th and 21st of January. The suspects were described as being male, late 40's, 5'9 - 5'10 in height, stocky build with rugged features, reddish/weathered face, local Scottish accent, salt and pepper short hair, wearing an old, dirty fleece with a Scottish Power emblem embroidered over the left chest attempted to gain access to a property in Church Street, Stenhousemuir and Bellsdyke Road in Larbert. Nothing has been taken on these occasions however Scottish Power confirm no persons should have been in these areas at the times noted. If all members could bear the description in mind and pass on to their neighbours this would be of great benefit. PC Clarke reminded everyone about bogus callers and "if in doubt, keep them out."
- On 22nd December, 2015 a juvenile male committed an unprovoked assault on a staff member within Subway, Stenhousemuir. He was quickly traced and apprehended by Police and subject of a report to the children's panel.
- On the 16th of January, flags from the golf course at Tryst road were stolen, 28 in total.
- Police Scotland local priorities remain;
 - 1) Tackling anti-social behaviour, youth drinking and violence.
 - 2) Targeting those who supply drugs in the community
 - 3) Improving road safety and in particular those driving in excess of the speed limit and in vehicles that are in a dangerous condition,
- Operation Bullring commenced in January and is a targeted ASB operation specifically for the ward area. High visibility patrols have been and will continue to be deployed in and around the area in order to deter and detect all instances of ASB. On Friday and Saturday, 8 special officers were out and about supporting local officers and the feedback thus far has been very positive. The operation will continue to run over the coming months and feedback will be given as required.
- It was advised that there had been issues with trolleys in the Lido again over the weekend. PC Clarke advised he will advise staff of this.
- EA asked if crime was reducing locally. PC Clarke advised it was but he would need to do more research in to the areas where there was a reduction.
- EA asked if there had been any approach for local neighbourhood watch schemes. PC Clarke advised no but would welcome any suggestions for one.

- TB raised the ongoing issue of speeding on the A9 between the motorway slip roundabouts with cars doing 80-90 mph. PC Clarke advised he would raise this with the Road Traffic Unit and would undertake hand held radar where he could. **Action 1: PC Clarke to contact Road Traffic Unit in relation to speeding on the A9.**
- The January Police Report can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/LSTCC-Police-Report-January-2016.pdf>

3. Community Safety Team Update

- David Frize and Paul Crawford were in attendance from the Community Safety Team. They provided an update on their activities.
- David advised that the Community Safety Team continue to patrol the town centre area at lunchtimes in relation to litter. They have been working with the Campus Police Officer at Larbert High School to deal with issues when they arise.
- The Team is continuing to investigate and monitor dog fouling in a number of locations.
- They are continuing to monitor the Hills of Dunipace Cemetery to deter any further thefts from gravesites. Solar lamps in particular have been stolen.
- They are also monitoring Torwood Castle and quarry. There have been fires in the woods and vandalism to the Castle including entry to the building. The graffiti suggests the individuals are from the Denny area.
- On the 11th February, the Community Safety Team are holding a surgery in Denny One Stop Shop from 10am to 1pm.
- A member of the public asked about the layby on Bellsdyke Road just past the Antonshill roundabout where there are ongoing issues of litter. The Community Safety Team will check out the site as there had been previous issues there of raw butcher meat being left.
- YW advised that a resident had posted on the Community Council Facebook page about ongoing issues with fly tipping in the Lade including 2 trollies, together with a kids bed and several scooters. David advised that the Community Safety Team was undertaking work with Larbert Village and Ladeside Primary Schools to highlight the issues of ant-social behaviour. It was agreed that this programme was worthwhile as pester power with parents from children can be effective. **ACTION 2: YW to write to local schools to proactively promote the positive work of the Community Safety Team working within schools.**
- The Community Safety Team January Report can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CST-January-2016-Report.pdf>

4. Youth Report – Larbert High School

- Kevin O'Connor (teacher) and Fraser Pennie (pupil) were in attendance.
- Fraser reported that S1 and S2 had been working with the Chaplaincy Team and Larbert East Church before Christmas.
- There had been a staff pantomime which had raised £1200 for charity. The Dance team had organized school dances including one at Airth Castle.
- Plans are ongoing for the 130 years of Larbert High School in the community. There will be a gala dinner held on Friday 27th May. There will be a social education programme for parents and formal pupils. They are continuing to try to find the oldest living pupil with the oldest to date being 102 years of age.
- National 5 and Higher pupils are going to Paris this weekend.
- Prelims are underway and finish on Friday.
- S4 attended Stirling University today as part of the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign.
- On Thursday the S1 Schools of Opportunities will be launched linked to the schools of STEM, languages, basketball, dance etc that operate within the school.
- On Thursday, there is also a College HNC open evening for pupils. It is possible for pupils to undertake an HNS over 2 years whilst at school. Subject areas are linked to growth areas and include electronics and event management. S4s can also now undertake Foundation Apprenticeships. Pupils can also now undertake baccalaureates.
- EA enquired about the community newsletter. Kevin advised we would receive it tomorrow.
- EA asked for a contact within the schools in relation to the project linking the Carron Dams to Larbert Old Graveyard. Kevin advised the contacts would be himself and John Martindale who is the Principal Teacher for Humanities. **Action 3: Kevin O'Connor to provide contact details for John Martindale to EA.**

5. Parking & Travel Plan at FVRH – Mark Craske, NHS Forth Valley

- EA welcomed Mark to meeting. He outlined the travel plan that NHS Forth Valley requires to have in place as part of the Section 75 Agreement with Falkirk Council. A review of the travel plan has been undertaken and is currently being considered by Falkirk Council. NHS Forth Valley is expecting formal feedback in February. If approved, Mark will send the Community Council a copy.
- Mark advised that in 2016, there will be open parking for any staff member in the Purple Car Park on Fridays and holidays (based on Falkirk school holidays) as well as at the weekend and in the evenings. Mark and other staff have been visible in the front car park early in the morning to speak to staff around 13-14 times to raise awareness.

- Cycling promotion continues. Recykabike will provide bike maintenance checks every second Wednesday from 2nd March through to October at the hospital. This is available for staff and members of the community. Mark advised there had been an increase in the numbers cycling and taking advantage of the cycle to work scheme. **Action 4: YW to promote the bike maintenance programme at FVRH on social media.**
- Mark advised that there was ongoing working taking place with primary and high schools following last year's i-bike festival. It has been agreed to repeat the festival this year on 4th September at FVRH. There will be fun activities, bike maintenance and lunch provided.
- Mark advised that a solution to the bus shelters had been found to protect passengers against the elements. He is working with the Sign Factory to design and install the solution.
- Mark reported that there had been issues with congestion of buses at Stance 4. As a result, the 6/7 service will be moved to Stance 1 to improve the situation.
- Mark advised that Amey Roads has agreed to install 2 signs for FVRH/A&E on the M9-M876 travelling from the Edinburgh direction.
- Mark provided the latest FVRH: Travel and Parking Characteristics – 2015 Survey Report. He only had hard copies and advised he would send the link once it is available online. Mark advised he would come back to a future meeting to talk about the findings in the report. **ACTION 5: Mark Craske to provide a link online to the latest travel and parking survey report, provide a copy of the travel plan when approved and attend a future meeting to discuss further.**
- EA referred to an article in the Scotsman which referred to green transport policy and Transform Scotland. Mark was aware of the work of Transform Scotland.
- DS said that he is a volunteer for Radio Royal at FVRH. He enquired over whether there is any assistance that can be provided to volunteers for parking at the hospital. Mark advised he would look into this further.
- A resident advised there are ongoing issues with the Stagecoach service being full and drivers not calling of the next bus to arrive at the hospital. However, TB advised that he had not experienced any issues and that the next bus had been called. It was agreed to continue to monitor this.
- It was advised that there are specific issues with parking on Tuesday mornings with 50+ cars queuing and the purple car park also very busy.
- Mark said there had been positive feedback from senior managers in relation to the Car Club scheme. It is a 2-year pilot and a sustainable business case will be required for the scheme to continue after the pilot. It was noted that City Car Club is now operated by Enterprise.

6. #59 Bus Update – Chris Cox, Falkirk Council

- EA welcomed Chris to the meeting. Chris gave a very informative overview of bus operations and provided a handout with frequently asked questions outlined with full answers. This can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Bus-Service-FAQs.pdf>
- He firstly advised that Falkirk Council is not responsible for the provision of bus services. Bus operators can provide whatever services they wish including routes, fares, size of bus etc. If there is no commercial desire to operate a service, then Falkirk Council can procure the service. He noted that this is a non-statutory service.
- Chris advised that particularly with concessionary passes, there had been a large drop in revenue for commercial operators. In addition, the cost of investment in new vehicles has increased plus operators must comply with DDA and PSV accessibility legislation whereby all buses must be wheelchair accessible. Costs of fuel can also be high where operators are locked into higher diesel prices at high rates than are currently available. For Falkirk Council, this has meant that the tendered costs of services has increased faster than inflation due to the other cost pressures operators face.
- Falkirk Council is due to set its budget on 17th February. This could result in funding to be withdrawn or reduced for the services supported by Falkirk Council. As a result, the budget from 1st April is not yet known. The contracts for all the services procured by Falkirk Council expire in August 2016. The routes are being reviewed but it is expected that there will be a 30-40% increase in tender prices.
- Chris noted that there had previously been no desire from commercial operators to provide a route to the Inches/Kinnaird. Currently due to the road network, it is not easy to serve by bus as there are no turning circles. However, as the site expands with more flats and the link road to the Moss Road, this may be more promising for operators and would open up possibilities for future routes.
- Chris advised that specific concerns had been raised by Airth and Lethem residents over the #59 bus. Over 1000 residents had responded to a survey on the route. The results showed differing opinions – 1/3 happy with route, 1/3 wish a more direct route to Falkirk e.g. through Grahams Road and 1/3 expressed an interest in having alternative routes.
- Chris described the issues with the #59 bus services which focus around punctuality and reliability. This is due in the main to the link to Callander/Stirling, roadworks (e.g. in Doune) and also bus issues and breakdowns.
- Chris advised there had been expressions of interest in a route linked to Central Business Park.
- YW said that a resident had advised that students regularly use the #59 bus to attend college in Stirling.
- Chris confirmed that he intends to undertake a quick resident survey for the Inches/Kinnaird. He noted that for August, the tender process would have to commence in March. It was agreed that the Community Council would assist in circulating the survey online. Chris would also make paper copies available.

Action 6: Chris Cox to provide YW with a link to an online survey and YW to market the survey.

7. Matters from the Floor

- Tryst Golf Club – A member of the Club attended and was looking for more information on the windfarm fund. He also advised that there had been issues as mentioned in the police Report of the flags being removed from the Course. Finally, he had said that new signs would be installed to indicate private ground and to encourage members of the public to keep to the public rights of way on the course and to keep dogs on a leash. EA advised that the CC could put safety information onto the Community Council Facebook page. **Action 7: YW to post information on safety walking across the Golf Course onto the Facebook page.**

8. Approval of Previous Minutes

- DS proposed the minutes and LS seconded them.

9. Matters Arising

- Page 4 – The Lido – YW advised she had still to write to the pupils at Ladeside Primary School to thank them for their letter. **(Action 8)**
- Page 5 – The Lido – YW advised she had sought interest on the Facebook page for a Friends of the Lido Group. This had focused around an issue with trolleys and had resulted in no interest. It was agreed to repost information. **(Action 9)**
- Page 5 – The Lido – It was agreed to seek an update from Kevin O'Connor in relation to Larbert High School plans for a community payback scheme which could potentially be linked to the Lido. **(Action 10)**
- Page 5 – Community Energy Plan – YW advised that a paper had not yet been received from Kim Grant and the matter would drop from the agenda meantime.
- Page 6 – Falkirk Council Budget Consultation – All were reminded that the presentation would take place tomorrow, Tuesday 26th January at 7pm in the Halls of Larbert Old Church. Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive and Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer from Falkirk Council will attend. YW advised there were posters, on-line information and an article in the Falkirk Herald to promote the event. EA advised the format would be presentation followed by a Q&A. All were encouraged to attend.
- Page 6 – Todhill Windfarm Fund – CH provided an update and advised that the Fund was now live with a closing deadline of 7th March. An article had been printed in this week's Falkirk Herald. The scheme guidelines and application form are available on Foundation Scotland's website - <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/todhill/> The Fund now requires to be promoted. The CVS is aware of the Fund. One of the panel members is working with LHS on a logo for the Fund. CH advised there would be 2 deadlines one in March and one in Autumn. CH and LS advised they are both happy with the set-up of the Fund. **Action11: Fund to be actively promoted by LSTCC on website, social media and in other physical locations.**

- Page 6 – Todhill MicroGrant Fund – YW confirmed the £1500 had been received and the Community Council could now commence giving out grants of up to £250. It was agreed that CH could look at the guidelines, application form and process for the fund. **(Action 12)**.
- Page 7 – Path to Dorrator Bridge – YW advised that CATCA had confirmed they are aware of the issues with the surfacing caused by vehicles and are investigating solutions.
- Page 7 – Dog Litter Bin in Castings – Cllr Carleschi advised he had raised the matter of the overflowing bin with Cllr Coleman.
- Page 7 – Todhill Wind Farm – YW reported that the revised Memorandum of Understanding with Foundation Scotland had been received and had to be checked and signed. **(Action 13)** Foundation Scotland has confirmed that Community Enterprise has received payment for the printing of the community plans.
- Page 7 - Local Play Park/Playing Field Facilities – YW advised that Falkirk Community Trust had accepted the invitation to attend the February meeting to discuss ongoing concerns over the poor state of the playing fields at Stewartfield and Graham Avenue despite the plans to make modest improvements.
- Page 7 – External Minutes Secretary – YW had re-advertised the post after Christmas and had received no interest. It was advised that Kinnaird Parent Council has a minute secretary and it was agreed to contact them to seek any possible interest. **(Action 14)**
- Page 7 – New Bin near Queens Drive – YW to make contact with the resident to keep an eye on the situation following Falkirk Council’s refusal to place a new litter bin. **(Action 15)**
- Page 7 – Inches Farm Road – YW to write to Tom Steele, NHS Forth Valley for clarification over the maintenance of the Road. **(Action 16)**
- Page 8 – Lomond Crescent – YW is still to contact the resident following Falkirk Council’s correspondence that it is the developer and resident who are responsible for the overhanging trees. **(Action 17)**
- Page 8 – Rosehill Turbines – YW advised that Greencat Renewables had responded advising that there is no planning condition for this project that requires a community benefit fund nor are they aware that farm diversifications are required to provide such benefit. They stated that the turbines are not situated within our area and there is not a presently constituted Plean Community Council. However, as the turbines are equidistant from Stenhousemuir/Larbert, Plean and Airth, their clients took the decision, six months ago, to commit annual funding to several agencies that serve the wider community within the surrounding area. The chosen agencies are Strathcarron Hospice, Maggie’s Trust at Forth Valley Royal Hospital and one other still to be confirmed. It was agreed that whilst it was good that charities were benefitting it was disappointing that community benefits were not required by Stirling Council. It was agreed that a letter would be issued to Stirling Council advising we were disappointed with the lack of community benefit. **(Action 18)**.

- Page 8 – Waiting Signs, Main St – Update to be sought on incorrect signage. **(Action 19)**
- Page 8 – POO the Musical – EA and YW advised that the litter team had suggested that the Community Council submit a nomination for its role in Poo the Musical. YW had advised the litter team following discussion with EA that as the Community Council's involvement was purely financial and administrative, that no nomination would be submitted.
- Page 8 – Library disabled parking bays – Cllr Carleschi had not received an update from ASDA.
- Page 8 – Postboxes in Kinnaird Village – CH had posted information on how to measure the ½ mile radius on the Facebook page for residents.
- Page 8 – Datazone Information in final Research Document – YW reported that there had been no update from Community Enterprise or Falkirk Council. As a result, it was agreed to close this action.
- Page 9 – New Charles Church Development direct access onto Bellsdyke Road from Hamilton Road – Cllr Carleschi advised that officers had confirmed this was part of the original masterplan. Roads officers had confirmed they were satisfied with the junction.
- Page 9 – Pedestrian Crossing at Larbert Station – YW to confirm a date with Falkirk Council to meet on site to discuss the issues with the timings of the lights with GB. **(Action 20)**
- Page 9 – War Memorial at the Dobbie Hall – YW advised that correspondence had been received that the memorial had been inspected and estimates sought from specialist contractors to carry out a mild clean of the stone work. Pointing /grouting to stonework and replacement of missing bolts on the centre plaque have also been identified for action. Work is likely to take place in summer time. It is not clear if the work has been formally approved.
- Page 9 – Small Car Park – Foundry Loan – YW reported that Falkirk Council had responded advising that due to unsustainable burdens on enforcement issues, there were no plans to restrict stay in this car park. Disappointment was noted.
- Page 9 – Special uplifts – In absence of JK this has been carried over.
- Page 10 – Letter of Support – YW advised she had written a letter of support in relation to the Larbert War Memorial interpretation project to support the grant application.
- Page 10 – Flooding of shops at Larbert Station – YW advised she had written to Falkirk Council and the Federation of Small Businesses but only received a holding response from Falkirk Council. EA confirmed that the shops had been pumping water from the basements for the last few weeks. He had been advised that by those carrying out the pumping work that the pipe that previously took the water away had been removed by Network Rail and not replaced. YW to follow-up with Falkirk Council and FSB **(Action 21)**.
- Page 10 – Carron Landfill Site – It was agreed to invite Grontmijj who are acting

for Central Demolition to attend the March meeting to discuss plans for the site and also the recent pollution issues at the site. **(Action 22)**

- Surfacing Work Tryst Road – there was discussion over the recent resurfacing to Tryst Road which is of extremely poor quality. Cllr Carleschi advised that there was to be a site visit with the contractors to review the work. It was agreed to write to Falkirk Council to seek and update on this and also the ongoing flooding issues on the road. **(Action 23)**
- Page 11 – Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – DS advised that he was not pursuing the scheme at this time.

10. Correspondence Report – Items for discussion not covered elsewhere:

Date of Item	Item	Action Taken/Required
1/12/2015	Scottish Civic Trust - My Place Awards - closing date 31st January 2016 recognise projects that have had a positive impact in a local neighbourhood and have delivered positive benefits to that community. Also, the Civic Champion Award for a person who has made an outstanding contribution to their local heritage and/or civic society.	Agreed to consider CATCA next year
4/12/2015	Falkirk Local Development Plan (July 2015) - Consultation on Supplementary Guidance- SG16 Listed Buildings and Unlisted Properties in Conservation Areas	No response
4/12/2015	Falkirk Council - Community Council Forum - Recycling Charter on Tuesday 15 December 2015 - discussion session	YW missed within inbox - to be noted
7/12/2015	Falkirk Open Space Strategy - Consultative Draft - response due 29th Feb www.falkirk.gov.uk/consultations	YW has issued invitation to Danny Thallon for Feb meeting and requested an extension. EA to consider (Action 24)
8/12/2015	Scottish Health Council - information on Forth Valley Carers Card	Noted
9/1/2016	CH - Information on Edinburgh school's parking ban	Noted
10/1/2016	DS - Concern over young people climbing on cows in Stenhousemuir	YW to consider response via Falkirk Advocacy (Action 25)
10/1/2016	Foundation Scotland - Funding Fayre & Press release	Agreed noattendance at CVS Funding Fayre this year.
11/1/2016 & 15/1/2016	CVS Falkirk Third Sector Conference "Towards a Fairer Scotland" - Wednesday 10th February 2016 at Forth Valley College, Falkirk Campus.	Noted
20/1/2016	Dorrator Bridge Memorial Project - Falkirk Council - Meeting Request	To be invited to February Meeting (Action 26)

25/1/2016	NHS Forth Valley – Request for formal response form LSTCC for proposed pharmacy in Kinnaird Village and also seeking a member of the Community Council to be on the Committee for considering the application.	Letter to be submitted per agreement at November meeting and GB to consider being on Committee (Action 27)
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11. Treasurer's Report

- GB had provided YW with a report. The £1500 microfund from Foundation Scotland was deposited in the account on 8th December. GB will keep a separate page in accounts for this. GB advised that the balance was £5,300.32.

12 Planning Report

- CH circulated the planning report. Although there was some discussion regarding the retrospective planning application at Drover Round, there had been no issues raised in relation to any of the applications.
- CH advised there had been concerns on the FB page over the planning applications for the pub/restaurant and other development sites in Kinnaird being withdrawn. It was agreed that clarification from Falkirk Council would be sought.
(Action 28)
- Cllr Carleschi advised he was aware of interest in the former McCowan's site. He has heard the interest is for a pub/restaurant and a garden centre.

13. Other Reports

- EA provided an update on the industrial heritage project for the graveyard at Larbert old and its links to the Carron Works/ Dams. A wide range of agencies are involved in the project and they are so far of the opinion that it is a viable project and that potential sources of funding will be available for interpretive features. EA will continue to attend meetings and report back.

14. AOCB

- There was no AOCB.

15. Date of Next Meeting - Monday 29th February 2016