

LARBERT, STENHOUSEMUIR & TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING – AGM - 26th SEPTEMBER 2016 LOWER HALL, LARBERT OLD CHURCH

Attendance Details

Committee:

- Eric Appelbe (EA)
- Gillian Bellingham (GB)
- Ted Bingham (TB)
- Jim Cowan (JC)
- Charles Gillespie (CG)
- Colleen Hurren (CH)
- Jim Kelly (JK)
- Lauralin Scott (LS)
- Denis Shovlin (DS)
- Yvonne Weir (YW)

Also Present:

- PC Alex Clarke & PC Susan Wetton, Police Scotland
- Kirsty Mitchell & Gregor Monson, Larbert High School
- Cllr Carleschi, Falkirk Council
- Approx. 5 members of the public

Apologies:

- Peter O'Rourke (PO'R)
- Mrs Kay, Larbert High School
- Councillor Stephen Bird, Falkirk Council
- Community Safety Team, Falkirk Council
- Christina Deans, Falkirk Company Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force

1. Welcome and Apologies

- EA welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Community Council.

2. Police Report – PC Alex Clarke, Police Scotland

- PC Clarke gave the Police Report.
- **Speeding**
- PC Morrison and PC Clarke have been carrying out speed detection patrols on Stirling road, Bellsdyke Road and Union Street, Stenhousemuir in response to specific complaints. It was found that on Stirling Road there is a general increase in the vehicle speed once the overflow from the FVRH has cleared from the roadway. Vehicles coming from Falkirk travelling North are generally faster than those travelling South bound. Numerous drivers have been spoken to and warned and in the coming weeks should drivers be caught speeding tickets will be issued. This will be a £100 penalty and 3 penalty points.
- On Bellsdyke Road there is greater variety of times of speeding and some drivers have been found driving nearer 50mph. Again tickets will be issued should the

problem continue. This behaviour is generally down to poor behaviour as opposed to road design.

- **Youth Issues**

- The playpark at the Lido has been given extra attention and nothing untoward has been noted as yet. The Police have spoken to a couple of groups and will continue to monitor.

- **Parking**

- PC Clarke has been around Carmill studios again and appreciate the lack of parking there coupled with how busy the venue is. There is potential for an accident upon leaving the lowered car parking when people park too close to the entrance. This is something which could be avoided if people park further back on Stirling Road and again cones would be ideal here. EA noted that line marking was supposed to be painted on the roads as part of the planning application. PC Clarke will arrange to speak to the owners about putting cones in place. **ACTION 1.**
- Graham Avenue in Larbert has been checked between 1700 and 1745 hours on two Tuesdays in a row with little issues noted.

- **Housebreakings**

- The area has had 8 housebreakings, attempted housebreakings and housebreaking with intent on domestic dwelling type properties since 01/04/16 (a period of 149 days). That equates to 1 incident every 18.5 days throughout the whole of the Stenhousemuir station area, from South Alloa to Torwood. On four occasions entry been gained. In contrast the Falkirk area during the same period has had 50 housebreakings. PC Clarke advised that the detection rate (i.e. charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal) for the area is 21.5%.
- During the same period last year there had been 2 x attempted housebreakings with intent, 2 x theft by housebreakings and 1 housebreaking with intent to domestic dwelling type properties. This relates to an increase on last year by three incidents.
- Prevention is much better than cure and as PC Clarke has stated previously home owners being aware of unknown vehicles in their street, phoning 101 to report people knocking doors offering work and anything suspicious is our best tactic in deterring such incidents ever occurring. This coupled with good home security by having all windows and doors locked shut when out and lights on timers during winter months goes a far way to help prevent.
- In short PC Clarke advised don't make it easy, report anything suspicious and watch out for your neighbours.

- **Crimes/incidents for this month**

- Since the last meeting there have been a total of 63 crimes or incidents recorded. The majority of these relate to domestic incidents, assaults and threatening behaviour within the hospital, road traffic matters including drink driving and minor vandalism. There were no racially aggravated crimes committed during this

month. During the same period the month previous there were 83 incidents/crimes recorded.

- **PC Wetton**

- PC Clarke introduced PC Susan Wetton who has started in the team and brings with her a wealth of operational experience. PC Wetton will be covering the Larbert and Torwood areas. PC Clarke advised LSTCC can post both their contact e-mails on Facebook.
- PC Clarke advised that Inspector Kellet would be happy for members of the Community Council to meet with him to discuss local policing matters and statistics. EA will arrange for a meeting. **ACTION 2.**
- DS advised he would also like to meet Inspector Kellett and to specifically discuss disability awareness with him. PC Wetton gave an overview of some of the equalities training delivered by Police Scotland to new recruits and officers.
- PC Clarke confirmed that all the local policing vacancies had now been filled.
- YW advised that the issue of speeding on Foundry Loan had been raised by a resident. An overview of previous activity was provided. PC Wetton was aware of the concerns and advised she had spoken to the lollipop lady. PC Wetton will undertake some educational awareness for drivers using the speed guns. She advised there are specific issues with the speed cushions nearest to Main Street where drivers are driving in the middle of the road to avoid driving on them. A further concern was raised over the speed of vehicles and children on the roads beyond the speed cushions towards the Spar shop. It was agreed no further action could be taken just now but PC Wetton would continue to review speeding on Foundry Loan. **ACTION 3.**
- YW advised of an issue with dog fouling on Burns Avenue in the Inches. Dog poo had been left on top of the bin. It was agreed that YW would also forward the photo to the Community Safety Team. **ACTION 4.**
- YW asked if the Larbert Police Station was still operational. PC Clarke advised that it is not manned all the time. There is normally a receptionist during business hours. There is a call point for residents to call 101 or 999.

3. Community Safety Team Report

- Apologies were received from the team. YW provided an overview of the key points within the report received providing an update on activities:
- The team are currently monitoring Crownest Park in Stenhousemuir and The Central Boulevard Larbert due to litter complaints and visits have been conducted to local businesses to ensure staff dispose of litter responsibly. Enforcement action will be taken for any litter offences witnessed.
- Recent High Visibility foot and bike patrols have been conducted in the Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood area, during which, the Team has engaged with dog walkers and young people. They have also identified some rural fly tipping, investigated, and organised its removal.

- The Team are monitoring and patrolling a number of areas in relation to dog fouling. If anyone has any information relating to those responsible, then please don't hesitate to get in touch on the details below. All calls are confidential
 - Phone 0808 100 3161
 - Email community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk
- The full report received can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CST-September-2016-Report.pdf>
- A resident raised the issue of black bags being left in the layby at Torwood by the bins. It looks like trade waste. Agreed to raise with the Community Safety Team.
ACTION 5.

4. Youth Report – Larbert High School

- EA welcomed Gregor and Kirsty to the meeting. They are both S6 pupils and Gregor is head boy at the school.
- Gregor advised the school had attended the Scottish Learning Festival.
- Gregor and Kirsty explained that there are a number of specialist “schools” within Larbert High for first years including languages, media, dance, basketball, football and STEM. They have been successful so far and have been extended to enable more people to take part.
- The Leadership Academy at the school is open for S1-S5 pupils as well as S6. They are trying to get more pupils involved and have done a survey. So far there are 60 involved. They hope to do some more assemblies and raise this to 200.
- The school had a successful prize giving. The inspirational speakers were Judy Murray and Eva Schloss (step-sister of Anne Frank). Eva Schloss also did a book reading before speaking at the prize giving.
- Gregor advised that some new prizes including gold awards had been introduced to recognize those with attendance over 90%.
- S1 recently undertook a 5-mile sponsored walk.
- A question was asked about the technology and engineering STEM activity at the school. Kirsty gave a comprehensive response of activity taking place within technology and engineering. It was advised that the STEM numbers had increased significantly and the school had won an award 2 years ago for its work in this area. The school is using a £10K grant it received to create specialist labs including one for microbiology and one for robotics. The school has created a unified STEM area with classrooms located together and the STEM staff now also share a staff room.
- EA asked if the rector was still there. Gregor advised he was still rector although he now had additional responsibilities outwith the school and was supported by a number of deputy rectors.
- Kirsty asked if Mrs Kay could be provided with dates of future Community Council meetings as she will attend to support the pupils. YW will send information.
ACTION 6.

- EA Thanked Gregor and Kirsty for their contributions.

5. Todhill Windfarm Fund Update

Main Fund

- CH advised that the panel for the Main Fund is due to meet on 19th October. The Panel will receive information on grants submitted just before the meetings.
- CH advised that she will post the logo survey online tomorrow. Pupils from Larbert High School have designed 4 potential logos for the Fund. The survey will seek votes from the public to agree the final logo.
- TB advised that Larbert Old Playgroup has still not received its funding from the Main Fund and continue to have issues with Foundation Scotland. EA advised he had liaised with Foundation Scotland and thought this had been resolved. It was agreed that JK would speak to Foundation Scotland to seek an early resolution.
ACTION 7.

Consideration of Micro Grant Applications

- EA advised 2 applications had been received. EA provided an overview of both applications. They had been circulated prior to the meeting to Community Councillors. Following a discussion on each application, it was agreed to award both funding. The amounts approved were as follows:
 - Julie Nimmo - £150
 - 2nd Larbert Boys Brigade - £250
- YW will issues award letters, cheques and report forms to both applicants.
ACTION 8.
- YW to also seek a follow-up report from Fraser Johnston who previously received funding. **Action 9.**

6. Matters from the Floor

- Cllr Carleschi advised that the McCowans site planning applications were due to go to the planning committee on 26th October. It was noted that if there was a subsequent site visit arranged, the Community Council would receive an invitation to attend as it had commented on the application.

7. Reports for 2016

- The following 3 reports outlining 2015/16 activity of the Community Council were presented:
 - Convener's Report: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Conveners-Report-AGM-Sept-2016.pdf>
 - Secretary's Report: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Secretary-AGM-Sept-2016.pdf>
 - Treasurer's Report: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Treasurers-Report-AGM-Sept-2016.pdf>

- YW to post reports on website and to Falkirk Council. **ACTION 10.**

8. Election of Officer Bearers

- DS proposed to re-elect the office bearers in block. This was seconded by TB and agreed by all. The following are the 2016/17 office bearers:
 - Convener – Eric Appelbe
 - Vice-Convener – Jim Kelly
 - Secretary – Yvonne Weir
 - Treasurer – Gillian Bellingham
 - Planning Officer – Colleen Hurren
- GB intimated that she may not stand for re-election next year to the Community Council. It was noted that a number of Community Councillors may not stand for re-election. YW advised she had raised this informally with the Community Council Liaison Officer at Falkirk Council. Further discussion is required in early 2017.

9. Approval of Previous Minutes – 29 August 2016

- The minutes were proposed by JK and seconded by DS.

10. Matters Arising

- The following actions from the August 2016 meeting were discussed:

No.	Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Next Steps
1	PC Clarke to provide Falkirk divisional crime detection statistics	Delivered under Police Report	Detection for housebreakings is 21.5%
2	Falkirk Council to provide statistics on impact & costs for LSTCC to highlight the importance of utilizing recycling services	Reminder sent. Information received 20 September	YW to post on social media ACTION 11.
3	LSTCC to promote that if struggling with 4-weekly bin change to contact Falkirk Council	As above	As Above
4	EA to contact Foundation Scotland to resolve outstanding grant queries with Larbert Old Play Group	Update received from Foundation Scotland 2 nd September.	JK to speak to Foundation Scotland as TB advised there are still outstanding issues.
5	Leaflets to be produced for microgrant fund	No Action taken	YW/CH to discuss. ACTION 12.
6	Poll to be set-up to enable choice of logos for windfarm fund	Poll set-up	CH to post on social media. ACTION 13.
7	LS to contact First Bus in relation to changes to bus services	LS has contacted First Bus but not received a response.	YW to write to First Bus and to invite to Oct or Nov meeting. ACTION 14.
8	Cllr Carleschi to raise concerns re bus changes with First Bus at meeting	Cllr Carleschi met with First bus & forwarded feedback	Cllr Carleschi advised that First Bus had also not responded to a resident's queries. He will contact them and also raise issue of not

			responding to Community Council. ACTION 15.
9	YW to write to Falkirk Council re repairs required to kerbstones near Costcutter in Larbert and also the replacement of bollard	E-mail sent to Falkirk Council & response received	Falkirk Council have investigated and repair works to take place
10	YW to write to Falkirk Council to seek repair of sign on M876 on slip	Falkirk Council gave YW Amey contact details. Amey has advised that it is within their works schedule	YW has written back seeking timescales – awaiting response.
11	YW to write to Falkirk Council re grasscutting and the clippings left behind on roads and pavements	E-mail sent 25 September 2016	Awaiting response
12	Letter outlining concerns of Stirling Road development to be sent to Gladman Scotland	Letter sent to Gladman Scotland & copied to local Councillors	Awaiting update
13	Contact to be made with Maggies Centre and Larbert House/Estate developers re Gladman Scotland housing proposals	Contact made with Maggies Centre (unaware of proposal) and All Saints Construction	Ongoing contact to be maintained. YW also gave update on Larbert House/Estate development which is due to be completed by February 2018. Agreed YW would also contact Scottish Ambulance Service in relation to Gladman proposal. ACTION 16.
14	Notes to be sought from NHS Forth Valley Annual Review	Received and circulated	None
15	Further details from the Falkirk Fair Share project to be sought	Received and circulated	None
16	Facebook poll to be set-up for Windfarm Logos	Awaiting further details from Foundation Scotland. Poll ready to publish	CH has received and will get poll online per above.
17	Further information on Network Rail palisade height extensions to be sought	Planning applications have been approved	JK advised he had spoken to Network Rail. They are going to have community council drop-in events about bridges and electrification. JK advised the increases will be achieved by bolt-ons to the structures.
18	Remedial works for Tryst Road to be posted on Facebook – 20 & 21 September	Information posted	No further action.
19	EA to respond to Ineos consultation on closure of Inchyra Road and make contact with Grangemouth Community Council	EA to provide update	EA to provide update ACTION 17.
20	Contact to be made with Jim Cowan and Charles Gillespie re attendance at Community Council meetings	E-mails sent & telephone	Both attended Sept 2016 meeting

- JK advised there were issues of moss etc. being left after the cleaning of bus

shelters. He has written to Cllr Coleman and is awaiting a response.

- EA asked DS about progress with DS' idea for a project at the Tryst Fairground. DS advised he had had positive discussions including with the Showman's Guild and Ian Scott. Ian had suggested a memorial cairn similar to South Alloa for the history of the site. DS will write a paper on the project and continue to consult as an individual.

11. Correspondence Report

- YW updated on correspondence not covered elsewhere during the meeting requiring actions to be taken.

Date of Item	Item	Action Taken/Required
31/8/2016	Falkirk Council - response to roads queries – no action on parking at FVRH short-stay, or Stirling Road parking or lights at Larbert Cross. Reviewing traffic flows and improvements at North Broomage roundabout	Noted. Also forwarded to Mark Craske.
5/9/2016	Forestry Commission – Halloween Event in Larbert Woods – 28 th October 530-730 - £1 per child. Adults must be accompanied by children!	Booking required - 0300 067 6700
9/9/2016	Resident on FB - Springfield Properties have opened consultation on the land at Durieshill Stirling which is along the Roman road from Torwood to Stirling - could accommodate 2500 homes	All to consider and YW to post on social media. ACTION 18
12/9/2016	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – seeking permission to publish responses: Strategic Plan 2016-19 Consultation process	Agreed. CH to advise. ACTION 19.
13/9/2016	Children's Hospice Association Scotland in the Community – seeking local support and volunteers	YW to promote on social media. ACTION 20.
14/9/2016	John McNally MP - Brexit public information meeting on Thursday 29th September at 7pm in Trinity Church, Falkirk, Manse Place, FK1 1JN	Noted.
16/9/2016	FB – issue of glass in car park at railway station	YW to raised with Community Safety Team. ACTION 21.
18/9/2016	Resident by e-mail – concerned over rising speed of vehicles on Foundry Loan.	Discussed under Police Report
19/9/2016	JK – E-mail notifying of delay in electrification process for railways. Suggestion to invite to a future meeting to discuss along with raising of bridge height on Bellsdyke Road.	Discussed under Matters Arising
20/9/2016	Falkirk Council - Private Sector Local Housing Strategy Consultation	Noted
20/9/2016	Falkirk Council – Notice of Public Procession – Sunday 13 th Nov 930am – 60 marchers – Royal British Legion & Army Cadet Force	Noted – YW also advised Christina Deans from Army Cadet Force was seeking any groups/school wishing to take part. YW to provide school details and provide notice. ACTION 22.
26/9/2016	Jacquie McArthur, Falkirk Council – seeking groups who may wish to be involved in Christmas Lights Switch on 3 December 2016	YW to publicise. ACTION 23.
26/9/2016	Falkirk Council – Street Cleansing – seeking detail on exact areas	YW to respond advising prioritization of areas. ACTION 24

12. Treasurer's Report

- GB advised that the balance was £4,909.17.

13. Planning Officer's Report

- CH presented the planning report. There was discussion on a number of applications.
- CH is seeking further clarification from Falkirk Council on the request by Scottish Water for a EIA Screening Opinion for site to the South of Carbrook Lodge (ORE/2016/0027/SCREEN). It was noted that this may be in relation to their proposed new sewage works for Torwood and that there was supposed to be wider community consultation undertaken in relation to this. CH to seek further information. **ACTION 25.**

14. Other Reports

- DS provided an update on the CATCA AGM which he attended. He reported it was a very good event and CATCA received their Queens Award at the event from the Lord Lieutenant. DS reported there was also a presentation on the Cycling Without Age project. DS advised CATCA is looking to expand its work and projects. DS advised he thought CATCA was a credit to the whole community.

15. Any Other Competent Business

- JK asked if work was being undertaken on the improvements to playing fields. EA advised this had started. YW advised some work had been carried out at Stewartfield.
- A resident asked where information on processions could be found. It was advised that this is on Falkirk Council's website. LSTCC only receives information on processions in our area.
- GB advised she had attended the pharmacy hearing meeting for the proposed pharmacy in Kinnaird Village. GB advised that she had been notified that the application had been rejected.
- DS asked if Stenhousemuir Primary School had taken forward the naming of the new path. YW advised this was to happen early in the new term and would check with the head teacher. **ACTION 26.**
- EA asked DS if Nadia could get in touch with EA about minute taking at the previous meeting. **ACTION 27.**

16. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 31st October 2016