

LARBERT, STENHOUSEMUIR & TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Attendance Details

Committee:

- Yvonne Weir (YW)
- Denis Shovlin (DS)
- Eric Appelbe (EA)
- Gillian Bellingham (GB)
- Jim Kelly (JK)
- Peter O'Rourke (PO'R)

Also Present:

- PC Clarke, Police Scotland
- Kevin O'Connor and Fraser Pennie, Larbert High School
- Jacquie McArthur, Falkirk Council
- Christina Deans, Falkirk Company Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force
- Six members of the public

Apologies:

- Jim Cowan (JC)
- Charles Gillespie (CG)
- Lauralin Scott (LS)
- Ted Bingham (TB)
- Colleen Hurren (CH)

1. Welcome

- EA welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Community Council.

2. Police Report

- PC Clarke delivered the April Police Report. PC Clarke gave an update on 2 matters raised at the March meeting and by correspondence in between meetings: Parking at Carmill Dance Studio and Parking in the Castings Estate.
- Parking in Castings Estate, Larbert – No more incidents have been spotted there by the Police since YW had sent in photos provided by a resident on Facebook of a car parked on the speed cushion. This had also been copied to Falkirk Council. Police Scotland will keep an eye on the area and give advice to drivers. If there is dangerous parking this will be dealt with and vehicles moved. Residents should take photos and send them in of dangerous parking. YW asked a resident if there were still issues. It was advised that there can be difficulty getting in and out of the estate due to parked cars. EA advised Falkirk Council had responded advising it is Police matter.
- Parking at Carmill Dance Studio – EA advised that Falkirk Council had responded advising road markings agreed as part of the planning consent had not been put in place and they would look into this further. Falkirk Council do not think the parking at the Studio is posing a road safety risk. This is contrary to the regular

comments still being raised by residents. Falkirk Council advised cones can go down for 7-days. PC Clarke will look into the provision of cones similar to those used opposite the bus station which have been effective. **(Action 1)**

- DS asked a question about cars blocking pavements. PC Clarke advised that if they are causing an obstruction and preventing people including wheelchairs/buggies etc. getting passed, they can issue a fixed penalty notice.
- PC Clarke advised the following:
- In the past month since the last meeting there have been a total of 73 crimes and offences recorded in the local area.
- On the 31st of March, there was a sneak in theft at Souter Way in Larbert. The offender sneaked into the residential property of an elderly couple whilst they were in and stole cash and jewellery. The offender left behind the purse, bank cards and items of low value jewellery.
- On the 4th of April, there was a disturbance within the fairground at the Tryst park. Two juveniles and an adult were assaulted by a group of teenagers. They have all been identified and enquiries are ongoing to have them suitably dealt with.
- On the 8th of April, damage was caused to the roof of a bike shed at Larbert Primary School. The offenders were being willfully reckless and without reasonable excuse they damaged the property of another namely breaking the Perspex roof of a bike shed by jumping onto it and pulling at the Perspex breaking it.
- On the 12th of April, there was a fraud committed in Eastcroft Street in Larbert. The offender carried out work on the roof then attempted to defraud the complainer by charging an over inflated price.
- On the 20th of April, there was a large scale Police response to a reported attempted child abduction occurring at the Lido park in Stenhousemuir. From the enquiry conducted thereafter, Police Scotland are keen to stress that no child was taken away or attempted to be taken away. The behaviour of one adult male individual who was heavily intoxicated is under investigation and a named suspect is currently being sought.
- The April Police Report can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/LSTCC-Police-Report-April-2016.pdf>
- PC Clarke handed out pamphlets with details of the Police Scotland survey currently being undertaken to identify what is important to local communities. All are encouraged to complete the survey which can be accessed at: www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts
- DS suggested a scheme whereby jaggy hedging is planted to prevent people climbing into property. The hedging is also a haven for local wildlife including hedgehogs. The area DS suggested was the graveyard behind Kinnaird Drive. DS was advised to contact local rangers to discuss his idea further. Jacquie McArthur from Falkirk Council advised she would forward DS contact details.

- EA advised we had issues raised with us about car racing and vandalism in Kinnaird. Sgt Goldie has provided a response which was discussed. Police Scotland has spent a considerable amount of time deploying Hand Held Radar speed patrols in this area and they have not recorded any speeding offences within this estate. What they have found is that cars are speeding up in between the speed bumps which gives an impression of speeding but in fact the vehicles are rarely exceeding 25mph. They have also noticed that there are a lot of high performance style vehicles in this estate, especially around the areas of the flats, these vehicles tend to have high performance exhausts fitted which are louder than the normal car, however still legal. The noise of the vehicles again gives an impression of speed however the vehicles are not speeding. Due to all the checks we have done, Police Scotland do not think there is an issue with speeding vehicles in this estate. They will continue to monitor this nevertheless. A resident in attendance did not agree with this and advised that vehicles in his opinion are doing 50-60mph at times. The Police are not there when the speeding is happening. This will continue to be monitored. In relation to vandalism, Police Scotland are continuing preventative patrols in the area.
- The Community Council has also received comments from a resident about speeding and boy races around Carronvale Service Station. YW advised that Sgt Goldie had responded advising that the area has been patrolled extensively by the community team and Special Constables under Operation Bullring and also by divisional Road Policing Unit officers. Speed patrols have been carried out in and again no evidence of speeding vehicles has been found. This is not to say that vehicles are not speeding when the Police are not there, as a result we have varied our patrol times to cover all times of the day and night. They will continue these patrols. Whilst the exhausts are loud they are not illegal therefore the Police cannot take any enforceable action on the drivers of such vehicles. Police Scotland will continue to monitor the area of the garage to provide education to motorists in the area along with enforceable speed patrols.
- DS advised of an issue he had raised with Police Scotland and Environmental Health in relation to a diesel ice cream van which is left running to charge batteries. This has been looked into and no offence found.
- EA advised that we had also raised issues of speeding between Glenbervie and North Broomage roundabout. Police Scotland has advised there are issues with monitoring speed in the area and there is not space to stop drivers. They have not found any drivers to be speeding in excess of 40mph on this stretch of road. Police Scotland will continue to monitor this area.
- A resident in attendance advised that he had gone into Sainsburys in Kinnaird. Three youths were in the shop and one deliberately brushed against the resident on two occasions. The situation escalated with the staff visibly upset and shouting for the youth to leave the shop. PC Clarke advised he would look into this incident with the staff. **(Action 2)**.
- YW advised that a resident had raised issues with parking on Graham Avenue. PC Clarke advised he would look into the issues. **(Action 2a)**

3. Community Safety Team Update

- There was no Community Safety Team presence at the meeting but the report

was submitted in advance. EA read the report which can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CST-April-2016-Report.pdf> The key areas of focus are as follows:

- The Community Safety Team continues to patrol the town centre area at lunchtimes in respect of litter. We have been working in partnership with the Campus Police Officer at Larbert High to deal with issues when they arise.
- They are currently investigating and monitoring dog fouling in several locations within the Stenhousemuir and Larbert areas, in particular around the play area at St George's Court.
- They are also patrolling the Lido and Carron Dams area for fly tipping and litter.
- Torwood Castle has been broken into and the door broken open. They are maintaining our presence in the evenings to try to deter any further damage.
- They have increased our dog fouling patrols and put up additional signage at the Lido to try to reduce the problem there.
- After concerns raised by the new Young Community Team and teachers at Larbert Village Primary School, they have engaged with a number of youths who have been using the MUGA in the evenings regarding acceptable behaviour and littering.

4. Youth Report – Larbert High School

- Fraser Pennie gave the LHS report. S1-S5 are making curriculum choices. P7s are applying for the various schools of opportunity include STEM, media, dance and rugby. There is a big drive on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) after the school winning a STEM award last year.
- There were trips to the battlefields in France with 4 pupils laying wreaths at the daily last post ceremony in Ypres. As part of the 100-year events following WW1, the Provost and 2 pupils would be travelling to France at the start of the holidays to represent the local area.
- Last week 40 pupils from a partner school in Michelstadt, Germany visited LHS. There was also a visit to Stratford by the English Department as part of the 400-year anniversary of Shakespeare.
- SQA exams start next Thursday and the S6 graduation is also due to be held next Thursday in the Dobbie Hall.
- Fraser was one of 9 pupils to become a Saltire Award Ambassador this year to promote volunteering.
- Kevin O'Connor advised this would be Fraser's last meeting before he leaves school. Kevin O'Connor also advised that this would be his last Community Council meeting as he was taking up a head teacher role at a school in Dunfermline. Kevin advised that Jon Reid (former Rector) is now lead officer for Developing the Young Workforce in the Falkirk Council area. Kevin advised his post would be advertised in June. Katherine Kay will be our new contact.

- EA emphasised that the Community Council is keen not to lose the close links with the school and thanked Fraser and Kevin for their contributions.
- YW asked if the Community payback scheme at the school would be able to assist with litter picks in the Lido. This may be a possibility.

5. Stenhousemuir Town Centre – Jacquie McArthur, Falkirk Council

- Jacquie advised that the Lido continues to be a challenge with ongoing anti-social behaviour, litter, dog fouling, and vandalism issues. There is a core team who litter pick every day. There is specific support every fortnight to remove bikes and trolleys from the Lido Pond. With current and future budget cuts, the area is under threat.
- Jacquie advised that she is keen to establish a Friends of the Lido group. YW advised that following posts on Facebook, there had been one interested person.
- Jacquie advised that the Lido remains healthy and there are now goldfish thriving in the water. There have been issues with people putting white bread in the water which has attracted rats. Signs have been put up encouraging people to feed cabbage or lettuce to the wildlife in the pond. A recent complaint about biting insects has been unfounded.
- Jacquie is keen to get more community involvement in this year's Love the Lido event. They are planning a more education slant this year and to encourage how the amenity can be looked after including ecologist workshops, litter/ASB information, face painting, social enterprises, Dr. Bike etc. If cycling activity is involved, there may be extra funding available. Last year, the event was highly commended by the National Playing Fields Association which oversees the King George VI parks.
- Jacquie advised that the town centre currently has 100% occupancy which is very good. The new gym has made a big difference to the town centre.
- Jacquie advised there have been cuts to the Town Centre Management events budgets of 47% which will reduce the amount of local district support available. A decision will be made at next week's board meeting about Christmas Switch On events.
- Jacquie is keen to get the Community Council more involved in organizing events and to get ASDA involved.
- Jacquie will come back to the May meeting of the Community Council to discuss further. **(Action 3)**.
- Christine from the Army Cadet Force advised they would be able to bring along their inflatable assault course to events.
- JK asked about the state of the Plough Hotel car park. Jacquie advised that whilst it is owned by the Plough Hotel, it is maintained by Falkirk Council. Jacquie will check out the maintenance to get it tidied up. **(Action 4)**.

6. Falkirk Company Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force – Christina Deans

- EA welcomed Christina Deans to the meeting. Christina outlined the role of the cadet force and advised that the cadet force is 50-strong in the area. They do not recruit for the army. They teach discipline, confidence and self-reliance to young people with many gaining leadership skills and going on to good careers. They provide young people with uniforms but not boots. There is a £10 fee for insurance.
- Christina outlined the Duke of Edinburgh, Saltire Award and other awards the cadets undertake.
- Christina advised that the cadets are based across the Falkirk area. They are here to help the community and would like to get more involved with the Community Council and other community projects. Christina will bring the Sergeant along to the next meeting to discuss further.
- EA thanked Christina for her contribution.

7. Todhill Windfarm Update

- Main Fund - EA advised that the first panel meeting was next week. Foundation Scotland has advised that 8 applications were received. Decision were likely to be made at the panel meeting.
- Micro-Grant Fund - It was agreed that the guidelines and application form would all be put on-line with hard copies put in the library and one stop shop. Information would be published in Falkirk Herald and on the website/social media about the Fund. **(Action 5)**.

8. Matters from the Floor

Parking at Forth Valley Royal Hospital

- A resident raised concerns about parking at the hospital with the purple area now almost full as well. The resident advised that participants in the weekly Tuesday Braveheart walks also had issues getting parked. There are about 30 people who take part in the walks. There was also concern from others at the meeting that the walkers were taking parking places that could be required by patients.
- A query was raised about when the work to make the bus shelters more wind and water-tight would take place.
- It was agreed to ask Mark Craske to attend the Mat meeting for an update on parking and the bus shelters. **(Action 6)**.

Flooding

- A resident raised concerns that there were still flooding issues at the previous areas prone to flooding including the Spar Shop, Bellsdyke Road (near hospital entrance and at Glenbervie Kindergarden) and on Tryst Road (closer to cricket

club). It was agreed to seek an update from Falkirk Council. **(Action 7)**.

9. Approval of Previous Minutes

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

10. Matters Arising from April 2016 meeting

No.	Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Next Steps
1	Write to Falkirk Council re parking near corner at Carmill Dance Studio	E-mail sent 2/4/2016	Response received – 7/4/2016 – Road marking not in place per planning permission – enforcement action to be taken. Survey undertaken and of opinion parking not posing a road safety risk.
2	Submit LSTCC response to McCowan’s Planning applications	Response sent to Falkirk Council – 19/4/2016	Interim response received from Falkirk Council 20/4/2016 in relation to some points raised. Cllr Carleschi advised there had been over 40 objections.
3	Send Foundation Scotland signed MOU & TOR	Not done	JK to pass to Foundation Scotland on 4 th May at panel meeting
4	Finalise documentation required for the MicroGrant Scheme	CH has prepared documentation	Documents to be signed off and posted to enable applications to be taken for May LSTCC meeting
5	Meeting to be sought with Falkirk Community Trust to discuss playing fields	FCT has suggested Tuesday evening	Meeting to be arranged for 10 th May. (Action 8)
6	Write to Police Scotland re speeding on A9 between roundabouts	E-mail sent 19/4/2016	Response received 20/4/2016 – issue with space on stretch to stop vehicles. No issue found with speeding on this stretch above 40mph
7	Contact John Martindale at LHS in relation to Carron Works historical interpretation project	None	EA to follow-up
8	Promotion of bike maintenance programme at FVRH	Facebook post 24/4 for 27/4/2016	Ongoing on a fortnightly basis
9	Write to Kevin O’Connor at LHS re LHS Community Payback Scheme for litter picking at the Lido	Not done	Discussed with Jacquie McArthur earlier in meeting.
10	Contact Ian Kinloch at NHS Forth Valley in relation to maintenance of Inches Farm Road	E-Mailed 9/4/2016 & others	Spoken to new contact at NHS Forth Valley – Brian O’Rourke - and sent maps/photos.
11	Contact residents in Lomond Crescent re overhanging trees	Couple of attempted calls – no answer	No further action
12	Contact Falkirk Council re replacement waiting signs on Main St opposite Muirhall Road	E-mail sent Gary Neill 19/4/2016	No response received – to be chased (Action 9)
13	Contact Falkirk Council to ascertain if they are pursuing	E-mail sent 19/4/2016	Response received 22/4/2016 – Quotes are being sought and then will

	Network Rail in relation to shop flooding		write to owners to consults on proposed works – all liable for share. In discussion with External lawyers re compensation claim on behalf of Falkirk Council only – other owners would be required to make own claims.
14	Update to be sought on hearing for Kinnaird pharmacy application	E-mail sent 19/4/2016	Response received 21/4/2016 explaining process and that no application has been received – must be submitted within 90 days of end of consultation period. Wish to meet LSTCC to discuss requirements and process. Date to be finalised for June (Action 10) .
15	Write to Falkirk Council re surfacing on Dams Road and to seek timescales for work on Tryst Road	E-mail sent 19/4/2016	Response received 20/4/2016 – both roads to be repaired – hopefully by June 2016.
16	Write to Falkirk Council re funding for community schools from FVRH development	E-mail sent 19/4/2016	Response received 21/4/2016 from Richard Teed – planning are looking into funds due before they give us a clear assessment on how it will be spent or retained for future risks. LHS most pressing requirement for Carrongrange expansion post August 2017. (Action 11)
17	Write to Falkirk Council re issue of e-mail titles and file names	No action	No Action
18	Publicise Ken Drummond's cycle for Prostate Cancer	Posted on Facebook 20/4/2016	No further action
19	YW to attend PAN Consultation meeting 19/4/2016 for Falkirk Quarry	E-mail received on 19 th cancelling due to illness	Revised date – 10 th May 530-730pm in Denny Community Education Centre. (Action 12)
20	Write to Roads authority re missing sign on M876 slip towards Edinburgh	JK advised authorities 30/3/2016	Awaiting sign to be removed/reinstated
21	Write to Falkirk Council about the advertising signs on North Broomage Roundabout	E-mail sent to planning & roads 19/4/2016	Signs now removed. Responses received – follow-up required with Dot Reid over ownership of verge in case of future incidents (Action 13)
21a	Invite Falkirk Council to June meeting to discuss changes to bins	E-mail sent 19/4/2016	Response received 22/4/2016. Not much to report in June except update on Charter – better to attend late August (Action 14)
22	Invite Christina Deans to April meeting to update on Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force and to signpost to CATCA for volunteering opportunities	Confirmation received	None – attending April meeting. Already working with CATCA
23	Chase Falkirk Council for missing litter picking campaign poster	New poster received	To be distributed (action 15)
24	Contact Falkirk Council re lack of bins on Tryst Road	E-mailed 19/4/2016	E-mail received from Hania Smith asking someone to contact LSTCC to discuss further. No further contact at

			present. (action 16)
25	Write to Church of Scotland on reasons LSTCC use the halls at Larbert Old and to be clear not an opinion on which Church should be retained	E-mailed 17/4/2016	Acknowledgement received 18/4/2016
26	CH to check proposed use of 533-555 Main Street further	Done	Building to be used as a yoga facility

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

Date of Item	Item	Action Taken/Required
31/3/2016	Community Enterprise – seeking a quote from LSTCC for their revised website	CH preparing (Action 17)
4/4/2016	Falkirk Council – Notice of Public Procession – Loyal Orange Institution of Scotland Falkirk District 26 – 25 th June 830am and 345pm. 70 marchers	To be Publicised (Action 18)
5/4/2016	Falkirk Council – Response re car parking in Casting Estate	Watching brief to be kept on issues
6/4/2016	CVS Falkirk Volunteer Awards Ceremony 2016 - Nominations Now Open until 3 rd May	No nominations
6/4/2016	Comment on Website - Further to the comments from the chairman that the McCowan premises were "infested with rats" can you advise if there is an effective plan in place to exterminate them prior to demolition commencing. This is a serious concern to local residents.	YW to write to Falkirk Council (Action 19)
7/4/2016	Falkirk Local History Society – Update on WW1: A Community's Sacrifice. Project received £9K from the Heritage Lottery Fund to research the 280+ Larbert & Stenhousemuir soldiers whose names are on the WW1 memorial. Expect to publish and launch in Autumn	Noted
9/4/2016	Resident on FB – issues with boy racers and vandalism in Kinnaird	Forwarded to Police Scotland – response to be discussed
11/4/2016 & 19/4/2016	Resident by e-mail – state of South Alloa Road/Moss Road – incl correspondence with Falkirk Council	Councillor Carleschi to raise (Action 20)
11/4/2016	Resident by e-mail – issues with boyracers on Main Street near Carronvale Service Station	Forwarded to Police Scotland – response to be discussed
14/4/2016	Falkirk Licensing Board - Application for Grant of Premises License - Best One Convenience Store, Holyrood Place. Off sales – Mon-Sat 10-8pm and Sunday 10-6pm	No issues
14/4/2016	Falkirk Council – Link to Police Scotland consultation - www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts .	Publicised – all to complete (Action 21)
14/4/2016	Dobbie Hall Trust – request to advertise car boot sales on LSTCC FB page	Agreed OK for Trust to post information on FB page.
18/4/2016	Resident by e-mail - Tree works in the Larbert area (Larbert House and adjacent to Kinnaird Primary School)	Discussed – letter to be sent to Falkirk Council (Action 22)
20/4/2016	Sgt Goldie – response re car racing and vandalism in Kinnaird Village, boyracers in Main Street and speeding on A9 between roundabouts	Police continuing to monitor but not issues identified with speeding.
20/4/2016	Falkirk Environment Trust – Update on Scottish Landfill Community Fund and LEADER funding - http://falkirkenvtrust.blogspot.co.uk/	Noted

12. Treasurer's Report

- GB advised that insurance had been taken with Zurich costing £140.43. The end of year balance is £5,116.73 which includes the £1,500 micro-grant fund.

13. Planning Report

- CH had circulated the planning report in advance. There were no issues.
- It was agreed to look at the location plan for P/16/0160/FUL for the erection of a dwelling house on the land to the North of Castlewood on Glen Road in Torwood. **(Action 23)**

14. Other Reports

- DS advised he had attended the inaugural meeting of Grangemouth Community Council which has just been reformed.

15. AOCB

- **Goats Path** – DS suggested there should be a name given to the new path. It was agreed YW would write to CSGN with this suggestion **(Action 24)**.
- **Roughmute** – POR advised there were ongoing issues with delays at the recycling facility. Whilst this is encouraging that the facility is busy, it was agreed the delays could lead to flytipping. It was agreed to make representation to Falkirk Council. **(Action 25)**
- **#59 Bus** – Cllr Carleschi advised that Falkirk Council was going to reissue the questionnaire by post to all houses in the Inches/Kinnaird Village.

16. Date of Next Meeting - Monday 30th May 2016