

LARBERT, STENHOUSEMUIR & TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING – 24th April 2017

RENNIE LOUNGE, LARBERT OLD CHURCH

Attendance Details

Committee:

- Eric Appelbe (EA)
- Gillian Bellingham (GB)
- Ted Bingham (TB)
- Colleen Hurren (CH)
- Yvonne Weir (YW)

Also Present:

- PC Chris Morrison, Police Scotland
- Andrew Lauder, Tryst Community Sports Club
- Ms McAtasney & Kirsty Mitchell, Larbert High School
- 14 members of the public

Apologies:

- Jim Kelly (JK)
- Jim Cowan (JC)
- Peter O'Rourke (POR)
- Denis Shovlin (DS)
- Lauralin Scott (LS)
- Community Safety Team (written report submitted)

1. Welcome and Apologies

- EA welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

2. Police Report –PC Chris Morrison, Police Scotland

- PC Morrison gave the Police Report. He advised there had been a total of 89 reported crimes/offences from 27/03/2017 to 24/04/2017.
- **Larbert / Torwood Area** – 29 crimes/offences - These crime reports/offences related to vandalism, thefts, road traffic matters and breaches of the peace.
- **Stenhousemuir Area** - 60 crimes/offences - These crime reports/offences related to vandalism, thefts, assaults and breaches of the peace and road traffic matters.
- **Parking issues** - Parking issues which have been ongoing within the Larbert area include the area of Foundry loan, Orchardson Road, Crawhall Place, Muirhall Road and Eastcroft Street. These streets continue to be monitored by police. Parking tickets have been issued in Muirhall Road. Drivers have also been informed of inconsiderate parking in and around Larbert Primary school and the train station. Following feedback from previous community council meetings PC Wetton has been in touch with the head

teacher at Larbert Village Primary and she will reiterate the parking areas at the school to parents via the monthly newsletter.

- **Antisocial behaviour / Youth Disorder** - Antisocial behaviour issues have continued in the area of Kinnaird / Inches estates. This saw a notable issue during the school Easter holidays. Extra patrols in the area are being carried out over the weekends and a request for directed patrols from support units in the area. A request has been submitted and if approved, this will see support services (such as dog section, public order etc.) carrying out default patrols in the area when they are not engaged with other calls.
- **Other Business**
- PC Wetton has submitted applications for grants for walking busses at Larbert Village and Ladeside Primary Schools and is awaiting a response.
- Insp Mackin has moved on to a new position within the Police, and has been replaced by Insp Martin Rutland.
- PC Clarke has been successful in the promotion process, and is currently carrying out the role of Temp Sergeant in Falkirk. The Stenhousemuir area is currently being looked after by PC Morrison until the post is filled.
- **Discussion on Youth Anti-Social Behaviour in Kinnaird**
- EA advised that an e-mail had been received from the father of the teenager whose house was used for a party in Kinnaird Village, and read the contents of the e-mail which raised many concerns about the party. Concerns were also raised over drinking and the supply of drugs within Kinnaird. PC Morrison advised that PC Alan Imrie and PC Susan Wetton are the reporting officers looking into the party and that there is an ongoing enquiry.
- Residents from Kinnaird in attendance at this meeting advised that immediately following the March meeting, they had spoken to PC Wetton for 2 hours. One of the outcomes has been that residents are now speaking to each other. One resident advised she had sought a series of testimonials from residents and in addition, they had produced a 2-page statement. The resident read the 2-page statement to all those present at the meeting. It outlined the serious escalating scale of the issues and concerns of the residents. It was very clear that residents are extremely intimidated by the actions of individuals and large groups of youths (sometimes up to 100), and in the evenings and weekends, many are living in a state of fear. The anti-social behaviour reported extended to drinking, drugs, vandalism, verbal and physical abuse, dangerous driving and intimidation. Copies of the statement and testimonials will be provided to the Community Council, prospective Councillors, Falkirk Council, Police Scotland and Larbert High School. The resident advised she has also sought an urgent meeting with the rector of Larbert High School and PC Imrie.
- The resident suggested that the statement and testimonials should read out at a Larbert High assembly. EA asked Ms McAtasney to comment. She advised she would be keen to share the information with pupils but would recommend this is done during mental, social and physical health meetings rather than a full assembly to have a bigger impact.

The school also has a targeted support team working with young people and with families. Ms McAtasney advised that there was a number of actions that could be undertaken to address the issues.

- A prospective Councillor who was present advised that she had previously run a drug and alcohol service with classes of 30 to do harm reduction work. This involved groups of families as well.
- A further suggestion was that there should be a barrier placed in the car park so that Sainsburys can lock it at night when they finish. It was agreed that the vacant units are attracting more issues.
- Cllr Carleschi advised he will also speak to Jon Reid and community wardens. He will look for extra wardens to be pulled in from other areas.
- Concern was raised over the lack of punishment available for young people and that the Police are not reaching the groups causing the main issues.
- A Committee member from Tryst Golf Course was also in attendance. He advised that there continues to be daily issues at the golf course.
- It was acknowledged that this is a police issue and that the Police are not resourced to deal with the scale of the issues even with additional resources especially when there are other calls. PC Morrison advised that PC Imrie is doing a lot of work with PC Wetton around the issues. However, it was noted that many residents are not reporting low levels of crime. PC Morrison advised that it is important to report everything. If it is not reported, then the Police do not know about it. All incidents need to be recorded to enable there to be a case for additional resources. PC Morrison also advised that whilst the calls go through to Edinburgh, residents can ask the controllers on a Friday and Saturday night to specifically pass the information onto community officers.
- The discussion concluded that residents want to help, as do Sainburys and the Tryst Golf Club, to find a solution. It was acknowledged there needs to be a multi-agency response to tackle the complex issues leading to the problems being experienced. It was agreed that a strong representation would be made to Falkirk Council, Police Scotland and Larbert High School seeking urgent action. **ACTION 1.**
- **Other points raised:**
- A resident advised PC Morrison that speeding on Tryst Park remains an issue.
- YW advised PC Morrison that speeding on Muirhall Road had also been raised with the Community Council.
- YW advised that there had been considerable discussion on the Facebook page relating to concerns that had been raised by horse riders in the Torwood area with vehicles not slowing or giving enough space when overtaking horses.
- Residents advised that there remain issues with there only being one Lollipop person in Kinnaird and that there should also be one outside Sainsburys. They have been actively

trying to get another person. EA advised this had previously been rejected by Falkirk Council. It was agreed to raise again with Falkirk Council. **Action 2.**

- Should any resident or business wish to contact their local community officer, there details are as follows:
 - Larbert/Torwood - PC Susan Wetton: Susan.Wetton@scotland.pnn.police.uk
 - Stenhousemuir area - PC Chris Morrison: Christopher.Morrison2@scotland.pnn.police.uk

3. Community Safety Team Report

- YW gave a brief overview of the Community Safety Team report which can be viewed in full at: <http://1stcommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CST-April-2017-Report.pdf>
- If anyone has any information relating to those responsible in these areas (or any other), then please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details below. All calls are confidential.
 - Phone: 0808 100 3161 FREEPHONE 24/7
 - Email: community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk
 - Online Falkirk Council Website: www.falkirk.gov.uk/do-it-today

4. Youth Report – Larbert High School

Kirsty –

- Kirsty advised that this was the last week for seniors within the school. The graduation ceremony is due to take place on Friday afternoon. The SQA exams are due to start on 2nd May.
- Kirsty advised that S1 and S2 residentials will take places next week with around two-thirds of pupils attending.
- It was also advised that Larbert High School has been shortlisted for 2 Times Education awards in the areas of STEM and collaboration.
- The Danish founder of Cycling without Age had given a presentation to S1 pupils. A number have gone on to become tri-shaw pilots for the projects.
- S1 are taking part in a “Be Kind” for the month of May. Random acts of kindness are being logged by both young people and teachers. Positive referrals will also be sent home from teachers. The project aims to demonstrate the impact of behaviour on others.
- Ms McAtasney advised that as the 6th years will have graduated, she will bring 5th years along to May meeting who will be the new LHS representatives.

5. Todhill Windfarm Update

Main Grant Fund

- It was advised that the deadline for the next round of funding for the main fund for grants up to £5K is 25th August. The panel will meet to consider applications on 12th October. The main fund is now being publicised on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the website. For more details see: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/todhill-windfarm-fund-round-3-released/>
- Foundation Scotland has produced an update on the Fund and progress report detailing where the money has been spent. This will go up on the website. (Post-meeting: This can be viewed at: <http://lstcommunitycouncil.org.uk/todhill-windfarm-fund-update/>)

Micro-Grant Update

- EA Advised that there had been 4 applications received. It was noted that two of the applications had only been received today and as a result had not been circulated around the Community Council in advance. One of the applications received today had been sent to the wrong e-mail address on 30th March. Given the circumstances it was agreed to consider this application. The second application received today was from a constituted play group. It was agreed that this application required to submit a full application to the main fund. TB will advise the group.
- The following applications were considered:
- **Unconstituted group - Friends of My Day, My Way.** This group requested funding to assist with set-up costs and marketing. The group has been set up to bring older people together in the local area and to try and find more positive ways on getting them involved with the local community. The funding will be used for leaflets, transport and to pay for activities. A grant of £250 was requested and it was agreed to approve the application.
- **Individual** – An individual had applied for funding to undertake a UKCC Level 1 in Tennis. This will enable them to build their skills and provide higher quality coaching as part of the Tryst Community Sports Club tennis club. The individual had requested a grant of £215 which was approved.
- **Individual** – An individual had applied for funding of £250 to buy equipment and enter national junior go-karting competitions. A letter of support had also been received for this application. It was agreed that the purchase of kit is not eligible but support could be given to enable the individual to enter competitions. It was agreed that a grant of £200 would be awarded to support entry into 2 events.
- YW will issue letters and GB will arrange for cheques to be produced for the 3 approved grants. **Action 3.**
- GB advised that once these grants had been awarded, the Community Council would have £105 left within the micro-grant fund. It was agreed that we would submit a progress report from Foundation Scotland to draw-down the next grant of £1,500 to

enable the Community Council to continue to give grant support to individuals and unconstituted groups. **Action 4.**

- EA advised the meeting that most members of this Community Council will not be standing for re-election. He encouraged those present to consider standing as a community councillor. EA has now spoken to Brian Pirie, Community Council Liaison Officer at Falkirk Council. After the Council elections, there will be further information on the process of electing new Community Councils.

6. Ineos - Planning Application – Discussion

- EA gave an update on the application and the concerns raised by Grangemouth and Bo'ness Community Councils.
- Cllr Carleschi advised that there is likely to be another predetermination hearing required which would not take place until after the local elections.
- YW advised that the Facebook posts to generate comments on any issues impacting Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood residents had resulted in only one e-mail comment being received. This was in favour of the proposals to close the road because of the terrorism situation, overhead pipes and the requirement of running of the large petrochemical plant.
- In view of the delay in the predetermination hearing, it was agreed that consideration would be carried forward to the May meeting to enable further views to be submitted and further discussion to take place.

7. Consultations

a. Policing 2026 Consultation (End Date: 8th May) – This can be viewed at:

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>

- Based on the youth anti-social behaviour issues discussed tonight, it was agreed that the priorities proposed within this consultation would be checked to ensure they address the issues raised. CH agreed to look at the consultation. **Action 5.**

b. Falkirk Council Local Development Plan 2 – Main Issues Report (End Date: 5th May) – This can be viewed at: <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-plan/plan-two/>

- EA advised he had started drafting a response to this document which had been circulated to Community Councillors. It requires now to be polished and submitted before the deadline. EA will circulate to all for final comment. **Action 6.**
- It was agreed that specific sites do need to be referred to in the document. The Community Council response will focus on agreeing with the no growth proposals for the area in terms of housing. There will also be comment on business units, lack of green space, lack of youth facilities and seeking additional community uses in Kinnaird rather than more houses in the mixed-use site.

c. Scottish Government – Talking “Fracking” – A Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas (End Date: 31st May) – This can be viewed at:

<http://www.talkingfracking.scot/>

- EA advised that the community consultation event to inform the response to this consultation would be hosted by the Community Council on Monday 8th May from 730pm to 930pm in the large hall of Larbert Old Church. The event will be facilitated by 2 trained facilitators provided through the Community Chartering Network (CCN).
- Following concerns raised, EA advised that we had gone back to CCN to seek confirmation that the event would be impartially facilitated. This was confirmed. EA also advised that the Community Council had confirmed to CCN that we do not wish to use the additional material within the Community Chartering Network proposals for the event and that the Community Council wished to follow the presentation and material provided by the Scottish Government. It has been confirmed by CCN that the facilitators will use the Scottish Government resources.
- EA advised that active advertising is now required. It had been suggested that there should be a mass leafleting exercise at last meeting. However, this would be difficult to resource. It was agreed that specific PR/Advertising will be sought with the Falkirk Herald. Posters will be placed in local venues and there will be information put out through social media. YW will prepare a poster and co-ordinate social media activity.
Action 7.
- YW advised she had sought a quote for a PA system including 2 radio microphones for the event. A resident advised that they also had a microphone system that could be used with one microphone. The resident also has a projector that the Community Council can use for the presentation.
- It was advised that Concerned Communities of Falkirk has produced 10,000 leaflets to be distributed around the community. A copy of their leaflet was passed around.
- It was agreed that it is important for people to take part in the event and to be aware of the issues being discussed.

d. Transport Scotland - Improving Parking in Scotland Consultation (End Date: 30 June 2017) – This can be viewed at: https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/road-policy/improving-parking-in-scotland/user_uploads/improving-parking-in-scotland.pdf

- It was noted that there is plenty of time to consider and comment on this consultation. It was agreed that this would be picked up at the May meeting.

8. Matters from the Floor

- **Tryst Road** – A resident advised that his garden backs on to west stand of Stenhousemuir Football ground. A very large sycamore tree is in-between the garden and the stand. The resident has raised concerns over the safety of the tree with local Councillors and also Stenhousemuir FC officials. If there is a strong westerly wind, the tree could fall on the stand. If it fell the other way it could fall on 3 Tryst Road properties.

It is currently unclear whose ground the tree is on as it is outwith both the gardens and the football grounds. Councillor Carleschi advised he would look into this further. It was agreed that the Community Council would also write to Rhona Geisler at Falkirk Council to seek guidance on what can be done. **Action: 8.**

- **State of cleanliness around train station** - A resident raised concerns over the litter and cleanliness around the 3 station car parks. It was noted that there are 3 different owners for the car parks. The resident was keen that a community clean-up be organised. There was discussion around options for this including the Community Justice Team, the Falkirk Council litter team and the Rotary Club who would all potentially assist in organising a clean-up. It was agreed that there is a requirement for a one-off clean up but that there also requires to be maintenance agreed on an ongoing basis. It was agreed that this would be raised with Falkirk Council at our June meeting where we will be discussing litter in more detail. YW advised that she was awaiting confirmation from Falkirk Council in relation to attendance at the June meeting.

9. Approval of Minutes – Monday 27th March 2017

- The minutes from the March meeting were proposed by CH and seconded by GB.

10. Matters Arising

- The following actions from the March 2017 meeting were discussed:

No.	Action	Resp	Action Taken	Outcome/Next Steps
1	Congratulations on temporary promotion to be issued to PC Alex Clarke	YW	E-mail sent 22/4/2017 & response received	None
2	Further letter on issues of ASB in Kinnaird to be issued to Police and Falkirk Council	YW	In light of house party & ongoing issues – further discussion on content required.	Agreed above.
3	Letter to be issued to individual for Microgrant Fund approval for CPR training	YW	Letter issued 23/4/2017	Awaiting progress report – CPR – date 22 nd May agreed
4	Ineos planning application for road closure – views to be sought on Facebook, holding response to Falkirk Council and EA to write to Grangemouth CC	EA/CH	Post went out on Facebook 23/4/2017. One comment in favour received by e-mail.	Agreed to carry forward to May meeting
5	Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland	YW	Response submitted on 27/3/2017	None
6	Scottish Government – Future of the Planning System Consultation	CH/LS	Response drafted and submitted by YW on 4/4/2017	None

7	Policing 2026 consultation	All	All to consider	CH to consider priorities and ensure youth anti-social behavior issues covered. To be submitted by 8 th May.
8	Falkirk Council – Local Development Plan 2 – response to Main Issues Report consultation	EA/YW/CH	EA has drafted a response.	Further amendments to be made and revised draft to be circulated by EA. Final version to be submitted by 5 th May.
9	Talking “Fracking” – to make arrangements for community consultation event to be held on 8 th May and to ensure impartiality of facilitators for the meeting	EA/YW	Confirmation received from CCN that they will be impartial. Quote sought for PA equipment 22/4/2017	Poster to be produced. Press article to be sought. Information to be posted on website/social media.
10	TCSC – agreement to promote the HUGS project which is seeking funding.	YW	Information posted on Facebook and information retweeted	Resident advised that this project had unfortunately been unsuccessful.
11	Invitation to litter team to attend June meeting	YW	E-mail invitation sent to Ross Fenwick 20/4/2017	Awaiting response
12	Naming of path in Stenhousemuir – follow-up with Mike Ewart from CSGN and Angus Duncan from Falkirk Council over official naming of the path and green signs	YW	E-mail sent 22/4/2017	Response received – YW to contact Mike Ewart at CSGN to progress. Action 9
13	Community Debribrator in phonebox in Lamond Drive – letter to be sent for further investigation	CH	CH issued email to resident 23/4/2017	Awaiting response from resident to questions raised.
14	Resident raising concern to be welcome to meetings in the future	YW	E-mail sent 24/4/2017	None
15	Request to SEPA to inform the CC of spreading and other odours in the area	YW	Signed up for SEPA weekly newsletter	Weekly newsletters to be circulated
16	Letter to be issued to Jon Reid in relation to the contribution to the project by pupils and ex-pupils of LHS to Cycling without Age	YW	E-mail sent 23/4/2017	None
17	Suggestion to resident that they could apply for	YW	Info send on FB 24/4/2017	Information with resident.

	a microgrant for posters to prevent feeding ducks/swans bread			
18	Letter to be issued in relation to the closure of the RBS	YW	Complaint submitted online 23/4/2017	Awaiting response. Acknowledgement received.
19	CC Insurance to be reviewed	GB	GB confirmed renewal	None

11. Reports

11a. Correspondence Report

- The following items of correspondence received were discussed. A report showing all correspondence received and issued was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Date of Item	Item	Action Taken/Required
29/3/2017	Falkirk Council - Heritage Lottery Fund –awarded £5,700 funding for the Sparkle & Grit! show at Carron Dams with LHS – funded through HLF’s Stories, Stones and Bones funding stream as part of 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.	LSTCC provided letter of support for project. Progress noted.
30/3/2017	Wellbeing Scotland (formerly Open Secret) invitation to Hustings on Tuesday 25th April Name: Election Hustings - What can Falkirk Council do for survivors? Time: 7 – 9pm (doors open from 6.45pm) Venue: Thornhill Community Hall, Falkirk	Circulated
6/4/2017 & various	Yellow Book Consultants – invitation to attend a site visit/informal workshop to benefit from your stakeholder knowledge, discuss some of the opportunities and talk about the work programme for the Carron Works! Project. Yellow Book have been appointed by Falkirk Council and Historic Environment Scotland to assist with the development of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid for the proposed Carron Works! Project – 19 th April at 10am	EA or others to participate as required.
6/4/2017	Cllr Carleschi – information from Cala on proposed recreation areas and also on development site	Noted as a positive development for the area
13/4/2017	Maggies Forth Valley – Invitation to EA to attend Fabulous Ladies Lunch – Sunday 7 May 12noon-5pm at Airth Castle	Noted
13/4/2017	Resident - FVRH bus shelter incident – glass smashed on top of resident waiting for a bus	Information sent to Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley – awaiting response. YW to chase. Action 10
14/4/2017	General – brown bin collections – residents unaware. No plans to issue revised calendars as information is online	Written to Falkirk Council – awaiting response
16/4/2017	TCSC and Tryst Dental – invitation to the Community Council to Larbert High School on Monday 22nd May (7-8pm) to take part in a session and learn CPR.	To be recirculated. Action 11
17/4/2017	CCOF - flyer advertising the recent initiated by Stirling Council to provide shopping help to older folk. Copied to local Councillors asking if it is something Falkirk Council can do.	Noted
19/4 7 20/4/2017	Sgt Goldie and PC Morrison - Inspector Mackin is moving on to a new role within the Police, and the new Inspector covering the Larbert area and working at Larbert Police Office is Inspector Martin Rutland.	Noted
21/4/2017	Resident – resolution to noise issues at Carronvale Service station found	Noted

22/4/2017	Resident on FB raising issue of amount of glass on pavements in area	To be raised with the Community Safety and litters teams. Action 12
22/4/2017	Resident on FB raising issue of speeding traffic on Muirhall Road advising this is a severe problem, even late at night.	Discussed under police report.
22/4/2017	Resident on FB – issue of drivers overtaking horses on Torwood/ West Plean cross road heading towards Stirling passing at excessive speeds & showing no consideration & blatantly ignoring hand signals to slow down when passing the horses so as not to spook them.	Concerns raised on Facebook discussed and noted. Watching brief to be kept in relation to ongoing issues.
22/4/2017	Resident on FB and e-mail – issue of party in empty house in Kinnaird	Discussed under police report.

11.b Treasurer's Report

- GB advised that the end of year balance was £4965.17 of which £750 was ringfenced for the microgrant fund. The available balance is £4,195.17.
- GB advised that the bank statement and accounts can now go to the accountant to prepare the year-end accounts/audit.

11.c Planning Report

- CH circulated the planning report. There were no issues raised in relation to any of the application outlined.

11.d Other Reports

There were no other reports.

12. AOCB

- **Dorrator Bridge memorial** – YW advised that Christine Bell from CATCA had provided alternative proposals and drawings of the seating being put in place as part of the Dorrator Bridge memorial project to seek views from the Community Council. The new proposals will utilise Concrete in the Classroom which will involve LHS pupils designing and laying the concrete that will be used for the seating area and the memorial plaque. It was agreed that the revised drawings looked good but there were questions over whether they would be vandal-proof. It was also agreed that CATCA should run the revised drawings past Foundation Scotland. YW to advise CATCA. **Action 13.**
- Cllr Carleschi advised that he was not standing for re-election as a local councillor. EA thanked him for all the work and support he had given the Community Council over the years and wished him well for the future.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 29th May 2017