

# Dunblane Community Council

Kirsten Strachan  
Secretary  
4 Atholl Place  
Dunblane  
FK15 9AQ

Tel:01786 825914

Terence O'Byrne  
Chairman  
3 Argyle Grove  
Dunblane  
FK15 9DT

Tel:01786 823604

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 3 September, 2007, in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.**

**Present:** Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Kirsten Strachan (Secretary), Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Kate Fawcett, John Alexander, Lawrie Dewar, Sandy MacKay, Alan Booth, Charles McHugh, Mike Dewar, Frederic Gilmour, Craig French.

**In attendance:** Councillor David Goss, PC Simon Fraser, Inspector Brian Sharkey, Brian Grieve (Dunblane Development Trust), Paul Thornton (*Allanwater News*), Iain Howie (*Stirling Observer*), Moira Hughes (Convenor of Dunblane Pre-school Playgroup Association), Kerstin Deuling (a town planning graduate), Mr Kerr, Donald MacFie and Rob Smallman from Dunblane History Society, Karen Eagling and Andrew Tyler who are campaigning against the Orange mast, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

**1. Apologies** Apologies have been received from Stella Reid and Councillor Graham Houston.

### **2. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman reported that, at the Annual General Meeting held at 7 p.m., the Chairman had been reappointed, Mike Dewar will act as Treasurer and, from November, Peter McCusker will take over the Secretary's role.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 30 July 2007**

With the deletion of the word “soon” in the first line of the second paragraph of *Report of Meetings*, these were approved, proposed by Lawrie Dewar and seconded by Sandy MacKay.

## **5. Police Report**

The police report was taken next to allow the police to leave earlier. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Brian Sharkey to the meeting and brought to his attention the concerns of the community council over police issues in Dunblane.

CCTV cameras The Chairman wanted a business case to be made for the need for these in Dunblane and the Inspector promised support. However, the latter pointed out that CCTV cameras are not a panacea for all ills, with disruptive behaviour often merely displaced to other areas. He suggested that, as a deterrent, more positions for cameras should be put in place than the number of cameras available, so that cameras can be moved around.

Bollard at the Haining The Chairman pointed out that repeated requests to Stirling Council to replace this bollard have met with no response. It is felt that people will try to take their vehicles on to the Laighills and he asked for police support to prevent this. Access for emergency vehicles and for the allotmenters was necessary, but the Inspector did not foresee a problem with a locked bollard, keys to which would be distributed where necessary. In addition, Brian Grieve also complained about cars racing up the High Street and the Inspector insisted that, to address the problem of young drivers, he felt an education approach would work well and make a difference.

Laighills Brian Grieve reported on the amount of rubbish which volunteers had cleared out of the Laighills and also on the amount of rubbish in the river. Older people, in particular, felt intimidated by the number of young people congregating there and Alan Booth pointed out that the problem of under-age drinkers was hidden because they were not seen in the Laighills. The Inspector, however, pointed out that young people in groups are not necessarily doing anything wrong and he felt there was often a general intolerance to young people. To this, the Chairman emphasised the responsibility of parents to look after their children.

Stirling Arms The Chairman complained about the rowdy nature of customers there from early evening and the lack of response from Scottish and Newcastle in addressing this problem. A lessee was still being sought. Community councillors repeated that people were intimidated passing the Stirling Arms from the early hours of the evening. The Inspector has already arranged a meeting with the management to insist that they run an orderly house.

In general, community councillors emphasised that they felt that Dunblane was becoming more rowdy, with unruly groups congregating, alcohol being served to under-age youths, planters being overturned and the Laighills proving a focus for out-of-town teenagers as it

was easy to avoid the police. In reply, the Inspector stated that the figures of reported crime did not reflect this. When he was told that people did not phone the police because they felt there would be no response, he stressed that, until the police were told and could build up statistics, the Anti-social Behaviour Impact Team would concentrate on areas other than Dunblane. Craig French stated that the general perception was that there was no point in phoning as the local police station was unmanned at the weekend, but the Inspector said that research showed that manning it all the time was unnecessary. It was agreed that a joint campaign by the community council and the police was necessary to publicise the phone number of the police and to urge people to contact them. In conclusion, the police were thanked and Brian Grieve highlighted the hard work that PC Fraser was doing in the community.

#### **4. Matters arising**

CCTV Sandy MacKay had emailed local councillors for their support.

Zebra crossing Councillor Goss will follow this up. **Action:** Councillor Goss.

Chinese restaurant Work has started following the serving of an amenity notice. The Chairman agreed to ask Stirling Council for details of the required work. **Action:** the Chairman.

Stirling Arms It was felt that Scottish and Newcastle were not trying very hard to find a new lessee. On the suggestion of Sandy MacKay, it was agreed that Kate Fawcett will write to Stirling Council Licensing Board to complain about how the Stirling Arms is being run and to enquire whether it has a hotel licence as, at present, it is not operating as a hotel. **Action:** Kate Fawcett.

Meeting with Bridge of Allan Community Council At this meeting, the Chairman had discussed the role of Area Community Planning Forums.

Junction of Smithy Loan and the High Street The Secretary will follow this up. **Action:** the Secretary.

Parking Strategy Meeting Another meeting will be held at the end of October and the Chairman felt that progress was being made, with a public consultation in the offing.

Bollard at The Haining The Secretary will ask for confirmation from Bob Jack that Stirling Council has put its replacement out to tender. **Action:** the Secretary.

Toilet facilities at the Laighills Stirling Council has replied to the Chairman that there was no resources at present to re-open the toilet block, but that a review of all toilet facilities in Stirling District was to take place. It was agreed that this was unsatisfactory in view of the proximity of the allotments and the skatepark. John Alexander also reported that the

football team has been advised not to renovate the disused store as it is in too serious a state of disrepair.

Area Community Planning Forums Another meeting will be held on 12 September, when it will be decided whether Dunblane can go it alone. The Chairman urged local councillors to support the community council in this.

Airtricity community gain grant Brian Grieve reported to the meeting how it had been agreed that the community grant for 2006-07 from Airtricity of £12,000 was to be spent on the Braeport. The Braeport, although well used by pre-school children, was in dire need of repairs to its toilet block and kitchen. The Dunblane Development Trust has a three-year lease on the centre and hoped, with the support of MSP Bruce Crawford and Councillor Graham Houston, to register an interest in the building with the Scottish Government to protect it from developers if it were to come up for sale. Unfortunately, this year a decision over the project to benefit from the community grant had had to be taken in a very limited time-scale with a deadline of 31 August and the DDT had pinpointed the Braeport as a community facility in need of financial help. Recognising that the time constraints have meant that community consultation has not been possible, the Community Council stressed that, in following years, a committee to consider applications and make grants according to laid-down criteria would be in place. It is hoped to have the committee, comprising two members of the community council, two members of the DDT and one other member of the community, in place by the end of the year, and to publicise the criteria for applications by early 2008. In order to avoid problems with tax and the charity commissioners, although this committee would make recommendations to the DDT, it would have to be the DDT itself which rubberstamped their decisions and signed the documentation. Some community councillors were unhappy about the lack of consultation this year, especially in view of the fact that it had been agreed that any expenditure over £4,000 should be referred to the Community Council for approval. There was considerable discussion over this and it was agreed that widespread notification and transparent criteria were essential in future. Brian Grieve is to write an article about this for *Community View*.

**6. Correspondence:** See attached list.

The letter concerning the restriction of the bus service to Kinbuck was passed to Councillor Goss.

The Chairman has been invited to the opening of the Dunblane Christian Fellowship church on 20 October.

The Chairman has received minutes of the Transport Strategy meeting held in June, an invitation to the Citizenship Ceremony held on 29 August, and notification of the Area Community Planning Forum meeting to be held on 12 September.

The Chairman has received proposals for traffic calming measures at the Wallace Road and Old Doune Road junction. These were passed to the Treasurer, Peter McCusker.

The Chairman has received notice of the next Community Health Partnerships (Public Partnership Forums) meeting to be held in the Victoria Hall on 26 September, when the main topic will be dental services in the Forth Valley area.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** See attached.

**8. Planning Report:** See attached.

By a majority, it was agreed to support the application for 8 High Street to become a betting shop. However, it was agreed that the Chairman will check that it could not be turned into an amusement arcade. **Action:** the Chairman.

With reference to the building work at 35 Old Doune Road the Treasurer will check on progress and report to the Chairman. **Action:** the Treasurer.

Orange phone mast The Chairman opened discussion out to the floor, where Karen Eagling and Andrew Tyler reported on the progress of the protest against Orange using the existing mast near the Hummingbird Nursery. Instead of concentrating on only one site, however, they wished to widen the issue to the whole of Dunblane. The mast on the old High School is to be removed and Orange does not need permission to use the mast at Ramoyle; they have stated that they will use it if no other site in Dunblane is identified as being suitable. As the long-term health effects of mobile phone masts are unknown, Andrew Tyler urged the adoption of a precautionary principle that they should not be erected near schools or nurseries. Alan Booth reminded the meeting that phone companies had previously agreed to consult local communities and it was deplored that this was not happening. While Kate Fawcett pointed out that more and more children had mobile phones, Craig French said a balance had to be sought between children having mobile phones for their own safety and more masts therefore being required. It was agreed that the Community Council should encourage Stirling Council to enforce the phone companies' voluntary agreement of consultation and to formulate a planned strategy with a consistent approach to the spread of mobile phone masts. A long-term view on where the masts were erected was required. The Chairman is to arrange a meeting with Stirling Council, MSP Bruce Crawford and Karen Eagling to discuss the future of mobile phone masts in Dunblane.

**9. Report of Meetings** There was none.

**10. Councillor's Report** Councillor Goss had nothing further to report.

**11. Community Council Boundaries**

It was agreed that the community council boundaries for Dunblane should include the pitches of the new High School and their access road which are on the other side of the

motorway. The ensuing discussion covered the inclusion of Arnhall nursery and Stockbridge Farm. It was agreed that Alan Booth will look into this. **Action:** Alan Booth.

**12. Community Council Future Activities**

This was deferred to a future meeting.

**13. AOCB**

John Alexander reported that the football team has applied for lights to be installed at the Laihills pitch so that it can be used for training.

Alan Booth reported that *Community View* is going to print shortly. He is trying to update the local Development Plan but requires some help. **Action:** Alan Booth and the Chairman.

Kate Fawcett agreed to write to Belhaven on the replacement of the broken window at The Tappit Hen with clear glass, which did not match the remaining etched window. **Action:** Kate Fawcett.

Charles McHugh agreed to investigate the street lighting in the High School before the next meeting. **Action:** Charles McHugh.

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Chairman ..... Date  
.....  
Terence O'Byrne

Secretary ..... Date  
.....

**Mail received since last meeting**\_\_\_\_\_ **30<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>
30.07.07	Stirling Council	No 'Cold Calling' awareness
27.07.07	Anne McGuire MP	Post Office Network Change
03.08.07	Stirling Council	Speed Limit Signs B8033
06.08.07	Stirling Council	Health and safety panel 17.09.07
08.08.07	Bruce Crawford MSP	Mobile phone masts
08.08.07	Stirling Council	Heritage Days
08.08.07	NHS Forth Valley	Community News
08.08.07	Town Break	Volunteer Poster
12.08.07	Stirling Council	Planning Panel 16.08.07
16.08.07	Stirling Council	Bus Service Kinbuck and Ashfield
16.08.07	Stirling Council	Assoc of Scottish Community Councils
23.08.07	Forth Housing	Notice of AGM
24.08.07	Stirling Council	Notification of public procession (Stirling)
24.08.07	Stirling council	Quarterly licensing Board meeting
10.08.07	Stirling Council	Agenda for planning panel 16.08.07
29.08.07	Stirling Council	ACPF agenda for 12.09.07

# Dunblane Community Council

## **Treasurers Report**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2007

'Administration Account'	00347702
Expenditure since last report	£53.21
Income since last report	nil
Interest	£0.16
Account balance to date 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2007	<u>£126.83</u>

'Community Fund'	00347753
Expenditure since last report	Nil
Income since last report	Nil
Interest	£0.16
Account balance to date 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2007	<u>£198.56</u>

---

Peter McCusker  
Treasurer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2007

## CRIME FIGURES FOR DUNBLANE – AUGUST 2007

DETECTED – 13, this includes a number of minor assaults and Breach of the Peace and theft. There are also a person being reported for supplying alcohol to a youth and a person has been given a conditional offer for drinking in public.

UNDETECTED – 14, this includes a number of vandalisms (4), and a number of minor thefts, assaults and Breach of the Peace. A good proportion of these crimes will be detected in the fullness of time after all enquiries have been carried out.

This compares with 11 detected and 12 undetected crimes over the same period last year.

## MONTHLY REPORT –SEPTEMBER 2007 .

### **New Planning Applications received since last meeting**

It is considered that the following applications have no implications for Dunblane as a whole and it is recommended that we leave it to the neighbour notification system to identify any local objections that there may be: Extensions at 110 Wedderburn Road, 3 Dykedale Farm, Waterside Farm, Killean Dunblane, Dormers at 3 Roman Way, 28 Bruce Ave, Conservatory at 54 Ochiltree, Replace Conservatory at 10 Leewood Park, Extend Conservatory at Kinnoul, Cawder Crescent, Window Replacement at 19A Springfield Terrace.

A further application was made for the extension at 7 Auchinlay Holdings as more space was required for the garden, we supported this application.

An application to convert 1 Drumcastle Court to 2 flats was received, the decision was to neither support nor oppose this application.

An application to convert the existing 2 flats at 25 Doune Road back to a single house was received, the decision to neither support nor oppose this application was made.

An application for change of use at 8 High St to a Betting Shop has been received, a decision will be taken at this meeting.

An Amenity Order was issued against the owners of 86 High St (Former Chinese Restaurant) that requires them to improve the exterior of the building. Some work has commenced. The Community Council has sought details of the order and of funds that have been awarded to the owners to help with the works

Non compliance has been recorded at the new house at 35 Old Doune Road, this is an application that the Community Council opposed. The developer has failed to submit samples for approval and commenced site works before completion of a Contaminated Land Survey which has since been waived. Work has stopped on site.

Progress continues to be made at the new High School site, work is on schedule for opening on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2007.

### **Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.**

The outline application for the new house near Park Cottage, Glen Road was approved

No decisions on the new house at Ash cottage in Ashfield, new house at Nether Cromlix 6 flats at Millrow,, Conversion of the agricultural building at Little Hill.

### **Other Planning Matters**

Orange have not yet made any decision on where the replacement mast for the one on the High School will be sited, tests were done on a site at the rear of the Bryant development at Kippendavie, no further information available. The Community Council has received copies of 10 letters of concern re

the siting of the mast at Kippendavie on health grounds and proximity to housing. The meeting between the MD of SSE, Bruce Crawford , the Chair of the Community Council and the Hummingbird Nursery was cancelled due to the fact that SSE have sold their mast sites to Wireless Infrastructure Co Ltd. No contact has been possible to date with the new owners who have a low profile. Orange eventually replied to emails sent by the Community Council complaining at the total lack of consultation with the community of Dunblane and their continued lack of response to letters and emails. Their reply is not acceptable as they claim to be consulting when they are not. Further action will be decided at this meeting after a presentation by concerned residents.

Stirling Council have finally adopted the Local Plan Alteration 1A there is no effect on Dunblane other than to remove references to completed developments and re-word some elements.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee will be called on an as required basis, no firm date has been set.

Terence O'Byrne