

## DUNBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### **Minute of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday 1 September 2008 @ 1930 hrs in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.**

**Present:** Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Frederic Gilmour (Secretary), Lawrie Dewar (Treasurer), Charles McHugh, Kate Fawcett, Alan Booth, Craig French (part time), Stella Reid, John Alexander, Sylvia Cairns, Domenico Angiolini.

**In attendance:** Cllr David Goss, Cllr Graham Houston, Martin Little (reporting for *Allanwater News*), Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, PC Simon Fraser, Sgt Joyce Greenhorn, Angela Edgar (Kinbuck) and David Gill of the *Dunblane Development Trust*.

#### **Agenda Items:**

- 1) Apology for absence received from Margaret Bragg. (In the absence of Margaret, the Secretary took the Minutes)
- 2) Chairman welcomed those attending and began by informing the meeting of the sudden passing of Jim Mullen. (see reference to Jim at head No (4) in the Minute of the 11 August meeting). It was agreed that on behalf of the DCC he would send a message of condolence to Jim's family.
- 3) The Minute of the meeting of 11 August was accepted without amendment.
- 4) Matters Arising:
  - a) Charles McHugh confirmed that work on the double yellow lines at the junction of Smithy Loan and High Street had been completed.
  - b) Concerning the Local Plan, DCC is to lodge an application for additional funds ASAP to defray the costs of preparing the Plan.
  - c) Charles McHugh and the Chairman will attend the meeting of Stirling Council on 3 September at which the parking proposals for Dunblane will be discussed.
  - d) Regarding CCTV installations, Chairman has still had no response from Stirling Council but will continue to press for results.
  - e) Wind Farm Community Grant: little response so far from likely beneficiaries of this fund. The deadline for applications is September 15<sup>th</sup>, the *Allanwater News* will publish a further article
  - f) On the continuing issue of construction traffic in the neighbourhood of the old high school site, Cllr Houston will pursue Stirling Council to limit the contractor's traffic to avoid school rush-hours.
  - g) Grass cutting at Rylands Park has not been extended to include the currently uncut area despite repeated requests from residents and the DCC.
  - h) Scouring Burn Bridge: SEPA has taken steps to order the removal of dams on this watercourse. Cllr Houston will take the matter up with Stirling Council.
  - i) Roundabout at M&S store: Stirling Council had responded to a recent article in *Allanwater News*. The response was considered inadequate and unsatisfactory in that the rationale for not requiring a roundabout at the exit from the site was unexplained.

SC's Roads Department is to be pressed to explain its thinking and produce the evidence on which the decision (for no roundabout) was reached. No evidence had been produced to indicate whether a traffic management system had ever been explored as a means to safeguard users of the B8033 at the new store. Cllr Houston will meet with two officers of SC's roads unit, and Cllr Goss will press SC to justify its evident belief that U-turns are safer options than roundabouts (a reference to the existing U-turn gap at the Kippendavie Lodgehouse). **Cllr Houston will invite senior Roads Dept officials to attend the October meeting of the DCC to explain their position on this important matter**

- j) Regarding a bus timetable, Cllr Houston will investigate the source of the document and prepare a pdf version for distribution.

### Correspondence Received – Period 11 August 2008 to 1 September 2008

13 August: from SC Corporate Services: Notification of 2 Public Processions.

on 28 September from QVS to Dunblane Cathedral and

on 11 November from Greenloaning to Sherrifmuir via Small Back road.

18 August from SC, re Allocations Policy Review – Consultation enclosing the Review consultation paper.

20 August from SC, re Community Council Enquiry Service. Contact number and email address are: 01786 442759 and [communitycouncilenquiries@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:communitycouncilenquiries@stirling.gov.uk)

22 August from Forth Housing Association Ltd – notifying its AGM on 9 September, 1900 hrs, in Stirling Tolbooth.

1 September from NHS Forth Valley attaching its Community News leaflet.

Email from Helen Geddes (SC) offering support for secretarial services for the DCC, It was agreed to ask SC to fund the minutes secretary costs which would help to alleviate the current funding problems being experienced by DCC. After discussion it was agreed that the DDC will ask SC to fund the existing minutes secretarial costs.

Email from Helen Geddes suggesting that she broker an agreement regarding the new High School playing field land that is now part of Kilmadock CC. (See below in planning section for the DCC response)

5) Continuing Business: On the continuing matter of the Stirling Arms hotel, Chairman and Kate Fawcett plan to meet the commercial manager of Scottish & Newcastle Enterprises in an attempt to discover the owner's intentions towards the building. The Dunblane Development Trust asked to informed of the result of the meeting.

6) Police Report: Sgt Joyce Greenhorn introduced herself as the new officer I/C Dunblane police office. Constable Fraser summarised the previous month's activities as follows: Of 52 reported crimes 29 had been resolved (as at 1 September). These included 19 Road Traffic Act violations of which 5 were of speeding. The remainder involved theft and vandalism. In the latter category the throwing of eggs featured. The general level of mindless vandalism continues to occupy considerable time and effort to deflect. An effort to resolve the remaining crimes is ongoing. Difficulties by retailers in establishing the ages of intending purchasers of alcohol continue to be reflected in the fact that some 20 litres of alcohol had been removed from young people at the Dunblane Centre. Continuing problems in George Street are attributed to the absence of a police presence there. Constable Fraser confirmed that police would require ID only from those challenged over serious criminal activity such as GBH.

A reference was made to the 'White Van' trade, but of this there is no evidence in Dunblane. Sgt Greenhorn will investigate this matter more fully. She and Chairman are to meet in the near future to discuss issues of interest and importance to the community.

Chairman thanked the two officers for their contribution.

There have been a total of 52 reported crimes in the Dunblane area during August.

#### DETECTED

There have been a total of 29 detected crimes, these include a number of Vandalisms, Breach of the Peace, Theft, Assault and drink driving. As a result of these ASFP have been issued when the criteria has been met. There have also been a significant number of road traffic offences detected, these include 5 COFP issued for speeding and 14 other traffic offences reported (mobile phone, seatbelt, no insurance, mot, road tax)

#### UNDETECTED

There have been a total of 23 undetected crimes reported, the majority of these are Theft and Vandalism, there have also been a number of reported Breach of the Peace, fraud and a road traffic offence.

A number of the above reported crimes (Vandalism/Breach of the Peace) are linked to recent incidents of egg throwing in Dunblane.

#### CRIME OPERATION

There is currently a crime operation underway in the Dunblane sub area command. As with the operation last year this is designed to assist in the progression and detection of outstanding crimes. It is hoped that in time a number of the above undetected crimes will be progressed to their successful completion.

#### PROACTIVE ROAD TRAFFIC PATROLS

As can be seen from the detected crimes, an increase in speed checks and vehicle stops have happened in the Dunblane area, these have been carried out by officers based at Dunblane/Bridge of Allan as well as officers based within the Road Policing Unit at Stirling. Radar is carried out on almost a daily basis at a number of locations in the Dunblane section and this will continue to be a priority.

**Treasurers Report**

29<sup>th</sup> Aug 2008.

‘Administration Account’	00347702	
Expenditure since last report		£60.00
Interest		£0.05
Income		£476.75
Account balance to date 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2008.		<u>£548.65</u>

‘Community Fund’	00347753	
Expenditure since last report		Nil
Income since last report		Nil
Interest		£0.08
Account balance to date 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2008		<u>£200.43</u>

Lawrie Dewar, Treasurer, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008

7) Planning Matters: David Gill of the *Dunblane Development Trust* introduced himself. As a Town Planner and former MD of Cala Homes Ltd he felt he had a lot to offer the DDT and the community at large, especially in relation to implementing the Community Plan, soon to be revisited. His principal reason for attending this meeting, however, was to explain proposals for the development of the gap site adjacent to the delicatessen at the south end of High Street. He observed that the High Street was going downhill – shopping facilities are meagre and the town centre lacks ‘destination’ – in other words there is no more reason to visit Dunblane town centre than to visit another commercial centre. The reason, he suggested, is that without grant support and philanthropy to sustain much of it, the physical size – the footprint - of most commercial property is too small, inhibiting development. The gap-site proposal attempted to address this problem and act as a kick-start for others to follow, to grow the community’s assets. He invited feedback about the proposals, referring intending correspondents to the contact details posted on the site sign board. Website details are also posted on the board.

The development comprises 3 flats of 100m<sup>2</sup> (just over 1000 sq feet) and a commercial area for (eg) TiC, gallery, commercial activity.

To start the project, Kippendavie Trust had offered to purchase on DDT’s behalf with an option to the DDT to purchase once grant approval was obtained; DDT would then be owner and landlord.

A detailed planning application is to be lodged with SC on 15 September, which DDC supports in principle.

In regard to amending the limits of DDC’s boundary area, the opinion of Helen Geddes (of Stirling Council) is not supported by the DDC, who view it as creating obstacles where none need exist. Chairman to inform Helen Geddes that the DCC wish to have the area incorporated into the DCC boundary.

Other planning matters included a proposal that the developer at Pisgah plants new trees whenever existing trees are felled. The revelation that in the opinion of SC, the site forms part of the ‘**Green Edge to Dunblane**’ – a concept hitherto unknown – caused surprise. Chairman to investigate.

To a proposal to move a beech hedge at Glen Road, the opinion is that this simply isn’t possible; the hedge is mature. Objection of the DCC has been notified to SC.

MONTHLY REPORT – September 2008.

**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 4 Chisholm Ave, 87 Montgomery Crescent. Fence at 11 Alpin Drive.

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

The revised proposed alterations to 50 Old Doune Road have been approved.

The new house at Pisgah Woods has been approved. Restrictions have been put in place to prevent further tree removal without consent. The wooded area is not in the Green Corridor in the Local Plan, however the approval states that the site does form part of the '**green edge to Dunblane**' .

Still no progress on the requested construction traffic restrictions at the Dunblane High housing development other than the receipt of a document issued by Stewart Milne advising routes to the school which makes no mention of restricted times or use of the lower Old Doune Road.

No progress on the requested construction traffic restrictions at Anchorscross.

No decisions on the 3 townhouses at the Stirling Arms, Ellenacbeich, Inverlochy, Conversion of the agricultural building at Little Hill, new house at Mid Cambushinne, new house at 25 Ochloch Park.

**Other Planning Matters**

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

**8)** Dunblane Development Trust; (apart from item at (7) above). Lawrie Dewar's Report:  
The provision of Christmas Lights in Dunblane High Street is to be reviewed. Last year's lights remain in place.

Issues with the Laighhills are unresolved.

The Community Council Review document must be returned to the Scottish Government by 30 September. A signature is required on it.

On roadways serving Newton and Dunblane Primary Schools, speed detectors and limit signs have now been set up. While at Newton, double yellow lines had been requested, these had not been applied because of local objections – eg where do visitors to residents park their cars should roadside parking be inhibited?

The DCC was pleased to hear of the high attendance and evident success of a SC recent training session on work-related stress.

Regarding the damaged Riverside Path, SC has finally agreed that it is the owner. A fund of about £150k is in place for repairs (see previous DCC minutes), SC will take a decision shortly as to whether they will progress with this much needed work.

For the record, of the four local Councillors, DCC noted that only two attend DCC meetings regularly; the other two have not attended any meetings in the last 12 months.

**9)** Chairman reminded attendees that DCC elections take place in November/December. Co-opted members must stand down but of course can put themselves forward for election. Lawrie Dewar and Stella Reid are directly affected. Five vacancies are open for DCC for which the quorum is 15 members. DCC website has the details.

**10)** Alan Booth reminded the meeting that the *Community View* will be back from the printer on 5 September and asked that help with deliveries to doorsteps will be forthcoming.

**11)** Other Matters: John Alexander reported that person who had been keeping dogs in his house on George St without taking up residence has been evicted. He also highlighted the completely unsatisfactory situation in regard to community use of sports facilities at the PPP schools (in particular). This situation is unacceptable, Young people in particular cannot afford the charges.

Meeting closed at 2130 hrs.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 6 October at 1930 hrs in the Burgh Chambers.

F J A Gilmour  
Honorary Secretary  
Dunblane Community Council

7 September 2008