

## DUNBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### Minute of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday 4 February 2008 in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.

**Present:** Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Frederic Gilmour (Secretary), Lawrie Dewar (Treasurer), Charles McHugh, Kate Fawcett, Alan Booth, Craig French.

**In attendance:** Cllr David Goss, Cllr Graham Houston, Esther Hutcheson (*Allanwater News*), Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Rhys Bulman, PCSimon Fraser.

**Apologies for Absence:** John Alexander, Stella Reid, Margaret Bragg.

(In the absence of Margaret Bragg, the Secretary took the Minutes)

#### Agenda Items:

- 1) Apologies for absence, as noted above.
- 2) Chairman wished the assembly a Happy New Year at this, the first DCC meeting of 2008.
- 3) Correspondence received since the last DCC meeting:
  - Dated 22 January 2008 from CE's office, Stirling Council enclosing *Talkback Annual Report 2006/2007*
  - Dated 24 January 2008 from Waterwatch Scotland advising of meeting on 25 February
  - Dated 29 January 2008 from Corporate Services, Stirling Council, regarding constituting of community councils
  - Dated 30 January 2008 from Anne McGuire MP advertising her 9 February surgery and
  - Dated 31 January 2008 from Waterwatch Scotland cancelling the meeting of 25 February.

#### 4) Chairman's Remarks:

- (a) Chairman advised that nominations for the forthcoming Community Council elections must be lodged with Stirling Council by 8 February 2008 – ie the Friday following this meeting. The Timetable for these elections (from date of this meeting onwards) is: *Publication of Notice of Poll – Wednesday 6 and Friday 8 February 2008; Issuing of Ballot papers – Week commencing Monday 11 February 2008 and Ballot papers to be returned (to Stirling Council) by 5pm on Friday 29 February 2008.*

- (b) Matters Arising from previous Minute as follows:

Correction to the notes about 'Dickson's Garage Site' – in line 2, text should read “. . . petrol station would not be a viable proposition for *the* retailer . . . “ (not '*any*' retailer).

Chairman summarised the current state of affairs with Airtricity and the Dunblane Development Trust, that it is now for the DCC to set up a committee to make recommendations to the Trust Board and to propose rules and protocols governing the eligibility of applicants for a grant of funds from the DDT. Craig French to draft rules and distribute before the next meeting. **Action: Craig French/Chairman**

Regarding the *Stirling Arms* hotel, with Scottish and Newcastle (owners of the SA) having recently been bought by Heineken, the future of the hotel was now indeterminate and the DCC has little option but to

await clarification of Heineken's policies towards this and similar holdings. However, it was noted that a general reduction in the rowdy behaviour of some patrons and others in the vicinity is evident.

To assist with flood defences to Allanside House, Stirling Council had agreed to meet half the cost of repairs to walls and the like, a sum in the region of £690. This was due in no small part to the action of Ian Young of Stirling Council, without whose interest and efforts this result might not have been achieved.

The site of Dickson's garage has now been cleared and the fuel tanks disinterred and removed.

Town-Centre car parking: Stirling Council had summarised the results of its survey into proposals to regulate (by levying charges) car-parking in Dunblane town centre area. SC's consultation document had been sent to the chairman under cover of SC letter of 20 November 2007. Several groups were identified as having an immediate interest in this:

- 1) Residents
- 2) Commuters, from the outlying areas around Dunblane and beyond (such as Comrie/Crieff) attracted by the regular and frequent train services to Glasgow, Edinburgh and elsewhere.
- 3) Taxi operators.

The meeting considered how the proposals are to be effectively publicised – perhaps by posting flyers on windscreens – and who will enforce the new regime, and how - if it becomes a reality. The meeting conveyed its view of the proposals to the Chairman, who will draft a response to Stirling Council and circulate it for comment and amendment before transmitting it to that Council. In this connection, problems of parking in the area around the Community Centre were highlighted, especially in the vicinity of the Catholic church where in one incident a funeral had to be delayed while the owners of thoughtlessly parked cars were traced (to the Community Centre) and asked to remove their vehicles. **Action: Chairman**

The state of the ground around the Cala Homes site at the back of Ramoyle continues to be of concern. Improvements to some of the paths serve to show up the poor state of the unimproved areas – a quagmire, not improved by the heavier winter rainfall that now seems the norm. Alan Booth will meet with representative/s from the Ranger Service to assess what action it might take to resolve various issues at the Laighills and report back at the March DCC meeting. **Action: Alan Booth**

#### Police Report:

PC Fraser summarised the Crime statistics as follows: 28 detected crimes including 1 major fraud and the (unrelated) haul of drugs valued in the five-figure bracket retrieved from a car stopped in Dunblane. Three men also found in the car have been 'banged up' as a result. Of 22 crimes, 8 were vandalism and 14 of theft. The nature of the remaining 4 crimes was not specified. PC Fraser advised that Central Region Police website states that the Force will target the following: theft, road safety, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Moreover, for a trial period of two months the pattern of policing will change in that local policepersons will patrol their own areas rather than gravitating to Stirling. Three types of nefarious activity have been identified in Dunblane as needing more attention and so that the Force can focus on the most relevant, DCC is asked to identify appropriate topics.

PC Fraser asked that the community council consider 3 activities that they would like to police to undertake in the next few months, this will be discussed at the March CC meeting. **Action: All**

On the question of Neighbourhood Watches, PC Fraser confirmed that it was up to the 'Neighbours' in any locality to set up the NWs with whatever degree of formality they thought appropriate, then advise the police and local authority of this.

#### Other Matters:

Chairman welcomed Mr Clark Hamilton, of Greenloaning. Mr Hamilton had tabled a pamphlet summarising his proposal to set up a Health and Fitness club in premises at the Barbush Business Park (at the north end of Dunblane) and sought an opinion from the DCC as to how it might be received by the community and to answer any concerns raised. He indicated some uncertainty as to how the planning authority would regard such use of 'business' premises in the business park since it wasn't the usual paper-and-computer dependent business of conventional wisdom. Moreover, he couldn't lodge an application for Planning Consent until Stirling Council had agreed the site zoning. DCC thought that his was as legitimate a business activity in terms of the Town and Country Planning Acts as any other and wished him well. Chairman to write a letter of support to Mick Stewart Head of Planning. **Action: Chairman.**

Chairman had received a note from the Kilmadock Community Council to advise that it wished to reinstate the old symbols of crossed pistols that, prior to the tragedy at Dunblane in 1996, had been posted on the three roads into Doune (a former centre of pistol manufacture). After the tragedy they had been removed but with local sensitivities in mind sought comment on the proposal. Some members considered that it was now time to move on, although the events of 1996 still cast a long shadow. Regarding it as a local matter for Doune, the consensus of the DCC is to offer no opinion to KCC other than that some Dunblane residents will be upset. **Action: Chairman**

Chairman had received a communication from the Police to say that since there wasn't enough crime in Dunblane, to fit CCTV systems couldn't be justified. Chairman had discussed this issue with Bruce Crawford (local MP) and Keith Yates, Chief Executive of Stirling Council. (Previous discussions regarding CCTV had concluded that the beat policeperson was a deterrent to low level crime while CCTV only prompted ineffective reaction). Chairman to follow up with Bruce Crawford to ask that a business case be done for Dunblane. **Action Chairman**

Leader Funding: There had been no developments on this.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer tabled his Report showing the state of affairs as at 4 February. Balance of the Administration Account, as at 3 September 2007, is £351.63 and the Community Fund balance at the same date is £199.56. A copy of the Report is attached.

#### Planning Applications:

Chairman summarised seven applications for Planning Consent thus:

- 1) for Consent in Principle to demolish the victorian Park Cottage at the top of Glen Road. The sentiment of the DCC is that this is a perfectly good building so why demolish it? Agreed to oppose the application.
- 2) Mid Cambushinnie – consent sought to build a new 'agricultural' house to lodge the guardian of the trees. Section 45 of the T&CPA(Scotland) to be invoked.
- 3) Application for consent to demolish Inverlochy, a large house on Glen Road, and build flats with car-parking areas on the site. Images in support were tabled. DCC would oppose this in the ground that it didn't fit the character of the area.
- 4) Consent sought to convert a barn at Cauldhame. DCC is neutral on this one.
- 5) Consent sought to increase the capacity of the Barbush care home by 25% and add a second storey to part of it. DCC objected on the same grounds of a lack of garden space
- 6) At 21 High Street there is a proposal to fill the adjacent gap site (at High Street level) as a single story, and extend two storeys downwards for a new dwelling. DCC opposed this application on the grounds that it considers that the building at street level should be retail
- 7) An application is lodged to develop Pishah sawmill (Glen Road) site for 2 dwellings. The finishes appear to be a riotous variety of materials and doubts were expressed as to the suitability.
- 8) Other uncontentious applications are with Stirling Council and none is of concern.

No details of the future of Dickson's site have been forthcoming, and the building of office units at Barbush (see above) is with SC.

Stirling Council's website has details of phone masts should anyone wish updated details.

#### Meetings:

Chairman had met with Bruce Crawford to discuss the notion that Dunblane has its own Area Community Planning Forum – that it is no longer joined in with Logie, Bridge of Allan. The rationale is that Dunblane is now large enough to justify a dedicated forum. A further meeting on this is to take place on 8 February to discuss the structure of planning forums. Chairman and Alan Booth to attend

#### Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Goss reported that a landscape architect (from outwith Central Region) had been commissioned to advise on policy for future wind turbines in the locality. The tenor of the advice is that turbine masts as high as those at Braes o' Doune are out of scale with the landscape and shouldn't in future be sanctioned. While lower masts would be acceptable, they are unattractive to wind-farm developers as being a departure from their norm.

The increasing incidence of homelessness is worrying. Due probably to prevailing economic conditions and in part the resulting mortgage problems, some 300 families are now affected (none of which is immigrant) and increased numbers of homeless are anticipated.

The waterside footpath has collapsed (and see note about Allanside House, above). There seems to be doubt as to whose responsibility its repair should be. (Normally, the riparian owners are obliged to keep the riverbanks in reasonable repair). To reduce water-scouring of the riverbanks, because of increased river levels, it was suggested that deepening the centre channel could alleviate the problem at least in part.

It is uncertain whether this footpath is included in Stirling Council's 'Paths Scheme' – **Action: Cllr Goss**

Helen Geddes is to alert the DCC to opportunities for augmenting funds from Stirling Council's Community Councils' budget. **Action: Treasurer**

Meeting closed at 2130 hrs.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer

Chairman

## CRIME FIGURES DUNBLANE NOV 07 – JAN 08

### DETECTED

Total of 28 detected crimes between 4<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008. These include a racial Breach of the Peace, a fraud when an elderly Dunblane resident was conned out of a large sum of money by bogus workmen type males, a theft by Housebreaking and a number of minor assaults, Breach of the Peace and several Vandalism.

There was also a detected drugs case when a vehicle was stopped and a large amount of controlled drugs were found in the vehicle, this resulted in 3 males being arrested and kept in custody. The vehicle was stopped as a result of high visibility mobile patrol and was travelling through the Dunblane area when it was stopped.

### UNDETECTED

Total of 24 undetected reported crimes during the same period. These are almost all minor theft (14) and vandalism (8), the other 2 are in relation to road traffic matters. It is encouraging that during the festive period there have been no undetected assaults/Breach of the Peace and the number of undetected crimes has fallen from 35 over the same period last year.

The undetected crimes will be targeted over the next 2 months by officers from the local command unit who have been placed in a pro-active unit for the months of Feb/March. They will be targeting specific crimes (Vandalism & Theft) both previously reported (undetected) and ones that are reported during the time of the operation.

### ANTI-SOCIAL PATROLS

Dunblane LCU community officers will now only be patrolling their own areas when they are out on anti-social patrols at weekends. This will hopefully continue the recent trend of a reduction in the number of youth related calls in the area.

### LOCAL POLICING ISSUES

Over this year, Dunblane LCU will have specific targets as to what the police will focus on, this will be decided in the near future and I am looking for the Community Councils ideas on 3 areas that they feel the police should focus on.

This is being carried out force wide under Operation Eclipse and the 4 groups being targeted are Acquisitive Crime (dishonesty), Anti-social behaviour (including vandalism), Domestic abuse and Road safety/crime.

PC Fraser

# Dunblane Community Council

## **Treasurers Report**

31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2008

'Administration Account' 00347702

Expenditure since last report	£43.00
Income since last report	£13.00
Interest	£0.34

Account balance to date 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2007 £351.63

'Community Fund' 00347753

Expenditure since last report	Nil
Income since last report	Nil
Interest	£0.39

Account balance to date 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2007 £199.56

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Lawrie Dewar  
Treasurer

4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008

## MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 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 Kippenross, 20 Braemar Ave, Dormer and Garage at 47 Old Doune Road, Dormer at 10 Wallace Road, Conservatory at 4 Dermoch Drive, Conservatory & Porch at 14 Argyle Grove, Decking at Westholme, Kilbryde, Decking at 11 Bellenden Grove

There is an outline application to demolish the existing house known as Park Cottage on the Glen Road and build a new one. The existing house is a stone built 2 storey house with a single storey extension, this will be considered at this meeting.

There is an outline application to build a new house at Mid Cambushinne, the justification is that the existing house will no longer be available for use by Harburn Woodlands who have an Xmas tree business on the farm and that the company requires a property for on site management to reside in.

An outline application has been received to demolish Inverlochry on the Glen Road and build a block of flats containing six 2 and 3 bed flats/apartments. There have been in excess of 20 letters of objection lodged, the application will be considered at this meeting.

An application to convert a barn at Cauldhame to a dwelling house was considered by the sub committee, it was decided to neither support nor object.

An application to erect 2 new houses on the site at Pisgah Sawmill was considered in detail by the sub committee, objections were raised to the mix of roof finishes which vary from slate, to zinc and galvanised iron, zinc metal chimneys, garage complex with office space including toilet and kitchen facilities, inappropriate finish to the unit adjacent to Glen Road, preservation of the existing stream running through the site which feeds in Ochloch Pond and the steel walkways over the stream.

The sub committee considered the application to fill the gap at 21 High St with two semi detached houses, we objected on the grounds that the section of these houses at street level should be for retail use with the remainder for residential use accessed from Mill Row, this application has been approved on the basis that it is not considered that extra retail space is needed and that the use for residential purposes is satisfactory.

A further application relating to the proposed Care Home at Barbush was considered, this application was to increase the number of rooms by adding a second storey to the proposed single storey building on the site, we objected on the same grounds as the initial application in 2006 on the basis that there was insufficient garden space allocated to this site, the Council has approved the application.

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

The new house at Stonehill farm has been refused, the application for the new house at Nether Cromlix was withdrawn. An application for minor changes at Ault Wharrie was submitted.

No decisions on the Anchorscross proposals, Dickson's retail development, the new house at Ash cottage in Ashfield, 6 flats at Millrow, Conversion of the agricultural building at Little Hill, 18 Office Units at Barbush.

### **Other Planning Matters**

Stirling Council have a new website with phone mast details showing locations and owners

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