

# Dunblane Community Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 6 June, 2005, at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.**

**Present:** Tony Ford (Chairman), Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Terence O'Byrne, Kirsten Strachan, Duncan Taylor, John Alexander.

**In attendance:** Councillor Ann Dickson, PC Graham Love, Chief Inspector Kevin Findlater, Assistant Chief Constable Norma Graham, Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Bryan Grieve, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary), and the following residents of Newton Crescent – Christine and Robin Davies, Tom Regan, Tom King, Gordon MacDougal and Robert Stewart.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Stuart Hepburn and Craig French.

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

The Chairman had, along with the Secretary and Terence O'Byrne, attended the meal to mark the departure of Mike Seal from the Community Council, and he remarked on how highly appreciated Mike's work had been. He then suspended the order of the agenda to welcome Assistant Chief Constable Norma Graham and Chief Inspector Findlater to the meeting. While recognising manpower restrictions, he reminded them that there was perceived to be a rise in anti-social behaviour in Dunblane, with increased vandalism in the High Street and people even in more outlying areas of the town, for example near the cemetery, having problems with general rowdiness.

Although acknowledging that anti-social behaviour had risen in the country as a whole, Norma Graham emphasised that disorder levels in the area had actually decreased. The police force has been increased by 100 in the last 18 months, and there is an increased focus on communities, with local officers. There has been a shift to intelligence-informed response to make more effective use of the officers on any one shift, and thus she could not guarantee that, at any one time, there would be enough officers to meet a particular demand. In response to a view from the Secretary that anti-social behaviour was, in fact, getting worse, Norma Graham stated that statistics showed that disorders had decreased and things were getting better.

In addition, the G8, although a huge issue for the police, should not mean compromising resources in the local area, as many officers would be imported from elsewhere. She hoped:

- (a) they would be able to accommodate a peaceful and lawful protest with minimum disruption to local communities, and
- (b) there would be as much policing as previously, with no compromises because of the summit.

Norma Graham stressed that demands on police officers have grown out of all belief, with child protection issues and anti-terrorism, post 9/11, and local policing depends on consent and on people being willing to tell the police of any problem. Statistics do not bear out the hypothesis that fewer police officers on the streets leads to an increase in crime. However, the police were able to move resources around and at times there has been a substantial number of officers in Dunblane to target anti-social behaviour and youth disturbance. She argued that anti-social behaviour is not just a policing matter as these were local children and parents should bear some responsibility.

Bryan Grieve, Chairman of the Dunblane Development Trust, stated that, as more of Dunblane was being developed by the Trust, there was a growing problem with rubbish and vandalism. People did not feel able to report this to the police, when calls were transferred to a call centre elsewhere. Norma Graham stressed the importance of getting everyone in the community involved and using the local press and *Community View* to encourage people to contact the police. She felt it would be useful if a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' could be collated and invited anyone to accompany police officers of an evening. The police need to know what local priorities are.

In response to a question about the possibility of CCTV being used in Dunblane, Chief Inspector Kevin Findlater pointed out that the main problem was the cost of monitoring them, as local authority capacity was already full. They were also not of much use at night if street lighting were poor. He also promised to monitor problems with speeding cars on Old Doune Road.

Finally, Assistant Chief Constable Norma Graham promised that Kevin Findlater would be in Dunblane for a considerable period of time and should be able to make a difference within a matter of months. The Chairman thanked her and Kevin Findlater for attending the meeting, with the hope that the dialogue between the police and the community would be ongoing. Duncan Taylor agreed to draft a list of FAQs and circulate it round Community Council members and Chief Inspector Findlater hoped to have an article in a forthcoming *Community View*.

Moira Stewart also brought up the question of parking in Dunblane but this was a matter for the council, not the police.

The Chairman then invited the residents of Newton Crescent to speak and Robert Stewart informed the meeting of their concern over the application by Messrs A and R Baillie to develop two plots of land behind nos 24 to 34 Newton Crescent. In 1977 an application for developing the same site had been rejected by the Reporter and, as there had been no material change since then, they were anxious about the implications of this new application. The land was termed general woodland but Christine Davies alleged that it had not been well managed and the drainage had been allowed by the owner, Baillie, to become dilapidated. The Community Council supported their objections and would inform Stirling Council of this by the following day.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

With the substitution of Gray for Grey on page three, these were approved, proposed by Peter McCusker and seconded by Kirsten Strachan.

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

Liz Law had now been briefed by the G8 Liaison Officer for the area. The Secretary is still waiting for a reply to his letter to the Emergency Planning Adviser at Stirling Council. He was also still awaiting an answer to his letter enquiring if a post-installation audit on the traffic-calming measures on the Old Doune Road had been carried out.

The Secretary had written to Arthur Nichols of Stirling Council about the Noticeboard but has had no response. He is to follow up his request for a site visit to Abbotsford. The Secretary has asked the Council to replace the old railings on the B8033, offering the Community Councillors' services to paint them. The community gain from a wind farm at Braes of Doune has still to be investigated.

As well as the John R Gray Road sign, several other signs were to be replaced in Dunblane.

In response to a letter from the Secretary, First Scotrail has expressed willingness to paint the station and enquired of the possibility of flower tubs being positioned there.

#### **5. Correspondence:** See attached list.

Stirling Council has informed the Community Council that Dundas and Wilson were the new solicitors dealing with Abbotsford.

The First Area Community Planning meeting on 13 June was going to discuss G8 arrangements.

As part of Safer Route to Schools, it was suggested there be a 20 mph restriction on Newton Crescent.

The Newsletter of the Association of Community Councils was to be passed on to Tom Smith of the Dunblane Development Trust.

In response to a letter from the Development Trust, it was agreed that Kirsten Strachan would act as a liaison on the Development Trust Board, so that information would be exchanged between the two bodies.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report:** See attached.

Bryan Grieve informed the meeting that the £200 ring-fenced for signage which had been transferred to the Development Trust would be used on the roundabout at the Queen Victoria school.

#### **7. Planning Report**

Terence O'Byrne pointed out that the application to develop two plots behind Newton Crescent was an outline application only and that, as outlined above, he would communicate the Community Council's objections by the following day.

#### **8. Report of Meetings**

There was none.

#### **9. Police Report:** See attached.

Duncan Taylor felt that the statistics given by the police were misleading and that a truer picture would be gained if a cumulative figure was quoted, so that trends would become apparent.

## **10. Councillor's Report**

Councillor Ann Dickson was going to look into the need for landscaping the Laighills and was also going to investigate the state of the pavilion. A complaint had been received from a resident of The Haining that the Allotment Group was not putting the bollard back after gaining access to the Laighills. However, it was pointed out that this was not locked in place as access was required by emergency vehicles to the Laighills as well as by people maintaining the community garden. The Chairman agreed to follow this up. Councillor Dickson also promised to find out who in Stirling Council was responsible for noticeboards.

John Alexander reported that the steps into the toilets at Bridgend were badly damaged.

## **11. AOCB**

It was agreed that the Coat of Arms, which Mike Seal had had framed, should be hung in a place where the public would be able to see them, perhaps in the Library.

Community Councillors were reminded that the deadline for the next *Community View* was this week, and copies will be available on 25 June for distribution.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

## MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2005

### **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 44 Braemar Ave, Ardchattan, Braeport, 36 Bruce Ave, Decking at 1 Graham Ave, Conservatory at 11 Coldstream Ave, Install an additional .6m dish on the mast at Dalbrack, Kilbryde

We received two applications that will require consideration by the Community Council. These are outline applications to develop two plots at the rear of house numbers 26 - 30 Newton Crescent. These plots are inside the Countryside Boundary. The only detail provided is an outline of each plot, no detail is available on proposed buildings or access. These plots are in an area designated as 'Ancient Woodland' and were the subject of an application in 1977 when permission was refused. Several detailed letters of objection have been lodged by the neighbours, copies of which have been received by the Community Council. The planning sub committee visited the site and came to the conclusion that the woodland should be preserved and that if development was to take place it could open up land at the rear of the plots to development also.

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

The applications for the new houses at Waterside Farm and near Auchinlay House have been withdrawn.

The last meeting considered the application to develop the farm buildings at Cairnston, Glassingall, the decision taken was to consult with Stuart Hepburn. Terence O'Byrne met with Stuart and agreed that the application should be supported with the conditions that the access point onto the main road be improved and that the material finishes proposed be strictly adhered to.

The developers have lodged an appeal against the decision to refuse the application for 4 houses at Provan, the Community Councils letters of objection have been forwarded by Stirling Council.

Still no decisions yet from the Planners regarding the possible development at Kippendavie Woods, Randolph Hill, Ledcameroch Walled Garden and at Ault

Wharrie where we have objected to all except the application for converting Ault Wharrie to 10 flats, which we have conditionally supported.

**Other Planning Matters**

No further news on the modified proposal for the upgraded 400,000 volt power line.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee is scheduled for June 20th at 7.30 in the Burgh Chambers.

Terence O'Byrne.