

BRCC has also become involved with several groups in town from Blair in Bloom to BRAN and Braemar Day to the Strathmore Advisory Group; there are not many areas of the town that BRCC doesn't have some sort of an alliance with. For the third year, BRCC is also maintaining its close link with the Community Market, lending assistance to setting up and taking down the stalls while participating throughout the day getting feedback from the local community on issues that matter to them, which is a fantastic way to interact with local residents and get an understanding of the general mood of the town and provide residents with an opportunity to talk to us in a way not many other towns offer. Again, almost everyone has managed to take part in this and show their support for both BRCC and the town.

BRCC has continued the support of the Blairie sponsored Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year awards by encouraging locals to express their recognition of others by voting for people who have had a positive impact in some way. The presentations will be made at the Community Market on 25 June at 11 am. Past winners have had the privilege of setting off the fireworks on Braemar Night and even attending the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood. Along with BRCC members, the winners also receive an honorary pin badge with the BRCC crest to commemorate their award. These were supplied by and paid for by a local benefactor who would prefer to remain anonymous but we thank them for their generosity.

Sandy Thompson has worked doggedly to secure new changing facilities (and funding) for the Piggy Lane football pitches and this year it all finally paid off. It's an enormous improvement to the overall experience of the players who use the pitch and much needed facilities for the visiting players who would otherwise be more in the country than they would like!

Stuart Nichol has been instrumental in sourcing matched funding (£20k from both the Scottish government and PKC) for and co-ordinating the town's first Charrette. The results from which will play a vital part in moving the town forward both for businesses and visitors alike. The final report has just been published and a public meeting will now be organised to relay the results. Stuart has also been our lead person with regards to the Local Development Plan and how it will impact on our town. These roles go hand in hand and with keen focus on these areas the town is sure to blossom.

The Recreation Centre is now opening early twice a week with the trial between December and March having been a success. However, I will be contacting Live active to see if this could be rolled out over more days of the week to better accommodate the needs of our many sporting enthusiasts.

David Bailey's focus on the Cottage Hospital has brought the recruitment of Stuart Nichol to his sub group to see about making the access to the building safer for all the different types of visitors. Hopefully some progress will be seen on this later in the year as commitments have already been made by both the NHS and PKC to make improvements.

The renovations for the reopening of Oakbank Road are almost complete and people will once again be safe to use this scenic route, not that many have stopped since it was "closed", but at least now they'll be safe. This particular issue has taken a long time to tackle but we're almost there now. The help our group has received from our 2 associate members, Andrew Lang and Sandy Mitchell, has been fundamental to understanding what happened and the best way to proceed.

One of the lovely things about being part of the community council is that you get to help so many individuals and groups. While any of the local charity groups can ask to be considered, last year BRCC were able to award over £200 to the Blair in Bloom group from the money people donated in the wishing well.

Along with other planning matters, Wind Farms have featured quite heavily in this year's calendar. We consider each application individually and of the 2 applications that came our way over the last year we objected to one, the extension of the development at Dulatar on the grounds of the huge disruption to the proposed route, and made no objection to the extension of the Green Burn development. Gordon Darge and I have had many, many meetings with the Green Burn developer ABO Wind and the community council leaders from both Alyth and the Glens regarding the potential community fund that would be available should they be granted permission. We have fought for what we feel is the best deal for the town while also being fair to the other communities: a one third split of the potential generated revenue.

The application has only recently been submitted, so it's early days yet to know if this may be a possible revenue stream for the town.

A solar farm was also a possibility for the town after a local land owner offered some land for the project. Unfortunately, after the government changed the tariff structure Len Seal and Sue Fowlie concluded that it would no longer be viable, which is a great shame.

BRCC is currently:

- Encouraging drivers of noisy cars to put silencers on their exhausts after 10pm onward. (MY)
- Set up a Litter and Dog Poo working group (IR)
- Have asked PKC to amend the CC Standing Orders to give us (CCs) more devolved powers over the group.(MY)
- Are in the process of setting up a (Vulnerable Persons) Emergency Plan (in light of the 2015 Alyth flooding) (BS)
- Encouraging the Police and Fire Department to have a stall at the Community Market (MY)
- CATERAN Commonwealth, Family Exposed: we have agreed to administer their funding should their funding application be successful (IR).
- Trying to get free wi-fi and 4Gfor the town. Perth already has this (MY).
- Memorial plaque for Betsy Whyte. (MY)
- Possibility of setting up a "Famous or Fabulous" walk round the town to commemorate people from the area. (BS).
- War gun relocation: possibility of returning 2 WWI battle guns to the area (BS)

MY said she was pleased to say that BRCC continues to enjoy a good working relationship with two of our local Perth & Kinross Councillors, Bob Ellis and Caroline Shiers. Issues are noted and if necessary responded to with either information or action on our behalf. They continue to offer guidance and support to our group which is gratefully received. We should like to thank them for their regular attendance at our meetings and their support over the last year.

She also wanted to thank the many departments and officers of PKC who have responded to emails and phone calls or who have attended sub group meetings in an effort to assist us with our projects. From the team in Democratic Services to Traffic and Transport their willingness to engage and listen has been appreciated.

Attendance at our meetings is much improved on last year, with usually monthly attendance by the Fire Department and a somewhat less regular attendance by the police, but welcome attendance nevertheless. We still receive the weekly bulletin from the police and while this is not strictly what we need, it has been of some help to see what is happening in other areas. We would however like to see a more accurate reporting of incidents.

<p>BRCC continues to have a full complement of community councillors and have also managed to hang onto one of our Associate Young Members and will be looking to the High School in the new academic year to fill that other empty space.</p> <p>At the elections last October four new members were welcomed to the group, Katie Nichol, Sue Fowlie, Mary Duncan and Len Seal, all of whom have brought their own strengths and insight to the group and have contributed and fitted in well.</p> <p>MY said that she would really like to take this opportunity to say how much she appreciated all the hard work and attention to detail Pat McGregor has shown in her taking of the minutes over the past several months She said that she was sure she spoke for everyone when she said it's not an easy job, or one she'd want to do and passed on her thanks. She also wanted to mention the wonderful work that Tracie Dick (and Steve Johnson) do in looking after our online needs. Tracie has created a dynamic new website and has encouraged members to interact with it more. MY was sure we'd make friends with the technology soon and get round to posting our own updates shortly.</p> <p>BRCC has made many new connections and strengthened old ones this year, we have communicated well with external groups, the public and PKC and have fought for our community where possible. But all of this amazing work and change within and on behalf of our town would not have been possible without the dedication, enthusiasm and incredible community spirit of each and every individual on this community council. It's been wonderful to work with such a fantastic group of like-minded proactive people who just want the best for the area. She said that she couldn't thank everyone enough for being the people you are and for caring as much as you do about the town and for bearing with her through her year as Chair. Everyone applauded MY for her hard work.</p>	
<p>Item 3 - Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>PM said that BRCC had income of £700 council grant, £32 from the teas at the open day and £250 to buy the pin badges. £302.81 was collected in the wishing well and £88.77 for the Alyth flood fund. Total £1372.58</p> <p>Outgoings were Hire of hall £81.10, stationery £107.84, banner £30, remembrance wreath £28, web services £139.78, surveys £88.62, Sundries £94.02 and we donated £87.77 to the Alyth Flood fund, £265.17 to Blair in Bloom and we paid £220.80 for the pin badges. Total £1143.10. There was a balance of £2543.76 in the bank and £6.82 in cash making a total of £2550.58. The Admin a/c stood at £159.05, the Capital a/c at £2221.05 and the Charity a/c at £170.48 making a total of £2550.58. A donation to a charity will be made about August of £170.48 plus what is taken from the well before then. No one had any questions about the accounts.</p>	
<p>Item 4 - Secretary's Report.</p> <p>NF said that she had received a lot of communication for BRCC through email, suggestion boxes; the website has been great and lots of contacts had been made at the community market & how good it was that the community can easily contact us through many platforms. For this month she said there is the community engagement event at the community campus May 23rd at 6.30-8.30.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Demit of current Office Bearers and Election of new Office Bearers.</p> <p>MY asked BE to take the Chair pro tem. BE said he wished to reiterate what a delight it is to come to the BRCC meetings and hoped that this great relationship may</p>	

<p>continue for a long time. He expressed his thanks to all the Community Councillors for all their hard work and asked for nominations for the position of Chair. MY was proposed by IR, this was seconded by LS and this was agreed unanimously. MY accepted the position.</p> <p>MY asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. IR was proposed by BS, this was seconded by AD and this was agreed unanimously. IR accepted the position.</p> <p>MY asked for nominations for the position of Treasurer. PM was proposed by AD, this was seconded by IR and this was agreed unanimously. PM accepted the position.</p> <p>MY asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. NF was proposed by PM, this was seconded by GD and this was agreed unanimously. NF accepted the position.</p>	
<p>Item 6 – Confirmation of Minute Taker.</p> <p>MY asked if all were agreed that PM continue to be Minute Secretary. All agreed.</p> <p>MY took the opportunity to announce KN's resignation. KN said that it had been a privilege to work with everyone on the Community Council, but as her husband had retired and they were moving away from the area, she unfortunately had to give up. She thanked everyone for looking after her and hoped to be able to be part of a Community Council in her new area. KN also returned her CC handbook.</p> <p>MY also announced DB's resignation.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Adoption of Minutes.</p> <p>There were 4 minor changes to the April minutes. 1) 5.1 line 23 after either, insert "by AG". 2) 5.2 line 26, change "not" to "because of". 3) 5.2 line 27, change "as" to "if". 4) 5.3 line 12, change "His wife" to "another member of the public". Adoption of the minutes was proposed by IR, seconded by LS and carried unanimously. The adoption of the May 2015 AGM minutes was proposed by AD, seconded by GD and carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – Subjects raised by members of the public.</p> <p>A member of the public from Rattray wanted to know why many areas in Rattray were not getting open spaces maintained. The Common was not being cut; there is a Health & Safety issue with the steps in Ferguson Park; grass on Craighall Place; the playpark in Glenalmond Rd needs a fence erected to keep children from straying onto the road. Also there are 9 bus stops in Rattray and none has a bus shelter. There are 16 bus stops on Coupar Angus road and there are 8 bus shelters. It was felt by the member that PKC are ignoring Rattray like they ignored Old Mill Rd years ago; they are ignoring Ferguson Park. They say that it is due to cutbacks but they have taken on a contract to maintain the Miller Homes development on Coupar Angus Rd. How can they maintain Miller Homes if they can't maintain Ferguson Park? MY said that this had been raised before and asked if BE could look at it again. BE agreed to raise this at the highest level. IR asked who decides where the bus shelters are to be sited. BE replied that it was the Roads department. CS said that there had been requests and that she would chase this up.</p> <p>Another member of the public, whose house backs onto Picture House Court spoke of the problems with dog waste and said that a previous tenant, who had moved out of the area because of problems, had spoken to a member of the Housing Department and had been told that if any more complaints were made, all dogs would</p>	<p>BE</p>

<p>be removed from the complex. A new tenant has moved in and it is now allegedly a drug den with addicts ringing the door entry system looking for them. The previous tenant had asked permission to put benches and planters in the outside area but these have now been wrecked. They wanted a dog waste bin but were told "You'll be lucky" by a Roads Dept member. There is now a bed and fridge freezer lying and needles everywhere. She said that there is money for planters but no money for public toilets? She asked why there was a stipulation that the tenants who were selected for the refurbished Old Mill Rd had to have no criminal record but any one including drug dealers could potentially be housed in Picture House Court. Why dump them in the middle of the town. CS said that she would take up the matter and get back to the members of the public about their concerns.</p> <p>MY said she had been in contact with Michael Findlay of PKC and would be setting up a meeting with Chic Haggart PKC (CH) re the tweaks with the pedestrian crossings etc. AD asked why the crossings in Rattray had beepers and the ones in the Wellmeadow didn't? BE said that he had spoken to CH, MY said that it would be put on next month's agenda.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>MY/CS</p>
<p>Item 9 – There was no representation from either Police or Fire Service.</p>	
<p>Item 10</p> <p>10.1 Parks and Greenspace.</p> <p>This would be held over to next month as AT was unable to attend.</p> <p>10.2 Big Guns update.</p> <p>BS said that he had a meeting with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and discussed the return of the Big Guns to Blairgowrie and Rattray. It was explained that the guns were originally brought to Blairgowrie by Colonel Davidson of Cally House. They were put in storage and never displayed. On or just after his death his widow requested their return and displayed them within the grounds of Cally House. On her death she bequeathed them to HES and the Royal Armoury to be taken to Ft. George. They are there now in storage and have had no work done on them for either renovation or conservation. At present they belong to the Royal Armoury who are storing them and HES have the responsibility for their conservation.</p> <p>HES highlighted that this situation created problems of release to Blairgowrie for actual ownership. One, the legality of release by the surviving family from the bequest and Two, the relinquishing of ownership by the Royal Armoury.</p> <p>A suggestion was put forward that Blairgowrie and Rattray could, under agreeable contractual conditions take the Guns on loan for display in the town. This would help HES regarding conservation. As to who would perform this conservation (conservation not renovation) that would be up for discussion. It was heavily emphasised that this idea is only that, an idea! HES are to discuss legal implications regarding release on loan with The Royal Armoury and others.</p> <p>BS has asked to see the guns at Ft. George and for any photos or conservation reports that are available for them. The feasibility of the whole exercise will be considered when this becomes available; he also asked if BRCC would be willing to sign a loan contract on behalf of the community so that he could proceed with that backing. This was agreed to. A vote a taken to allow BS to proceed with ascertaining the viability of the relocation of the guns in principle on BRCC's behalf: everyone agreed. MY asked where they would be sited and it was stated that it would need to be under cover or under glass. BE asked what size the guns were and BS shower a picture of them on a low loader.</p>	<p>BS</p>

10.3 Community Resilience Plan.

BS said that the Plan as developed so far has been presented to PKC through John Handling and he has accepted it. The plan is still being populated with available resources and this will probably be ongoing for some time but it is considered as being in place and available for use. He has spoken with Tayside 4x4 Response, which is part of a National organisation, and they have agreed to be one of the available resources. An article has also been published in the Blairie appealing for Community volunteers who may want to be a part of the emergency response. The basic idea of the plans, a telephone tree approach, was discussed and how it would work. A comment from a member of the public regarding necessary fall back or 'Plan B' was also discussed and taken in to account.

The plan still needs some refining regarding its present shape and content and the Resilience group are going to meet and discuss this soon. The plan will then be made available to all for their perusal. MY thanked BS and his group for all their hard work on putting this plan together.

10.4 Public Toilet closure.

BE said that the closure of the toilets is not imminent and had already been put off for the last 10 years. AG said at the last meeting that it would possibly be 2018. BE said that, wearing his Blairgowrie & East Perthshire Tourist Association (BEPTA) hat, he didn't want them closed, the premises are not fit to be a house and he was dead against the closure. A member of the public said that they should be tagged with the Land Registry so that were they to be put on the market, PKC would have to offer them to the town first. BE reiterated that provision of public toilets is not a statutory requirement but the policy is not the same in other areas. MY asked if PKC would like us to tell them where other savings could be made?! BE said that PKC did, at one time, have road shows in the towns of the district but these had gone as well because of cutbacks. MY said that the £100K for the lights around 2 High St, Perth, the £150K for office furnishings (with the old furnishings just binned) and the outrageous bill for consultancy fees, for the Crematorium bypass, budgeted at £1M but now £8M, is obscene. MY said that since the Aberfeldy comfort scheme was introduced, the tour buses no longer stop there and go to Pitlochry instead. If there are to be no public toilets, it will be detrimental to tourism. A member of the public said to tag any public building in case it becomes available. AD asked for an online petition against the toilet closures and LS said that this is in hand. TD said that it is already on the BRCC website and we could have a paper petition at the Community Market. MY said that as one was already being raised, we should just join in with that one instead of starting our own one. LS to email MY a copy of the signature sheets to print off and distribute.

LS/MY

10.5 Rosemount Planning application.

Mr Stewart Robertson (SR) again attended the meeting and spoke of the concerns of the residents close to the proposed development in Golf Course Rd behind the current Beech Manor Care Home. There have been 2 separate planning applications since 2010, the 2011 development was rejected twice and was for 16 individual units on the site of only 1. This proposal is for 10 semi-detached cottages with a care cottage package, but there is no care cottage package. One of the residents of a cottage at the front of the Care Home had purchased the property from the original owner and said that the care package that was supposed to have been part of the deal, had never been forthcoming. The supposed use of facilities at the Care Home, Library, Swimming Pool, Bar, had never been built and the "warden call" bell system had never been connected. The application is a sham, these are cottages for the open market. The access to the proposed site is through his back garden and there is not enough parking as it is, the proposed access route is being used for parking now. This application with a care package is just an excuse to avoid the Education Surcharge that PKC impose on new developments. Another resident said

<p>that they bought their cottage as a safe place and it distresses them that there is so much traffic. If this development of 10 new homes were to go ahead, there would be much more traffic and emergency vehicles and bin lorries would not be able to access the new site. Construction traffic would not be able to access it either. GD said that when it came up at the BRCC meeting before, he was under the impression that assisted living units were being applied for with the positive benefits that this provide, and he was taken aback to discover that these were not available. Another resident said that the new developer has no connection to the Care Home and that the application is under false pretences and the Care Home itself has objected to the application; he urged BRCC to object. GD said that residents should all object individually and make a representation at the planning meeting on 8 June. A member of the public said that they should email all the members of the Planning Committee and give them all the details and their objections. MY asked if the meeting wanted to object and after the members unanimously voted in favour, GD said that he would do so.</p>	<p>GD</p>
<p>Item 11- Local Councillors Reports.</p> <p>BE said that the Recy and the all-weather track were still on the agenda. He had walked round the Piggy Lane pitches and there was very little dog waste. The 3 ward councillors had been contacted by the Fair Trade organisation to see if they wanted Blairgowrie to become a Fair trade town. This would be added to next month's agenda. MY asked if the Dog Wardens wear the same kind of uniform as the Traffic Wardens and do they have video cameras? BE confirmed that they did wear cameras that recorded interactions and incidents. He also confirmed that there was supposed to be a few minutes grace given to dog walkers to allow them to pick up after their dogs before any tickets are issued, and that wardens should be asking walkers to pick up first and not just issuing tickets straight away. IR met Lucy Garthwaite and Steve McArdle about litter bins and was told that no more were available but that some could be relocated. There have been more successful prosecutions for dog fouling this last year and on the spot fines could affect the perpetrator's credit rating. MY said that at the top of Davie Park there is often dog poo left just a few feet from the bin.</p>	
<p>Item 12- Pending Planning Applications.</p> <p>GD said that there was none of any note.</p>	
<p>Item 13- AOCB</p> <p>MY asked if there was any way to get a Driving test centre back in Blairgowrie. BE said that it must be 15 years ago that it was taken away and MY replied that learner drivers are having to pay for lessons which include 309 minutes each way to Perth and that is unfair. BE thought that there was little chance of a test centre returning to Blairgowrie. MY said that there is a long list for driving tests and they should test in Blairgowrie again. There is also a 3 year wait for council run swimming lessons at the Recy.</p> <p>AD said that the litter bin at Apso in Allan St had been removed and that the owner of the shop was annoyed as it was not the Council's bin to take away.</p> <p>He also asked if there is any provision for allotments in Blairgowrie & Rattray and BE replied that Susan Duncan was the person to contact and to keep him (BE) in the loop.</p> <p>He also intimated that the Braemar Day committee had raised £750 at their recent functions and had raised £1700 at their charity shop in Howes.</p>	<p>LS</p>

<p>LS produced a woollen rug of the BRCC crest to show BRCC which he said had been made by Charlie Murray. He would look into having it displayed in the Library or Town hall.</p> <p>PM said that the Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year judging would take place the next day and that 4 nomination forms had been received for the Young Person and 38 forms for the Citizen of the Year.</p> <p>PM said that further to last month's request from BS for contact details to be available in One Voice, she had produced a form which had been sent out to everyone and were they in agreement that this was suitable. BS asked that his name also be on the form and that only Mobile numbers would be included. She agreed to produce the forms.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting would be on Thursday 9 June 2016 in the small hall of Rattray Hall, Balmoral Rd Rattray at 7 pm</p>	<p>All</p>

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank
Mr G Darge
Mr A Donald
Mrs M Duncan
Ms S Fowlie
Ms N Ferry
Mrs P McGregor
Mr S Nichol
Mr I Richards
Mr L Seal
Mr B Smith
Mr A Thomson
Mrs M Young

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick
Mr A Lang
Dr S Mitchell
Mr A Cannon

Local Councillors:

Mr B Ellis
Mrs E Grant
Mrs C Shiers

External:

PKC Community Councils
Clare Damodaran (Press)
Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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