



# BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 July 2016

Held in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie St, Blairgowrie at 7pm

<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>          Mrs M Young (MY)          Mr I Richards (IR)          Mrs P McGregor (PM)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Mrs M Duncan (MD)          Mr B Smith (BS)          Mr A Thomson (AT)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>          Ms N Ferry (NF)          Ms S Fowlie (SF)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr S Nichol (SN)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mr A Lang (AL)          Dr S Mitchell (SM)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Associate member          Associate member</p>	<p>Cllr B Ellis (BE)          Cllr C Shiers (CS)</p> <p>Alex McCutcheon (AM)          3 members of the public          Ms C Damodaran</p> <p><b><u>ABSENCES</u></b>          Mr A Cannon (AC)          Cllr L Grant</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC</p> <p>Station Manager          Fire Scotland</p> <p>Press</p> <p>Associate member          Councillor PKC</p>
<p>Item 1 – <b>Welcome &amp; Apologies.</b></p> <p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone and gave apologies from the above.</p>			
<p>Item 2 – <b>Adoption of June Minutes.</b></p> <p>Adoption of the June minutes was proposed by IR and seconded by BS. MY noted that the 2 resignations were due to one member leaving the district and one resigning due to ill health.</p>			
<p>Item 3 - <b>Subjects Raised by Members of the Public.</b></p> <p>There were no subjects raised by members of the public.</p>			
<p>Item 4 - <b>Police and Fire Reports.</b></p> <p>Station Manager Alex McCutcheon reported that the Blairgowrie crews had had 10 calls since the last BRCC meeting and that the worst was the RTC at Meikleour on the A93. The team are continuing with Fire Safety calls and if anyone requires a visit, they should phone the station. Watch Manager Alan Smith has reverted to Fire Fighter; AM thanked him for all his work. The station now has its full complement of 20. The charity car wash and quiz night raised £2500 for Jodie Crawford. The crews had attended community events at the Polish Centre and Rattray PS Gala Day. MY asked if they had plans to attend the community markets and AM said that they would love to but do not have funds to rent a stall. He also asked Community Councillors to pass on the need for road safety – so be aware of dirt lying on the road due to an increase in farm traffic and also there are likely to be more</p>			

foreign tourists about, who may drive on the wrong side of the road.. AD asked who to contact if the battery of the fire service installed smoke alarms needs replacing. AM said that the batteries are not replaceable and the whole unit will be replaced if the station is contacted.

There was no one from Police Scotland.

#### Item 5 – **Arising and Ongoing Issues.**

##### 5.1 **Woodlands Road.**

CS said that Daryl McKeown had only received a request from 1 resident of Woodlands Rd to amend the traffic flow. MY said that most of the residents were up in arms that anyone would consider making the road one way. It was ludicrous. CS said a road safety site meeting was required but there would be no 1 way system.

##### 5.2 **Glenalmond Rd PAN.**

GD said that the planning application would be for approx. 204 houses and that the letter he had sent to all members said that the proposals represent good, well thought out urban design but that we should make representation to the developers before the end of the 12 week PAN notice period on 8 August. His comments were:-

1. *On the Site Strategy Diagram, indicated in a yellow dashed line, are the proposed routes of public access. All 3 public access routes indicated running from the site Northwards must be connected by paving/steps to the existing route running along the NE boundary from Kirklands to the Drimmie Road.*
2. *There should be two further public access routes across the landscape strip on Glenalmond Road. One opposite the end of the existing pedestrian route that runs from Ferguson Park Road to 63 Glenalmond Road and one opposite 73 Glenalmond Road to facilitate pedestrian access to and through the site.*
3. *The Local Development Plan suggests development on the lower slopes of the field only, with provision of woodland screen planting along the West and North boundaries of site incorporating public access, and the enhancement of biodiversity. The only provision I see in these proposals to meet the LDA recommendations, other than the housing is kept to the lower slopes, is some indicative screen planting to most of the Western site boundary. We should request from Springfield a fully developed landscaping and biodiversity plan to demonstrate how they will meet the LDA requirements.*
4. *We should suggest more trees and shrubs incorporated into the housing layout to soften the development.*
5. *We should request detailed proposals for the proposed main public space indicating soft and hard landscaping, street furniture and play equipment.*
6. *A second smaller public space primarily for a kiddie's playground should be accommodated in the West end of the development.*
7. *A traffic impact assessment must be undertaken to establish the implications, especially at the exit of Hatton Road onto Rattray High Street and at the bridge, and to look at bus route provision.*
8. *It should be suggested to the developer that it would be generous gesture to donate significant money towards the refurbishment of the skate park at the end of Hatton Road.*
9. *There is no indication of the provision of affordable housing within the development. Current regulations require that one in four houses are affordable and the plans should indicate how this requirement will be met, preferably dispersed throughout the development.*

He said that we should also ask the developers to consider our suggestions for appropriate street names and also about the impact on the Caravan Park which

was vital for tourists. A traffic assessment only included Glenalmond Rd and Hatton Rd but did not include Balmoral Rd. AT said that he had had comments from several residents and 1 business re the impact on utilities and schools; there are already 100 new houses at the Kinloch Gardens development and the capacity of Rattray PS was questioned and whether this development would be beneficial for Rattray High St. Would this development go ahead purely due to political pressures? There is an entrance being made to the Kinloch Gardens development from Glenalmond Rd and there were concerns that this might be left open for traffic to exit the new development and go through Kinloch Gardens. MY asked if any of the people contacting AT had attended the Open Day at Rattray Connect and AT thought not. GD said that PKC must make sure that there is adequate capacity at Rattray PS and all other utilities, It is normal practice to charge an "education levy" but this will be waived if the local primary school is at less than 80% capacity. There are no new shops proposed. MY said that some thought should be given to enticing new businesses to Rattray. She had already discussed with CS what PKC are doing to attract new business to the Rattray area and they are awaiting a reply. CS said that the projected population growth and other statistics seem to show that the schools will be OK. AD asked about the provision of affordable housing and GD replied that this had not been identified yet but Springfield do not usually opt out of this. They normally sub contract these houses to another company. The proviso is 1 in 4 new units have to be affordable. AT thought that the images on the Springfield literature are totally misleading to the normal viewer and are only indicative of the type of developments that have been already completed in other areas. The access roads will be shown properly when the actual planning application is submitted. In reply to a question, AT said that archaeological surveys had already been done.

### 5.3 Fair Trade Organisation.

BE said that he had received an email the previous day from the Fair Trade Organisation and he agreed that Anna Bowman of All Things Fair should be asked to meet.

### 5.4 Charrette Public Meeting Update.

As SN was away, AT read out his report.

*Public open meeting took place on 29<sup>th</sup> July with 40 plus attending. The evening went well with good discussion at all the four tables. The outcomes have been written up and previously circulated to all.*

*The steering group has subsequently met and begun the process of taking issues forward, and the process of encouraging a range of groups and organisation to take things forward. (AT said that Jessie Shaw had been a tremendous help and that SN was the right man for the job and had driven the Charrette forward.) The main driver behind much of the work is a move towards better co-ordination, cohesion and a feeling of "all for one and one for all." Clearly the community has to continue to lead and push forward, bringing other organisations with us willingly or otherwise! Early actions from the steering group meeting have also been previously circulated. They are also on the web site, Facebook page, and thanks to Clare featured in the Blairie.*

### **ACTION TAKEN SINCE STEERING GROUP MEETING.**

*Greater coordination/promotion etc. of festival, events etc. is a first area for action and will be the focus for the next forum meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, where it is hoped to bring together all major players to discuss how best to take that forward. Also there is an invitation for the town to host the Great Scottish Race on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 where about 400 runners will compete. If organised well this could become an annual event around which other activities can be brigaded. It an opportunity to explore other areas where festivals can be expanded e.g. re-introduction of the folk festival. One voice/Discover Blairgowrie taking this forward.*

*Vacant and Underused properties. I have e mailed the following. Murray Scott re Tannage Street building to see if charrette helped his thinking with building, Gary Brown of Police Scotland re how best to take forward a community hub for the building, Malcolm Hill of PKC to set up a meeting to discuss how to utilise council owned buildings in a better way and focus on community usage and access.....NO RESPONSE FROM ANYONE TO DATE. (AT said that there had been a response from Gary Brown that they would hope to meet shortly.)*

*Car parking, signage, access and streetscape was a priority for action. I have e mailed Chic Haggart and Daryl to suggest a working group to look at these issues for the town with a view to developing a plan for the town which should have wide consultation and agreement which can be implemented over time as funds become available. NO RESPONSE. (AT thanked CS for taking this up with Chic and Daryl)*

*Awareness. I have sent the outcomes to Council Chief Executive( B Malone) who claimed not to know anything about it, and to Provost volunteering further discussion if required. NO RESPONSE.*

*Scottish Government are very interested in our charrette and are keen to use our community lead event as the way forward for any future programme, I have agreed to help if required. The Minister Kevin Stewart (Local Gov. and Housing) may visit in his summer tour.*

*Connections with other towns primarily Coupar Angus and Alyth progressing with proposals to link the town with dedicated cycle ways. Len and John Palfryman, are leading this, and an application for funds to take this forward has been made via Awards for All, Big Lottery fund, with One Voice acting as applicant/facilitator. Len has also set up climate café to explore how we came reduce our impact on the environment, an excellent initiative.*

*Next big issue to set forth is the development and greater use in many, many ways of our greatest asset, The Riverside. Volunteers are required!!!*

*If response still not forthcoming from the above in a week or so, then more direct action will be required. Not unexpected.*

*BE said that there is a "Great Scottish 100" walk from 6 – 13 October from Inverness to Edinburgh Royal Mile and they are stopping in Blairgowrie, hopefully for 2 nights*

and that this could become an annual event. MY said that there is a meeting about the cycle paths on Tuesday 19 July at 7pm in the Wellmeadow Café (SCYD). Funding is the next step.

#### 5.5 **Citizen of the Year.**

PM said that the arrangements for the presentation of the awards to Citizen and Young Person of the Year had had to be postponed from June's market until July's because the winner of the Citizen of the Year was away with a group of young people. The arrangements are now in place for Saturday 23 July. IR said that the Citizen of the Year Committee had recommended that a special award be made to Alice Bowman, who had won the Young Scot of the Year for Volunteering. She was in Cambodia last year working at a home for men and boys with physical and mental disabilities and she had been raising funds for her next trip in October which will be for 8 months. All agreed. IR also thanked AL for his loan of a PA system for the ceremony.

#### 5.6 **BRCC vacancies.**

MY asked if the 2 vacancies which were notified last month, due to relocation and ill health, were to be filled by co-option or election. BS said that the constitution stated clearly that there should be an election. This was agreed by a majority and MY agreed to inform PKC Democratic Services that there would shortly be 3 vacancies as NF would also be leaving in September to study.

MY

#### 5.7 **Cycle Path Update.**

Covered above.

#### 5.8 **New Recreation Centre.**

BE said that he was absolutely ecstatic and that it had been a long time coming. It had been in the Capital Budget for 2025 but it is now due for completion in 2020. Recreation centres of this type only have a 30 year life so it was due for replacement. There will be 2 lots of funding to make up the estimated £18m cost and there will be a meeting next month. In reply to a question whether there is an all-weather pitch included, BE said no. He was 99% sure that the new Recy would be situated at the back of Blairgowrie High School and would need to be completed before the present Recy was demolished. Hopefully some money can be found for all weather pitches. MY asked if the old Recy could be kept for school use giving more provision for public use of the new Recy, but was told that there must be provision for adequate parking, not like Rattray Connect which had none, so it was unlikely. A 25m pool is essential as it is a disgrace that, for competitions, Blairgowrie swimmers have to travel to Kirriemuir or Arbroath, both outwith PKC area. When asked about an indoor climbing wall for the new facility, BE replied that he doubted it as they were prohibitively expensive, however an outdoor one might not be so. MY asked if there was any idea of the facilities that would be offered and BE replied that, at the moment, it was a blank sheet and all details have to be worked out, but as PKC don't have to purchase the ground there should be scope for plenty. AT said that the news was fantastic but it was imperative that PKC/ Live Active should ask local groups what they want and not just deciding themselves what is needed. BE said that the area had been asking for a new Recy for over 5 years. Other clubs must be asked what they need so that everything is right and covered. We must do, otherwise PKC will. CS said that the car parking must be right as visitors come from a wide area and public transport is often not an option. IR reminded the meeting that when Provost Liz Grant attended the meeting on 9/10/14 and the discussion was about the proposed development at Ardblair, she said, according to the minutes, that *"there would likely be a new Primary*

*through to Secondary school which would replace the current High School although the time frame for these types of developments would be circa 10 years". Was there any plan to move the BHS? CS said that the roll is 759 and the capacity is 1058, so no. MY said that the development must be future proofed and community focussed. BE said that the funding is coming from the Capital Budget. CS said that there must be a balance between schools and community.*

#### **5.9 Hamish Henderson update**

MY said that she had spoken to the developers re the naming of roads in the new Glenalmond Rd development. Mrs Chandler had written to the Blairie requesting help in sourcing sheet music for the songs that are being sung in the berry fields now as well as the ones from years ago and she has the backing of BRCC in principle to pursue this. GD said that any old songs would be long past copyright protection. He had contacted the Education dept about changing the name of BHS to Hamish Henderson High School but had not received a reply. A member of the public said the Hamish Henderson film, which came out this year, will be shown at BHS and the profits will be split between the Town Hall Association, Bookmark and Strathmore Screen and said that Ian MacGregor was still keen to be involved as Sheila Stewart and Belle Stewart were his mother and grandmother. CS thought that there could be an annual festival of folk music.

#### **5.10 Allotments Update.**

BS said that 5 people attended a meeting about the proposed allotments. The meeting had wanted more community involvement and if they found suitable ground they could become constituted and lease a plot. The name decided on was Ericht Allotment Association (EAA) Other connotations of Blairgowrie, Rattray & Allotments had unwelcome acronyms. PKC had been helpful on the ownership of plots suggested and after speaking to several landowners, 3 areas had been identified as possible. There were 3 plots of around 1 acre each and the average allotment was 250 m<sup>2</sup> giving an average 15 units per acre. BS said that he had been taken aback at the enthusiasm and it was time to go forward. MY said that Fiona Johnson, who was involved in Sensory/mental health would be interested and SCYD might like to get involved with regards to intergenerational work, and that CS & BE could be helpful in helping to source funding as they were both on the Hope Park Board which recently received grant funding to develop a sensory garden for its residents. IR thought that the Aberfeldy group could be a source of information. AD said that the field behind Rattray Church manse was a possibility and that this would belong to the Church of Scotland. A member of the public thought that a community garden was perhaps a way forward but BS said that any excess produce could not be sold as it is against Allotment rules but it could be sold away from the site..

#### **5.11 New Hospital Path.**

AT read SN's report.

*David Bruce from NHS has confirmed that approval for the access footpath together with funding has been agreed. No firm dates for the works are set, but he indicates that work should be done in September-ish. PKC have been notified so hopefully the new crossing over the main A93 can be installed at the same time.*

AT confirmed that there had been no verification.

#### **5.12 Wishing Well Money.**

<p>PM said that there is £274.05 in the wishing well account at the moment, with some more to come when the well is next cleared. Last year the sum of £265.17 went to Blair in Bloom. She asked if the members still wished for the money to go to the Braemar Day committee as discussed previously and all agreed as it is their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.</p> <p>Blair in Bloom committee have informed PM that the judging will be August 5 and any members who help with the weeding of the Berries &amp; Cherries bed are asked to attend.</p> <p>PM also informed the meeting that the admin top-up grant from PKC had been received to the sum of £541.</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 - Local Councillor Reports.</b></p> <p>CS said that she had been in touch with Brian Cargill re a crossing point at Tesco but had been informed that it would take until 2021 to put in a formal crossing. The subject of signposting sports facilities was again brought up. For Piggy Lane pitches it was advised to park at Newhill then walk. CS said that she couldn't accept this as visitors cannot find the sports areas. MY said that from the Broxden roundabout in Perth there is no mention of Blairgowrie and this should be addressed. BE said that way back in the time of Walter Courts, he fought for there to be signage from the motorway. As it is a trunk road, it is the responsibility of the Scottish Office. BE had a message from the owners of the CATERAN Café, that they had received consent to place 4 tables outside their café.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 – Pending Planning Applications.</b></p> <p>There were no planning applications of note. The application for cottages behind Beech Manor Nursing Home had not come to committee yet.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Secretary's Correspondence.</b></p> <p>A reminder about the consultations on deer management and the Police Scotland survey that NF had sent out.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 – Chair's Report on follow ups since last meeting.</b></p> <p>IR said that the fence on Oakbank Rd had not been reduced in height yet and the work seems to have ground to a halt. They said that they would do the work on the banking when the water level was low in the summer, but the water level IS low and nothing is happening. Everything is becoming overgrown. IR wrote to S Kane but has not had a reply then he discovered that he and A Clegg are on holiday. There would be a BRAN work party the coming weekend and they would clear ditches. There is to be a new seat but none of the landscaping has been done. BE said he would ask for a maintenance report. Ferguson Park grass has been cut but it wasn't known if it was by the person who spoke to the meeting before or by PKC. BRAN are to get a strimmer. AT asked about the beeps on the pedestrian crossings and was told by CS that T in the Park had sucked up time and routine maintenance has suffered. BE said that there is to be another Girls' Footie Camp, with teams of 7 and there is to be help from St Johnstone FC coaches. MY said she would put on Facebook if AT sends her the details.</p>	MY
<p><b>Item 10. AOCB</b></p> <p>AT said that the Scottish Chamber Orchestra would be at the town hall. GD asked when the temporary 20/30mph signs would be made permanent. AT said that he was very annoyed that the solar panels on the containers at Piggy Lane had been damaged. This is not just a case of a repair – the panels will need to be replaced and</p>	

<p>the engineers would be coming the following week. Some sort of protection like mesh is required but something that will not stop the light getting at the panels. MY suggested that the kids' teams should tell their pals about the damage and tell them the effect it would have on the teams. AD said that some drivers from Tesco are still parking half in the road when trying to gain entry to the loading bay. CS would deal with. BS said that there had been a lot of yellow lining done and he thought that some in Rattray hadn't been there before but he was assured that they had. AD said that there are overhanging bushes on the Gas Brae. IR asked when there are going to be speed traps in the Wellmeadow. CS would again make the request to Police Scotland. BE said that there will be a BRAN day of action on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and the Illuminations Ctte are having a day of throwing out all the old and damaged Christmas lights, with a BBQ and refreshments. They hope to have new lights for Allan St. In reply to MY's question about a backup should the cherry picker fail again this year when the lights were being installed, BE said he was not sure if anyone had been contacted.</p>	
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 11 August 2016 at Adult resource Centre, Jessie St at 7pm.</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  
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