



## BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 February 2017

Held in the Adult resource Centre, Jessie Street, Blairgowrie at 7pm

<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>          Mrs M Young (MY)          Mr I Richards (IR)          Mrs P McGregor (PM)          Ms E Forrest (EF)          Mrs D Cushnie (DC)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Mr S Nichol (SN)          Mr B Smith (BS)          Mr A Thomson (AT)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>          Cllr B Ellis (BE)          Ms R Haufe (RH)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Sgt J McKeag</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p> <p>Councillor PKC</p> <p>Police Scotland</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>41 Members of the public (MP)</p> <p><b><u>ABSENCES</u></b>          Cllr L Grant          Mr A Cannon (AC)</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Press</p> <p>Councillor PKC          Associate member</p>
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome &amp; Apologies.</b></p>			
<p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone and gave apologies for the above. She reminded everyone to speak through the Chair.</p>			
<p><b>Item 2 - Adoption of January Minutes.</b></p>			
<p>PM read out an amendment submitted by Mrs Bev Leslie, Head teacher, Blairgowrie High School which was accepted. IR proposed approval and SN seconded.</p>			
<p><b>Item 3 - Subjects raised by members of the public.</b></p>			
<p>There was a large number of members of the public attending to voice their opposition to the housing development proposed for Blackthorn Place, Blairgowrie. There were many opinions given, mainly that the proposed 71 houses were all to be “affordable” housing and that this would make the ratio of social to private housing in the development 91% instead of PKC’s stated policy of 25%. Concerns were raised about the density of the housing and house types but MY replied that until the public meeting in the Community Campus on Thursday 16 February, these matters were not known. The matter of traffic and capacity at the school were also raised as concerns. In answer to a question about the definition of “affordable” housing, SN replied that it has not been defined other than a percentage of income of 12-15%. It is generally taken to mean “social” housing. A member of the public (mp) mentioned that Stewart Milne own ground on the other side of Elm Drive and could the affordable element not</p>			

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be split between the 2 sites. This was not known for a fact. Another mp questioned the practice of developers paying PKC to “buy out” their obligation to provide affordable housing. MY said that 2 out of 3 developers have now done this and there is now a very low percentage of affordable housing in the town and much more is required. IR said that John Swinney MSP had been involved in this issue but PKC have insufficient funds to subsidise more social housing. Stewart Milne would be working with Hillcrest Housing to provide these new homes. MY said that the planners were pushing for a community consultation and there would be the meeting at the Community Campus on Thursday 16/3 and the results of that would influence the planning application. Other points made were worries that the houses would be let to people involved in drugs and alcohol abuse and the problem of noise and many more vehicles to add to the traffic problems at the moment. Another mp said that they cannot do this or that to their houses under the terms of their purchase but these new houses would be family sized. In reply to a query about the grounds for putting in an objection, CS replied that her concerns were density, design and infrastructure. MY suggested that all objectors should go to the meeting at the campus and make their objections known to Stewart Milne. Anyone can write an objection, the forms and advice are on PKC’s website and she asked anyone making a formal objection to copy BRCC in. SN said that an objection from BRCC would only count as 1 objection and that everyone should object individually. CS said that the guidelines are 25% affordable housing per site and that housing should be compatible with existing housing and not different but this seems to have been put to one side by planners, however the planning application has not been submitted yet. Another mp feared that their objections would be disregarded as PKC has a vested interest in the development. SN said that Hillcrest’s letting criteria should be on their website but the mp said no and asked if tenants would have a right to buy after 2 years. SN said no. Another mp said that the previous application had been for 100 one and two bed houses not family homes with no gardens. No notification of the Campus meeting had been received by any mps attending and CD said the Blairie had not heard anything either. In the previous consultation, no householders in McLaren Park had received notification. There should be a clear distinction between families on low incomes and those on the “vulnerable” list. Children may be travelling to school without adult supervision and they should not have to pass housing which may have troublesome tenants. Many feared that their homes would be devalued if 71 “affordable” houses were built in one place. Another mp said that they had just moved here to get away from this problem and were shocked that some jobsworth in PKC thought it was OK to dump 71 “affordable” houses here. Councils were impotent against troublesome tenants and these people never get evicted. Hillcrest in Dundee is blighted with troublesome tenants. 71 units is SEGREGATION not INTEGRATION. This is not now a private development; people won’t object to part ownership but all “social” housing is vulnerable people and there will be problems right next to a school. Will the planners stick to PKC policy of not having large blocks of social housing? MY said that there had been very important points raised and suggested that the residents form a group to represent themselves. MY advised that BRCC is holding another Open Day in the Town Hall on 21 April when they hoped to have representatives from PKC departments including planning and this would be a good opportunity for townspeople to make their feeling known. This would also be an opportunity to meet the candidates for the forthcoming local elections of 5 May when BRCC hoped to have all the candidates available to meet the public. She thanked all the members of the public for coming.

**Item 4 - Police and Fire reports.**

There was no rep from Fire Scotland or Police Scotland but MY wished to welcome Sgt McKeag and his team of PC Addison and PC Crowe to the area. Sgt McKeag had visited MY and his approach was positive and proactive and subject to shift patterns, one of the team would be at subsequent meetings.

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## Item 5 – Arising and Ongoing Issues.

### 5.1 Sue Fowlie

MY said that while SF had resigned from BRCC, she would like to be involved as a “friend” particularly with renewable energy matters. She thanked SF for giving up her time and wished her all the best. MY also reported the resignation of Robyn Haufe who has other commitments and wished her all the best also and hoped that in the future, if they wished to play an active role in BRCC, they would be more than welcome back. Democratic Services have been informed of both these resignations.

### 5.2 Affordable Housing.

This has already been covered above.

### 5.3 Keep Blairgowrie and Rattray Beautiful.

IR said that a meeting planned with the head teachers of the local schools has had to be delayed. BS said that at Newhill, the Rights Respecting School Awards were in progress. These are assessed in stages. For Stage 1, the school must show an obvious commitment; Stage 2 How it works and is embedded in the school. One of the “rights” is the right to a clean school but Mrs Leslie says that pupils cannot be made to clean up their litter? There will be an article in the next Hub magazine about it And they should take the concept to the community- people who litter and allow dogs to foul are not respecting the rights of others. CS said that BHS have just started doing it and BS said that pupils from Newhill are doing a presentation at BHS about it.

### 5.4 Dog Poo update.

IR said that Alison Middlemiss had written to Fiona Patton (Head, Newhill PS) re the concerns about dog poo. CS said that if specific areas have a problem then the dog wardens can be sent out. IR said that there is an initiative in Kinross which seems to be working. CS replied that she would try to set up something here too. MY said that she had spoken to Derek, the manager at Tesco, regarding an initiative to put posters/ shelf notes in the pet food aisle, reminding people that when they buy dog food they have to be prepared to deal with what happens when the food is eaten! Remember to buy your dog poo bags. MY thought that maybe Tesco could have a promotion – buy 6 cans of dog food get dog poo bags free. Derek is keen and said that more areas would need to be involved for Tesco to sponsor something like this, so MY had emailed every CC in PKC area to get them on board. She had had positive responses from Janet Law, Chair of Blackford CC, Eileen Thomas, Secretary of Kinross CC and Anton Edwards, Secretary of Spittalfield and district CC. This is not just for Tesco; all the supermarkets and the small shops too. Anywhere that sells dog food. IR said that everyone had been very supportive. A mp asked how often the dog bins are emptied as some were overflowing. AD thought about twice a week and MY reminded everyone that dog waste bags can be put in the normal litter bins. She also said that people can be fined if they are walking a dog and do not have a waste bag in their possession. Perthshire is taking an initiative that everyone can follow.

### 5.5 Open Day/Hustings update.

The town hall is booked for the open day on 21/4 and SN has sent an email to Planning & Roads departments inviting them. MY went over who had attended last time ( Planning & LDP, Waste, ABO Wind SAS, Discover Blairgowrie, Alzheimers, Roads) and added on Stewart Milne, SCYD, Corryard, Castle Water, Growbiz, CATERAN Common Wealth, and football clubs reps.

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<p>5.6 ABO Wind update.</p> <p>ABO wind would like a copy of the letter which was sent to PKC neither being for or against the development. GD could send when he returns from holiday.</p> <p>5.7 Town Roadworks.</p> <p>MY wanted to thank PKC Roads department for starting on the agreed list of works which was very welcome and she looked forward to the rest of the works being completed. The new bollards have been installed on the Coupar Angus Road and look nice and bright. She asked SN about the one way street in front of the Wellmeadow Coop and if there was any update on the points he had raised with Chic Haggart recently to which SN replied no but some works had been done. The crossing at the Cottage Hospital would be done on 8/3 and letters have been sent to residents of Woodlands Rd to confirm that it will NOT be made one way. AD asked if there was to be a Give Way sign on the road at Bunters. PM had forwarded an email addressed to Blair in Bloom regarding the Walking Streets event which had not been sent to BRCC. This will be at the end of February. SN would see Jenny William re public seating. IR said the signs are brilliant but there is a need for road markings and flashing lights. The works on Reform St/ High St will be on 9 and 16 March. AD asked if there were plans to replace the seat at the corner of Gallowbank where there was one years ago and IR replied that BRCC had agreed to make a seat in memory of David Bailey and it could be sited, not at the corner but at the water tank from where there was a better view. MY had asked GD to email Mr Mercer-Nairn to see if BRCC could have part of the fallen beech tree at the Beech Hedges and a bench could be made from that. IC said that the new bollards were nice to see but wondered what the policy for cleaning was and how long it would be before a lorry hit the one at Darroch Gate and damaged it; also the road sign at Parkhead Rd is needing cleaned. BS said that the 20mph limit at Berrydale Rd needs to be enforced and CS said that once the new Police Community team has established their shift pattern they can look at it.</p> <p>5.8 Provost's Supper.</p> <p>MY thanked CS and BE for inviting her and IR to the Provost's Supper representing BRCC and BRAN respectively, joining selection of other key people from the area such as Growbiz, One Voice, Rotary etc. and said that they had a lovely time.</p> <p>5.9 Tea Lights.</p> <p>MY said that she had been in touch with Barry O'Sullivan (PKC) who said the wiring on the pea lights was so old, the trees were growing into it and it needs to be redone. She had contacted Keith Reid of Blairgowrie Illuminations Ctte to see if they would be able to take on the responsibility and add it to their remit. Margaret Wotherspoon of Illuminations and Blair in Bloom have also been in touch with PKC about the lights. CS has emailed Willie Young and Leigh Brown in an attempt to find out what has gone wrong with them. These pea lights were put up as part of the town regeneration funding and were expected to last and work without damaging the trees. They have never worked successfully and a meeting would be held with Keith Reid and interested parties to find a way forward. MY said that had the work been done by a private contractor, this would not have been tolerated. It was the same with the Wellmeadow electrics.</p>	<p>MY</p>
<p>Item 6 - <b>Local Councillor Reports.</b></p>	

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<p>CS had met with the Police Community team and had been impressed except with their shift pattern. They are not needed throughout the night.</p> <p>The Bookmark Festival would again be held in Blairgowrie in October and has a new Chair.</p> <p>She would be having a meeting with Castle Water, who have to recognise that there is an issue with their staff's parking arrangements. EF said that there are now designated parking bays at the Physio's in Mill St. CS said that the parking at Castle Water is private and that she would not want parking restrictions to be put in at the Riverside- it was better to resolve the matter in a friendly way. This was a bigger issue and more additional parking spaces need to be identified in the town. AD said that Corryard are starting work soon at the Upper Allan Street site and have informed the Parish Church that parking in the old playground will be stopped. MY thought that a multi-storey car park was needed!</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 – Pending Planning applications.</b></p> <p>GD has said there were no relevant planning applications.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Secretary's Correspondence.</b></p> <p>EF said that she had received a letter asking if Piggy Lane could be surfaced and AT asked if the sender meant the track from Elm Drive to the football pitches or the path from Golf Course Rd to Woodlands Rd. The track from Elm Drive shouldn't be there as it is not on the map. EF said that she had also had a letter complaining about the lack of toilets at Davie Park. CS said that she had received the same letter. AT said that there had been toilets in the park for 30 years but they were closed some 10 years ago due to continued vandalism. CS thought that there could be an alternative way of running the parks with, for instance, a "Friends of Davie Park" group set up, who would open and close the facilities and cited Crieff's McRostie Park who had received lots of funding, as an AT/CS would look into this matter in a few months' time.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 – Chair Report on follow-ups since last meeting.</b></p> <p>MY said that she has been told that Parking Wardens cannot issue litter tickets as was mentioned last month.</p> <p>She asked could members send items for the next month's agendas in by the last week of the month.</p> <p>DC said that the Coop car park between the High St and Reform St was in a mess again and asked what had been done before. The Coop could be encouraged to clean it up again but it was thought that last time had been a one off. There is a build-up of weeds and huge potholes and it is a bad advert for the town. It was suggested that, as Castle Huntly open prison has been looking for work for their "clients" they could be approached or Community Payback. DC said that some parts of the carpark did not belong to the Coop and it was a big area- could lighting not be installed? DC said that she would contact the Coop and raise the issue and ask what other options they see. It needs to be maintained on a regular basis. IR said that the manager of the Coop had suggested to PKC that they buy it for their own use as a car park but this was not taken up.</p>	DC
<p><b>Item 10 – AOCB</b></p> <p>IR said that the email from Castle Huntly offering manpower for works needing done in the area would be a help because BRAN need to clean up the Banking in the Davie Park behind the pavilion and if Castle Huntly could do the heavy</p>	

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<p>work, then BRAN could look after it. BS said that the Riverside and the allotments could probably use the manpower too.</p> <p>IR said that the Citizen of the Year nomination process has started and the subcommittee had agreed that the time from opening to closing of nominations should be reduced from 2 months to one, viz 1 – 27 April. He would put a piece in the Hub magazine.</p> <p>BS asked if the dates for the Community Market were available and MY said that, for the new members' information, that a rota is made up by TD for setting up the stalls and for stripping them down again at the end of the day. MY said that she would remind Police Scotland about taking a stall. The first market is on 21 April and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month until October.</p> <p>AT asked what cooperation or otherwise that Police Scotland and the Roads Dept gritting schedule have, as he had been told that unless there has been a fatality, the Police cannot request that the roads are gritted. He thought this ridiculous. AD Said that every days schedule is made up with consideration of the weather forecast and each route takes about 3 hours to treat. There are workers on standby but workers driving hours have to be taken into consideration. People need to be mindful of their driving when the temperatures are low. CS said she would find out what the situation is with regards to the Police.</p> <p>IR said that Kynballoch Woods are for sale by Forestry Commission Scotland; this includes the CATERAN Trail alternative route through Drimmie Woods. This is a very popular walk and he wondered if BRCC should express an interest. CS said that Liz Mallinson (LM) of Mount Blair Development Trust is aware of this and is going to put a note of interest on it. SN said that the woods are part in BRCC's area and part in MBCC's area. CS said that she would put IR in touch with LM and they could perhaps put in a joint note. IR said that funding was available for a community buyout; DC asked if a buyer cuts the timber, must it be replanted, while EF said that it would be a tragedy if the Kinclaven Bluebell Woods were lost. Why is this not protected; we all band together and save this but what happens in 20 years time when we are not here? This could have houses built on it. IC said that they (Forestry Commission) want to sell the wood so that they can release funds to buy more woods! Why not just leave things the way they are? IR said that he would invite Jim Seaton, who has to do with these matters, to our next meeting to talk about this.</p>	<p>IR/CS</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting.</p> <p>Thursday 9 March 2017 in the small hall Balmoral Road, Rattray at 7pm</p>	<p>All</p>

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Distribution (email unless specified):

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