



# BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 March 2017

Held in the Small Hall, Balmoral Rd, Rattray, 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 L Seal (LS)          Mr B Smith (BS)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr A Thomson (AT)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr B Ellis (BE)          Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)          Insp. G Thomson (GT)          SM J Kitt (JK)          Ms L Cameron (LC)          Ms C Mailer (CM)</p> <p>14 members of the public</p> <p><b><u>ABSENCES</u></b>          Mr A Cannon (AC)          Cllr L Grant</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Press          Police Scotland          Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue          Head, Housing PKC          Housing Services          Manager</p> <p>Associate member          Councillor PKC</p>
<p>Item 1 – <b>Welcome &amp; Apologies.</b></p> <p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for the above. She reminded everyone to speak through the Chair.</p>			
<p>Item 2 - <b>Adoption of February Minutes.</b></p> <p>There were 2 amendments. Page 2 line 8 should read Thursday 16/2. Page 4 item 5.9 should read PEA lights. IR proposed and EF seconded. All approved.</p> <p>DC said that she had spoken to John Kerry about the Scotmid car park off the High St and he would arrange a litter pick-up, attend to the potholes and spray the weeds. DC suggested that more lighting and signs warning against fly-tipping would help. IR said he will be in touch with Castle Huntly re their offers of help with projects. IR said that he had registered an interest in the Drimmie Woods sale with Forest Scotland and while BRCC cannot hold an asset such as this, they can help others such as Mount Blair Development Trust to do so. MY thought that the area would be great for Outward Bound type activities and other outdoor pursuits. BE said that he had an interest in this as it is an alternative route on the CATERAN Trail. It is such a popular place for walkers. SN said that the Ericht Trust should be encouraged to take this on. LS is having a meeting with Liz Mallinson on 27/3 and he would take any questions that BRCC may have to her. AD thought that a motorbike trail would also be a good idea. All agreed to allow IR to proceed with talks with MBCDT as to the possible uses and purchase of the land on behalf of our communities.</p>			
<p>Item 3 - <b>Subjects raised by members of the public.</b></p>			

There were again many members of the public present concerned with various housing developments in the town and Lorna Cameron, Head of Housing & Care Commissioning Strategy PKC (LC) and Claire Mailer, Housing Services Manager PKC (CM) replied to them. Concerns raised were:-

The number of affordable homes to be built in Blackthorn Place, far in excess of PKC's own guidelines;

LC said there was a high level of need for affordable housing and that there would be a mix of vulnerable, older & social needs tenants who may be in overcrowded situations and other options being considered were shared equity options which PKC were newcomers to. Residents would purchase 70% of the property and Hillcrest/PKC would own 30%. PKC is aware of the concerns but there is a great demand for this type of accommodation.

Why did PKC make a policy of requiring developers to build a percentage of affordable housing and then allow them to buy out of it; the increase in traffic that all these homes would make – there could be an extra 90 cars trying to exit Blackthorn Place 15 metres from the roundabout; even if residents don't have cars, carers do and need to park;

LC said that a survey of car ownership in social housing areas was 6% less than in owned areas and the special needs/elderly may not have any cars and there are facilities in the plans for carers parking. She said that she would raise the traffic concerns with the planners. MY said that it is a very tightly packed area with a lack of parking and the cemetery is full with no provision for an extension or for funeral and visitor parking. Piggy Lane has no parking and there is a huge need. AD asked if planners ever visit a site as people would be happier if the planners took more interest.

Would Elm Drive be extended to Hazlewood Road before the next phase is built;

Hazlewood Rd would not be opened up before the next phase.

There were concerns that people with high priority from outwith Blairgowrie would be given houses before needy people belonging to the town;

CM said that most would go to people who live in Blairgowrie. BS said that the list covered all of Tayside and all 71 houses could be given to people from outwith the town.

LC said that it is a common register and there is an allocation policy with levels of priority. There is a high demand and low availability but if a person from outwith the town had a higher priority, then they would be allocated the housing over someone from the town with a lower priority.

Would the properties be maintained by Hillcrest;

LC said that there are 7500 council tenants and they are expected to be good tenants and look after their properties and most are.

What is the timescale for this development and how will these dates be communicated;;

LC said that the date is not set but prior to the planning application. CS asked that BRCC be kept informed of the date when it is decided. LC agreed to do this.

With regard to the proposed development behind Beech Manor Care Home:-

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that this development has come up and Beech Manor Care Home know nothing about it and have no connection to it. Parking and access to the rear of the Care home through the existing Home & cottages were the main cause of worry as was loss of amenity and the dangers to the current occupiers. The access road is only 3.7 metres wide and would not accommodate emergency vehicles and refuse lorries. The guidance for access roads such as this is 7½ metres width and there may be an issue with the boundary line. Since the previous application there has been an increase in the amount of parking on Golf Course Rd, due to a bay being marked for ambulances, doing away with the turning hammerhead. This makes exiting onto Golf Course Rd very dangerous.

All agreed to support the residents and recommend refusal of the application.

<p>With regard to the proposed development at Westpark:-  Two members of the public had moved to the town some time ago and had bought a house near this site. They were of the opinion that not enough was being done to improve the infrastructure of the town and that there were many buildings, such as the old St Mary's South Church that had been abandoned when they could have been redeveloped as assets to the town. They thought that it was wrong to sacrifice prime housing land for a budget hotel and Lidl. If these companies really wanted to be here, they would be here already. The only real industry in the area is tourism and we shouldn't take our lovely views for granted. They thought that with over 400 new houses, how was the town to cope with the increase in traffic and the needs for doctors, teachers etc. MY considered that Rattray would be a far better site for a Lidl with all the houses being built on Glenalmond Rd and all these houses with no provision for extra school, surgeries etc, never mind the bottlenecks in the High St at the Royal Hotel. If a delivery lorry is parked then emergency services cannot get past.  MY reminded everyone that BRCC is hosting an event in the Town Hall on 21 April where staff from PKC and other organisations will be available to talk to members of the public.</p>	
<p><b>Item 4 - Police &amp; Fire reports.</b></p> <p>Inspector Gordon Thomson (GT) introduced himself and said that he covers the Carse of Gowrie, Pitlochry &amp; Blairgowrie areas. They have re-aligned the shift patterns of the new Community Policing team who should be in their areas except in exceptional circumstances. The remainder of the teams will be available 24 hours a day. MY asked about where to leave found items and suggested the council offices or library but GT said that they could arrange pick up. MY asked if more Police would be seen on the beat but GT said that they have to be available to go to incidents immediately. He wouldn't like them to be sent to other areas and was hopeful that they could attend community markets etc.</p> <p>Station Manager Jake Kitt introduced himself and said he is part of the PKAD area (Perth, Kinross, Angus &amp; Dundee) His area has 4 retained stations and 2 volunteer stations. Blairgowrie has 2 pumps and is very well manned and crewed. They are proactive and reach out to the community with home safety checks which are really home health checks and they work with other partners to help vulnerable people. One fire appliance has been equipped with a defibrillator and the crews are trained in its use and CPR. If a call is made that there is a cardiac arrest then a fire crew may be the first available to attend. The British Heart Foundation has equipped them with CPR kits and with training from the Fire Service, people could act as first responders if no one else was there. The nearest high volume pump is sited at Falkirk but PKAD will get a 7000lpm pump this year which will be sited in Dundee. All stations will be reaching out to their local Resilience Teams and he has agreed that the Blairgowrie Resilience team can keep their equipment in a secure storage unit at the Blairgowrie Fire Station. MY asked if he would be able to have a stall at the community markets which would give the Fire Service more visibility and also invited him to the open day on 21<sup>st</sup> April at the Town hall. He said he had been looking into it. BE gave him Sue Cole's contact number.</p>	
<p><b>Item 5 – Arising &amp; Ongoing Issues.</b></p> <p>5.2 MY asked SN if he had confirmation of PKC personnel attending and he replied that only the planners had confirmed. EF had confirmation from the 2 SNP candidates and CS said that the Conservatives would be there. MY asked EF to write to the other main parties now and to the independent candidates once they were announced.</p>	<p>EF</p>

<p>5.3 Ericht Trust update.</p> <p>LS said that the Ericht Trust is now an employer having successfully applied for funding for the HEAT project. There are 2 new trustees, Phil Seymour, who has an HR background &amp; himself. The HEAT project will be a lot of work. As the Ericht Trust is a constituted body, it can now act as an umbrella organisation for projects in the town saving VAT for small organisations and hopefully have closer links with BRCC. However it cannot simply be used by community organisations in order allow them to purchase goods and services to avoid VAT. That would be tax evasion.</p>	
<p>5.4 HEAT update.</p> <p>Interviews will be held at the end of the month and the team will be in place by next month. They will also be centred at the Session House in Kirkmichael and with Mount Blair Community Development Trust. This project, as well as the cycle paths project came from ideas discussed at the Climate Café in SCYD and they have asked for funding from the participatory budget scheme.</p>	
<p>5.5 Golf Course Rd Buses.</p> <p>PM said that she had a reply from Andrew Warrington, Public Transport Manager, PKC saying that they can now look to change the no 63 to serve Golf Course Rd on certain journeys, subject to there being agreement to reducing the number of journeys serving Carsie. He had concerns that passenger usage on Golf Course Rd would be very low but it would be monitored. He asked that a meeting be set up to discuss the possible changes and timetable of bringing them in.</p>	PM
<p>5.6 Garden party Invite and Citizen of the Year.</p> <p>IR said that the forms had been sent to the authority but there had been no confirmations yet. Both nominees can attend if they are invited.</p> <p>PM said that 3 businesses in the town had agreed to print flyers and 2 papershops had agreed to put them in their newspapers to promote Citizen of the Year and the Blairie had agreed to print the nomination forms as before. She was very grateful for all their support.</p>	
<p>5.7 Parking Meters.</p> <p>MY said that, with the introduction of the new £1 coin. all the parking meters in the town would have to be changed at some cost to PKC, so was now the time to scrap paid parking in Blairgowrie and save £18 thousand? Why can't Blairgowrie have free parking like Forfar? The machines only register how much money has been collected and do not record how many hours a ticket is bought for. BE said that the issue of free parking had been looked at before and all the spaces would be taken up with people working in town and there would be no spaces for visitors. CS said she will pass on the request.</p>	CS
<p>5.8 Wishing Well.</p> <p>MY said that the previous covering for the well was made of bulletproof Perspex, yet someone jumping on it broke it. PKC are recommending a mesh surround for the new box but she said it would have to be a fine mesh so that syringes couldn't be pushed in. PM said that there was a small amount of money that had previously been in the well and did BRCC wish to disburse this or keep until after the well had been repaired. It was agreed to keep the money just now.</p>	

<p>5.9 Defibrillator location.</p> <p>EF had sent out an email from the Ambulance service requesting that local defibs be registered. She said that the external installation of the Blair High defib would cost between £200 and £1000. In response to a query of the balance of defibs between Blair &amp; Rattray, LS said that there was one at Rattray Connect. They are apparently self-explanatory but the Fire Service can teach people about them. MY said that she had asked for a list of defib locations around the town from Alan Stewart, First Aid Training Advisor at PKC, and said she would resend it to everyone.</p> <p>5.10 Pipes and Drums of Canada.</p> <p>The Pipe Major from Canada is here this month to make arrangements for their visit next year in August or September. Pitlochry hosted a civic reception last year and Blairgowrie would like to do the same this year, so now will be the time to apply for funding for this. The Angus Hotel is willing to cater for them again. In reply to a query about Blairgowrie Pipe Band attending, BE said that their numbers are severely depleted and it was not known if they would be willing to play with other local bands.</p>	<p>MY</p> <p>EF</p>
<p><b>Item 6 - Local Councillor reports.</b></p> <p>BE said he was at a meeting of EPCSC and the main topic was the new Recy. He had hoped to have the name of the consultants but those who didn't get the job have to be informed first.</p> <p>MY &amp; BE going to East Perthshire Decides. Project Fit Fun Families, a scheme for Rattray &amp; Alyth, funding parents and kids to get into healthy habits, stop smoking, go walking, climbing, archery, anything to get active on 25/3.</p> <p>BRAN is hosting all the local path groups in the Royal Hotel and will make a presentation. In the afternoon there will be courses on strimmer and other tool use.</p> <p>Last Saturday, the Blairgowrie Illuminations Committee took out all the decorations and checked them and sent away all the dud bulbs for replacement. When the new bulbs arrive, it will all have to be done again.</p> <p>CS commented on the new Snow Route recently highlighted in the press and said that, already completed, is the tourist layby at the foot of the Devil's Elbow on the A93 to the Glenshee ski centre which is well worth a visit. Businesses between Blairgowrie and the Spittal of Glenshee will benefit as it is an extremely popular route. A comment was made that the A93 on the Aberdeenshire is well maintained but the PKC side is very definitely not. MY asked if there was any progress with clearing the site of the fire-damaged Spittal Hotel and CS replied not yet.</p> <p>The wall at the Stormont Nursing Home in Upper Allan St is to be removed.</p> <p>There is to be a meeting about the pea lights in the Wellmeadow next week – MY will attend.</p> <p>The issue of removal of the loading bay markings at Wetherspoons in Allan St will be taken into consideration by PKC.</p> <p>There is a Greenburn management meeting on Monday.</p> <p>The traffic between Carsie and the Campus lane is speeding again now that there is no Lollipop person. This could be put on the agenda.</p>	<p>BE/MY</p> <p>MY</p>
<p><b>Item 7 – Pending Planning Applications.</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Secretary's Correspondence.</b></p>	

None.	
Item 9 – <b>Chair’s report on follow ups since last meeting.</b>	
None	
<p><b>Item 10 –AOCB</b></p> <p>MY proposed that section 5 of the agenda be amended so that all the updates from the various sub groups would come under one heading and then there would only be 3 or 4 other issues. LS recommended that this be trialled.</p> <p>Blair in Bloom are to apply for funding for a joint venture to standardise all the street furniture, benches, bins, planters etc and all agreed to go with this.</p> <p>SN had sent and amended Charrette update to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Aileen Stackhouse, who has her artwork displayed in NEST in Reform St, has a project about the River Ericht and people’s thoughts about the river and IR suggested a small sub group be set up to take this forward.</p> <p>AD said there is a problem again with litter on Back Brae and EF said that there is a cycle dumped in the river. AD would pass this on.</p> <p>DC asked if the Community Payback Team would get involved with the clearing of the Scotmid car park and MY said yes.</p>	AD
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	All
Thursday 13 April 2017 in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie St, at 7pm.	

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mrs D Cushnie  
Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Ms E Forrest  
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  
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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