



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 July 2017

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

<p>ATTENDANCE Ms E Forrest (EF) Mr I Richards (IR) Mrs P McGregor (PM) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mrs D Cushnie (DC) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr A Donald (AD) Mr L Seal (LS) Mr B Smith (BS) Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p>APOLOGIES Tommy McEwan Mr G Darge (GD) Mr A Thomson (AT)</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p> <p>Councillor PKC</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB) Ms C Damodaran (CD) 10 Members of the public</p> <p>Representatives from Police and Fire Services Mr M Mathers Ms M Urquhart</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Press</p> <p>HEAT project Community Transport</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>1.1 EF welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for the above.</p>			
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes. Proposer: IR Seconder: MY</p>			
<p>Item 3 - Subjects raised by members of the public. 3.1 Member of public requested update re Blackthorn Place.</p> <p>MY reported discussions had taken place with Hillcrest Housing Association, Lorna Cameron and Clair Mailer (PKC) and CS & TM and it has been agreed to hold a meeting specifically for residents of Blackthorn Place to discuss the proposed building and planning application. Representatives of Hillcrest Housing and PKC will be available to answer any and all questions residents may have. The meeting will be held in early August and personal invitations will be delivered to all residents within the area. Notice of the meeting will be made available through the local press and social media outlets. The meeting will likely be held in the Recreation Centre or other location close to the area. MY has offered to host the meeting.</p> <p>Some discussion ensued regarding the proposals and pertinent points made by both members of the public and the community council.</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations of social housing would be made to local people with medical/elderly/injury needs whereby no alternative suitable accommodation is available. • Letting agreements currently in operation in other areas would be in place and strictly adhered to. • Housing allocation criteria policies will be in place and also strictly adhered to. • Any building works will be carried out in staged phases • Traffic surveys would also be carried out <p>Queries were raised regarding the density of the proposed housing, traffic impact and local council funding of the development.</p> <p>MY confirmed that all questions would be appropriately answered by the right people at the residents meeting in August</p> <p>CS stated that as permissions have not yet been granted there may still be opportunity to influence the final plan and that no decision has yet been reached by Perth & Kinross Council as to their contribution to funding.</p> <p>Item 3.a) Electric Charging Points</p> <p>A regular visitor to the area had contacted BRCC to comment on inadequate facility of charging points for electric vehicles within the area. LS informed meeting of current facilities and indicated there is funding available and plans in place to upgrade these. There was some discussion as to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suggested sites for additional points • why electric points should be available via public funding and not commercial • Tesco have longer term plans for implementing electric charging points • Charging points should be located in visible, accessible areas. 	
<p>Item 4 - Police & Fire reports.</p> <p>Police report</p> <p>Since last representation at BRCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased rural break ins, particularly farms in Coupar Angus/Meikle area with thefts of farm machinery and tools. Advise all to improve security measures. • School holidays have so far not resulted in any spike in youth crime • Some reports of vandalism <p>Fire Report</p> <p>Since last representation at BRCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 times mobilised, not many within Blairgowrie itself • 4 RTCs attended • 1 child rescued from a car • 1 child rescued from a tree • 31 people undertook CPR training • 32 home fire safety visits (noticeable increase since Grenfell tragedy) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Alyth Show • Cadets are running 2 courses • Programme to be delivered engaging with learning support department at Blairgowrie High School. <p>IR queried police advice re concerns over animals locked in cars during hot weather. Police confirmed correct course of action would be to try to contact the owner of the vehicle if known in the first instance failing which to then contact the police who would deal with the situation. Members of the public are advised not to take direct action. Animal Welfare legislation is in place whereby pet owners found guilty of animal cruelty will be charged.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Arising and Ongoing Issues.</p> <p>a) Chair welcomed TD as new minute secretary.</p> <p>b) Maggie Urquhart, Development Officer, Blairgowrie Community Transport Scheme</p> <p>MU informed the meeting of the development of the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was developed subsequent to a survey which established a lack of viable transport options for elderly and isolated residents. • This pilot project, funded by NHS Community Innovation Fund and supported by local businesses, offers a taxi voucher scheme. • Membership of the scheme is open and applications can be made by members of the public to join. • Information on the scheme is available through the Discover Blairgowrie website and the One Voice shop. Further details can be obtained by emailing getabout@discoverblairgowrie.co.uk • 2,900 vouchers in total are available and eligible members are entitled to 8 vouchers per month. Vouchers are being limited to ensure some longevity of the scheme. • Sustainability funding is currently being sought to continue the project beyond the pilot. • Opportunities are available for volunteer drivers to support scheme members. Volunteers will be reimbursed expenses of 40p per mile. Volunteer driving normally does not affect car insurance but anyone interested would be advised to check with their own insurers • In first 2 months of the project more than 350 vouchers were issued to 37 scheme members, 175 journeys undertaken and 10 potential volunteer drivers noted. Further statistics will be available in due course. <p>c) One Voice & Discover Blairgowrie</p> <p>Transport & Isolation</p> <p>Currently has 37 members and 208 vouchers issued (30 June)</p> <p>Maggie has 10 potential volunteer drivers who must go through the PVG process (protection of vulnerable groups). Maggie has completed this herself and will be able to assess the applications. Volunteers get this done for free.</p> <p>She is now looking for funding to progress the Volunteer driver’s scheme and make it sustainable and independent.</p>	

Hub Mag

Summer Magazine – delivered mid June. Increasing number of new houses makes this a challenge.

We contacted the local schools and invited them to get involved and had articles from BHS and Newhill HOST.

Autumn Magazine – deadline 11 August with delivery expected early September

Forum

Next forum is Thursday 3rd August 5.30 in the Angus.

Town Map

Draft A3 and A2 size maps under review, next step is to find sponsors and advertisers

One Voice will be funding the first prototypes to enable this marketing project to go ahead.

Volunteering & Job Opportunities

9 opportunities listed on the website – one volunteer details passed on.

Town Promotion/Town Centre

Planned meeting with Cllr Ian Campbell and Cllr Caroline Shiers on 1 August 2017

Discover Blairgowrie Business Membership

47 businesses

Looking to meet with the Business Association to look at involving more businesses.

What's On Poster – to end Nov

Draft circulated with BRCC and others for comment – will be produced mid July

BS noted that One Voice is looking for a volunteer book-keeper.

d) Big Guns:

- The guns are currently at Fort George (since 1970) and not stored particularly well.
- They are both in need of restoration/conservation
- Historic Environment Scotland have offered to carry out restoration/conservation and asked if Blairgowrie would be willing to take the guns and responsibility for them

BS is of the opinion Blairgowrie should accept the Fortress Gun and not the Howitzer.

Discussion as to:

- Where the guns would be sited
- Should public opinion be considered
- Transporting the gun(s) to Blairgowrie
- Who would cover the costs

Agreement was made that BS continue to look further into this and report back to meeting.

e) HEAT – Martin Mathers updated the meeting:

- The project has now been running for 4 months and aims to increase awareness of fuel poverty and reduce energy consumption and impact on climate change
- HEAT has been working with Rattray and Kirkmichael primary schools and are developing a lesson programme with Blairgowrie High School next year.
- Current funding of the project covers the Rattray and Glens area but sustainability funding is being sought to extend coverage to the whole local authority ward
- Currently looking into developing a loyalty scheme with local businesses to encourage the community to use local shops and services, reduce packaging waste and encourage social, economic and environmental aims.

BS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is looking to carry out more household energy surveys and would like people to contact them <p>Questions and discussions ensued on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and advice for people prior to appliance purchase • Energy use/cost implications of washing materials for recycling • Tesco scheme for cashback for recycling plastic bottles. <p>f) CATERAN COMMONWEALTH</p> <p>The facility displaying a comprehensive exhibition of historical images and artefacts of the local area is currently open in Alyth and being very well attended. Opening times are Wednesday to Sunday 10.30am to 5.00pm.</p> <p>The anticipated project with the Laing family will no longer be going ahead due to family circumstances.</p> <p>Funding is available to continue the museum exhibition for a further year.</p> <p>g) Group Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 63 bus is now operating along Golf Course Road but if it is not well used it will be withdrawn. • Town parking. Public consultation has been completed and one hour parking will be implemented. One objection had been made regarding removing the loading bays in Allan Street by a business therefore further discussions are necessary and a decision on that aspect of the proposals may have to go back to PKC committee for decision. • The living Streets report which concerns many aspects of improving the roads and streets of the town is currently with PKC. A meeting is to be arranged with Brian Cargill of PKC on his return from holiday to take this forward. Members of the public's request re. one way system for Lower Mill Street will be taken into those discussions. • Street furniture improvement meeting had taken place and progress was now being made. Blair in Bloom and PKC have met to discuss taking improvements to the seating areas outside the CATERAN Cafe at the Upper Allan Street/ Allan Street, Junction and the area next to the TSB bank and a landscape architect has been approached to take the project forward. • Under Secretary's report. Bring to members' attention the Community Plan consultation that's out for consultation and the need for us to respond. <p>Comment was noted that throughout all local authority pay and display parking facilities the first 15 minutes are free of charge.</p> <p>BRAN</p> <p>PKAVS have been in contact and are interested in arranging for their clients to be involved in working with the group (Wisecraft).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned work has been carried out along the riverside in accordance with PKC guidelines but there was disappointment at PKC's lack of cooperation in concluding their part of the works. • Castle Huntly – no further progress on this as PKC have instructed risk assessment must be carried out but have failed to do so within last 5 weeks. • Ownership of Loon Braes cannot be ascertained therefore no further progress with this. 	<p>SN</p>
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- Litter picks have been carried out and there is frustration at the thoughtless dropping of litter and particularly broken bottles.

CS suggested PKC meeting with BRAN to resolve issues, particularly the riverside.

BLAIR IN BLOOM

Received £3.76 from PKC which was recovered from the well in the Wellmeadow.

Garden and photo competitions are open for entries, closing date end of next week. Details available in the Blairie and Blair in Bloom website/Facebook page.

Balmoral Road Post Box – MY

Delighted to report that the pick-up time has now been changed to after 4pm, in line with Mrs. Ann Thomson's request some several months ago. It has taken a wee while for the opportunity to arise to change it, but thanks to the co-operation of the Post Office (specifically the manager, Nicola Sawers) the pick-up time will now be closer to 4pm rather than 9am which should hopefully serve the Rattray crossword-filling community much better. Congratulations to Mrs. Thomson and thank you to Nicola. I have written to Mrs. Thomson to convey the good news.

Bonfire Night & Funding – In a bid to “bring things back to Blair & Rattray”, I have contacted PKC about us holding a Bonfire night in the Davie Park and have been given permission. Now I need to complete the necessary paperwork to get it “rubber stamped” and secure a small amount of funding. I have also been in touch with a couple of businesses in the town to see if they'd be interested in having a concession stall at the event, to which the response has been very positive. I could do with a helper to do paperworky things if anyone has some spare time . . . ?

Nativity Scene & Funding – Like the Bonfire report but in the Wellmeadow. A tentative offer of a tree has been made and Something Special has, very kindly, offered their services to decorate it. I'm now looking for contacts to anyone who can help make a light weight (possibly aluminum) detachable frame.

Canadian Pipe and Drum band – Confirmation has now been given that they will be over again next year and that we are to, again, play host to a small concert in the Wellmeadow after a short march down from the Royal Hotel. Funding is yet to be secured.

Wishing Well – As you know the box was just energetically vandalized in autumn last year. Since then Pat and I have been pursuing a replacement via Steven Kane, and it would seem now that with a little cajoling (thanks Caroline!) we should be able to reap the fruits of people's wishes within the next few weeks.

Hamish Henderson Festival – The date has been set for the weekend of 10th, 11th & 12th Nov. The movie will be shown in 2 locations with music and poetry in the evening in the Town hall. A poster for the event will be in the next issue of the Hub Magazine and will be on the Disco Blair site shortly.

Defib location: I've spoken to Murray Scott at the Angus Hotel and he'd be happy to have a defibrillator located in the reception area of the hotel. He thinks it would be a good idea and we just need to get back to him with details. TD said that SCYD had received funding for a defib to be placed at Wellmeadow House.

Pea lights - The wiring is more corroded than we expected so a fuller upgrade will be required than first thought. The "big tree" will also be included in the upgrade and all will be done in the original timeframe in time for the clock change.

Recreation Centre - Penny Lochhead had promised the residents that she would have a follow up meeting to answer their questions. I'll chase this up.

<p>The Rotary Club have now planted the corner section of the Wellmeadow and it looks great.</p> <p>St Mary's South Church on Reform Street has now been cleared, and it looks great.</p> <p>Illuminations Committee</p> <p>New lights have been purchased to replace cross street lights in Allan Street. These were trialed and are all working well. Photos are available and will be posted to Facebook. The old lights are currently for sale at approximately £410 for all 9 lights. The lights will go up on 5th November ready for switch on 25th November.</p> <p>Confirmed complete replacement of pea lights in the Wellmeadow with BRAN helping to trim trees where necessary.</p> <p>A fundraising charity shop will be held in Howes shop and volunteers are required to help run it.</p>	
<p>Item 6 - Local Councillor reports.</p> <p>CS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grass cutting is now being carried out. Comment was made about grass not being cleared after cutting and this causes mess and inconvenience. CS informed PKC changed policy a number of years ago but would make enquiries regarding this. - Discussions underway re opening public toilets and refurbishment to provide female changing facilities at Davie Park Pavilion to encourage use of the park. - Investment is being made in park equipment specifically for disabled children. Queries raised re providing adult play equipment in public spaces. - Lochy Park sign has been fixed - A meeting is arranged for 5th September for anyone interested in parks and open spaces - Community Council hotline number is now available - Consultation is now open for local plan development 	CS
<p>Item 7 – Pending Planning Applications.</p> <p>Piggy Lane/Maple Place the deadline for comments is Saturday. Any comments can be lodged with GD via email. BS said BRCC have already lodged a letter of intent to object to any development that does not include provision for a drop of facility at the Campus schools and that there was already an unresolved petition on parking and drop off points.</p> <p>PM proposed agreement that BRCC officially lodge objection. BS seconded. All members agreed.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – Secretary’s correspondence.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – Chair’s report on follow ups since last meeting.</p> <p>LED lighting:</p> <p>Noted that the LED lights are not as bright as the sodium ones.</p> <p>A member of the public commented that it was very difficult to see.</p> <p>Brown bins to be charged from April. Angus charges £25. PM asked CS to see what change to uptake in Angus since charging.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – AOCB.</p> <p>Castle Water have purchased ground on Haugh Road to be used as an employee car park.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>10th August 2017 at 7pm at Jessie St.</p>	All

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

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers
Mr B Brawn
Mr T McEwan

External:

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

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