



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 July 2018

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

<p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> Mr I Richards (IR) Mr B Smith (BS) Mr R Duncan (RD) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mrs D Cushnie (DC) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr G Darge (GD) Mr A Donald (AD) Ms E Forrest (EF) Ms H Harris (HH) Mr L Seal (LS) Mrs P McGregor (PM)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr A Thomson (AT) Ms C Thomson</p> <p>Mr C Smith, SFRS</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB)</p> <p>Ms C Damodaran (CD) 6 members of the public 2 police officers</p> <p><u>LEAVE OF ABSENCE</u> Mrs M Young (MY)</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC</p> <p>Press</p>	
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that apologies had been received from AT who had been taken unwell and CS from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. IR wished AT a speedy recovery.</p>				IR
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes AD proposed the adoption of the minutes of the June meeting and IC seconded.</p>				All
<p>Item 3 – Matters Arising Maple Place - IR said that the proposals for 117 houses by Blairgowrie Community Campus had prompted a lot of consternation. Two members of the public, Martin Smith and Ken Kemp, had started a petition about the proposals which they say would adversely affect wildlife in the area. IR thanked them for all the work they had done on the petition which had been presented to Councillor Caroline Shiers to present to Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) officers ahead of the planning and development committee meeting. IR reported that Stewart Milne’s land director, Richard Fawcus, was very keen to speak to the community and was to meet with them, Mr Smith and Mr Kemp and local councillors at the site on July 30. They had also provided the community council with a plan for the 117 houses and how they hoped to preserve the wildlife in the area and had said that there was some flexibility in the plans. IR said that one of the interesting things the land developer said was that they had to chase the school for further conversations about a possible drop off. BB said that it was his understanding that what they were proposing was down the Blackthorn Place side. IR said that there were a number of sites and a number of issues that a lot of people wanted to discuss with them.</p>				

Flooding in Rattray - IR said that the issues raised at the last community council meeting were going to be investigated. AD said that he had been working at the burn at Parkhill Road and it had been cleared out. IR said that when member of the public Peter Smith raised the issue he was concerned the pipe there was inadequate. AD said that the farmer said that the water goes nowhere near the Springfield properties. Mr Smith had also raised the matter with John Swinney MSP who replied that it was a concern. IR then gave a precis of the issue which was that the soakaway basin is not drying out. Springfield Properties is aware of the situation and is trying to find out where the water is coming from. Two tracer dyes had been put in Rattray Burn and had not turned up in the basin. Enlarging the pipe is probably not feasible as it goes under the houses. A water main pipe is close by and it may be that that is damaged. IR added that what Springfield Properties had not done was allay people's fears that their properties might be flooded.

Driving the wrong way down The Croft and access to and from Little's

Restaurant - CS said that signage at The Croft would be looked at and added that she didn't know what could be done about the problems accessing Little's. IR said that there was a definite risk of an accident there. CS said that should have been raised as an issue at the planning stage but that it was on the roads' department radar now it has been reported. GD said that he witnessed an accident at Croft Lane the previous week and that coming out on to Leslie Street was very difficult with very poor sightlines. He added that one in about every 100 cars goes the wrong way down the road.

Blair in Bloom benches – SN said that all going into improvement work at Coronation Corner and that Blair in Bloom had got as far as engaging a landscape architect for the benches at the TSB and on the corner of Allan Street but that was it.

Item 4 - Police and Fire reports

Police - The two police officers present said that they were brand new to Blair so didn't have anything to report but if anyone wanted to ask them anything or raise any concerns they were welcome to do so. IR said one thing was how to get the community to ensure they always reported incidents so that they were recorded. IC mentioned that plants had been stolen from Blair in Bloom overnight. The police officers said that they would encourage people to report every incident but that they were the only two police officers in east Perthshire at the moment because of President Trump's visit. They said that the more people phone gives them a bigger picture and the more attention can be given to certain areas. Incidents can escalate if they are not reported in the first instance and can get out of hand. If something is reported to the 101 number it will be noted and get an incident number and be passed on to the officers. The police officers added that they were undergoing a change of personnel at the moment. The community sergeant, Sgt Forrester, had asked for more community officers, one of which is off on long term sick, and was very much of the view that response officers need to get more involved in the community. PM asked what a member of the community could expect in terms of follow up when they report an incident. The police said that once it is reported and the information is logged the officers see it and can, in the example of people driving the wrong way down The Croft, issue tickets when they see it. If the person reporting an incident has a registration number and make and model of the vehicle involved then the police can go round and speak to the driver. They also said that they will keep an eye on that particular situation and pass the information on to Sgt Forrester. RD said that if there was no response to the people who have reported an incident then people don't know that any of the follow up work is happening and maybe won't bother reporting something in the future. The police said that they try to ensure that someone phones people back. BB asked them to confirm that there were only two police officers on duty and the officers said yes due to the exceptional circumstances. If they needed support they would get it from the response teams in Perth and Angus. BB commented that it was a very thin blue line. The police said that they do their best to prioritise calls and also to investigate everything. BB commented that when Inspector Thomson first started policing there were 46 officers in Blair. Ken Kemp added that this was one of the issues they raised about additional housing in Blairgowrie bring additional numbers of people in to the town which is

already struggling to cope in terms of infrastructure and a lack of medical staff and police. BB thanked the police officers for their efforts.

Fire – Chris Smith from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service emailed a report that was read out at the meeting. It stated that they had been mobilised 30 times in June including ten fires and two road traffic collisions. There had been incidents of note but as they were of a sensitive nature the information could not be shared. 400 school children had been trained in hands only CPR, training which can be provided to any group free of charge. Firefighters had also carried out 22 home safety visits in June. CD mentioned the open day at the fire station on Saturday, July 14th, which was raising money for charity and celebrating the 60th anniversary of the fire station in Blairgowrie.

Item 5 - Subjects raised by members of the public

A member of the public said that what has been highlighted to him by the petition about the proposed 117 houses at Maple Place is that Elm Drive has already become a rat run between Perth Road and Coupar Angus Road. He said that he saw a fuel tanker coming through that should not be going through a residential area and that the roads were not designed for that sort of thing. He said if it gets opened up by the cemetery it is going to be even worse, commenting that he had grandchildren and he did not want them contending with artics when they were on their bikes and asked if a weight restriction could be put in place on the roads. Another member of the public said that it wasn't just that it was cars which were not sticking to 20mph. BB pointed out that it was not a legal speed limit. The member of the public responded that cars would do at least 40mph there and that one of the worst offenders was a mum in a Volvo. IR asked if the councillors could advise on the weight restriction and commented that legally binding 20mph zones were being imposed in cities. CS said that a policy was being worked up by PKC at the moment. The member of the public commented that it was a waste of time if you only had two police officers on duty asking how many people they were going to catch. GD said that he believed if you spot a car going too fast and take its registration number and report it to the police then the police could go round and speak to them. AD said that a lorry passed him on a 30mph stretch of road and he phoned 101 and reported it and was told that it was his word against theirs. IR said that someone reported a speeding tractor and the police came and spoke to them and said that they would speak to the tractor driver too. BS said that he had been told by the police to take pictures and videos and send them to the police. Ken Kemp said that he sees at least two or three vehicles breaking the law every day and that he would need to stand and watch all day to take video of it. He suggested that when they open the road by the cemetery they make it one way, a suggestion also made by AD. Ken Kemp said that the biggest problem was when parents were dropping their children off at the school and that although Stewart Milne had suggested a drop-off zone where would the cars turn around? BS said that as a resident he would want to be able to turn whichever way he wanted out of his drive and that a one-way system would not allow him to do that. BB said that the root of the problem is a lack of police to enforce the problem, like motorcyclists doing wheelies up the A93. A member of the public said that he had seen people go the wrong way around the roundabout to save time. BS said drivers needed to be educated, IR said that they know they shouldn't do it and the member of the public said they know they won't get caught which is why they do it. IR said that a lot of this goes back to a lack of policing and that he will be going back to senior officers at Police Scotland for a meeting and will take a list of the issues to them as the decisions that are being made by Police Scotland are not supporting the community. EF said that the consequences of speeding need to be reinforced. A member of the public asked why the consideration of the application for the 117 houses had been pulled from the committee meeting. BB said that it was pulled at the last minute after a letter was received from GS Brown who had concerns about the transport assessment that had been done. The assessment will be looked at. There is a ransom strip involved and BB suspects that GS Brown wants some money to build that link. He said the application may come back on August 1st but it was more likely to be August 29th. A member of the public said that building laybys will affect the traffic flow there. BB said that the layby was not part of the site. SN said that the road layout

<p>had been raised on several occasions. He said that the community council has been calling for roads officers to have an overview of the whole area and see the impact these developments will have before they take a view on the planning applications. The changes proposed to Elm Drive and the through route to Perth Road is different so maybe it is worth having a meeting about the whole road dynamics in that geographical area. CS emailed Daryl McEwan to suggest he comes to the meeting with Stewart Milne on July 30th. Ken Kemp said that he had read the full planning document and it says that the road beside the cemetery could take up to three years to be built which means there could be an awful lot of problems in that time. He suggested proposing that the road is completed first before the houses are built. Another member of the public said that the developers keep building and there's no thought for the town itself and the whole picture – roads, doctors etc – they are just building as much as possible and making money for someone. It is a small rural town that will be lost if they keep expanding it. Ken Kemp added that he would like to put it on record his grateful thanks for the support of the community council and local councillors. He said that over 95% of the people he and Martin Smith had spoken to had signed the petition and that the problem was that councillors from the city of Perth were voting on issues that are really important to the local community and that no one was listening except the local councillors. IR thanked Mr Kemp and Mr Smith for their efforts once again and said that it was useful to be able to convey the strength of feeling locally to the council. Another member of the public asked where the jobs were for all the people in the new houses. IR said that the question has been asked before and that Blairgowrie and Rattray is beginning to turn into a dormitory town for the big cities. A member of the public commented that commuting to other towns was really bad for the environment in terms of burning more fossil fuels. CS said that it was a big debate at the council. SN said that in the Community Action Plan two of the action points are infrastructure and how economic regeneration is balanced with expansion of the town. The development trust has started to have a conversation with PKC on that and there is not going to be a quick fix.</p> <p>A member of the public said that walking through town was a hazard, particularly for the visually impaired as so many shops had their stock on the pavement. CS said this should be raised with Colin Heggie at PKC.</p>	
<p>Item 6 – Co-option of Georgie Kidd</p> <p>Georgie Kidd from the Strathmore Centre for Youth Development came to the last community council meeting and was keen to come on board as a young ambassador. IR had since spoken to PKC's democratic services department and been informed that the community council does not have any more vacancies for co-opting new members but could offer Georgie an associate membership of the community council. It was agreed to do this.</p>	IR
<p>Item 7 – Bus Timetables</p> <p>GD said that a number of people come to Blairgowrie from Coupar Angus for a night out but the revision of bus services means that they can no longer get back to Coupar Angus from Blairgowrie after 9.25pm. This seems to be an omission and GD is of the opinion that the community council should raise it with the council to see if they can suggest a solution. CS said that there was a problem on Saturday mornings getting people from Coupar Angus to Blairgowrie in time for 9am for starting work and that Moray Fraser in PKC was the person who would be best placed to advise if a change would be possible.</p>	GD
<p>Item 8 – BRDT Community Choices Application</p> <p>IR said that the new name for the participatory budgeting process, which is now a much bigger issue, is community choices. The development trust will be applying for funding on behalf of the community. SN said that a fund of £750,000 has been made available for community trusts and community councils to apply for grants of between £20,000 and £100,000 and Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust had made an application to support the implementation of projects identified in the Community Action Plan. If the application is successful then they will have to go through the process of</p>	SN

<p>participatory budgeting to determine which programmes will be funded. An announcement on the successful applicants is expected towards the end of August. He added that this is the first time that this funding has not gone through the local authorities. LS asked if this was different funding to the money that was set aside for participatory budgeting. SN said that it was his interpretation that this was different and that it was another initiative on top on participatory budgeting. RD asked why this was being done. SN said that it was part of the community empowerment act which encourages communities to take control of what's happening in their own communities.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – Plaque for Cherries and Berries garden IC said that Blair in Bloom had requested a plaque at the Berries and Cherries bed to say that BRCC maintains it. IC had spoken to a sign provider in Perth who had quoted a price of £36+VAT which would be designed and would need to be in place for August 10th when the bloom competition judges would be in the town. GD suggested getting a quote from the Two Bells in Blairgowrie for engraving. IC asked for approval from the community council members to get it which was given.</p>	IC
<p>Item 10 - Enlivened BRCC presence at the Community Market</p> <p>IR said that it has been suggested that BRCC should project itself more than it does at the community market. LS explained that he felt he turned up for his shift at the community market and was just there being quote passive rather than dynamic. He said that the community council was involved in lots of things and could do more to highlight that. IR asked if two or three members of the community council could get together to discuss how to take things forward. PM said that they do tend to stand behind the stall but could easily go out with a clipboard and speak to members of the public. EF and SN said that they would be willing to help LS look at options.</p>	LS
<p>Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>RD said that the grant for the year had been received from Perth and Kinross Council.</p>	RD
<p>Item 12 - Local Councillor Reports</p> <p>BB said that the petition from members of the public about the development of 117 houses at Maple Place had been handed to department officers and it went to the convener of the planning. The planning convener, Roz McCall, would like to come to the next community council meeting and speak to the community council about the planning process and committee. BB said that concerns have been passed back to her but she wants to hear them for herself. IR said that she would be very welcome to attend. BB said that she will listen to concerns but cannot comment on active applications. Ken Kemp asked if she could come to the meeting on the 30th, CS said that she had already been on a tour of the town a couple of months ago. SN said that there are statutory guidelines on what can and can't be discussed with committee members and that it would be useful for members of the public to know that. BB said that the Maple Place application had been zoned for housing as part of the Local Development Plan. BB said that he had had a meeting with Inspector Gordon Thomson and that one of the things that came up was the problems at the campus> He suggested that if the residents of Smithfield Crescent and Smithfield Avenue got together and parked in a slalom style it might help alleviate some of the problems. BS said that was suggested five years ago but people wouldn't do it because they were scared of repercussions. BB said that he will get back to Roz McCall to confirm attendance at the next meeting.</p> <p>CS said that there was a long-running issue at Ashgrove Park and the maybe the community council could support the residents there. The play park at Ardblair is to get a revamp and CS suggested that perhaps and leaflet drop or an open morning or both</p>	CS, BB

would be a good way to raise awareness of the proposals of these play park upgrades. Council officers have met with the head teacher of Rattray Primary School to discuss proposals for the extension of the nursery there and will meet with the parent council after the school holidays to discuss how it could happen without reducing the size of the playground significantly. GD suggested perhaps using some of Ferguson Park. CS said that one of the suggestions was that part of that area is used for a multi-surface pitch that would also be for the community. CS said that £1.3million had been set aside for road safety measures in the region, including vehicle activated signage and possibly a crossing at JJ Coupar Park on Coupar Angus Road and a 20mph zone at Hatton Road and Rattray High Street. CS mentioned that £500,000 has been set aside for a pitch at Davie Park and £100,000 for part of the Strathmore Cycle Network. As far as the Recreation Centre is concerned the council is ready to engage with architects. There will be lots of parking where the current centre is once it is demolished. CS said that even with the change in the amount of capital budget for the recreation centre she is confident that they can still deliver the facilities for the community. The outline cost of £17.7million previously allocated was just a suggestion. She said that there won't be a café at the centre but that she wasn't sure the council should be in competition with businesses in the town, and that there would be no soft play area but the inflatables they currently have at the Recreation Centre would still be available. There would be a 25m pool with five lanes not six lanes which still allows for competitions to be held but just with more heats. CS described it as a Recreation Centre that meets the needs of the school and the community and which Live Active Leisure can afford to run. She said that she thinks what will be built will be a state-of-the-art building. GD said that he was extremely disgusted at the current administration's reduction in budget for the new recreation centre. He had requested that the community council saw a copy of the brief from the consultant but the community council has never seen it and now the administration has taken £3million off the budget, almost 20%, the brief would have to change. He said that the community council should be provided with the previous brief and the current brief so that the community can see exactly what they are losing. He said that as an architect with years of experience to cut nearly 20% off a budget will have a seriously detrimental effect on the quality of the architecture of the new centre and questioned how the new facility could possibly be achieved on a reduced budget, commenting that we don't want another shed or a reduction in the quality of materials. CS said that she will get the brief for the community council and will find out what involvement there will be with the community in terms of the proposals being put forward. GD said that he thought it was very important that the community gets to comment on the brief rather than people in Perth presenting them with a fait accompli. CS said that she has suggested that PKC has initial discussions with the community sports hub as it is not just Blairgowrie and Rattray's recreation centre, it is for the whole of east Perthshire. She added that it was really important that the construction doesn't affect the residents too much. IR asked how long it would be before they got to see the report and CS said that she would ask this week. CD asked how long it would be before members of the public got to see anything and CS said that she got the feeling that it would be quite early in the new academic year. DC asked what the road changes for Hatton Road were. CS said that she didn't think anything was proposed.

Item 13 – Pending Planning Applications

GD said an application had been submitted to build three small houses at Darkfaulds on Perth Road behind Ardblair cottages. A previous application for four houses was withdrawn but GD said that he thought three houses was still over-development and was wondering if BRCC wished to make representation regarding the development. He would suggest that two plots was more than enough but it has been indicated that it will get approval. CS said that she has been involved with discussions with residents in the surrounding area and that they are really concerned about it. Lots of trees have been removed and they have noticed an increase in water run-off. HH said that the council set the density for housing in various areas and that they should stick to it. GD said that the minimum plot size has been removed which is why the application has come

GD

<p>through. The community councillors agreed that representation should be made to PKC.</p>	
<p>Item 14 – Secretary’s correspondence None that hadn’t already been forwarded to members of the community council.</p>	SN
<p>Item 15 – Chair’s report on follow ups since last meeting None that hadn’t already been discussed.</p>	IR
<p>Item 16 – AOCB IR sincerely thanked PM for being a very loyal member of the community council for the last five years and for all her hard work as she stood down from the community council at the meeting. PM asked if anything was happening with resurfacing Balmoral Road describing it as diabolical and a disaster the whole way up. BB said that he will look into it but nothing has been planned for it. HH said that cars have been using the new bit of the cycle network between Blairgowrie and Alyth. BS said that it had been noted and that bollards were going to be put in to stop the cars. LS said that the bollards, which would probably be at both ends of the path, would likely be installed in September when the bridges go in. BS said that with the new location for the Post Office in the town could the main junction between Reform Street and Perth Street and the High Street be made into a pedestrian platform. SN said that he will resurrect that discussion with Chic Haggart in Perth and Kinross Council. BS said that last year Historic Environment Scotland had been going to send the two guns to a facility in Stirling for conservation and then look at giving them back to Blairgowrie and Rattray. However, the guns are still at Fort George and Stirling is now a no go. HES has apparently suggested that the community could get involved with the conservation of the guns. BS has gone back to them to ask what that would entail but would like to know whether the community council should continue with the efforts to get the guns back to Blairgowrie and if so, where are they going to be put and is the community interested in carrying out the conservation work under the guidance of HES. IC said that as this was the 100th anniversary of the Armistice the guns should come back to Blairgowrie and then the decision on what to do with them can be made. He suggested that one of them could go in the Wellmeadow. RD asked how much security they would need. BS said that the security was that they weighed six and a half tonnes. Ken Kemp suggested incorporating the guns in one of the new housing developments in the town. GD said that he felt it was totally inappropriate to be celebrating weapons of mass destruction and to place them next to a memorial to those who died and that he was totally opposed to it. One member of the public said that it was not a celebration it was a commemoration and a reminder of what the weapons can do. IR said that GD had sincerely expressed his view before and that the community council had agreed to pursue bringing them back. GD asked if it should be discussed with the community. BS said that it had already been publicised. IR said that there was an opportunity to raise it again if things had changed. EF said that it could be discussed at the community markets. A member of the public asked what the community was doing to mark the 100th anniversary. IR mentioned the Our Heritage event in November and that they would be asking members of the community to think if they had anything they would like to display or if they would like to get involved in the event. CS suggested speaking to Mel Jameson and Charles Dunphy. IR said that they would go ahead on the basis of a questionnaire at the community market to consult with the community and then consider their position in relation to the answers that they get. IR asked for volunteers to take over reviewing the suggestion boxes in the town. Suggestions received at the community market should be forwarded to SN. LS volunteered to check the suggestion boxes. IR asked about the wishing well; RD</p>	

<p>volunteered to do that. PM said that they collect the money every month in the summer and wash it before deciding who to give it to.</p> <p>AD said that even though the car park at the new Castle Water premises on Haugh Road is full there is still a line of traffic along Riverside Drive. IR said that the council had already talked about restrictions long there but that it is just moving the problem elsewhere.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, August 9th, 2018 at 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre on Jessie Street.</p>	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank
Mrs D Cushnie
Mr G Darge
Mr A Donald
Mr R Duncan
Ms E Forrest
Ms H Harris
Mrs P McGregor
Mr S Nichol
Mr I Richards
Mr L Seal
Mr B Smith
Mr A Thomson
Mrs M Young
Ms C Thomson

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