



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 September 2018

Held in the small Hall, Balmoral Road, Rattray, 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 Hazel Harris (HH) Mr L Seal (LS) Mrs C Thomson (CT)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr A Thomson (AT) Mrs M Young (MY) Mr Georgie Kidd (GK)</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB) Cllr T McEwan (TM) Ms C Damodaran (CD) 7 Members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith Inspector Gordon Thomson (GT)</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Press</p> <p>Fire Scotland Police Scotland</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from AT, MY and GK.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes SN proposed the adoption of the minutes of the August meeting. IC seconded. There were no amendments.</p>			
<p>Item 3 - Arising and Ongoing Issues Reform Street/High Street/Perth Street junction – SN said that he and CS met with Daryl McEwan from Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) on Wednesday, September 12th, and studied the roads at the junction. They spoke to one of the local shopkeepers who said that the priority for a solution was the safety of pedestrians crossing the road outside the shops without compromising any of the parking spaces. SN and CS said that while they were there cars were parked on the double yellow lines on both sides of the road, the lady from the fishmongers helped an elderly customer across the road, tractors and heavy good vehicles went past and horns were honked. They asked the council’s engineers and road designers to go come up with a solution which they will then make suggestions on. AD suggested a sign directing heavy vehicles down William Street rather than the High Street might be a start. Suggestion Boxes – LS said that there used to be six but they now have three as one broke and two have one missing. He said the system used to work quite well bit has fallen into disuse. He said there were five options open to the community council: 1 – Withdraw the existing box and do nothing further; 2 – Use the three boxes that are left and place them wherever it is thought is most likely to get responses;</p>			<p>SN</p> <p>LS</p>

<p>3 – Use the three boxes and move them round from time to time;</p> <p>4 – Increase the number of boxes and place them where it is thought there will be the most responses;</p> <p>5 – As number four but with one for the library that will need to be wall mounted due to the space available.</p> <p>LS suggested that if the community council was going to stick with the existing system of asking people to let them know which issues they would like the community council to deal with then the suggestion boxes need to be in more prominent places. LS asked if the community council wanted to progress with the suggestion boxes. IR said that he didn't think they should remove any means of possible communication between the community council and members of the public and that he thought the suggestion boxes were essential. There was a discussion around possible locations and 10 were decided on: the Recreation Centre, the Town Hall, Community Connect, Scotmid in Rattray, the High School, Mitchell's Newsagents, the One Voice office, the community campus, the library and the dentist. It was suggested that some businesses might not want the suggestion boxes on their premises. LS agreed to approach the venues to ask if they would be willing to have the suggestion boxes on their premises.</p>	
<p>Item 4 - Police and Fire reports</p> <p>Blairstown-based firefighters were mobilised 17 times in August for three primary fires, two secondary fires, 10 automatic fire alarm operating, one special service call to a fallen tree on Balmoral Road and one standby at other stations. 11 turnouts were to support colleagues in surrounding areas. Local RAF cadets have completed a three-week young firefighters course at the station learning valuable lifesaving skills, fire safety and team building. Eight home safety visits were carried out in August, three high risk, three medium risk and two low risk.</p> <p>GT said that there had been no significant crimes but that officers were still trying to get the message across that if something doesn't feel right it's not right with regard to cyber crime and fraud etc. saying that an elderly person in the area had quite recently been defrauded out of some money. He said that at this time of year they anticipate an increase in fuel theft and advised anyone with outside fuel tanks to ensure they were secure. He said that Braemar Night had been a success with no significant crime. There was one arrest outside a licensed premises. CS commented that the different approach that the police have taken on Braemar Night, chatting to young people and engaging with them, was making a difference. GT said that going in heavy-handed with young people drinking down by the Riverside for example was just going to move them somewhere else. IR said that the community council has been in touch with Commander Scott who offered to come to the October meeting but as there was a lot to discuss at that meeting the invitation had been extended to the November meeting and will be the major feature of that meeting. GT said that he was on back shift so it be likely that he would attend and asked that if the community council had any questions they wanted to ask in advance that would be helpful. IR agreed. IC said that he had noticed there was damage to a DIY shop in the town. GT said that that incident had not been reported.</p>	
<p>Item 5 –Subjects raised by members of the public</p> <p>BS said that he had sent an email to Stewart Milne asking about green spaces at the Maple Place development site. Stewart Milne land manager Richard Fawcus (RF) replied saying that he was happy to meet with members of the community council to discuss options for enhancing the green space areas at the site and that they were looking to have a public consultation before the landscaping plan was finalised.</p> <p>Member of the public Ken Kemp (KK) asked if it was worth talking to them about the car parking problem and whether there was any possibility of having a temporary car park at the site as the traffic there was horrendous. BS said that he had phoned to ask about a car park and suggested they could park at the land behind the cemetery.</p> <p>Martin Smith (MS) commented that the school bus dropped off children at the school and couldn't get back out because someone had parked a 4WD in the way, adding that these problems were occurring before the planned 200 additional new houses</p>	

were built in the area. BS said that staff are parking on Elm Drive but that Stewart Milne was unaware of this and that RF was quite sympathetic to the situation. BS asked if they could be given a chance to do something about it and that Stewart Milne are going to go to the site and do what they can to get the cars off the road. One member of the public said that people from Maple Place and Blackthorn Place were parking on Elm Drive now, and that one family that has recently moved in has four cars, and that there are still another 67 houses to be built on the Blackthorn Place site alone. BS said that he thought a layby on Elm Drive would just be used by people living in Blackthorn Place but that discussions were ongoing with Stewart Milne and PKC to try to resolve this. CS said that she has asked for a community drop-in session at the campus before the October holidays so that people can comment on the options. She is hoping to get a date for that event during the week commencing Monday, September 17th. KK said that people were parking on the roundabout at the bottom of Elm Drive. BS said the police should be told. KK said that he understood where the parents are coming from in that they just concerned for the safety of the children. He said that when they finished digging up the tarmac the machinery was parked on Elm Drive and blocked one lane of the road for about 30-40 metres. SN said that they have drawn up options but they need to have a public meeting. CS said that one of the options being put forward was a pedestrian crossing. IR asked if the crossing at JJ Coupar Recreation Ground was still planned. SN said yes, it was on a long list which also included vehicle activated signage on Coupar Angus Road. CS said that there was going to be a meeting before the October school holidays with Rattray Primary School parent council and council officers about quite extensive safety measure there, including a pilot 20mph zone. IR said that there was understandably a lot of angst about this and that he hoped everyone put their feelings across at the public meeting. MS said that all these are reasons why Stewart Milne should not even think about starting the development without having the road to Hazelwood Road built first. IR said that it would be useful to discuss point before the meeting with RF. CS said that it might be useful to invite RF to the meeting at the campus. BS said that the offer of his meeting was just to discuss the landscaping so it would not be appropriate to discuss that at that meeting. A member of the public said that there was great consternation about the difficulties at the school in Rattray. MS said that it won't make any difference as democracy is dead in PKC.

A member of the public who was at the meeting about the new Recreation Centre in the town on Tuesday, September 11th, asked why they don't build a multi-storey car park on the site of the old recreation centre when it is demolished for parking to increase the number of spaces available, commenting that an additional 65 spaces is just idiotic. IR said that the estimate of 65 will be based on the estimated footprint at the Recreation Centre and what would be a reasonable number of spaces for a building of that size. He added that multi-storey car parks are very expensive to build. The member of the public said that it was pointless them building it and then walking away from it and leaving the residents to deal with the crap. CS said that all the bus stop area and the car park in front of the school can be empty but people park on double yellow lines on Beeches Road. She said there is no natural low to the Recreation Centre but that all that needs to be taken into consideration as there is limited space there. The member of the public asked where the cars are going to park when the new centre is built and they are knocking down the old building, adding that it is going to be hell on earth. CS said that that will be part of the discussions with the user reference group and asked GD if it was something the architects would influence. GD said that if an architect is given a brief for 65 spaces that is what they will work to and that the brief needs to specify that the maximum possible parking is required. CS said that the school is quite determined that lots of their outside circulation space for pupils is not lost and that there are quite a lot of competing demands going on. GD commented that government policy would be don't provide for parking to encourage people to walk to the centre. The member of the public said that at the end of the day the residents there are so frustrated they will explode if it all goes wrong.

Another member of the public said that they had watched the council's planning committee meeting where the Maple Place development was considered on YouTube

and that it was a farce. She said that the way they spoke to BB was shocking, that he made valid points that were dismissed. One thing that allusion was made to was Blackthorn Place and that the land was sold for £710,000 just weeks after development at Blackthorn Place was approved. She said that was a conflict of interest. She said there were also health and wellbeing issues, that Stewart Milne got a transport report done for Blackthorn Place that said there would be four to six extra trips a day but there are only four vehicles there at the moment and there is still another 67 houses to be built. She said that she thinks it is about time that the council took notice of the members of the public who voted them in, that is about time their practices were actually meaningful, that they are supposed to listen to what the public say, that people have a right to houses but that the density of houses there is not conducive to healthy wellbeing. IR said that an amendment had been made to the Local Development Plan 2 to ensure that the maximum number of houses in the range stated in the LDP2 will be the maximum. CS said that there was a caveat to that as the LDP2 has to go to the Scottish Government reporter and they may not accept the amendment. A member of the public asked how many cars per house did PKC allow for. GD said that it depends on the type of housing – there would be less for flats for example – and where they are. The member of the public suggested that that may be a way to challenge the decision. KK said that when he asked PKC about that with regard to Blackthorn Place he was told that they don't have a policy on that and that they make it up as they go along. GD said that PKC has a document for the provision of car parking spaces. BB said that he would like to thank the member of public for their support, and that when a report is put before the committee it isn't left to the committee members to vote on it on how they feel or whether they like it or not, but they have to have a reason why they are voting against the recommendations and it needs to be a competent reason and in this instance he could not do it. He added that the link to Hazelhead Road was not in the original application in principle so could not be put in as a condition; Stewart Milne will build up to their boundary, GS Brown was told to do it but appealed, and he hopes that the two will get together and resolve the issue. KK said that he thought the process is completely wrong but that he doesn't blame the local councillors. He said he believes democracy has been tainted by this process and that if the councillors on the committee had a backbone they would have listened to local people. He added that he would like to thank the local councillors for their support. BB said that is very difficult to say we want to do this when the council has experts who say something different. He said that he wanted to say that the traffic problems would be exasperated by the development but without reports to back that claim up he couldn't do it.

Item 6 – Big guns

BS said that over the last two community markets people were asked if they wanted the big guns back in Blairgowrie and Rattray. Pictures of the guns and information about them was available at the information stand at the markets. 43 people responded by saying yes, they would like them back and three people declined to fill in the form. The main suggestion of where to put them was the Wellmeadow which was not where BS would have chosen, he said. He asked the community council if they felt it was something they can now move on and go back to Historic Environment Scotland and say they would like the guns back in Blairgowrie, and then ask where they can be put. AD suggested that 43 people was maybe not enough to make a decision on. BS said that this was the second time members of the public had been asked what they thought as an article had appeared in the Blairgowrie Advertiser. GD said that he didn't think it was appropriate that weapons of mass destruction were placed in the Wellmeadow next to the War Memorial. BS said that the guns, which were captured German guns, one of which was unique in the world, had to be conserved before they would be brought back to Blairgowrie, and that Historic Environment Scotland would pay for the conservation work. LS asked if there would be any other costs or implications for the community. BS said that apart from providing cover for them no. A member of the public said that if they were that important surely Historic Scotland would be doing more to conserve them and put them on display already. AD asked if

BS

<p>they belonged to this area, BS said that they were given to the town after the war. A vote on whether BS should go back to Historic Environment Scotland and follow it up further was taken with seven community councillors in favour of the motion, two against and two abstaining.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – WWI memorial bench IC said that due to this not being discussed at earlier meetings because of the other issues, and because there was an eight-week lead-in time for the benches, he thought the community council has missed the boat in terms of getting a memorial bench for the town in time for the Armistice Day commemorations. IC said that the wrought iron commemorative benches, which come in various designs, cost around £1000 and asked if the Rotary Club might sponsor it. RD said that his personal feeling was that the Rotary Club preferred to support the living, while not disrespecting the Fallen. He suggested that perhaps some sort of fundraising from the community might be appropriate. IC said that these things take a long time so it was probably a non-starter. RD said that he would bring it up with the Rotary but added that they have quite a lot of demands on the limited funds they have. IR suggested that IC speak to MY about fundraising options.</p>	<p>IC</p>
<p>Item 8 – Co-option of Georgie Kidd There was an email vote of BRCC members about whether to co-opt GK onto the community council. 11 replies were received out of 13 BRCC members and the responses were all in favour. IR said that it was great that young people like GK wanted to be involved with the community council.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – Cycle network and bike rack LS had been asked by Brian Cargill from PKC if the town would be interested in having a bike rack on display in the town, which as far as he understands it is to demonstrate how many bikes can fit into one car parking space. LS commented that there are quite a lot of bike racks in Blair. BS asked if the town would get one of these units to keep if they liked it. LS said no. SN said he wasn't sure what it would achieve. LS said that he would pass the 'no thanks' back to the council. LS said that he would like to give a full report on the routes at the community council's next meeting in October as part of would like to invite someone from PKC, someone from Sustrans, the charity that funds active travel initiatives and the consultant who has been working on the project to the meeting. He has been asked by Sustrans to call the paths 'multi-user' paths or safe routes as they are not just for cyclists. The network is at a critical point in that there are two sticking points, either of which could stop the routes from being developed. The first is the section from Butterybank to the sewage works skirting the community woodland. There is some community opposition and further consultation is taking place. The second is the crossing at the Isla. After exploring all the options, the only one left is for Couttie Bridge to become a single carriageway controlled by lights with a permanent path on the other carriageway. A recent study of traffic volume and flow suggest that this will create no more of an issue to drivers than there is at the Isla Bridge on the way to Perth or the new lights on the Forfar Road in Coupar Angus. The proposal for the bridge was made public at two open meetings last week, one in Coupar Angus and one in Blairgowrie. Both were attended by around 50 people. LS said that the response to the bridge proposal was mainly positive and there seemed to be quite a lot of acceptance that it would be worth it and not a lot of inconvenience. He said that the outline of progress and plans at this meeting of BRCC means that the proposals for the bridge are more firmly in the public domain. However, as there are lots of technical issues LS would like to allocate more time to discuss it more fully at the next BRCC meeting. He said that there may be a need for another meeting or an online survey. The three development trusts need to have a sense that there is enough support for it to go ahead and apply for Sustrans funding. He added that the first phase of the network linking Blairgowrie and Alyth was now open. AD asked what had happened to the idea of using the old railway bridge. LS said that the main reason it wouldn't work was because the landowner won't allow it to happen. IC asked where the path would go after the bridge. LS explained that it would follow the road on the sewage plant side of the road. TM said that the path had to meet Sustrans standards otherwise they wouldn't fund it. CS said that when she</p>	<p>LS</p>

Mr G Kidd

Associate Members:
Ms T Dick

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