



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th October 2018

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

<p>ATTENDANCE Mr B Smith (BS) Mr R Duncan (RD) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mrs D Cushnie (DC) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Ms Hazel Harris (HH) Mr A Thomson (AT) Mr L Seal (LS)</p> <p>APOLOGIES Mr I Richards (IR) Mrs M Young (MY) Mr G Darge (GD) Mr A Donald (AD) Mrs C Thomson (CT) Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr T McEwan (TM) Georgie Kidd (GK)</p> <p>Cat Mackay</p>	<p>Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p> <p>Blairgowrie and Rattray Time Bank</p>	<p>Cllr B Brawn (BB) Ms C Damodaran (CD) 14 Members of the public Mr C Smith Ms Lorna Rumgay Chic Haggart Chris York Sarah Feldman</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Press Fire Scotland Fire Scotland Perth and Kinross Council Consultant Sustrans</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies Vice-chair BS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from IR, CS, TM, CT, AD, MY and GD</p>			<p>BS</p>
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes Adoption of the minutes of the September meeting was proposed by BS and seconded by SN. BS noted that GK may not be on the electoral role and if he isn't he cannot be co-opted onto the community council. He may still be able to be an associate member.</p>			
<p>Item 3 – Matters arising</p> <p>3 Suggestion Boxes LS said that he had tried to create a more eye-catching design for the suggestion boxes and had drafted comment slips. Of the ten places recommended for placing suggestion boxes, eight had agreed, one he had not heard back from yet and one he hadn't approached yet. He added that he has also made contact with the youth alliance who want to work with the community council, and that there have already been suggestions put forward.</p> <p>7 WWI commemoration bench IC said that RD would talk about funding in the treasurer's report. They have permission to replace the bench in the Wellmeadow and</p>			<p>LS</p>

<p>once it has been replaced the community council will be responsible for maintaining it. It is to be the first bench on the right-hand side as you enter the Wellmeadow from the bus terminus side. They are still hoping to get it in place in time for Armistice Day but the company the bench has been ordered from is very busy.</p> <p>9 Cycle Racks LS reported that the cycle rack was about the length of a car and holds about 10 or 12 bikes but that CT would probably have more to say at the next meeting.</p> <p>11 Community Council Boundary Changes SN wrote to the council officer responsible for dealing with community councils to ask about proposals to move Bendochy from Coupar Angus Community Council to Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council. Residents requesting the move pointed out that Bendochy is part of the Blairgowrie and the Glens council ward, rather than the Strathmore ward which covers Coupar Angus, Alyth, Meigle and Scone and that it makes more sense for the community council boundaries to be re-aligned to match the ward boundaries. Both community councils have agreed to the proposal which is now part of a public consultation on a wider review of the local authority's Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils. The eight-week long consultation is open now and until December 3. The proposed amendments can be viewed in libraries in Blairgowrie, Alyth and Coupar Angus. To have your say in the consultation, see www.pkc.gov.uk/communitycouncilsconsultation for further details.</p> <p>11 BRCC reps for Community Investment Fund Panel CT and RD have put their names forward.</p>	<p>IC</p> <p>CT</p> <p>SN</p>
<p>Item 4 - Police and Fire reports There was no report from the police. Chris Smith from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service reported that during September Blairgowrie-based firefighters were mobilised 26 times for five primary fires, two secondary fires, 15 automatic fire alarm operating, two special service calls and two standbys at other stations. Incidents of note included assisting a lady with a serious broken ankle at Braemar Day, forced entry for a missing 90-year-old and administering first aid until the ambulance service arrived, a bedroom fire in Coupar Angus, attending the fire in Dundee's Hilltown and attending the fire at Birnam Auto Services. As part of the station's community safety engagement they attended the Braemar Day event, local RAF cadets completed a three-week young firefighters course at the station learning valuable lifesaving skills, fire safety and team building, Blairgowrie High School Learning Support Unit pupils also completed the course and members of the crew attended their coffee morning to engage with pupils and parents, and two groups of Brownies completed their fire safety badges. Three home safety visits were carried out, two high risk and one medium risk.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Cycle Routes presentation LS said that he was chair of the group that was formed to plan multi-use paths to provide a safe route off the busy roads between Blairgowrie and Rattray, Coupar angus and Alyth. The group was set up around 18 months ago and is now at the stage where there are two issues that need to go out to as big a public consultation as possible. One of these is finding a route out of Coupar Angus and the other is crossing the River Isla. The group asked the council for a safe route across Couttie bridge. SF explained that Sustrans is a charity that aims to make it easier for people to walk or cycle and to make 10 per cent of their journeys by walking or cycling. She said that this project fits within their aims and objectives around every day active travel. CY said that although it was called the Strathmore Cycle Network it was important that people recognised that it is not just about cycling. CY was initially taken on to do a feasibility study to look at how could get a potential link between the three towns. He said that he thought everyone would agree that the main roads between the three towns are quite</p>	<p>LS, Chic Haggart, Chris York and Sarah Feldman</p>

dangerous for cyclists and walkers and horse riders and that it needs to be made safe if going to encourage people to change their way of life. It also needs to be direct, coherent, comfortable and attractive and cost effective. It said the network was going to be a mixture of new build paths and existing roads. Phase 1 has created a link between Lochlands and Blacklaw and was to be officially opened on Friday, October 12, creating an entirely new link delivered by landowners who applied for grants and planning permission themselves and then delivered the paths, all in the last nine months. Phase 2 is the part that Sustrans is supporting and will go from Coupar Angus to the Bendochy crossroads. Construction of around 9km of path will create a network that is 24km long. He thinks an approximate cost of £1.5 million for the network will probably increase. CY said that they looked at using the old railway line as an option but it wasn't feasible and a bridge over the river would cost somewhere in the region of £1m, and that they don't have permission from the landowner so they approached PKC about how to get over the River Isla. CH is the traffic and network manager for PKC. He said that the challenge with getting over the river is that Couttie Bridge is fairly narrow and that it would quite clearly would not be a pleasant road to take if you were walking or cycling on a two-way carriage-way so they came up with the idea of one-way traffic flow. They think this is a realistic option for a number of reasons, particularly given the example of a similar set up at the Kinclaven Bridge where he said the delays there were miniscule in his opinion. He said the pattern of traffic flow is almost identical on both bridges and that he was confident there would be no real delays. He also said that the proposal was to have the lights at both ends of the bridge set to a default of red similar to the arrangement on the new lights on Forfar Road in Coupar Angus where the lights change to green automatically if vehicles are travelling at a reasonable speed. Making the bridge single carriage-way would provide approximately 2.5m of carriage-way for vulnerable road users to use the route. RD said that he thought it was a no-brainer that the routes should go ahead but asked if there would be a barrier on the bridge between the safe route and the vehicles. CH said there would not be a barrier as such but there would be a delineation so that any motorist would be aware if they strayed towards the path. IC asked about the wider vehicles on the bridge; CH admitted it was a challenge. ST said that he thought it was debatable that traffic flow on the two bridges was similar, commenting that there were at least four times as many buses on the Couttie Bridge as the Kinclaven Bridge. CS said that they were the figures they were given and that the traffic flow study had been done quite recently. He said that even though there was more bus journeys it was miniscule compared with the number of cars but added that he would ensure that the figures were checked and that he would get back to the community council on that. ST commented that CH is very aware of the trouble traffic statistics had caused in the town in the past; CH said that all he could say to reassure the community council was that this work had been done by his team. IC asked if there was any wiggle room given the likely increase in the population in Blairgowrie and therefore an increase in traffic. CH said that it was not up to him to look at where it is going to be in five years' time and that he deals purely with the here and now. A member of the public asked if a bridge could be built alongside or attached to the Couttie Bridge to make it safer, CH said it was a listed building and that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) would not allow for that. CY added that had also affected the design and was why they couldn't put an actual barrier on the bridge. RD said that while he understood HES had a remit to preserve the past, putting the preservation of a bridge before the safety of children was astounding. LS said that it was his understanding that the path would not take up the whole of the carriage-way. SF said that Sustrans would be working with PKC to see what they can do to make the bridge as safe as possible. ST asked SF where they were with achieving their target of people making 10 per cent of their journeys by cycling or walking. SF said that it varies from location to location and could be quite a challenge in rural areas. SN said that a considerable number of cyclists already use the bridge and that is currently quite dangerous for them to do so and that something needs to be done to protect existing users as well as encourage new ones. HH asked what will happen when there are big events at Scone Palace for example when the traffic is diverted. She also commented that none of the signs that have been put up

indicate that the paths are also for horse riders and that it would have been good if they could have consulted with horse riders before designing the gates on the current path as the gates that have been installed are not great for horse riders to use. CY said that what is there is better than nothing which is what was there before but hH disagreed saying that there was a path there before. LS said that they were told they couldn't use that path and apologised to HH for a lack of communication on the first phase of the project and said that they were currently carrying out a public consultation on the proposals for Coultie Bridge and had conducted a survey at the most recent community market. If the proposals are not generally supported then they won't go ahead. Two aspects of this are crucial and if either one of them don't happen then it is possible that the whole thing won't go ahead. A member of the public said that they would be worried in case the traffic got too close to the path users and hit them with a wing mirror or something. CY said that hopefully the traffic would be travelling slowly enough that that wouldn't happen. CH said that there would be more space on the path than on any foot path in Blairgowrie. The member of the public pointed out that you could jump out of the way on a foot path but you can't on a bridge. CH said that any changes they made would be monitored after they were implemented to see if they needed to be adapted or changed. Another member of the public asked if they had considered making the traffic lights at both ends of the bridge red while pedestrians etc crossed over. CH said that the evidence was that some drivers ignored the lights altogether in that sort of situation, thinking that they were broken. BS thanked everyone for their contributions and commented that while he was sure most people were in favour of the proposals there were some reservations about safety.

Item 6 – Subjects raised by members of the public

A member of the public, Martin Stone, raised the issue of the GS Brown planning application for 60 houses on ground between Honeyberry Crescent and Kirkton Road in Rattray. He said that local residents were hoping that the community council would support them in their opposition to the development. Kirkton Road is very narrow and there is no scope for improvement of the passing places and at the moment traffic uses private driveways as passing places. He said it is unacceptable that the council is so blasé about this. SN said that concerns have been raised but that no planning application has been made yet. Mr Stone said that his understanding was that the planning submission would be made around October 19th or 20th once the 12 week notice period was up and that it would be a resubmission of plans that were approved in 2013 and that the issue of traffic which was raised then was not satisfactorily resolved at that stage and obviously there is more traffic using it now. BS said that the community council would consider putting in an objection but added that an objection from the community council would still only count as one objection and that they would recommend that residents submit objections of their own as well. BB said that CS has tried to arrange a meeting with traffic officers and the case officer for this obligation but that the council was currently in recess. ST said that this is another example of PKC saturating the town and that they are already building at Springfield and at Glenalmond Road and now Honeyberry and it looks as though once again it will go ahead. He said Kirton Road is not suitable and to build another 60 houses there is another diabolical liberty. The developers just march on regardless, they don't live here, they don't take their kids to school here, they don't work here or shop here. BS agreed that it was not appropriate to use Kirkton Road but that using the High Street was not appropriate either. Another member of the public mentioned the proposed additional housing planned for Alyth will bring even more traffic along the High Street through Rattray driving to Blair and making that road even more busy. DC said that at the moment there were already backlogs of traffic coming through Rattray, particularly at the give way junctions, and that there were cars parked on the roadside. She said the traffic coming through the town is ever-increasing and the council is absolutely not looking at the bigger picture. The traffic that sits at Balmoral Road is really bad for air pollution too, and that the whole thing is unbelievable. The council needs to listen to the people that live here. SN said that the community council responded to this as part of the LDP and that it is quite clear that no one has looked at how the infrastructure of a pre-

<p>Victorian town like Blairgowrie is going to cope with a population explosion from building 2500 houses. He said the community council has raised this many times and will continue to do so and that it was useful to hear public opinion on this. Ken Kemp said that he was one of the people who raised the petition about the Blackthorn Place development and that although they lost that fight one of the points that came out of it was that the elected members will listen and will fight if they believe it is right to fight. He said that the planning convener came to a community council meeting and said that the traffic impact was assessed on the same model that is used in Edinburgh and Glasgow. BB said that each application is looked at individually. He said that he tried to object to the Maple Place development on the grounds of road safety but the planners said that those problems were already there so it was not a valid objection, which is probably what they would say in the case of Honeyberry. Martin Stone said that PKC had approached the developer to develop the land. BB said that the case officer had confirmed to him that they had written to the developers as part of the LDP2 process. A member of the public said that the traffic survey was done at a quiet time of the year.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Replacement Recreation Centre</p> <p>AT said that fight for Blairgowrie Recreation Centre is up there with Oakbank Road and the traffic lights - it is one of the most important projects for this community council, and those were both projects that through the will of the people have been resolved. He said that he has a vested interest in the reccie from a number of different points of view: a grandad; chair of Blairgowrie and Rattray Football Club; a member of the Eastern Perthshire Community Sports Hub; a member of BRCC; and a concerned resident who pays his council tax. He said that PMR Leisure was commissioned by PKC in 2017 to consult with the community on what they would like from the new centre for which £17.7million had been allocated in 2016. The main thing was a 25m six lane swimming pool which everyone agreed on even if they were not swimmers. PMR Leisure also came up with a solution to the problem of providing an all weather pitch suitable for the three main sports clubs in the town – football, rugby and hockey – specifically a 2G surface at the school for hockey and a 3G pitch at Davie Park for rugby and football. Then came the cuts to a budget that had been set in stone to fix Perth High School, a deserving cause and while everyone values kids’ education once again it is Blairgowrie and Rattray that are being affected by cuts. The cuts were not made to propping up an old church building in the centre of Perth or to maintaining a city hall that splits opinions in Perth or for re-developing areas within the city centre with a new cinema to name but a few. Once it is opened in 2022 it will be a fabulous building no doubt but it will have been six years since its inception and the population in Blairgowrie and Rattray will have grown by then so in five or ten years’ time that new reccie will already be totally inadequate. ST said that he wanted the community council to make clear what its position is to Perth and Kinross Council, saying that the community council is there to represent the local community and it was obvious from the public meeting chaired by the community council last month that there is a lot of resentment towards PKC, particularly with regards to only installing five lanes instead of six for the pool. He said that this is a big project but that Blairgowrie and Rattray is a big town and deserves to be treated as such. He asked whether BRCC was just accepting what has been proposed, had BRCC lodged any form of response or statement, had the council officers come back with any other options, what did BRCC think of the petition to reinstate the original budget, and has there been any response from the council. BB said that a lot of comments were made at the public meeting and council officers had already met with the Dolphins Swimming Club, Blairgowrie High School and the Eastern Perthshire Community Sports Hub and it has come across that six lanes is the most important point. Councillor Shiers said at that meeting that the councillors were listening, and we have spoken with the leader of the council who has said that nothing is set in stone. Nothing has come forward since then but he thinks they are really aware of the situation. Nothing can be done until then. When it comes to the money, that £3 million is committed elsewhere, it’s not coming back and it is not just Blair that has lost money. When it was suggested that the money could come from</p>	<p>AT</p>

<p>reserves – that can't be done. Following a unanimous vote the community council agreed to write to PKC emphasising the concerns of the community with regard to the £3 million cut to the budget.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – Treasurer's Report</p> <p>RD read a report from MY about Bonfire night in her absence. The report said the community council has re-launched its crowdfunding initiative to try to raise money for its proposed firework display for the town following the success of a similar event last year when hundreds of people enjoyed a spectacular firework display and bonfire night party at Davie Park. The first business has signed up to be on the 'fantastic 500' list. Hodge Solicitors is the first local business to donate a cheque for £500 which has been very gratefully received. Perth and Kinross Council has also awarded £500 from the common good fund and thanks are due to local councillors Tom McEwan, Caroline Shiers and Bob Brawn for their support in securing these funds which will play a big part in funding the costs of the firework display. The Rotary Club of Blairgowrie and WM Coupar are also to be thanked for their kind donations of £250 and £100 respectively. More funds are in the pipeline and whatever support local residents would like to give would also be much appreciated. Before last year's event it was a really long time, nearly 10 years, since the community was able to enjoy the sights and sounds of Bonfire Night. The funds raised for this event do a tremendous amount of good - the event plays a huge part in giving local people a focal point, a chance to come together and enjoy something regardless of age, race or belief, and to be able to do that within their own community and without having to travel. It creates memories and stories that people retell for years. These are the type of events that help create a community and promote social interaction between residents and neighbours, helping to get people out of their houses and preventing social isolation.</p> <p>The main account stands at £1644.48 after the fee for minute taking. £63.10 was collected at the community markets for the fireworks. A payment for £1066.80 for the WWI bench has been made but this will be refunded shortly from donations. The B Account stands at £4956.33 as at October 1. There is a balance of £856.70 which is being held for the nativity display. Funds collected for the fireworks will be deposited shortly.</p> <p>WWI bench – at the last meeting it was felt that this was a good project but that given the timescales it might be difficult to pursue. However, after the meeting the community council received an offer to underwrite the cost of the bench and that it should be ordered as soon as possible. Emails were sent to all community councillors and the decision to go ahead was approved. Crowdfunding was instigated by the treasurer and so far £385 has been donated through the JustGiving site. There have been other direct donations from the Rotary, the British Legion and other members of the public and £75 was collected from the collection box in the One Voice office. Currently the total is £1160 which covers the purchase cost but there may be additional costs associated with the installation of the bench. RD suggested considering attaching a plaque to the bench thanking the benefactors, and thanked IC, MY and CD for a job well done. IC said that he didn't think the design of the bench lent itself to a plaque and that there was no obvious place to put it. Perhaps a formal thank you in the Blairie would be enough but that can be discussed later.</p>	<p>RD</p>
<p>Item 9 – Councillors' Reports</p> <p>BB said that CS was working on the Rattray Primary School nursery expansion issue which has gone back to the council officers to draw up new proposals. He said that CS has asked them not to rush anything and to consider what the parent council has suggested. He said the closure of Strone Bridge for repair has been postponed until May next year due to concerns about inclement weather. There are to be new electric</p>	<p>BB</p>

<p>car charging points at the car park at Blairgowrie Library and a new one in Kirkmichael. These are due to be installed in November or December.</p> <p>ST asked BB if what he had heard about a possible MUGA being installed on the common ground next to Rattray Primary School to appease the parents was true. BB said that it was one of the things that was being considered but that as it would be available for use by the community outside of school hours it would still be in the common good.</p>	
<p>Item 10 - Pending Planning Applications None</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Secretary’s correspondence None</p>	
<p>Item 12 – AOCB ST said that PKC had come up trumps and installed a new boiler and heating system in Blairgowrie Town Hall. DC asked about flytipping; BB said she could report it online at mypkc.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, November 8th, 2018, 7pm, in the Adult Resource Centre, 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 H Harris
Mr S Nichol
Mr I Richards
Mr L Seal
Mr B Smith
Mr A Thomson
Mrs C Thomson
Mrs M Young

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick
Georgie Kidd

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers
Mr B Brawn
Mr T McEwan

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PKC Community Councils
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