



# BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 February 2019

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

<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>          Mr I Richards (IR)          Mr B Smith (BS)          Mr R Duncan (RD)          Mr S Nichol (SN)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Mr A Thomson (AT)          Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Mrs D Cushnie (DC)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mrs C Thomson (CT)          Mr L Seal (LS)</p> <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr T McEwan (TM)          Cllr B Brawn (BB)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>Mrs Kim MacBain</p> <p>6 members of the public</p> <p>Mr P Smith</p> <p>Daryl McKeown (DM)</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Press</p> <p>Possible co-opted member of BRCC</p> <p>Fire Scotland</p> <p>Perth and Kinross Council (PKC)</p>
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies</b>          IR welcomed everyone to the meeting including Daryl McKeown from Perth and Kinross Council. Apologies were received from GD, LS, CT, DC, Cllr CS and the police.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p><b>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes</b>          The draft minutes of the January meeting were considered for adoption. SN proposed the adoption of the minutes; AD seconded.</p>			<p>All</p>
<p><b>Item 3 – Matters Arising</b>  <b>Christmas Tree</b> – MY asked how people would feel if there was a permanent tree in the Wellmeadow that was a suitable height and type. She said the idea was first suggested by Paul Summers from PKC and having procured and set up the Christmas tree twice now she felt it would much easier to have a permanent tree. That section of the Wellmeadow doesn't get used much at the markets although it might affect Braemar Day. SN asked how they would stop the tree getting too tall. MY said that she could get some input from Sholach Trees on the type of tree. IC asked if would be planted in the ground. MY said yes but it might be in some sort of tub to stop the roots spreading and affecting pipes and cables. ST asked if it could be placed a bit further back than the Christmas Trees have ben to date so that it didn't affect events such as the Remembrance services and Braemar Day. MY said she would speak to Sholach</p>			<p>MY</p>

<p>Trees about trimming it and that it could be used as a decorating tree for all kinds of events other than Christmas such as Valentine’s Day and Easter for example. SN said the positioning of the tree this year was good as you could see it when you approached Blairgowrie from Rattray and that it would be could if people could see it from the bridge. Mary Birch, chair of Blair in Bloom was at the meeting and commented that they didn’t look after the Wellmeadow and were concerned it might get vandalised but other than that they thought it was a great idea. IR suggested MY speak to the tree specialist at PKC, Richard Brough. MY said she will follow it up and report back to the community council.</p>	
<p><b>Recreation Centre</b> – IR said that CS had been due to provide an update and asked if in her absence BB or TM had any information. They said no, not until the capital budget was set on February 20<sup>th</sup>. CS said not at the moment but that the capital budget process was under way ahead of the council’s budget meeting in February. ST said that the community has been waiting on news for quite a while and that someone should have come to make a report. He asked if the budget was to be cut again and is the community was ever going to get the new recreation centre, commenting that we are now in February 2019 and that one of the initial completion dates for the new centre was 2020, which is less than a year away. IR said that the whole community is unanimous in its support for a new recreation centre for the town and that he thought the level of public feeling is well understood. MY said that she hoped the interests of the community are put at the heart of the budget decision and that there won’t be any political overtones to it. Cllr TM said that his party’s feelings on the issue would be made clear soon.</p>	CS
<p><b>Cycle Racks</b> – IR said that as CT was not present this would be carried over to the next meeting.</p>	CT
<p><b>CCTV</b> – IR said that there had been several debates around the table about this and that Roddy Ross was quite keen to come and talk to the community council about it. There was to be a meeting at the police station with the police, councillors, the community council and Roddy Ross on February 14<sup>th</sup> to look at ways to take this forward. IR will report back on that meeting after the event. He said that the general concern that CS had was one of displacement and if there was CCTV in the Wellmeadow then the problems would move elsewhere, but that the official line is that that is not what happens. MY asked if the Wellmeadow was where the camera was going to go. IR said that the attempted mugging on Gas Brae, the assault outside SCYD and the vandalism to the Wishing Well was what prompted the discussion although obviously there had since been vandalism on Harriet Row. He said that the 360 degree camera would take in a wide area.</p>	IR
<p><b>Citizen of the Year</b> – IR said that AD, DC and himself had met and agreed to adopt the same system as last year, inviting nominations for both the Citizen of the Year and the Young Person of the Year awards from March 18<sup>th</sup> until April 15<sup>th</sup> and that the public would then vote for who they feel is most appropriate from the nominations. He said the Blairgowrie Advertiser had kindly offered to print the forms again. AD said that forms would be available in newsagents, shops, the library, the One Voice office, the BRDT office, the high school, the Recreation Centre and SCYD and should be returned to the library. IR said that it has been frustrating trying to get people to nominate youngsters and asked if everyone could give some thought to changing that. MY asked if a banner could be made for the Wellmeadow highlighting that nominations were open. IR said that it seemed like a good idea and asked MY to think about the layout for a banner.</p>	IR
<p><b>Former dump on the banks of the Ericht</b> – IR said that he had received a response from Willie Young from PKC’s environment services team that said that when PKC did remedial work at the site last summer the dump was cut back 10m, the rubbish removed, and a banking put in. PKC is adamant that there is no leakage and they been to check the site and are satisfied that it is intact. IR said that if anyone wants a copy of the response to contact him and that if everyone agreed he considered the matter closed.</p>	IR

**Cycle Maps** – IR said that as LS was not there, he could only say that a proof of the maps has been produced showing the new cycle route and it was due to be published imminently. Proper signage was expected to be in place this month.

**Item 4 – Subjects raised by members of the public**

Peter Ritchie from Ferguson Park said that he thought the plans for a **MUGA on the football pitch on Rattray Common** was not a good idea. He said the kids have nothing in Rattray and it's the safest place for them to go so why take that away from them. He said he wasn't against the idea of a MUGA but suggested it was put up by the skate park instead. He said all the kids need there is a set of goals. Kids of five or six years old can't go to Davie Park across the main road. ST said that he agreed with what Peter said and that as the school has expanded over the years there has been a hotch potch of facilities. Maintaining the existing pitch there properly would be more cost effective. Peter said that the kids there love it. The posts were broken and were taken away to get fixed but have not come back yet but the kids are safe there. If they want a MUGA then put it where the skate park is where there is plenty of room. ST said that if a fence is put up there then they lose the space and that his fear is that if the MUGA comes under education then it will be used by the school during school hours but who will look after it at night or during the weekends or holidays. At the moment anyone can use it any time. If you repaired the goals and re-laid the surface it would be superb and that what needed. IR said that what they were saying made sense. BB said that the idea had come about in discussions about the nursery expansion at Rattray Primary School and the loss of playground space as a result of that. He said there was no funding from planning development for a MUGA. ST said that a survey was under way by the Eastern Perthshire Community Sports HUB (EPCSH). He said it was a good idea in some sense as the playground at the school was a disgrace, but it could be tidied up and get a new surface and it would be a better facility. He said the sports hub will look at the support for the proposals from the survey results and decide what to do then. Peter said that he was not against the MUGA just not in that space. AD asked about the size of the MUGA and wanted to check that if it was on common land then it couldn't be charged for. IR asked for the contact details of the chair of EPCSH so that he could get in touch and pass on his concerns.

Peter also asked about **the lollipop man at Rattray Primary School** and rumours that he was to be sacked. BB said that a private paper at the council was leaked. School crossings are under review but before anything was done each one would be risk assessed on its own merit. He said that recruitment of lollipop personnel was very difficult and that they had a school crossing controller and a pedestrian crossing in Rattray and other places. TM said that several proposals had been put forward and that he thought about 30 posts were vacant in the region. He said people were not taking up the posts and that the council had to look at ways where it could free up money that was not being used.

A member of the public raised concerns about **the junction of Honeyberry Drive and Rattray High Street**, asking if the double yellow lines could be extended. He said the situation is just getting worse and worse. DM from PKC said there was no reason why they couldn't look at doing that and that he would be happy to meet with the member of the public on site to look at the situation. He said that they have looked at the area around Honeyberry Drive several times in recent years and they would be happy to revisit it. He said that yellow lines don't always deter people and that the council has had been looking at developing a 20mph policy and that it has been suggested that Rattray Primary School might be part of that trial. BB said that he had had a meeting with the traffic team and if that development goes ahead then they may look at extending the yellow lines. IC asked if vehicle activated signs could be tied in with speed cameras. DM said that legislation did not allow for that. Speed cameras are controlled by the police and Transport Scotland. He said he would ask for clarification whether speed cameras only go in after a casualty. MY asked why there was a build out on Hatton Road. Dm said because the community had asked for it.

<p>Another member of the public asked if they were any further forward with getting <b>beeps on the traffic lights</b> at the Wellmeadow. SN said there would be no change to the council's position that beeps would not be installed. The member of the public asked if they were waiting until someone got bumped, adding that the situation was completely unacceptable and that lots of people have complained about it. MY said that CH said that he hadn't heard from anyone complaining about it and asked if she could pass his email on to the people who were complaining. DM said that that decision was taken by the Centre for Inclusive Living. KM said that people with guide dogs had complained to her. DM offered to set up a meeting with interested groups.</p>	
<p><b>Item 5 – Police and Fire reports</b>  <b>Fire report</b> Blairgowrie firefighters were mobilised to incidents 23 times in January, including two RTCs on the Blairgowrie to Alyth road and some chimney fires, which was to be expected at this time of year. They had also been called to a couple of forced entries to give medical assistance which is becoming part of their job more and more. A fire appliance attended the Big Get Together at Rattray Primary School and had a charity car wash planned for the spring. They are also looking to do something in the summer to raise money for charity following on from the successful event they held last year. Two new firefighters had joined so they were now at full complement of firefighters. Firefighters carried out 13 free home fire safety visits (HFSV) including two return visits to properties previously considered as high risk as they get return visits once a year. They are also visiting commercial properties such as Ballathie House Hotel and the Cottage Hospital so that if they get called out to these venues, they have an understanding of the layout of the building before they go in. MY said that the community council could advertise the car wash on the faecbook page when the details were confirmed. TM asked if they received any false alarms. PS said they go through phases at the High School for example, but they always attend and then go back for some training and education there. He said they do get some false alarms but not as much as they used to.</p>	PS
<p><b>Item 6 – Time Bank</b>  Cat was unable to make the meeting.</p>	Cat Mackay
<p><b>Item 7 – Roads Issues</b>  DM said that he believed the last update to the community council was some months ago. The last copy of the list that he had seen had 30 items on it, several which were not in Blairgowrie and Rattray but further up the glen. He said that he was happy to provide an update on a more regular basis and to get feedback from the community as well on how it was received. <b>Loading bays</b> – his understanding was that the redetermination of the loading bays in the town to parking spaces was left to CS to arrange a public consultation. <b>Street audit</b> – most of the items identified in the Living Streets audit last year have been addressed and that they were having to secure funding to finish the process. A handrail on the far side of the bridge should be in place before the end of the financial year. PKC had been approached by the parent council and the pupil council at <b>Rattray Primary School</b> and identified a number of locations where improvements could be made. He said a few action points had come from that and that they had had such a good response from pupils that they would like to continue that relationship. Concerns had been raised about inappropriate speeds on <b>Old Mill Road and Kirkton Road</b> and they were looking at several options there including some sort of traffic calming measures coming into the residential areas and also where the core paths meet the road. They would be consulting with members of the public and landowners there and would look to progress that in the next financial year. <b>Blairgowrie Community Campus</b> – he said that the council knows there are a whole list of issues in that area and to help address that there is going to be a drop-in session on Wednesday, February 20, from 2pm to 7.30pm at the community campus. Representatives from the council will be at the meeting with several maps and plans and want people to highlight where they are having problems with speeding traffic or crossing the road for example. They could look at creating a school exclusion zone, laybys or cycle paths - all these options are open for discussion. He is aware there's</p>	DM

been a debate about proposals to widen the footpath on Elm Drive - that has gone to committee and been approved but it doesn't have to happen. The police are leading on this with support from the pupil council and head teachers. IR asked what was being done to encourage pupils to go to the event. DM said that was being addressed by the school and they were hoping that the Junior Road Safety Officers would make some sort of presentation to encourage the pupils to go along. DM said that they were looking to create a **cycling friendly route from Coupar Angus to Bendochy** and had approval to start with a formal consultation process to reduce the speed limit there to 40mph. **Ashgrove Terrace** – requests for a disabled parking area there were with the community greenspace team. **Coupar Angus Road** – they are looking at possible locations for two crossings and will be liaising the community council on that. They are also looking at the installation of two vehicle activated signs and where would be the most appropriate location for them. The signs don't record speed but do provide analysis and Coupar Angus Road is likely to give them interesting data. The signs can be moved if required. There had been a request to move the mini roundabout at Forrest Way as drivers tend to ignore it but if it was removed it would remove the deflection of traffic. They will look at it though and discuss it with Police Scotland and report back to the community council. **Hatton Road** - they could extend the parking further up the road if necessary but the main plan for this financial year is traffic calming measures and he will send these to the community council when the proposals have been drafted. **Lower Mill Street** – proposals for a one-way system there were going through the process. **Kirk Wynd** – there are problems with the width of the road there and parking. Input from residents and the community is needed before they can do anything there. **Perth Street and the junction with the High Street and Reform Street** – there is some confusion with some drivers thinking that the green light at the crossing is a green light for the junction. They looked at options including a ramp all over the junction, but it was decided to go with a ramp just on one part. Unfortunately, there had still been a number of accidents there, although fortunately no one had been hurt but there was the potential for a major incident. They have talked about signalling the whole junction or putting in a pedestrian crossing which would address the problems but would result in the loss of parking spaces. DM asked people to report incidents such as the accident on the Blairgowrie to Alyth road mentioned in the fire report as local authorities no longer got that information from the police and were otherwise unaware of such situations. SN said that he had a couple of items to add to the list including the junction of **Croft Lane and Leslie Street** where there is an incident almost every day. The road signs there are very high and the paint on the road needs to be redone. The street lighting there is also poor with several of the lights not working. DM said they would look at that. SN said they needed a review of **signage for parking** in the town and asked if they could use the area of the former garden centre for a **car park**. AD said that there was poor visibility at the junction of Union Street and William Street and that there had been accidents there too. DM said he would look at that. AD said that **drop kerbs** would help the Tayside Contracts staff, particularly at Hatton Road, Perth Road and Coupar Angus Road. He said that **overgrown hedges** were covering pavements and obscuring lights. DM asked for a list of the locations where this was happening, and he would pass it on to the road's maintenance team. SN asked that the schedule of work be kept up-to-date. TM said that there was to be an estates-based walk about around **Ashgrove Terrace** on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm to identify issues that need to be actioned there. IC asked if anything could be done about the junction coming out on to **Golf Course Road** which was obscured by vegetation, adding that people don't stick to the speed limit there either. MY asked by puffin crossings were being proposed for **Coupar Angus Road** rather than zebra crossings. DM said that zebra crossings work in urban areas where speeds are lower but are difficult for people with visual impairments according to research. MY asked what the feedback had been on the layby at Hatton Road. DM said positive. She said it was very dark there and he said he would speak to the illuminations team at the council about that. MY asked if they were going to create a path from the pavement to the skate park so that people could skate or scoot to the skatepark. DM said he could pursue that with the community greenspace team. KM

<p>asked if the path from Kinlcoch Gardens to the school was going to be finished. Dm said that was a Springfield Properties issue. IR thanked DM for coming and said that it was a breath of fresh air to have so many questions answered.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Community Speed Watch</b>  IR said that this was an initiative from Sgt Nicky Forrester from Police Scotland who he had met with recently. He had emailed everyone the proposals and said that it seemed to be a good initiative if handled properly although it would depend on how practical it was and what was being offered. SN said that he had confirmed with Sgt Forrester that the community council would be taking part in it. IR said that recent speed camera checks on Coupar Angus Road showed that while the vast majority of drivers stick to the speed limit many don't, and it is definitely a problem there and on Golf Course Road that needs further investigation. DM said that it was based on a trial by Fife police and that local authority's only involvement was an assessment of the site where operators were going to be deployed. The idea is to give local communities some sort of input into influencing speed in the area. People are trained in the use of handheld speed cameras and go out in pairs. The information they gather can't be used for enforcement purposes. Most offenders are probably local people as they know the roads. This was also discussed at a meeting in Meigle recently too. TM said that he had also forwarded the email to the heads of the schools so that they could be involved too. DM said that it ties in well with subjects such as maths and geography. RD said that they want to take a stand at the Drive-It Day in the Wellmeadow in April to talk to people about the initiative. IR said that he has a meeting with SGT Forrester to talk about it further.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p><b>Item 9 – Drive-It Day</b>  RD said that the cars would be coming from Blairgowrie Golf Club along Coupar Angus Road to the Wellmeadow. Goodie bags would be given out there to slow the cars passing through the town down. IR said they would track down the inflatable arch. MY is to contact Davidson's about providing electricity for the arch. RD said that there had been huge demand to take part and they had reached their maximum of 8 cars already with a waiting list of 20. They were trying to encourage those on the waiting list to bring their cars to the Wellmeadow as part of the display. If anyone has any cars that they want to enter in the display they should contact Colin Stewart either through the website or the Facebook page. There will be a couple of food stalls at the Wellmeadow for the event but the focus this year will be very much on the cars and making it a quality event for car enthusiasts of all ages. MY said that the Blair event is the one that raises the most amount of money. IR said that the intention was also to have a range of cars at the library the weekend before as part of the Our Heritage group pop-up museum.</p>	<p>RD/MY</p>
<p><b>Item 10 – Antisocial behaviour and vandalism</b>  IR said that Sgt Forrester had said that there are not enough activities for young people to do in the town and that she wants to encourage working with young people more. MY raised the issue of vandalism and antisocial behaviour at John Norrie's Way saying that the homeowner was accumulating significant financial costs repairing damage done to his property. IR said that they would revisit investigations into closing it.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p><b>Item 11 – Treasurer's Report</b>  RD said that there had been no movement in the resilience account which had a balance of £4956.33. In the main account, fees of £65 had been paid for licensing the Wellmeadow for the Drive-It Day but this will be refunded by the Rotary Club in due course. There was a donation for £30 towards the Remembrance bench and a small sum from the well deposited. Repairs to the well are being made and the community council will be informed when these are complete. There was the monthly payment to the secretary and there will be a refund to the British Legion as agreed after their £200 donation towards the Remembrance bench was made with a condition. The balance of</p>	<p>RD</p>

<p>the account is currently at £3848.20. RD asked if AD could follow up with DC about her husband looking at the well.</p>	
<p><b>Item 10 – Local Councillor Reports</b>  TM said that closures to the A9 would be coming into effect this month and that southbound traffic would be diverted through Blairgowrie. He is concerned that the sort of traffic on the A9 is not necessarily the sort of traffic that would be wanted on these roads and that the advice should probably be not to traffic during the closures. He said that there were two things from the Scottish Government budget that could affect local authorities, specifically parking levies for driving to work and a tourist tax. It is up to individual local authorities whether they implement them. Officers at PKC will be doing a report on this. There was a discussion about what this would mean for Blairgowrie, in terms of people coming to visit the town for example or for businesses like Castle Water. TM said that PKC may decide not to implement it at all or maybe only in Perth city and that we would just have to wait and see.  BB said that parking at the Riverside comes under the jurisdiction of community greenspace and that the traffic wardens can't go in there and issue tickets as far as he understands it, He has contacted Andy Clegg for clarification but has not heard back from him yet. IR said that it would be good to get the roads department and community greenspace together to sort this out. BB said that the Community Investment Fund panel had been set up and is trying to meet this month for the first decisions before passing their recommendations to the council's strategic policy and resources committee for a final decision. One application had been received so far but he understood there were more to come before the deadline next week. BB said that plans were being prepared for the extension of the nursery at Rattray Primary School and that the planning application could possibly go before the planning committee depending on the number of objections it received. Parents objected to where it was going although they wanted the facility.</p>	<p>TM and BB</p>
<p><b>Item 13 – Pending Planning Applications</b>  None had been flagged</p>	
<p><b>Item 14 – Secretary's correspondence</b>  None</p>	<p>SN</p>
<p><b>Item 15 – AOCB</b>  BS said that he had been approached by a local business about how safe the bridge over the Ericht was and wondered if the community council could get a proper engineers' report on it. SN said he would email DM for a copy of the latest report.  IR said that someone had said that Castle Water had applied for season tickets for all of the available PKC parking spaces in the town. IR said that there are 63 PKC parking spaces in the town and that season tickets have been issued for 13 of them. Castle Water are in the process of applying for eight of them to offset the use of the Riverside car park. IR said that the utilities manager at Castle Water was going to have regular meetings to keep everyone apprised of what's going on. IR said that the community had tolerated the situation so far and appreciated that Castle Water was bringing employment to the town, but that patience was wearing thin. Peter Ritchie asked if Tesco gave them land to use for parking. IR said he would ask when he met with them next week. SN said it was really nothing to do with Castle Water in his view but driver behaviour and that everyone is guilty of selfish parking every now and then, and that it wasn't just a problem with Castle Water. MY said that when a company of that size is based in a community the size of Blairgowrie the company had some sort of corporate responsibility not to impact on the community in that way. IR said that Castle Water was encouraging people to car share but that he didn't know how successful that had been, and that the original comment that they had applied for all the parking spaces in the town was nonsensical.</p>	

**Date of Next Meeting**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7pm in the Small Hall, Rattray Church, Balmoral Road.

All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mrs D Cushnie  
Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Mr R Duncan  
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  
Mr Georgie Kidd

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers  
Mr B Brawn  
Mr T McEwan

External:

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

Approved Minutes Distribution:

Website  
One Voice  
Blairgowrie Library  
Discover Blairgowrie  
Police and Fire Scotland