



**BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> April  
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)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mrs M Young (MY)          Mrs K MacBain (KM)          Mr B Rickwood (BR)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>           Mrs C Thomson (CT)           Cllr T McEwan (TM)          Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Cllr B Brawn (BB)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>5 members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith          Ms L Rungay</p> <p>Sgt N Forrester</p> <p>Kimberly O'Brian          Claire Smith</p> <p>Alistair MacLeod</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Press</p> <p>Scottish Fire and          Rescue Service</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Community warden          Community warden</p> <p>Community          Greenspace</p>
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<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies</b>          IR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from CT. Diane Cushnie has decided to step down from the community council. IR also welcomed community wardens Kimberly O'Brian (KoB) and Claire Smith (CS), Alistair MacLeod (AM) from Perth and Kinross Council's community greenspace team and new co-opted members of the community council Kim MacBain and Brian Rickwood. IR explained for the minutes that community councillors had gone through the voting procedure to co-opt the two new members by email. Only elected members that were eligible to vote did so. All those eligible to vote did so and the decision to co-opt KM and BR was</p>	<p>IR</p>
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The Hubco procurement process is underway; interviews are being scheduled to appoint a main contractor, an architectural design team and engineering consultants. Appointments should be made by the end of April.

**Consultation**

A User Reference Group (URG) will be established once initial design sketches are produced for discussion. This is likely to be around 4 to 5 months from inception of the design team.

Please contact Brian Reid at [breid@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:breid@pkc.gov.uk) or on 01738 476336 should you have any queries or require any additional information.

GD commented that it was unusual to appoint a designer and the main contractor at the same time. He asked CS to find out if the project was going to be a 'design and build' project and if it was going to competitive tender. CS said she would clarify that. MY said that a member of the public had said to her that rather than having a movable floor in the swimming pool it would be better to spend some of that money on a sprung floor for the gym. CS said that as far as she understood it the moveable floor in the swimming pool was specified by Live Active Leisure as that's what they think their customers want but that that was precisely the sort of thing that could be discussed as part of the user reference group that would be set up.

**Cycle Racks** – This item was carried over to the next meeting as CT was not present.

**Cycle Maps and Signage** – LS said that 1000 maps had been printed and distributed, including in Coupar Angus and Alyth, and seemed to be quite popular. The path was becoming known and being used. A PDF of the map will also be uploaded onto the community council website and linked to its Facebook page. LS has been assured that the signs on the road are either there now or will be imminently. The signs on the path itself have been delayed but they are very much needed and the money was there for them. They may need to print more maps. AD suggested linking in with BRAN as they want to produce a map of the path network. KM suggested putting the map on the council's community website as well.

**Community Speedwatch** – IR said that he had attended a meeting at the police station where the thinking behind the initiative was talked through. It started in Canada many years ago and had been taken up by various council areas in England. It would be a group of volunteers who after receiving the necessary training would be entitled to note the speed of various vehicles in the town. It would probably require 10 volunteers for a town the size of Blairgowrie and Rattray who would work in pairs. One person would use what is a fairly advanced speed device and the other person would record the speeds and the make, model and colour of the vehicles. Information would be sent to Dundee and a letter sent to the speeding drivers. A second letter would be sent if they were caught again and a third letter if they were caught a third time stating that if they were caught by the police they would be prosecuted. There would be an advance warning sign at least 200 yards before where the volunteers would be standing and the volunteers would be wearing high visibility jackets. There would be a survey of affected roads to monitor the effectiveness of the initiative. It would be a long-term commitment on the part of the volunteers. Meigle and Ardler were looking into being part of the scheme. There would be an initial trial period of three months where the only cost would be for the hi-vis jackets. After the trial period there would be a discussion about whether the

CT

LS

IR

community council wanted to go ahead with it on a permanent basis. If yes then the cost would be in the region of £3000 for the jackets, the laser gun and the warning signs. There would probably be support through Roddy Ross who may be able to find appropriate funding bodies. IR asked if everyone agreed to a sub-group being set up to look at it in more detail and to discuss it with Sgt Forrester. Other communities had raised issues about people being known as volunteers but apparently there had been no repercussions. NF said that this is not about taking responsibility for speeding away from the police, it is about empowering the community. It will not stop the traffic department being visible in the area, they are selling it as a preventative measure. Officers had recently carried out checks on Coupar Angus Road and found that the majority of drivers adhered to the speed limit. There does seem to be a problem on Golf Course Road and someone had been caught speeding on Perth Road. The police will revisit these areas as the information they have gathered so far is just a snapshot. They focus on areas where people are highlighting that there are issues. Community speedwatch is more to allow residents to do it was well. Hopefully when people see the warning signal, they will adjust their speed accordingly. This is just a tactic that they are sharing with community councils which Police Scotland supports. IR said that they had looked in to how larger community councils could help smaller neighbouring community councils which is something to be considered. He asked Sgt Forrester if Police Scotland would have a presence at Rattray Primary School when the new 20mph speed limit is being trialled. NF said that the council was keen that when checks are done, they are done naturally so that it is true reflection of the issues there. BB said that he had spoken to Mount Blair Community Council and Mount Blair Community Development Trust and they were supportive of community speedwatch but as the scheme only applied to speed limits under 40mph it was not as relevant up there but there was room for discussion regarding possible collaboration. ST and BS volunteered to be on the sub-group.

#### **Item 4 – Police and Fire reports**

Craig Smith said that Blairgowrie firefighters had nine call outs during March which was 36% lower than March 2018. Four of these were false alarms to business premises, one was an appliance visit regarding combustible items in common stairwell, one was making building safe and one was providing assistance to the police to enter premises. Incidents of note included assisting the ambulance service with casualty care for a person who had fallen at Alyth Den. They had visited primary one and two pupils at Newhill Primary School and are holding a fundraising car wash at Tesco on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm. 30 home fire safety visits had completed, nine high risk, 15 medium risk and six low risk. The firefighters left the meeting.

Sgt Forrester thanked everyone for coming to the consultation at the community campus, there had been lots of good discussion and feedback from members of the public. Daryl McEwan had done a really good job and was going to be collating all the feedback. He would reconvene with the community council and look at a way forward. Police officers have been engaging with people in the area regarding parking and speeding. The assumption is that if people are speeding then it is likely to be local residents. They are also speaking to the contractors working on the site near the campus. The police

will continue to support the move towards CCTV in the town. Some issues with youths and antisocial behaviour around Jessie Street, Elm Drive and Clova Avenue had been highlighted. She was hoping to get the mobile CCTV unit van up to these areas as a deterrent. There were now 17 response officers based in Blairgowrie. CS pointed out that with the lighter nights one of the areas that gets lots of complaints was the riverside area but that was hard to police. Sgt Forrester said that when they engaged with young people there last year they said that if they were down there they weren't annoying anyone. They explained to the young people the risks of being by the river and will speak to SCYD about it to try to ensure that the young people understand that they are not being ostracised and that they understand the impact of littering. CS said that some residents in the Berrydale area had said that they didn't know there had been a consultation at the campus about traffic issues and that Daryl has said he is happy to hold another event. CS suggested that the council does a letter drop to local residents, perhaps with the map that Daryl had at the first event. RD asked that if there were more officers based in Blairgowrie now would they have more of a walking presence. Sgt Forrester said yes where possible but they do have to cover a large area. BS mentioned that a police vehicle had turned right not left coming out of the police station car park. Sgt Forrester said she would raise that. IC asked if she could comment on police vehicles parking in the car parks for free and taking up spaces. Sgt Forrester said that sometimes they have to move the vehicles from the police compound when work is taking place. They don't have to pay for public parking and are allowed to park anywhere, including on double yellow lines in an emergency although she doesn't encourage that. IC asked if that applied to traffic wardens. Sgt Forrester said that was the council not the police. IR said that the CCTV was not a done deal and that Roddy Ross has taken it forward on the community council's behalf and that the community council will be consulting members of the public on it at the community markets. Sgt Forrester asked if the date for the sub-group meeting could be shared with her and she will try to make it along. Sgt Forrester left the meeting.

**Item 5 – Subjects raised by members of the public**

One member of the public asked whether pedal bikes were allowed on pavements, commenting that she had been faced with bikes on pavements several times, particularly around Tesco. IR said that strictly speaking it was illegal but it was up to the discretion of the police. The member of the public said that someone was going to get hurt and that it was only going to get worse in the summer when the seasonal workers arrive. MY suggested speaking to the farmers about it to see if they can highlight it with their workers. IR said they could put up a poster in Tesco and will speak to the farmers. The member of the public asked if the beeps were going to be reinstated at the pedestrian crossings. BB said that he had been advised that they were wasting their time on this one, it is a safety issue as the lights are too close together and too much of a risk. If the beeps go off on one set of lights there is a danger that people might hear them and think it is safe to cross the other set of lights when it isn't and could get run over. The council has stated that they are not going to turn the beeps on. The member of the public asked if the lights could be changed as they were very difficult to see, especially in the sun. IR said that they were standard issue. BB said that the representative for the Centre for

<p>Inclusive Living was willing to come down and look at the lights but the impression he had was that it wouldn't make any difference. IR said that if people feel strongly about it then we should ask her to come and asked if the member of the public would be willing to be there to speak to her. ST said that he sees visitors to the town use the lights and that by the time they realise they can cross the lights have changed again. He said someone is going to get run over. BB said that he would arrange for the representative to visit. ST said that he would be there too if he could. GD said that the lights could be retrofitted with different lights. IR said that he had seen vehicles drive out of the junction with Commercial Street and straight through the lights when they were red because they couldn't see them.</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 – Community wardens</b>  MY thanked the community wardens for their efforts on the issue she had raised with them, saying that things seemed to have improved. Claire Smith explained that the community wardens provided a reactive service and that if people didn't phone them about issues then they would be predominantly based in Perth or elsewhere in Perthshire – they cover Kinross, Aberfeldy and Auchterarder and Crieff and everywhere in between. She said that their weekends are spent predominantly with youths who are drinking and that she couldn't stress enough to phone the community wardens with any issues so that they can say to their bosses that they need to be in Blairgowrie and do more patrols here. They work in teams of two and it is not all bad things that they deal with. RD asked if volunteers could go out with them to boost their numbers. Claire Smith said that they could bring that up with Roddy Ross but that they would still need two community wardens even if they were joined by volunteers. The community wardens left the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 – Alistair MacLeod, Community Greenspace</b>  AM said that they have had a really successful Loon Braes Parknership in the past but the committee was wanting to stand down in the summer and the Loon Braes was looking a bit tired and unloved. They were trying to do monthly litter picks and were trying to create PKC's first nature site there. This would involve leaving some areas wild which is good for biodiversity and saves costs. It is hoped that it will become a sustainable park for the community and a resource for the school but it needs an active user group to do this. They need to get more people on board to come up with ideas. There was lots and lots of potential for the site and it is improving slowly with the volunteers that they have but it needs more community support and to get the message out there. They were going to hold an open day in June or July with a nature-based theme to enthuse people about the site and if they got enough volunteers to come forward then they could take things forward but otherwise the Parknership would fold. They have £10,000 from PKC to start things off but after that they would need to fundraise. They had landscape architects who were working with the group on ideas such as boardwalks for the site. They were clearing the Himalayan Balsalm where they could but it was spreading from land that is not theirs. It was also on the banken which is not safe for volunteers to work on. Unfortunately it looked as though they may have to spray that area to get rid of it. It is such a nice spot and they want to improve it so it is not so neglected. MY said that the more that was done to it the more</p>	

<p>people would want to get involved. One member of the public suggested getting the High School's biology department involved. AM said that they were already working with the learning support department at the school and it would be good to develop other working relationships there. IR said that there had been discussions about different groups adopting areas of the Loon Braes to take responsibility for them and to take pride in. AM said that that would be something a new community group could look at if one was set up. AM said that they needed help securing large-scale funding and on the business side of things – they have a number of volunteers on the ground wo keep things ticking along, although they always need more of those too. ST said that once plans to enhance Davie Park were in place, they would tie in with the new group for the Loon Braes. CS said that one of the long-term aspirations was to reinstate the putting green, perhaps as a social enterprise. AM said that they had lots of ideas and they need people to come along to the fun and information day. MY suggested putting up a poster of Himalayan Balsalm to encourage people to pick it as they walk through the Braes. LS asked if they knew who owned the land at the back of the Pavilion. AM said that they had done title searches but they came back blank so Community Greenspace was not maintaining it as it can only look after land it owns. IR said that they had had an offer of help for that area from the community payback team but they couldn't in the end as no one knew whose land it was. AM said that he could ask for that to be followed up again. MY suggested speaking to SCYD. RD said that he was happy to speak to the Rotary. AM left the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Community Market Rota</b>  <b>SN</b> said that they were aiming to have two people per shift at the markets this year. He will circulate the dates to KM. The first market is on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Part of the deal is that community councillors help erect and take down the market at the start and end of the day.</p>	All
<p><b>Item 9 – Treasurer's Report</b>  <b>RD</b> said that there had been no movement in the resilience account which had a balance of £4956.33. In the main account, the balance was £3615.60. Secretarial expenses, transport costs and costs to community councillors, specifically relating to the Citizen of the Year, had been paid. As it is the end of the year, the formal accounts will be done where individual balances will be given at the AGM showing balances for the wishing well, the bonfire account, the Christmas account, the WW1 commemorative bench and admin. These accounts will be audited by Graham Edwards CA and then forwarded to PKC so that they can assess the community council's grant for 2019/2020.</p>	RD
<p><b>Item 10 – Councillors' Reports</b>  <b>CS</b> asked if the community council could help get information about an additional public meeting about traffic issues at the community campus out. She said that the BMX track had got funding in place to get the drainage sorted and hopefully it would be open by the summer holidays. More vehicle activated signs had been put in place on Coupar Angus Road and in Rattray and the pedestrian crossing was being installed by Tesco, all of which would hopefully be activated soon. The Blair in Bloom litter pick was on Sunday, April 14, meeting at riverside car park at 10am. An estates-based initiative was planned</p>	CS and BB

<p>for Croft Lane behind the library which was a bit of a neglected area and so long overdue. Myrtle Park was next.</p> <p><b>BB</b> said that there was nothing Blairgowrie related at the next meeting of the planning and development management committee on Wednesday but that proposals for Rattray Primary School and Honeyberry would be coming up soon. He said that a letter had been sent to the Blairgowrie Advertiser about erroneous comments made by Roz McCall when she attended the community council meeting and asked if IR could contact her to ask her to come back to the community council to correct those comments. He said that the word from high up in Police Scotland was that they were very reticent about the community speedwatch initiative and would prefer to have monitoring in place first to ensure that there is a genuine hotspot. Apparently there have been problems when anti-speeding individuals have volunteered to take part in the scheme and then made up figures. He said an element of caution is needed. IR said that the sub-group would look at that. IC said that the majority of cars on Golf Course Road are speeding. BS said that he was overtaken by a van on Perth Road.</p>	
<p><b>Item 11 – Pending Planning Applications</b></p> <p><b>GD</b> said that the application for the first phase of the <b>Westpark development</b> – the retail development and some housing - was due to be submitted to Perth and Kinross Council soon and that he developers had sent the community council their proposals looking for feedback. The whole development planned was from Ardblair Terrace up to Newton Castle and got planning permission in principle last year and is part of both the local development plan and the local development plan two (LDP2) so in principle it is going to happen. GD said that he felt a perimeter retail park was not appropriate for Blairgowrie when the town centre is dying on its feet but that probably wouldn't give any objection much traction as it was in the LDP and LDP2. He said that the proposals appear to contain a fast food drive-through element which has not been mentioned before and which he didn't think was appropriate. There was also a budget hotel which again is not appropriate when hotels in Blairgowrie are struggling. A 'family restaurant' was also proposed and two big stores, Lidl and Home Bargains. He felt that the neighbourhood retail area was quite appropriate as shops such as newsagents could be there for local residents. He is concerned that they big units are going to be very visible from the A93 and one of the first things people see when they come into Blairgowrie. Some trees are planned for around the family restaurant but GD would like to see more screening for what is in effect two big sheds. He said there also does not seem to be any provision for bus stops. Steve Johnson from the Blairgowrie and Rattray Business Association (BARBA) was one of the members of public at the meeting. He said that BARBA is of the same opinion that this development is not going to be stopped and they just have to accept that the budget hotel and the restaurant. It is the retail units that will affect BARBA members and they are keen not to get any duplication of shops that already exist in the High Street. They would also like some kind of signs that highlight that this development is not the only retail option in the town. BB said that he had had a meeting with the road safety people at the council. His main concern was the entrances to the site on the A93, he thinks there will be problems getting in and out of the site. GD said that the junctions will comply with the</p>	<p>GD</p>

<p>speed limit and sight lines for the road. BB is also concerned about the junction with Hazelwood Road as well, particularly if that becomes a through road and is getting the road safety team to look at it. Solutions may include traffic lights, a 20mph speed limit, a one-way system on the site or a flat roundabout. GD said that the developers were going to be submitting plans for the social housing element of the development, not the whole area as yet. He said there were quite a few positives from an architectural point of view but the units planned for Essendy Road were unimaginative. There were 17 affordable dwellings, mainly standalone properties, although four were semi-detached. He was concerned about the straightness of the road going through the site which he thinks will encourage speeding through what is a residential area. He suggested requesting some form of play facility for children living in the area and there are a few areas where that could go. There are 43 parking spaces for 39 houses which he is not sure is adequate and thinks that should be brought to the attention of the planners. He would like to see more trees and benches dotted around and a bus boarder recessed into a layby rather than holding all the traffic on the A93 up every time the bus stopped. AD asked if they could extend the footpath down from Essendy Road to Muirton. GD said that could certainly be a discussion between PKC and the developers. He suggested that BRCC prepares a report to go back to the developers and asked for any comments from community councillors to be emailed to him. MY pointed out that in St Andrews they have a ban on fast food outlets. CS said that there was a precedent for that in Blairgowrie as Tesco was not allowed a café as it would be detrimental to existing businesses. GD said that although it was in the LDP and LDP2 it was still contravening national planning policy. CS asked if they could mitigate the number of garish signs on the development given that it would have a negative visual impact on the tourist route north and the Snow Road. GD agreed it was certainly an issue. IR said that if he had a business in Blairgowrie town centre he would be concerned about this new development as it has parking which is a big problem in Blairgowrie.</p> <p>GD said that he had been notified that a dwelling house had been erected on the St Fink road without any planning consent and had been asked if BRCC would raise it with PKC. He had checked the site in question and it had been refused planning permission on several occasions but they seem to have built it anyway. He is going to visit the site at the weekend to see what stage construction is at. LS said that it was better to do it at an early stage of construction. SN said that now that the community council knows about this they were obliged to notify the planning enforcement officer.</p> <p><b>AD</b> asked about Honeyberry and when it was likely to be decided. GD said the plans had been submitted and it was a case of waiting for it to go to committee.</p>	
<p><b>Item 12 – AOB</b></p> <p><b>BS</b> said that he had got a definitive list of defibrillators in the town. There are 18 in total. The list will be put on the community council’s website.</p> <p><b>AD</b> said that the BRAN fun run was on Tuesday, May 14. Walkers leave at 6pm, runners at 6.30pm. Registration is from 5.15pm. The eight-mile run starts and finishes at the pavilion at Davie Park. He asked for volunteers to help marshal the event and put up markers etc. Nominations for the Citizen of the Year and the Young Person of the Year close on April 15 and he urged everyone to nominate someone. He said that he will not be able to attend the</p>	All

community market in June and suggested maybe the presentation ceremony should be held at the July market instead. <b>MY</b> said that AM had done a terrific job of clearing a path and wanted to officially record her thanks to him and his volunteers for that.	
<b>Date of Next Meeting – AGM and ordinary meeting</b> Thursday, May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie Street, Blairgowrie.	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Mr R Duncan  
Mrs K MacBain  
Mr S Nichol  
Mr I Richards  
Mr B Rickwood  
Mr L Seal  
Mr B Smith  
Mr A Thomson  
Mrs C Thomson  
Mrs M Young

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick

Local Councillors:

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Mr B Brawn  
Mr T McEwan

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PKC Community Councils  
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Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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