

## Bo'ness Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2015 in Small Upper Meeting Room, Bo'ness Library, 19:00

#### **Present:**

Madelene Hunt [Chair], Robyn Adamson, Lennox Ainslie, Joan Boyd, David Findlay, Maria Ford, Owen Griffiths, Stuart McAllister and Alex King.

#### **Apologies:**

David Aitchison, Ian Don, Adrian Mahoney

#### **In Attendance:**

David Mitchell and Robert Jeffrey

**Madelene Hunt welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order at 1900 hrs.**

#### **Police Report**

See attached Appendix 1.

#### **Questions / Comments**

Madelene and Alex raised the issue of parking on both sides of the road at Newtown (nr. Cooperative) causing congestion. Police acknowledged the issue and would survey the area when patrols are available.

### **Council Budget Cuts**

Len and Madelene attended an event regarding budget cuts within Falkirk Council.

Some initial concerns for Bo'ness raised by members were:

- Closure (and relocation) of the Trust's Community Education base.
- Closure of public toilets.
- Potential closure of the One-Stop Shop.

#### **Guest: Robert Jeffrey - Report**

Mr. Robert Jeffrey has prepared a letter to our local MSP regarding these cuts, with an aim to see some of these cuts abolished by the Scottish Government, or to see the council tax banding re-structured and the tax freeze removed.

He also highlighted some of the cuts that would primarily affect Bo'ness:

- Further cuts to transport subsidies; particularly bus links in and out of Bo'ness.
- Waste disposal site opening hours will be cut. Increased costs for home uplifts, and levies for commercial vehicles entering waste disposal sites.
- Reduction in employment and training services in Falkirk; which will affect young people in Bo'ness (of the 1200 young people currently using the service).
- Reduced opening hours at Bo'ness Recreation Centre, causing associated services to cease (i.e. Fusion).
- Increased price of school meals (circa 85p) for paid meals.
- Reduction in school / pedestrian patrols.
- Reduction to number of learning assistants in schools.
- Closure of public toilets; on Register Street, at Kinneil Woods, and the Town Centre.
- Reduction in street cleaning services.

Mr. Jeffrey offered to provide a copy of the letter to the community council.

(Related to street cleaning services)- On Wednesday 16th December, at 1pm, Madelene and others will be attending a Falkirk Council meeting to discuss Litter Strategy.

It was agreed that Owen, Len, Robin and Joan would look at the proposed cuts to determine which cuts will directly affect Bo'ness services. It was suggested that a meeting with local Councillors take place to discuss our understanding of the document or clarify information. The agreed individuals will meet Monday 14th December at 3pm in Bo'ness Library.

## **Reports**

### **Ian Don** (Treasurer)

The current balance of BCC's account is £1325.56.

Suggestions as to how the Community Council would spend these funds were briefly discussed.

### **Joan Boyd**

Joan has been meeting with Owen, Lillas and David Aitchison, with a view to creating a project that would give personal support to young people in Bo'ness. Another meeting of this group is in the pipeline.

Cluff Natural Resources were withdrawing their recent application (or placing it "on hold") in relation to fracking, and therefore no further action has been taken with regard to arranging for a Cluff representative to attend a BCC meeting.

### **Stuart McAllister** (Planning)

Since November's meeting, planning applications in the Bo'ness area have included:

- Conversion (and change of use) from office to six flatted dwellings at 3 Hope Street.
- Extension to a dwelling house at 75 Grahamsdyke Road.
- Extension to a dwelling house at 20 Kinglass Avenue.

Stuart and Madelene attended an event on Saturday 5th Dec in Falkirk, to review the Local Development Plan across Falkirk district. 9 of the 18 community councils were represented.

### **Owen Griffiths**

Nothing to report.

### **Maria Ford**

#### ***The Friends of Kinneil***

Bo'ness Charity Town: The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) have developed a "Celebrating Charities" theme for their annual The Gathering event, aiming to highlight the amazing voluntary work done in small Scottish towns. Bo'ness has been selected as 2016's Charity Town. Bo'ness is a former mining town in West Lothian, with a strong industrial heritage stretching from trading, ship building and whaling in the 18th century, to coal mining and ironworks in the 20th century. The current population is 15,000, made up of 7,000 households. According to Scotland's Towns Partnership, the number of residents per charity is 391. There is a wide range of community and voluntary activity in the town, including bands, youth groups, theatres and the Bo'ness Fair. SCVO will be visiting Bo'ness throughout the remainder of the year, discovering the various ways its people are linked to different charities in the area. There will also be a photography competition for residents to share their pictures of charity subjects. SCVO will present their findings at The Gathering in February 2016.

The Consultants will be at Kinneil Museum on Saturday 12th from 1:00 -3:30 to chat to the Bo'ness people. Free refreshments courtesy from The Friends of Kinneil.

Our year ended with our Christmas member's party with entertainment from The Forth Bridges Accordion Band. Everyone had a great evening.

Next year will be our 10th Anniversary. Lots to celebrate.

We will be kicking off the year with our annual James Watt supper on the 15th January. £10 for members £15 for non-members.

#### ***- Bo'net***

The committee met with a representative of the Silent Film festival regarding a donation and how we could assist in funding bids for some community activities.

Madelene and I are attending the Parliament tomorrow in regards of the Coalfields Regeneration funding bid from the Government. Very privileged to be invited.

We are still looking for a secretary, so if anyone can spare some time we would appreciate the help.

### **Robyn Adamson**

Nothing to report.

### **David Findlay**

Nothing to report.

### **Lennox Ainslie**

Len met with Colin Anderson at the Bo'ness Motor Museum, and commented on the recent additions to motoring memorabilia on display at the museum.

### **Alex King**

On 19th November, Alex attended Forth Estuary Forum AGM. Individual membership of the forum is up, while corporate membership is down. Some of the topics covered included: Bird Migration Routes; North Berwick/Anstruther Ferry Service; Underground Coal Gasification.

A representative from Cluff Natural Resources attended the AGM to speak on fracking. Alex provided BCC with information leaflets on the practice.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Joan Boyd (Secretary)**

- Falkirk Council Notification of double-yellow lines being placed on Braehead due to congestion around the Public Primary School.
- Falkirk Council notification of on-street parking for a disabled person on Cadzow Ave.
- Neighbourhood Watch e-mail regarding a scam about fake police officers.
- Falkirk Council Consultation regarding parks and open spaces is taking place from now until the end of February; BCC will take up the invitation for a Council officer to present information to our February meeting.

### **A.O.C.B.**

#### **David Mitchell**

David is creating a video as part of a school project, that will be entered into a competition which in turn could win £3,000 for his chosen charity; Newtown Park Association.

The Storehouse is looking at further measures of communicating with service users; they now have a dedicated phone line that can be used. Bo'ness Academy's house captains are being challenged to collate boxes, designed by pupils, that can be filled with food and donated to the Storehouse as Christmas hampers.

**With there being no other competent business the meeting closed at 21:20**  
**with a vote of thanks to the Chair.**

## **APPENDIX 1**

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

**FORTH VALLEY**  
**Falkirk Area Command**

**DIVISION**

| Monthly Ward Report               |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ward Area                         | Bo'ness & Blackness           |
| Date of Community Council Meeting | 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2015 |
| Author of Report                  | PC 502 Greg Cruickshanks      |
| Presented By                      | PS 1033 Andrea Campbell       |

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the local community and local stakeholders with information on policing issues affecting the Bo'ness & Blackness ward area.

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland'. Our focus is 'Keeping People Safe'. This paper is intended to provide the local community with information on local policing issues and local police activity, in support of Keeping People Safe. Following consultation with the local community, the local priorities for the Bo'ness & Blackness ward are;

- Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence & Disorder
- Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse
- Road Safety
- Dishonesty Crimes

These local priorities directly link into the Police Scotland national priorities.

Please note that any data presented within this report has been extracted from internal systems within Police Scotland and should not, in anyway, be interpreted as official Scottish Government recorded crime statistics.

## 2. ASB, VIOLENCE & DISORDER

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Disorder can take many forms. It ranges from open space ASB and disorder which can impact on large sections of the local community to private space ASB, such as neighbour issues, which can impact on only a small number of individuals. Regardless of the form of ASB or the number of people it affects, it can cause significant issues for those affected by it.

In order to tackle ASB, Disorder & Violence within the Bo'ness & Blackness ward area, Police Scotland will work closely with partners, identifying the locations and offenders who pose the greatest risk and then take appropriate intervention and enforcement action. This includes patrols of key locations by Police and partner agencies, intervention visits to known offenders, support and reassurance to repeat victims and regular, proactive engagement and visits at licensed premises.

Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 7% reduction in ASB for the Bo'ness & Blackness ward area. Specifically for Bo'ness, there has been no single significant incident of ASB over the previous month. However, a number of fire-raisings have occurred in Bo'ness in recent months and Police patrols were therefore increased. There has been no fire raisings reported within the previous month.

Specifically for Bo'ness, there has been no crimes of serious violence such as Attempted Murder, Serious Assault or Robbery. Specifically for Bo'ness, there has been 5 minor assaults reported to Police.

### **3. DRUG DEALING & DRUG MISUSE**

Drugs are not only linked to local crime but can also be linked to organised crime at a national level and can significantly impact on the local community. It is therefore vital that Police and partner agencies, working with the local community, tackle drug dealing and drug misuse, using all available tactics and option to remove drugs from the community. There are also clear health risks associated with drugs and many drug users within the local community are vulnerable. It is therefore vital that intervention and prevention play a key role as well as enforcement activity when it comes to tackling drugs.

Over the previous month, there have been no Drug Search warrants enforced within the Bo'ness & Blackness ward area. However, since 1 April 2015, 13 charges relating to drug supply/drug production have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal, which is an increase of 8% compared to the same period last year.

### **4. ROAD SAFETY**

Police Scotland is committed to improving Road Safety and reducing the number of people killed or injured on Scotland's roads. The key focus is on casualty reduction and therefore police activity needs to be focussed on reducing the number of collisions. The following offences/driving behaviour are linked to road collisions:

- Mobile Phone Offences
- Seatbelt Offences
- Speeding Offences
- Drink/Drug Driving Offences

Locally, officers are deployed to key roads where analysis indicates that there is a risk of collisions and a risk of people being killed or injured. Officers also aim to deploy at locations where the local community report concerns in terms of road safety.

Specifically for Bo'ness, there has been 14 speeding offences detected, 1 mobile phone offence detected and no seatbelt offences detected. 1 person has been charged with drink/drug drive offences.

### **5. DISHONESTY CRIMES**

Crimes of dishonesty can take many forms and include minor Thefts as well as the more serious offences of Housebreakings to residential houses and Theft of Motor Vehicles. There are many stands to tackling this type of crime including preventative measures such as police patrols and police road checks at the right locations and at the right time. There are investigative measures, which include the recovery of forensic evidence and progressing CCTV enquiries and there are intelligence measures, which includes sharing information with local neighbouring Divisions and targeting repeat offenders for these types of crimes.

Specifically for Bo'ness, there has been 2 housebreaking offences to residential houses. There is however no identified pattern or repeat location. There has been no Theft of Motor Vehicles.

### **6. OTHER LOCAL ISSUES AND EVENTS**

There are no other local policing issues or local events to report on.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED