



BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2016 IN THE SMALL UPPER ROOM IN BO'NESS Library.

1. Welcome

Madelene extended a warm welcome to the room.

2. Sederunt

Madelene Hunt [Chair], Lennox Ainslie [Vice-Chair] , Joan Boyd [Secretary] Maria Ford [Minute Secretary] David Findlay, Robyn Adamson, Stuart McAllister, Alex King and Tom Sargent.

3. Apologies for Absence

Owen Griffiths, Ian Don, David Aitchison and Councillor Adrian Mahoney

4. Police Report Officers in attendance – P. C. Graham McDougal and P.C. Greg Cruckshanks

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.

ASB, VIOLENCE AND DISORDER

Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 6% reduction in ASB for the Bo'ness & Blackness Ward area. Specifically for Bo'ness, there have been 7 incidents of ASB over the previous month however there are currently no repeat or priority locations in terms of ASB, Disorder and Violence.

Specifically for Bo'ness, there was 1 Serious Assault that occurred at Deanfield Road, Bo'ness last month. There has been no Attempted Murders and no Robberies over the previous month. There have been 7 minor Assaults reported to Police for the Bo'ness area over the previous month.

DRUG DEALING AND DRUG MISUSE

Over the previous month, 1 Drug Search warrant has been enforced within the Bo'ness & Blackness ward area with a total of 1 male being arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for producing a controlled drug. This warranted was enforced in the Bo'ness area. Since 1 April 2015, 15 charges relating to drug supply/drug production for the Bo'ness & Blackness ward area have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

ROAD SAFETY

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 1 speeding offence detected with 4 hours of speeding checks carried out over the previous month. 1 person has been charged with a drink/drug drive offence.

In relation to illegal parking within Bo'ness town centre, on both double yellow lines and within the taxi rank, a total of 20 fixed penalty tickets have been issued to drivers over the past month in an effort to try and resolve this issue.

DISHONESTY CRIMES

Bo'ness, there has been 2 housebreaking offences to residential houses. Both incidents occurred within the same street on the same night. There has been 2 Theft of Motor Vehicles.

OTHER LOCAL ISSUES AND EVENTS

There have been complaints in regards to the parking of vehicles at both the Grange and Bo'ness Public Primary Schools. The local Community Officers will deploy to the schools as much as possible in an effort to tackle this issue.

PC Cruckshanks and PC McDougall have commenced a Police drop-in service at Tesco, Bo'ness with the first ones taking place on 21st and 28th of January 2016. This was well received by the community and will continue on a weekly basis every Thursday.

5. Presentation by Danny Thallon and Mike Joyce from Falkirk Council [F.C.] on the Falkirk Open Space Strategy.

Open Spaces like parks, nature reserves and sports pitches are really important to the well being of our communities. Our open spaces are also important in attracting people and investors to the area. F.C wants to protect and improve open spaces but current budgetary constraints mean that there is less money available to look after parks and other open spaces with. F.C. therefore needs a Strategy which helps us get the most benefit for people in your community without overspending.

F.C has produced a draft Open Space Strategy which sets out a vision for the future of the parks and open spaces in our area. The strategy is accompanied by an Environmental Report which sets out what the environmental effects would be if the draft Strategy was implemented. F.C. is consulting members of the public, landowners and other organisations with an interest in parks and open spaces. Discussion took place regarding the 125 page document especially points raised for Bo'ness. To read and comment on the document here are the details. www.falkirk.gov.uk/consultation or writing to: Planning and Environment Unit Falkirk Council Development Services Abbotsford House David's Loan Falkirk FK27YZ or by email to: planenv@falkirk.gov.uk If you have any further queries and would rather contact them by telephone, then please call 01324 504927

6. Minutes of 13th January 2016

Minutes read and accepted by Len Ainslie and Joan Boyd

7. Matters Arising

Alex King gave an update on the reinstated house at Pennelton Place

8. Reports

Joan Boyd

Falkirk Council Budget Proposal Project Group meeting –

After going through 130 pages of budget information and cross referencing different services where potential cuts impacted, we discussed the proposed budget cuts and/or reduction in services and decided to ask for a meeting with the Leader of Falkirk Council and the town's elected Councillors. Two pages of questions were sent to our elected Councillors to form a basis for discussion at this meeting. Discussion covered, the proposed budget cuts relating to the following:

Bus subsidy cuts, closure of the One Stop Shop and Toilets, the feeling of marginalisation being experienced in the town. The further disadvantaging and impact the proposed cuts or Service Reviews/reductions would/might have on Young People, Families, Older Persons/Adult Day Care Services, the proposed reduction in transport, Dial-a-Journey, Taxi Card and shop mobility services.

We also discussed/asked questions about proposed reductions in Street Cleaning Services, Charges to Vans, increase in special uplift and the potential impact on the community of the reduction in Community Safety team activities. In particular, the potential these proposals might have for increased fly-tipping and dog fouling around the town and fore shore.

Also the impact on the proposed loss of the support to businesses from Town Centre Management and the impact of potential budget reductions and increased charges for room hire by Falkirk Community Trust. Discussion also took place around the proposal reduction in Community Learning Services in the town, the potential removal of subsidised breakfast clubs and increases in school meal charges.

We met with Councillor Ann Ritchie and Councillor Adrian Mahoney. Following the meeting Councillor Mahoney subsequently forwarded information and comments related to our questions from Falkirk Council Officers. He also provided a list of frequently asked questions related to Bus Subsidies. Joan acknowledged the time given by both Councillors at the meeting. She also acknowledged the help from/information provided by Councillor Mahoney which further clarified our understanding of some of the issues.

A copy of our response to the Council's budget consultation has been forwarded to all community councilors.

Action from last minutes

- Letter of support written to Historic Scotland via Falkirk Council regarding the designation of the Kinneil Estate was well received by The Friends of Kinneil

Correspondence

- Information regarding the Review of the Storage & Spreading of Sewage Sludge on land.
- Police Scotland Consultation Process
- Neighbourhood Watch warning about Ransom Ware
- E-mail regarding the Community Networking evening being held by the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative in the Town Hall on 22.2.16 at 7.30pm. Registration necessary.
- E-mail from the Scottish Community Councils regarding the redesigning and launch of the web site. www.communitycouncils.scot . There is a request to look at the web site and feedback any errors, or suggest things that can make it better.

Lynn.sharp@improvementservices.org.uk

- The order for No Stopping/Yellow Lines at the junction of Stewart Avenue and Dean Road has been made.
- Summary Planting proposals Kinneil House Orchard

The following is the BCC response to:

Falkirk Council Budget Proposal Stakeholder Consultation.

In general people in Bo'ness are beginning to feel marginalised with reductions in transport, the withdrawal of the Community Education Premises, closure of the Registry Office and the Job Centre. This combined with the requirement to travel to Grangemouth or Falkirk, rumours around the closure of the One Stop Shop and the toilets in the town, continue to enhance this perception.

It is recognised that we are very fortunate to have the continued support for the Bo'ness Children's Fair.

Concerns around the current budget proposals are as follows:

Bus Services - We have been advised that there will be no reduction in the bus subsidy offered when contracts are renegotiated in August of this year. However reductions are planned in 2017/2018. This would have the effect of removing the least well used bus routes. We believe that this would put the following services at risk:

- Bo'ness- Linlithgow (Evenings Monday-Saturday)
- Bo'ness- Linlithgow (Sundays)
- Bo'ness Town Service/Linlithgow
- Bo'ness - Blackness
- Bo'ness- Falkirk.

There is real concern about transport links and the impact on the community if negotiations are not conducive to both parties involved. We also understand that as a business Bus Companies have to make a profit, however, surely something can be done to reach a satisfactory compromise and negate further potential marginalisation. This must also impact in other rural towns and villages across the Falkirk area. Rather than Community Councils approaching the Bus Companies individually, perhaps it might be useful to invite the bus companies involved to meet collectively with Community Council representatives. Local communities would get an insight into the Bus Company's perspective and mutual understanding might result. If Bus Companies are aware of the actual needs of the individual local communities and impact of their services they might be more prepared to look at what might be done in practical terms. In turn local communities would understand the need for compromise in service delivery.

Toilet Closures – Although a proposed budget, it is the general view within the town that the decision has already been made. Closing the toilets seems to fly in the face of local regeneration, the development of the John Muir Way, a desire to increase tourism and economic growth for more rural towns. Having no toilets may drive visitors to the town to Linlithgow. (**Economy** – Reduction in support for Tourism and Town Centre Management **DV48, DV49, and DV50**) also links to these comments)

We understand the cost implications of keeping the toilets open and can see why the closure of the toilet situated at Kinneil was deemed necessary for that reason. It is a pity we had to read this in our local paper. Our understanding is that a Comfort Break Scheme is being proposed that would offer local businesses the opportunity to bring potential custom in the door and provide a service.

Environment – We appreciate that businesses should be charged for the disposal of household waste. However, there is concern in the community that this, together with increased charges for special uplift and the potential to reduce the community teams, will result in an increase across the Falkirk area of fly tipping **DV61, DV63**

It is not clear exactly what rationalisation of winter gritting actually means. The concern is that if this means that only main roads are gritted this is going to exacerbate the conditions of the roads through frost and cold weather damage. It will also increase the number of cars left on main roads where people feel they cannot risk not being able to get to work. **DV 53**

Transformation – There is real concern that if One Stop Shops are reduced to 3 across the district. What then for older people and those with literacy and numeracy needs who rely on One Stop Shops for help, assistance, payments etc? Payment points are potentially a way in which people can pay bills. However, those already disadvantaged, as they require help due to limitations of literacy and numeracy, will be further disadvantaged. Likewise the very elderly and less well off families in the community who do not use/have access to technology are likely to lose support needed with the completion of Council Forms and understanding communications or letters. Losing the One Stop Shop in Bo'ness will only serve to increase the perception of marginalisation and will be very unpopular. **C&HS3**

We are aware that the lease of the premises in Bo'ness is to be extended in the short term. The One-Stop-Shop staff in Bo'ness are very helpful and well thought of due to the way in which they assist members of the public and provide an excellent service. It is rumoured that Bo'ness is one of the 3 that will close and that the services may transfer to the library. This option is much preferable to the service being withdrawn altogether.

Young People – There is concern that reducing the number of classroom learning assistants across the Falkirk area will surely impact on young people who require classroom learning support and further disadvantage them. Whilst we do not have exact figures, we are led to believe that in some schools in Bo'ness there may be a lot of the pupils requiring classroom support. If this is indeed the case and reflects the Falkirk area then this is certainly setting our young people up for failure. **CS44**
In addition, there is a proposal to do away with breakfast clubs being suggested. For some children this may be the only meal they get. **CS12** the School Meals & Milk review of existing provision **CS2** - also links with this.

Adult Care – Review of older people's day care – The number of people requiring day care services is likely to increase due to people being enabled to live in their own homes. Current demographics indicate people are living longer and the surge with the baby boomers reaching 70s will also add to that. We are very fortunate in Bo'ness to have Bo'ness Hospital; however, as the demographics change across the Falkirk area, and subsidised transport links are likely to reduce, more day care facilities may be required as care in the home costs rise.

Other- We understand the service for Dial-journey, Taxicard and shop mobility is contracted out to an external company to manage. **DV16**. If it has not already been explored then is there potential for savings to be made if the Council dealt directly with the Taxi Companies/or a consortium of Taxi companies?

Economy and CL&D reduction of 60% in staffing – Whilst not a statutory requirement reducing the level of service further disadvantages those already disadvantaged across the Falkirk area. It also disadvantages those looking for work or employment that need assistance. Individuals in Bo'ness looking for support with these issues will now have to travel to Falkirk. Many cannot afford the cost of bus fares and this must be the same for other towns and villages. **CS10, CS15**
In particular, we are aware that a number of unemployed people in Bo'ness do not like using the Academy as they are very uncomfortable going there for job search purposes. Some of the group has expressed a real sense of isolation and non-inclusion. If this is how this group feels it can only be worse for those with literacy and numeracy difficulties seeking support.

Finally, present Budget reductions to Council's are unprecedented in our history. We believe that the consultation process now requires much more transparency and a longer period of lead in time /better communication. May we suggest that a budget schedule is issued to Community Councils in September if that is possible so that they can plan their strategy for community involvement? Knowing what you are planning to publish, where and when in advance would help Community Councils engage better with their local community? 130 pages of proposed savings do take time to read and digest. Time is needed to clarify information and or access this through freedom of information before we even start communicating with the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Robyn Adamson – Nothing to report

David Findlay – Nothing to report. However, he wished to say that he enjoyed the visit to Parliament to view the First Ministers Portraits.

Len Ainslie – Nothing to report. Wished to remind everyone about the forthcoming event; the Fun Run on the 4th of May.

Stuart McAllister - Planning Report February 2016

Application No P/16/0048/LBC

Application Type Listed Building Consent

Proposal Internal Alterations to Dwelling house

Location Carriden House, Carriden Brae, Bo'ness EH51 9SN

Applicant Fairview International Schools (UK) Limited

Agent FAO Lachulan Lumsden, Planning & Building Design Ltd, 24 West
Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DD

Case Officer David Paterson (01324 504757) david.paterson@falkirk.gov.uk

Application No P/16/0032/FUL

Application Type Planning Permission

Proposal Amendment to 06/0643/FUL - Restoration and Conversion of Disused

Steading to

Form 7 Dwelling houses and Upgrading of Access -

Amendment to Access

Location Carriden Steadings, Carriden Brae, Bo'ness EH51 9SN

Applicant Mr & Mrs Tom Barkhouse

Agent As above

Case Officer As above

Application No P/16/0026/FUL

Application Type Planning Permission
Proposal Extension to Dwelling house
Location 11 Cuffabouts, Bo'ness EH51 9LP
Applicant Mr S Hannah
Agent Architectural Design Services, Bill Crawford, 3 Ritchie Place, Bo'ness
EH51 9TU
Case Officer Kevin Brown (01324 504701) kevin.brown@falkirk.gov.uk

Application No P/16/0008/FUL

Application Type Planning Permission
Proposal Extension to Dwelling house and Erection of new Double Garage.
Location Hillpark, 15A Erngath Road, Bo'ness EH51 9EN
Applicant Mr Campbell Williamson
Agent EK:JN Architects LLP, Edward Kelly, Bryerton House, 129 High Street,
Linlithgow EH49 7EJ
Case Officer David Paterson (01324 504757)

Application No P/16/0012/FUL

Application Type Planning Permission
Proposal Extension to Existing Storage/Warehouse Location Caledonian Produce, Bo'ness EH51 9SJ
Applicant Caledonian Produce
Agent Scott Davidson, 60 The Breeches, Lochgelly KY5 9QB
Case Officer David Paterson (01324 504757)

Application No P/16/0007/FUL

Application Type Planning Permission
Proposal Engineering Operations to Form Bicycle Trails
Location Kinneil Woods, Provost Road, Bo'ness
Applicant Mr Robert Archer
Agent
Case Officer David Paterson (01324 504757)

Maria Ford

The Friends of Kinneil James Watt Supper - 54 guests, members and friends attended and all had a lovely evening.

19th January Parliamentary Reception, celebrating James Watt's birthday and Scottish innovation - This was a great success. This was great publicity for the James Watt Cottage and of course Bo'ness. Many in the Engineering field travelled from all over Britain to attend.

Bo'net - We will be holding our first meeting of the year on Monday 15th at 2:00pm in the Safety Cabin. All are welcome.

Tom Sargent – Shared with the Council the new Science Festival Information Booklet.

Alex King – Nothing further to report

Madelene Hunt

The Chair asked the Council to discuss the Minute Secretary receiving a laptop and paper. The decision was unanimous.

The Chair explained to the Council the correspondence between the Chair and Leslie O'Hare regarding the Library lets for Community Council meetings. The Chair will continue the correspondence until the matter has been settled.

9. The McLaren Trophy.

The Council representatives shared their votes and the winner of 2016 McLaren Trophy was **BRAAS - Bo'ness Real Ale Appreciation Society.**

With there being no other competent business and being one of the longest Council meetings ever, Len proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.