



BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13TH JANUARY 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], David Findlay, David Aitchison, Robyn Adamson, Alex King and Tom Sargent.

3. Apologies for Absence

Owen Griffiths, Ian Don and Stuart McAllister.

4. Police Report

Officers in attendance – P. C. Graham McDougal and P.C. Grieg Cruickshank

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

ASB, VIOLENCE and DISORDER

Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 7% reduction in ASB for the Bo'ness and 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-raising have occurred in Bo'ness in recent months and Police patrols were therefore increased. There has been no fire raising reported within the previous month.

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

DRUG DEALING and DRUG MISUSE

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.

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 have 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.

DISHONESTY CRIMES

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

The Officers also told the Council;

- Of a proposed visit to Kinneil primary school by two of the mounted Police with their horses.
- They will be setting a Police Stall in Tesco's Bo'ness, the purpose is make an awareness of the Police presence and to get to know the Community.

Madelene thanked the Officers for their report and taking the initiative with their Community involvement.

5. Minutes of 9th December 2015

Minutes read and accepted by Len Ainslie and David Findlay

6. Matters Arising

Correspondence – Secretary to write to take up the invitation of a Council Officer to attend the February meeting in regard to the Consultative Draft Open Space Strategy.

7. Feedback on meeting regarding the proposal Council Budget Cuts and potential impact which will affect our community.

Our project group was reflective of younger people, elderly residents, families and businesses in the community. We went through the whole budget and linked the impact of proposed savings across the different services. As a result we had two pages of concerns/questions. BCC representatives met with local Councillors Adrian Mahoney and Ann Ritchie to obtain clarity around the proposed cuts and their perceived impact on Bo'ness. We were able to ascertain that the Employment Training Unit and Modern Apprenticeships will remain and not be included in the proposals.

The BCC representatives raised the Community's concerns regarding, the ongoing threat to Bus Services, Toilets Closures, the potential loss of the One-Stop Shop, the opportunity for increased fly tipping with the proposed removal of Community Wardens, proposed reductions in Learning Support Assistants, withdrawal of Community learning and development and other concerns.

- Breakfast clubs are to continue however no new clubs will be set up.
- Vans taking household goods to the 'Tip' will be charged £40.00. Discussion took place regarding the potential of an increase in fly- tipping.
- Dog Wardens etc. numbers will be reduced.
- Proposal of no janitorial staff in schools in the evening.
- Disability Support: there are proposals to withdraw taxi cards and dial a taxi.
- Proposal to review elderly day care places.
- Bus services will continue to August then they will be subject to negotiation
- Proposed rationalization of winter gritting. I.e. gritting main roads and dangerous areas only? Reduction in street cleaning. (There was a suggestion at the meeting to carry out a Litter Pick campaign in the vicinity of schools).

- Toilet closure. There is a proposal to perhaps set up a comfort scheme with the local shops.
- Capital spending – the proposed review across the board of 700 jobs and cutting staff hours to a 36 hour week.
- The One Stop Shop – Proposed closure. The lease is to be extended and a potential proposal to move the service into the Library may be considered.
- Education – no schools in Bo’ness will be closed. Proposal of looking at savings i.e. sharing resources.

The Community Council members in attendance felt that consultation with the Public should be paramount regarding the Budget and at present the implications of the Budget are not clear enough. The BCC representatives have an extension on the consultation until 21.1.16. They will meet in the immediate future to collate a response and submit this to Falkirk Council by the deadline.

Ultimately our response will cover the potential impacts of the ongoing threat to Bus Services, Toilet closures, potential One Stop Shop closures, the environment (Fly tipping, winter gritting) Young People (reduction of learning support in Schools, increased school meals, breakfast clubs, milk review). The marginalisation of the community in Bo’ness, particularly the vulnerable and those disadvantaged is of real concern. (Adult Care, Reduction in day care places, proposed withdrawal of Dial a journey, taxicard and Community Learning and Development services for those requiring literacy and numeracy support).

We will also comment on the transparency and the lead in time for the consultation process. This needs to be much more transparent and allow time for Community Councils to actually have meaningful conversations with their communities.

8. Reports

Len Ainslie - Nothing to report, however he informed the C.C of the proposal of an extra rubbish bin. This is due to the separation of paper and cardboard from tins and plastic. People are not washing tins and bottles out so paper is being contaminated and the Council has to pay for landfill. Providing separate bins means that clean paper can be sold assisting savings in the Council. [Scottish initiative]

David Findlay – Nothing to report, however informed the C.C that he was attending the celebration of the First Ministers Portraits. Discussion took place regarding transport for all who are attending.

Robyn Adamson – **Santa Trains** Robyn gave a vote of thanks to the staff of SRPS as this was a very successful project carried out by the Guides.

David Aitchison – The Architect plans for the Newtown Park Association are moving on. The group is organizing a Bingo Night to raise funds on 28th January in Fisons.

Maria Ford - The Friends of Kinneil

2016 is a celebration year regarding The Friends 10th Anniversary and celebrating James Watt achievements 15th January is when we hold our James Watt Supper [details were given]

19th January Parliamentary Reception, celebrating James Watt's birthday and Scottish innovation

Bo'net

Maria is still collating information towards a funding bid for Bo'ness & Carriden Band.

Looking into further funding for Carriden Church Volunteer Group.

Madelene and Maria are continually meeting and contacting other groups in the town to be added to our mailing list.

The most Charitable Town in Scotland 2016

Consultants are still looking for individuals who volunteer in Bo'ness to be interviewed.

If you are interested please contact Rae Manger for some details.

Tom Sargent – nothing to report.

Alex King - Fracking - discussion took place regarding an up-date on CLUFF and UCG.

Alex handed out useful leaflets regarding the Forth Estuary and Fracking. He also informed the C.C that the house which had been set on fire several times in Pennelton Place has been bought from the private owner by WESLO and at present being restored.

Madelene Hunt [Chair]- informed C.C regarding a complaint of a certain taxi company who is renting minibuses to assist with group hires. This operator is not complying with the appropriate legalities to which the other local taxi firms must adhere.

Planning Report concerning Bo'ness and surrounding areas

Application No. P/15/0742/FUL Earliest date of decision 13 Jan 2016

Type: Planning Application

Proposal: **Extension to existing Dwelling house**

Location: **2 Sylvan Grove, Bo'ness EH51 0RA**

Applicant: Mr. Alexander Newbigging
N7 Design Studio Ltd, FAO, FAO Nicholas Walker,
6 Buie Haugh, Kirkliston EH29 9FD

Case Officer: Kevin Brown (01324 504701)

Application No. P/15/0769/FUL Earliest date of decision 29 Jan 2016

Type: Planning Permission

Proposal: **Erection of 7 Dwelling houses (Renewal of Planning Permission P/13/0075/VRC)**

Land: **Land to the West of 3 Elam Terrace, Deanfield Road, Bo'ness**

Applicant: **Abotshall Homes**

Agent: RT Hutton, Planning Consultant, The Malt Kilns, 2 Factors Brae,
Limekilns, Fife KY11 3HG

Case Officer: David Paterson (01324 504757)

Application No. P/15/0709/FUL
Type: Planning Permission
Proposal: **Proposed change of Use from Class 2 (Betting Shop to Hot Food
Takeaway (Sui Generis))**
Location: **177 Dean Road, Bo'ness EH51 0HG**
Applicant: **Sky-An Ltd**
Agent: Mr. Michael Stuart, 70 Eastcroft Drive, Polmont, Falkirk FK2 02U
Case Officer: David Paterson (01324 504757)

9. Correspondence – Joan Boyd [Secretary]

- **Erngath Road** is closed for the laying of Scottish Gas pipes]
- **Grahamsdyke Terrace** – there will be a closure on the 17th February between the hours of 7:00 – 18:00 for Scottish Water maintenance.
- **Inner forth newsletter** – offered to the C.C for their perusal
- **Nature Fest gathering 23rd January.** C.C was reminded of this event.

10. AOCB

- Madelene reminded everyone that nominations are requested for The McLaren Trophy. A recipient/s will be chosen at our next C.C meeting.
- Maria asked for the C.C support in the Historic Environment Scotland's report of their refusal to state that Kinneil Estate come under the status of glorious gardens.
Approved.

With there being no other competent business, Len proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Next Meeting 10th February at 7pm in library meeting room