



BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2020

Conducted via a Digital Media

Welcome

Madelene extended a warm welcome to everyone.

Sederunt

Madelene Hunt (Chair), Joan Boyd (Secretary), Owen Griffiths, Wendy Turner, Siobhan Samson, Val Spowart, Val Ferguson OBE and Robyn Adamson.

In Attendance Adrian Mahoney

Apologies for Absence

Len Ainslie, Ashley Sneddon, Joan Lamazon

Minutes of Wednesday 11th March 2020

Proposed by Len Ainslie and seconded by Siobhan Samson

7. Reports

Val Spowart – The Bo'ness and Blackness COVID-19 Community Response Group has its own website. <https://www.Bo'nesscommunityresponse.com/bo-ness-community-pantry> Please see the website for details. 600 people wanted to volunteer and this was brought down to 200.

The response team are providing a Community Pantry under the Umbrella of the Old Kirk and in partnership with Storehouse, Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust. In addition to food deliveries, the group can assist parents with school meal delivery. Also assist with clothes and household equipment as there are no charity shops open for people to go to. Calls from people who are in depressed are being referred to Breathing Space.

Siobhan Samson – Our petition lodged with the Scottish Parliament has now closed. There were 121 votes supporting the petition and we will just have to wait and see the response. BCC advertised this on local networking sites, twitter and sent out over 200 e-mails to other Community Councils in Scotland. It was very disappointing that there was not more support.

Val Ferguson OBE – The Community Bus has not been able to run a system of transport due to the current pandemic. All drivers are 'on the wage' for drivers up until June. We don't know where we are going to be financially. We are trying to obtain a leasing payment holiday to ease costs. We are trying to work a system for disinfection etc. but we cannot run buses and keep social distancing. We are watching the finances, looking at funding options but cannot go on indefinitely.

Joan Boyd. - Town Centre Regeneration - The meeting with the Falkirk Council project team was very useful. - The project team updated us on the plans and progress. The town centre wi-fi is moving ahead and the plans for the library were clarified.

The design includes a lift to enable disabled access, a food prep area upstairs, a more private office space for members of the public to discuss aspects with Council employees (HUB). A disabled toilet and new external lighting is also to be included. This will make the library more accessible during the day and in the evening. The Trust have stated that the computer area should remain where it is due to the cost of including a further toilet facility. A new staff room will be included for the library staff.

The majority of investment will be in the Town Centre and focussing on building improvements. For example, roofs, guttering and on bringing buildings back into use. For example the derelict building where the old butchers shop used to be which is in private ownership. The plan is to use this building for private development of housing subject to Listed Building consent etc. We asked a question related to what would happen if the owners refused to be involved in any improvement development. This is something to be considered.

We asked about a community office or space which could be used for by community groups for meetings, events etc. The building at Seaview Place Car Park has become available and this could be utilised for that purpose but would have to be managed by a constituted community group such as the Community Council or Bo'net. A question was asked about wi-fi in that building; however we were advised that the wi-fi will not reach that.

Correspondence.

Period 12th March – May 7th 2020 due to there being no April meeting in view of COVID-19 restrictions.

E-mail – from Robyn with the link to Paths For All Website
: <https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/cmp-grants>

E-mail from Maria Montinaro. As participants in the Scottish Government's Addendum Statement and Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas she is pleased to advise Ineos have withdrawn (see attached) the Dart Energy Appeals subject of 2014 Public Inquiry sisted for the duration of Scottish moratorium on UOG. Copies of the letter from DLA Piper to the Scottish PEAD and its response were included. If anyone wants to see these let me know and I will forward them.

E-mail from the Bo'ness and Blackness Covid Response Group looking for a contact name for the Community Council. Madelene responded as she had been at the churches meeting discussion around this. Madelene has offered some administrative and telephone support from the Community Council however we have not heard anything further.

E-mail from the Falkirk Licensing Forum stating that all meetings will be cancelled until 11 May 2020.

E-mail from Brian Pirie Falkirk Council (FC) advising the Council cancelled its scheduled committee meetings from 17 March until 6 May. This includes the planning committee tomorrow. Essential meetings may be held. Otherwise there will be no committee meetings and associated meetings due to Covid19. He provided a link to the Council website which is a single point of entry

for corona virus so that if people are looking for information or advice it will be in one place and not be spread across the website. <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/covid19/>

E-mail from a resident regarding ongoing parking problems being experienced by residents in Angus Court. Madelene visited the area to obtain an understanding of the layout and I took the matter up with the planning department to ascertain if there was any way they could influence the builder to put up notices. However, as the Court and parking spaces are owned by the residents it is their responsibility to put up private parking notices. The local Councillors are all aware of the situation.

E-mail from Brian Pirie forwarding details of the Scottish Governments link to £350m Funding [£350 million fund to support welfare and wellbeing.](#)

E-mail from Brian Pirie forwarding information from the Scottish Improvement Service - Please find below two new resources which provide help, guidance and information for those working in their communities. Please feel free to share this information with community councils in your area. Corona virus Community Assistance Directory –

<https://covid-19.scvo.org/>

Helping in your Community <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/helping-in-your-community/> These will be added to a series of links that provide information on Covid-19 on the [Scottish Community Councils website.](#)

E-mail from Angela Hill from Grangemouth Community Hub asking for information regarding any local Covid-19 support groups in Bo'ness. I passed on information about the Bo'ness and Blackness group.

E-mail from PC Graeme McDougal. - **COVID-19 Advice**

With the restrictions currently in place in relation to the Corona virus (COVID-19) the expectation is that no Community Councils will be meeting for the foreseeable future. Due to the impact on resources and demand we will not be sending out Police Reports as usual. We will continue to maintain email and phone contact to answer any issues or queries of a non-urgent nature where possible but expect that our resources will be stretched during this time so your patience and co-operation is appreciated.

Please use the CPT mailbox, Bo'NessBlacknessCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk, as your main point of contact for our team for anything non-urgent and use 101 or 999 as appropriate to report anything requiring police attendance.

Some members of the public continue to call 101 looking for advice and guidance regarding COVID-19. We are advising the public to instead get up to date information from NHS and Government websites which are regularly updated and only phone 101 or 999 for genuine police issues to ensure that those who genuinely need the police get through as quickly as possible. We will not be attending non-urgent calls or conducting non-urgent enquiry during this time in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure the safety of the public, police officers and their families.

The relevant links to NHS and Government websites are below:

- [NHS Inform](#)
- [Scottish Government](#)
- [UK Government - What you need to know](#)
- [UK Government - Advice for Employers & Businesses](#)
- [UK Government - Social Distancing](#)

Shut Out Scammers 2020 Campaign

Police Scotland is advising the public to be cautious of strangers offering bogus services during the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Social distancing and self-isolation mean more people than usual are in their homes at the moment. This presents an ideal opportunity for criminals to take advantage of elderly and vulnerable people, in particular.

Across the UK there is evidence fraudsters are increasingly targeting members of the public, as well as organisations of all sizes, with emails, texts, telephone calls and social media messages offering advice and treatments for corona virus (COVID-19).

Scammers have set up fake websites to sell products and offer so-called cures or testing kits, as well as requesting donations to help victims. In some instances, cold callers have contacted organisations suggesting a legal requirement to have certain measures in place by a specific deadline.

Launching the campaign, Chief Superintendent David Duncan, Safer Communities Division said: "We are aware that community groups are being set up to help vulnerable members of our communities and we do not, in any way, want to impact on the good work being carried out.

"However it is imperative that we are all aware that vulnerable people can be seen as easy targets by criminals seeking to take advantage of this unprecedented and dynamic situation.

"Anyone can be a victim of doorstep crime – it is nothing to be embarrassed about. Criminals can be very clever, and play on your emotions and insecurities. If someone comes to your door claiming to be from a legitimate organisation, always ask for identification.

"Don't give people money or your bank details if they come to your door and offer to do shopping for you if you don't know them. And never give your debit or credit card and PIN to anyone.

"If you are self-isolating, let friends and family know and if in doubt about anyone offering services at your door, step back and take a few minutes to contact them for advice. You can also visit the Police Scotland website for more information."

Between April and September 2019, more than £600,000 has been taken from householders in 306 instances of doorstep and bogus crime.

Fiona Richardson, Chief Officer of Trading Standards Scotland said: "Trading Standards is at the forefront of tackling consumer related scams.

"Working in partnership with the police and other Shut out Scammers partners means that we are better able to protect our most vulnerable citizens from COVID related scams."

Police Scotland is working with a number of partners on the Shut Out Scammers campaign to signpost the public to relevant prevention advice and support services. These include: Trading Standards Scotland; Advice Direct Scotland; Neighbourhood Watch Alert; Age Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

If you want to read more of our advice and guidance on preventing crime, visit our dedicated webpage at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers>.

E-mail from Brian Pirie enclosing a copy of the Falkirk Directory Information which ultimately is now on the FC website. We have a link on our website to the COVID-19 information on FC's website.

Email from Councillor Aitchison attaching a copy of a letter from Miller Homes relating to the North bank Farm Application which was appealed to the PEAD (Scottish Government's Planning Environmental Appeals Division). Permission was granted for 200 houses. Madelene also received a copy of the same letter direct from Miller Homes.

E-mail from Brian Pirie advising his team has redirected the community grants fund to provide support to groups who are helping fight the corona virus. The details can be found on the Council website, at <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/covid19/action-fund.aspx>

E-mail forwarded by Brian Pirie from the Scottish Horse Society. A number of community councils have asked me for equestrian information – would it be possible to send this link to all the community councils in Scotland please?

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/coronavirus-covid-19>

E-mail from a member of the Bo'ness Car4U which is a charity dedicated to provide transport for cancer patients to hospital appointments. The group would like to have a presence on the Community Council as it wishes to establish good links with all aspects of the Bo'ness Community. We have vacancies so this can be discussed at our meeting.

E-mail from Falkirk Council confirming that the core Path that passes behind Shafto Place and Braefoot Road has been closed, with FC permission, due to Covid-19 and will be opened immediately the restrictions/lockdown have been lifted.

For your information, in these unprecedented times we find ourselves in, as it stands, we have closed or diverted a number of paths across the Falkirk Council area, including in Denny, Banknock and Slamannan, amongst other locations and have closed all 149 Play Parks that Falkirk Council owns or manage across the district. This is being reviewed on a daily basis as more information becomes available.

Falkirk Community Trust has also closed all of the play areas; some sports pitch facilities and have also closed all sports facilities and Car Parks at their parks too, in our combined efforts to restrict the spread of COVID-19. This is being reviewed on a daily basis, when local authorities are updated by the government on any new measures we should be putting in place.

I wrote suggestion signage be placed in situ so that it was clear that the path was closed with permission. I also asked Robyn to post on facebook clarifying the right to roam and confirming the structure blocking the path should not be moved.

E-mail from Falkirk Council Standard trading containing various links to FC Press releases, Consumer Advice Scotland and Coronavirus Scams Prevention websites.

E-mail from Brian Pirie forwarding details of Coronavirus funding available from thirteen different sources.

E-mail from Brian Pirie advising that following a petition from the community and an election process which ended last week, there is now a community council in the Slamannan & Limerigg area. They can't meet until early May (and even then with the restrictions in place maybe not then either) but pleasingly they have all 6 members in place.

E-mail from a student, studying a 1year NC Administration Course at Forth Valley College, requesting a placement with the Community Council. I wrote back explaining that we would be unable to offer a 12 day placement and made some suggestions that I hoped were useful.

E-mail from Young Scott with the Newsletter. They have launched new on-line learning resources on COVID-19 and other relevant information topics for young people. All resources help to meet a variety of experiences and outcomes from the Curriculum for Excellence and are tailored to a wide range of ages. Parents, carers, teachers, youth workers, or anyone working with young people can go to their website and access them.

E-mail from a Development Worker representing Townbreak. She has recently taken on a post to set up Dementia Services in the Falkirk Area for a charity based in Stirling. She has been contracted to set up similar dementia specific services as they already run in Stirling. More information is on their website. www.townbreakstirling.org

So far prior to lockdown they have set up one service in Grangemouth which is a monthly friendship group for people with a diagnosis of dementia and their carer to attend. The group takes part in an activity, share experiences and the aim is to reduce their social isolation.

She would be delighted if we would be able to support her in this role by advertising the service, sharing posters/flyers on our social media, or passing on her email to those who may be interested in the service carol@townbreakstirling.org

Promoting their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TownBreakFalkirk>

Once she is able she would be delighted to meet the community council to share further information on Town Break and their services.

Falkirk Council Notifications

Temporarily prohibiting vehicles on Nether Kinneil, Upper Kinneil, Bo'ness from 19.3.20 to 27.3.20 – to allow drainage works.

Removal of two disabled parking spaces. One at Dawson Place and the other at Grangepans.

Provision of a disabled parking space on the south side of Jamieson Avenue from the projected west boundary line of 94 Jamieson Avenue in an easterly direction.

Madelene Hunt (Chair)

9. A.O.C.B.

Comment was made about the closure of the Core Path at Braefoot and that notices had been placed stating this was closed. We have been in contact with Falkirk Council regarding the closure which we are assured is just temporary. We suggested that signs be put up by Falkirk Council stating the path was closed with the permission of Falkirk Council. We also posted on Bo'ness Natters clarification of the right to roam and confirming the path was closed with the permission of Falkirk Council. We are assured the path will reopen immediately the pandemic is over.

Date of Next Meeting 10th June at 7pm.