

Bo'ness Community Council Convenor's Annual Report September 14th 2016

In October 2015 some of us attended a counter terrorism conference; packs are to be distributed on how to be aware and pursue and prevent such events. Also we were represented at the Licensing Forum.

On 5th November there was a James Watt Celebration in Bo'ness Library and fireworks displays were held at the Baptist Church and the Corbie Inn. **On 7th** November 4 of us attended the Annual Festival of Remembrance Event in Falkirk Town Hall. **On 8th** we attended the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service in Bo'ness Old Kirk and then on to the Cenotaph where Owen Griffiths laid the CC wreath. **On 9th** I met with Sarah Buchanan, a director of the Richmond Park Hotel. She was looking for info about Bo'net and how she could work with us. Unfortunately due the death of the owner this is in abeyance at the moment. We can pick this up again

On 10th 3 of us attended PPF in Falkirk Council Chambers. **On 11th** Len and I were present at the Main Issues Planning update in Callendar House. This was a very worthwhile exercise made all the better by the tea and scones with jam and cream prepared in their kitchen.

We learned that the Government imposed a moratorium on fracking and UCG.

On 12th Age Scotland –make it happen- had a meeting in the Sensory Centre and Len and I attended. On 18th we were represented at a meeting of the Taxi-Forum in Falkirk Town Hall by Len.

The 18th November in the afternoon was the AGM of CVS held in St.Francis Xavier hall and we were well represented.

On 21st the Reindeers were in town and the Christmas Lights were switched on by our Fair Queen. There was a reception afterwards in the large meeting room above the Library.

IT training is now available in Dean Court and Craigview for the elderly residents there. Help with purchase of PC's was provided by Bo'net. St Andrews Church and young people from Bo'ness Academy are providing the necessary IT skills training or this.

During November we started to help Bo'ness Unemployed Worker's Association to set up a group that could be of help and value to the unemployed in our town. This has progressed slowly but it is hoped to get Provost Pat Reid to officially launch the group in late October 2016.

On 25th we attended a meeting organised by Brian Pirie our CEO to discuss the cuts in the Council's Budget. This was a depressing event and the severity of the savings that needed to be made shocked us to the core. Revd. Albert Bogle also retired from ST Andrew's Church after 34 years. He was also The Moderator of the Church of Scotland in 2012/13.

December started off on the 3rd when we were invited to Grangemouth Police Station to meet Superintendent Chris Stewart and get an update on the reshuffle and to inform us that due to pressure we are once again going to see police on the beat and dedicated Community Constables are being available in each town. We fought long and hard to get dedicated police in each town and are delighted that at last we can report a success. **On 5th** Stuart McAllister, Len Ainslie and I met in the Business Hub, Vicar Street Falkirk for a planning update. Many CC's were represented here and it was a very informative discussion. **On 7th** we met with reps of the Silent Festival including Emma Mortimer in Bo'ness Library to discuss the 2016 festival.

The 9th was our monthly meeting and we formed a **small sub group** consisting of Joan Boyd, Lennox Ainslie, Robyn Adamson and Owen Griffiths to examine the 140 page document in detail and report back on how these cuts would impact on the residents of Bo'ness.

Robert Jeffrey, a member of the public objected to some of the budget cuts and informed us of his views on these, especially those affecting public transport and services.

There was also an outdoor work shop from IFLI about bug life in the area on 9th as well.

On December 15th at 1pm in the Municipal buildings there was a meeting about the new recycling charter. New plans for litter collection were discussed, this was a Cosla initiative about another bin to keep card and

paper separate from tins and plastic as this causes cross contamination and increases the amount being sent to landfill.

January 2016 started off on 12th with the sub group meeting with “Local Councillors” about the budgets cuts. Joan Boyd is going to update Community Councillors on how our residents will be affected. **On 13th January** we had our monthly meeting and had a very informative update on budget cuts one of the best ever submitted by Bo’ness CC. My sincere thanks to the sub group members for their excellent research and report. We really appreciate all the effort and time you gave to this project.

On 19th several of us attended a meeting at the Scottish Parliament to commemorate James Watt and his invention.

On 21st some of us attended the Scottish Parliament again for the unveiling of Portraits of all the Scottish First Ministers.

These were painted by Anne Powers, who lives in Cowdenhill in Bo’ness.

On 27th 2 of us attended the Provost’s Memorial Holocaust Event in Falkirk Town Hall. There was a display re Darfur and a reminder of all those who gave their lives each day.

On 28th I attended the Litter Team Workshops from 9am to 3pm. This was an excellent event and the workshops were excellent. Some events were held in Dollar Park.

On 29th there was a meeting at the public at the Public School about making Bo’ness a Fairtrade town.

February

We have been involved with planting of fruit trees in Kinneil Estate. **On 9th** we were invited to the launch of Silent Film Festival in the Hippodrome and some of us attended. 3 attended PPF in Falkirk. At our monthly meeting on the **10th** Danny Fallon FC attended and gave a presentation on Open Space Strategy. Bo’ness is getting updates to 2 of its parks and play areas are being upgraded. The recipients of the McLaren Trophy this year are BRAAS- real ale society. Chair will contact the winners tonight. Joan Boyd gave an excellent update on the budget and details will be distributed to everyone and put on our website. **On 18th** we met with Unemployed group in the Library. **On 22nd** IFLI gave a presentation in the Town Hall and on **25th** the Odenwald Association, twinned with Falkirk, gave a presentation in the library. **On 29th** Len and I attended the Ineos Liaison group meeting.

MARCH

On 1st there was a meeting about the buoy removed from the harbour. **On 8th** 4 of us attended a Funders event in Bowhouse centre, Grangemouth. Several of us attended the opening and closing events of the Silent Film Festival on **18th** and **20th**. Joan, Len, Alex and I attended a presentation from Lark Energy in Greenpark Centre, Polmont. It was about a Heat and Energy Exchange Unit at Avondale and this would be fed by pellets made from its recycled material. This is not now being taken forward. **On 23rd** we had our McLaren presentation to BRAAS. This was well attended and we thank Provost Reid for providing the catering.

During the last few weeks we have had a problem as regards being asked by the Community Trust to pay a hire fee for the use of the meeting room. It was complicated and despite intervention on our behalf by numerous Councillors we made no progress. All was not lost especially when we said how much of our own resources we used e.g. telephone and Wi-Fi, it was decided to keep the status quo.

APRIL

On 5th there was a meeting about the buoy and this project is progressing at the usual rate. We met with BUWA on **7th** and progress is slow. At our monthly on **10th** we had a presentation from Jonny Pickering about the Community Empowerment Act. **On 21st** 3 of us attended a meeting with the newly formed Grangemouth C.C. Representatives from other CCs were there also.

MAY

Joan and I met with 4 representatives of GCC to discuss our strategy when Ineos apply to close Bo'ness Road. We will be working together to keep the road open. It was a very worthwhile discussion. On **9th** Bo'net met in the Safety Cabin and on **10th** it was a meeting with the BUWA. They now have a constitution but no office bearers. At our monthly meeting on **10th** Second Lieutenant Christina Deans, area training officer, gave us a presentation about the Army Cadet Force. She is hoping to get new recruits for the Bo'ness branch.

We also heard that VSF has been cancelled this year as there is no funding available.

JUNE

On **1st** Stuart and I attended the AGM of Falkirk and District Community Safety Panel and on **7th** Len and I attended PPF. Our meeting on **8th** was attended by Douglas Duff and Pete Reid from Falkirk Council. They discussed funding for town centre events. Basically there is none available but we will still get our Christmas lights and reindeers on Saturday 22nd October. We agreed to arrange a meeting with the businesses in the town and see if we can help. This has worked out very well and over 40 attended the meeting and we have had a further 2 meetings and a small subgroup has been formed to look at funding and they have had 2 meetings. We have now taken a back seat but are available if needed. The BWUA have met again as has Bo'net. On **28th** June and I went Ineos to meet with David East and Ian Fyfe re the Bo'ness Road closure. We spend 2 hours there and had a slide presentation showing us their plan. They aim to close 8 of the entrances so as to make the plant more secure. We heard nothing to convince us that it was necessary to close the road to carry out their plans. On **29th** June Maria and I met with Mandy Lang the new Coalfield Regeneration worker for this area. We arranged for 4 groups with different funding needs to meet her.

JULY

WE met with GCC on **29th** to chat about how to move forward are arranging a further meeting and inviting our Mp and MSP to that. On **13th** I met Kay Woods from the 50+forum and got some leaflets which I have distributed. We were to have representatives from Edinburgh Airport at our meeting on **13th** but they cancelled at the last moment. We had Helena and Nick Paul from Blackness, they are members of Edinburgh Airport Watch. This group was formed to object to the new flight paths. They gave us their views on how this would impact on local communities. Over 500 people logged into to watch the live stream of Bo'ness Fair from the Chance Park.

Further meetings for the month included WLMBC.I.C., CVS Safety partnership and Bo'ness businesses. We also met with Alex Fleming from Falkirk BID who brought us up to speed on what support we could expect for further events.

AUGUST

On **4th** Joan, Len and I met with Ann Ritchie and 20 officers from FC at the fire station to have a look at newly re loose chippings on Linlithgow. It has been swept several times since and has improved. On **9th** I met with Frank McChord in Grangemouth to see about funding for events in town centre. On **10th** 3 above met Russell Steadman and 1 officer to discuss road again and also junction of Stewart Avenue and The Wynd. Does not agree we need no right turn, in fact he left doing just that. That evening reps from Edinburgh Airport attended our monthly meeting. Also 3 reps from Edinburgh Airport Watch were present. Long debate clear as mud at the end. On **15th** we met Robin Baird in the Cabin and had a long discussion about the change to the recycling system. Looks like it is going to be 4 weeks between pickups for green bin. Other meetings with businesses, WLMB, Traders sub-group, BUWA and Licensing Forum took place. On **6th** Joan and I and Malcolm and Kathleen from GCC met with MSP Angus McDonald and MP Martyn Day. We had a long discussion ask me if want to know outcome.

On **31st** Joan and I attended presentation at Tesco, Redding from Fareshare and Cyrenians. Discussed distribution of food for free from supermarkets etc.

SEPTEMBER

On 2nd IFLI had a display and film of work done at Bo'ness Foreshore in Bridgeness Club. On 5th Joan and I attended a meeting of all C.C.s in Falkirk with reps from Edinburgh Airport. It was very informative, Joan is attending one tomorrow night with Linlithgow C.C. On 7th we met with Walter Inglis from GCC to plan what we are going to do at the 2 public events in Bo'ness and Grangemouth. On 13th Alex, Len, Maria, Joan and I met with 4 officers from FC to discuss the closure of the One Stop Shop. They had scheduled the meeting to last for an hour but it lasted 2 1/2 hours. We will wait and see but we were very clear about the service we expected.

During the year we were represented at CVS, Forth Area Forum, PPF, Taxi Forum, Falkirk and District CSP, WLMBC.I.C., Foreshore Group, The Friends of Kinneil, Bo'net, NHS, Bo'ness Churches Together and Newtown F.C.

We were sorry to lose our minute secretary, Robert Snedden in December and Lillas Snedden in September due to the pressure of their work. I thank them for their help and support over the years as I do all of you who give up your time and experience for your community. Thanks to Joan and Maria especially for all the paperwork they take care of and Ian who makes accounting look like a walk in the park.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Police Scotland who have attended most of our meetings. It is invaluable to have their presence as we get and give information.

More details of the minutes can be found on our website www.bonesscc.org.

I leave you with this thought for next year; "Things can only get busier"

Madelene Hunt
Convenor