

DENNY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Denny & District Community Council meeting held on 18th June 2007 at 7.00pm in Denny Business Centre. The Chairman John Rintoul welcomed everyone present.

PRESENT

Community Councillors:	Roy Robertson Mike McIntosh Ray Richards	John Rintoul Colin Belbin Christine Bell
Apologies:	Davis Dow Chrissie Docherty	John Cooper Jennifer Steel
Local Councillors:	Dr Alex Waddell	Jim Blackwood
Guest Speaker:	Ann McDonald – Citizens Advice Bureau.	
Minute Secretary:	Christine Bell	

Note: This meeting was a continuation of the June monthly meeting which was not completed due to the time constraints within the available venue on 04/06/07.

Dr Alex Waddle requested to address the meeting first as he had to leave early. He raised a number of points and issues as follows:

Denny Town Centre Plans

Councillor Waddell distributed A3 copies of the plans which he had received from the project director today.

Roy Robertson expressed his disappointment at not having received these from Douglas Duff after having requested them on 4/6/07.

New Community Schools Project

A meeting is due to be held in Denny High School Library on 21/06/07 concerning the proposals for the new school, to be conducted by Brian Smail. Councillor Waddell strongly suggested community council attendance. John Rintoul confirmed that he had already been informed of this forthcoming meeting and was planning community council attendance.

Drawings of the proposed New School were shown to the C.C. members.

Access to New School via Drove Loan

Alex pointed out that he had raised the point of the possibility of access to the new school via the Drove Loan and confirmed that this was being considered within the project.

Drinks Licensing for retailers

Further to the meeting on 6th June concerning problems with underage drinking and anti social behaviour (particularly in the Godfrey Ave area) Councillor Waddell enquired about having a pro forma letter available in the one stop shop for the members of the public to use when they wish to complain about such issues. John Rintoul pointed out that Michael Mathieson had suggested this at the meeting and was in full support of this idea. The acting director of Law and Administration at Falkirk Council confirmed that this was not possible due to the potential to be seen as partial and encouraging feedback, but did however stress that in such cases, as many people as possible should complain in writing in order to generate corrective action.

Councillor Waddell requested the availability of 'information packs' for the public who do need to lodge a complaint but have difficulty writing letters. This will be considered by the council with a view to preparing a pack for distribution to the public.

Councillor Waddell expressed some negative feedback he had received following the 6th June meeting whilst John Rintoul had some very positive feedback from some of the members of the public who had attended the C.C. meeting to raise the issues, saying they felt that progress was being made through raising the awareness of the problems.

Footpath access in area of New Denny High School

Councillor Waddell had received complaints from the public regarding some inaccessible footpaths surrounding the new school site. Oglivie were contacted and confirmed that they had inadvertently done this and would rectify the problem asap.

Footpath planning within the New Denny High School Project.

Councillor Waddell announced that he was due to attend a meeting which he discovered was taking place on 21st June in Council Offices. This is not a public meeting but the agenda is to discuss footpath access issues relating to the new school. He noted that he has discussed his concerns relating to access from Bonnybridge area with Chief Inspectors Beaton and Fleming and has also flagged these concerns to the council including his continued concerns about methane gas emissions. Christine Bell confirmed that she has had continuing on ongoing correspondence relating to path access to the school with Councillor McNally and Falkirk Council, and Mick McIntosh reiterated that he and Billy Buchanan has also been voicing similar concerns at school planning meetings. Councillor Waddell also has concerns about the uncertainty surrounding the Denny Eastern Access Route and the timing of it. He will feedback the details of the meeting to the community council when it reconvenes in September.

Catchment Area for new Denny High

Councillor Waddell voiced that there appears to be some confusion over two points which have been brought to his attention, class sizes and the possibility of the Inches area of Larbert being included in Denny High. He raised these with Julia Swan (Director of Education) who confirmed that there were no significant problems relating to undersized schools and that the Inches area is not part of the Denny catchment area.

Surgeries for Councillor Alex Waddell

Councillor Waddell has had extreme difficulty in trying to arrange a location for his Denny surgeries and has found Falkirk Council to be most unhelpful and obstructive in this. He is continuing to pursue this and will confirm his arrangements when established.

Councillor Waddell's comments complete.

Guest Speaker :Ann McDonald – Denny & Dunipace Citizens Advice Bureau .

Ann, who has been with the Denny and Dunipace C.A.B. for 16years and is soon due to retire, provided a thorough account of the background of the C.A.B. in Denny and Dunipace which included a broad account of the extensive and valuable service provided by them. A summary of the main points as follows:

C.A.B. has operated in Denny for almost 30years.

Originally set up by Rev of Dunipace Church.

Run by a management committee consisting of public, local organisations and staff members.

Located above Clydesdale Bank in a flat which is jointly owned by the C.A.B. board of directors.

Opens Mon-Fri 10-2p.m.

Wed are appointment only.

Legal clinic provided by R.G.M. and Russell & Aitken.

Provide income maximisation service Wed 5-7p.m. by appointment.

Outreach service at Bridge Cres and Banknock.

Multiple Debt advisory service is the most widely used by clients.

Currently 5 part time paid workers and 20 volunteers but they are desperately short of volunteers and are appealing to anyone who is interested to join in this rewarding and interesting service. Mick McIntosh who has undertaken some of the training but unable to complete for health reasons, reinforced Ann's sentiments, saying the training was extremely interesting and enlightening.

Council funding 45K/yr. Scottish Exec £17,458. Regeneration funds £4,200. Income maximisation 10K. Lottery has provided 20K/yr for last 6years but unlikely to renew this commitment so new funding source is sought.

The service was able to gain £262,936 through unpaid welfare benefit to clients in the last year.

Ann's presentation opened up a general discussion on the current social problem of the debt crisis experienced by many which seems to be largely understated by the government.

Thanks were extended to Ann for her excellent presentation.

Any Other Business

Scottish Parliament Invitation

John Rintoul received an invitation from Margaret Mitchell of Conservative party to nominate a member of C.C. to attend the Scottish Parliament as she is organising a visit for community council members from around the country. The group agreed that Mrs Hunter should be nominated and if declined by her the event should be attended by John Rintoul.

Trnasport Service for Cancer Patients extended to Denny

A meeting is to take place in the Crypt Hall 26th June at 6.30 to move this project forward. Roy confirmed that this service is currently operating successfully in Bonnybridge but did take almost 9months to establish. Whilst the C.C. support this service for patients it was noted by Mick that this should be an N.H.S function and embraced as part of the N.H.S service for cancer patients. It was agreed that the current N.H.S service is not adequate for patients who are transported to and from appointments in groups and that a personal service should be developed by the N.H.S. which should individualise patient care during transportation. C. Bell agrees in full with these views however the C.C. are in full support of the volunteer service being extended to Denny to assist patients in the immediate future.

Roy contacted Central F.M. to advertise this meeting and Colin Belbin was placing ad in Herald.

Rita Hunter Presentation

The presentation to Rita was discussed and all agreed that a Royal Doulton Figurine was to be presented to Rita during a short ceremony, to be arranged. Ray was investigating the possibility of a plinth for the figure to be inscribed with an appropriate message. Ray will liaise with John regarding exact details of this over the next few weeks and the C.C. members will be informed of the arrangements by John. The idea of having a Rita Hunter award for school pupils will be discussed with Mr Millar, the rector of Denny High School who is due to attend the next C.C. meeting.

Roy Robertson – Recent Correspondence.

Multiple Occupation Housing

A letter concerning the reporting of houses being used for multiple occupation without the necessary licences was received and to be replied to asap. Apparently this is a growing problem due to an increase in the amount of migrant workers, particularly from Eastern Europe. Roy is dealing with the appropriate response.

Falkirk Council Inspection

Falkirk Council is due to be inspected soon so are seeking comments re. community Scotland housing etc to be fed back by 29th June.

Justice of the Peace

A new list of J.P's in the area was received naming 3 new people.

It was mentioned that the current J.P. system was soon to be changed but it was unclear what the proposed new system consisted of. To be confirmed in due course.

Councillor Alex Waddell's Letter dated 25th May 2007

The above letter was read out in full by Roy at the request of Councillor Waddell who was disappointed that some of his previous comments, made at the May C.C. meeting had not been included in the minutes. Additionally Councillor Waddell's letter to Roy dated 19th April outlining the details of his election statement were read out in full. All comments were duly noted by all C.C. members in attendance.

Problem with Underage Drinking

Roy identified that this was a key concern of the C.C. and noted Councillor Waddell's commitment to continue his efforts to assist with this issue. A letter received by Roy from Councillor McNally was read out in full which also expressed his commitments to assist with all local issues and made particular reference to issues of anti-social behaviour.

Planning Application

An application received for a piece of open space to be used for private garden and the erection of a 1.2m fence was objected by C.C and ultimately upheld.

Correspondence completed by Roy Robertson.

Denny Town Centre Regeneration

Councillor Waddell informed the C.C. that he had a discussion with Douglas Duff regarding the responsibility for the Community Space within the new town centre. It would appear that there may have been a rethink by Mr Duff and that it should be the responsibility of the council and not the developer as originally proposed.

This opened an extensive discussion about the town centre regeneration led by Roy and summarised as follows.

Roy distributed copies of the New Planning Framework 2 document to all members.

A ten point national standards for community engagements was identified by Roy and it was considered that Falkirk Council has fallen short on all 10 points in the regeneration consultation process.

An account of a seminar held by F.O.E attended by Roy was provided which outlined some very successful planning consultation projects which had taken place in other areas of the country. It is felt that F.O.E has much to offer the C.C. group in advice on consultation processes and it was agreed by all members that the C.C. subscribe. Roy is getting a copy of a DVD from them on such consultation issues and will feed back asap.

It was agreed that there are still many issues relating to the regeneration project which need to be resolved with the council and it was advised by Roy that the councillors convey this to the council and that the proposals are not submitted to planning until all is resolved. John requested that the councillors, as representatives of the people of Denny, communicate this and advise the C.C. appropriately. Both councillors agreed.

Mick informed the C.C. that he is observing the work of the established C.A.P. group who act within the wider area (community activists for the regeneration programme) on behalf of Denny & District and will feedback appropriately.

Councillor Blackwood informed the group that he heard that the council was planning to roughcast the current building in the Town Centre but this was unconfirmed.

John Rintoul thanked all attendees for their contributions and closed the meeting.