



Kane then talked through the six action areas on the Local Community Plan and identified work which is ongoing in relation to this.

In summary there is a lot of work continuing in all areas to address the action required in the plan and Kate Kane can provide details of the progress on request which is continually ongoing. Any member of the C.C. is welcome to contact Kane who will endeavour to update on request.

One crucial element being worked on by the community officers is how the local Community Reference Group can now audit the progress of the service providers who have committed to the plan and ensure that they do what they say they are going to do.

The same events with the 3D model of the area are scheduled to take place again in 18months time to update the Local Community Plan which is designed to be a working document for the community and not static. It needs to be continually upgraded and reassessed to meet the changing needs of the community.

Questions:

**Q. C Bell asked if the individual departments within the Council work with this document as it was felt by her that it should be used as a working guideline for them to adhere to.**

**A. Yes they do now, previously the strategic community plan was written up to 2010 but they are reviewing that process by taking the local community plan on instead, because as far as Kate is concerned the local community plan is the bottom up approach which should be used to meet the needs of the people and fed into the strategic themes. Now that local community planning are going to be heading the neighbourhoods' themed partnership, it will enable them to work with the strategic partners in the area.**

**Q. Mick Mc asked Kate for an update on a BMX park which he heard mentioned at a meeting held on Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Jan with Denny 4Youth group.**

**A. The BMX park along with the Dunipace Play Park and Gala Park are all areas which are at various stages of negotiations of funding and organising, through the bureaucratic legislative processes.**

**Mick Mc commented that John McNally informed him by email that the BMX project is still ongoing. There were two police constables at the Denny 4 Youth meeting who said Paul Flemming was now looking into it from a policing perspective. It would be another facility for kids which would be welcome in the area.**

**Jennifer Steel commented that some time ago when Johnny McNally was a member of this Community Council he found £50,000 from some local organisation but they didn't do anything with it so it was lost, so perhaps he could resurrect that again, perhaps it would be interesting to ask what happened to it.**

**Mick quoted that, at the meeting there was a chap, whose name he couldn't remember, who had said he was comfortable with funding for this project, in that there was lots of funding available from different places.**

Jennifer and John Cooper remembered it was one of the factories which was donating £50,000 and given a time scale for an unspecific youth facility e.g. skate board park. It was money to be put towards any kind of park .Jennifer mentioned - that the money was there to be used and we lost it.

Kate Kane commented that there is much going on with funding and Kate nominated Ian Howarth from Denny 4 Youth to be part of the projects, as he is well informed in funding applications. Any funding which is given can be matched by the 'leader programme'. We have a youth consultation group at Denny Community Flat. Funders want young people to be part of the planning processes and that is happening in Denny.

Mick Mc mentioned that something Jennifer might know about was that the Forestry Trust has bought some land at Topps Farm which they want paths and things put through. John Murning informed him that was something that the youth groups were interested in taking part for paths and various other things.

Jennifer commented that it had nothing to do with the land at the Topps but has everything to do with the Strategic Plan, I think that they can confirm this- that they were going to continue to make outreach the paths for all but the residents of the Carron Valley were trying to make the old drove road accessible but it hit a brick wall.

Kate commented that it would be interesting to invite Mike Ewart to speak to us from the Forestry Trust just to see if there is a management plan being set up just now, because she had worked in other areas where there were different focus groups working on different things.

Mick informed the group that John Murning is trying to arrange a site meeting at Topps Farm on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Jennifer stated that she knew nothing of any proposed site meetings and that it should have been passed on to her first.

Mick confirmed that he was only informing the group of what was discussed at the meeting.

**Q. John Rintoul asked how far Kate has got with the Development Group.**

A. Kate has made up a whole list now which covers the Community Council, local elected members, churches, and community groups around Denny. The list has expanded and Kate plans to meet with Colin Frame on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. to discuss this. What started with a few people has now become 25/26 people to make sure that it covers the whole of the community of Denny.

**Q. Roy referred to improving the local economy and tourism and in his opinion there is a 'big hole' in the area of regeneration of employment. The current economy seems to be money which is publicly generated going around and around and there is nothing new here. In terms of raising skills of young people, you have to have some notion of how to attract industry. There is nothing mentioned in the plan about this. It all depends on money coming in from the local authority and that is a flaw in the plan.**

A. This is really the views and the aspirations of the local people which are in the local plan, these headings in the Local Plan are the same as in the Strategic Plan and the Strategic Community Plan will detail the long term plans for what is proposed in this area.

Roy commented that it was something that was absent in the strategic plan. It has seemed to the C.C. that when this has come up, the notion that the local authority should be actively promoting, engaging and finding economic development. But here in Denny it has been very much the attitude that there is space available for potential businesses to move into. It needs more than just providing space.

Kate agreed in full that the people in Denny feel at a low ebb, there is nothing there for them, there are no jobs and they lack aspirations.

Roy highlighted that the aspirations have been ground away by the fact that there has been indifference on the part of the local authority for years towards this place.

There was a general consensus from all at the meeting that this was an accurate reflection of the mood of the people in Denny.

Kate stressed that training was still important for the youth in the area, and there are ideas about trying to attract business and developers working in the area to invest in training local young people.

A general discussion followed concerning the employment opportunities in the area.

Roy explained the workings of the Crucial Crew scheme. He then outlined how the Council and Colin Frame who is a planner have to decide how to attract business into the area and come and tell the C.C. what they plan to do.

2

## **Denny Town Centre Regeneration Meeting**

More detailed plans due to be released by March/April.

Denny Area Forum meeting held recently voiced some concerns by members of St. Alexander's Church about a pub/restaurant, roundabout and a loading bay being situated close by. This had been voiced previously by Mick and David at Town Centre group meetings. Alex Waddell confirmed that there will not be a loading bay there.

There were new traffic flow concerns as changes have been made so that traffic will be allowed to turn right from Broad St into Stirling Street. This was expressed as unacceptable as was the proposal for a pub/ restaurant near the church.

It was confirmed at the meeting that none of these proposals had been confirmed yet. All points would be taken into consideration when the next detailed plans were drawn up.

There were concerns voiced about the time scale for the development being perhaps 2/3, maybe 4 years, to completion. There would appear to be potential hurdles to overcome with some of the residents in the town centre who are not in Council owned property.

There was some confusion expressed over the location of the supermarket loading bay and issues raised by the members of the public who attended regarding the levels of the town centre and how unsuitable lots of stairs are for some members of the community.

The width of the road at Davis Row was raised as a concern. The space at the old Bingo Hall was mentioned as an area of concern by the public members who attended as was the green space next to the Denny Parish Church.

Jennifer raised the issue of community space. 45 sq metres was to be allocated in the Library which will be accessible out with library hours. Public toilets were also a concern.

3 **Hamish Taylor addressed the meeting with a question concerning the availability of money from the sale of land in the area. What happens to this money?**

He mentioned a particular case with some land Bellway did not want in a recent transaction. The council was heard to have sold it for £205,000. This money was to be allocated towards something for the town - what happened to these funds?

David replied that the Council valued the land and gave it to Henry Boot for developing the Town Centre and confirmed that only very vague details of the transaction are provided by the Council.

There was a mention of 11 acres already given to Henry Boot for free.

A discussion followed regarding the meagre allocation of public space. The general feeling is that Boot seems to be contributing very little to the local community.

4 **Area Forums & Community Councils**

At a recent meeting Ian Tough asked Mick to feedback on the options of having both Area Forum groups and Community Council groups, would one group be sufficient? John Cooper voiced that he was strongly in favour of both. The reason being that the C.C is a statutory body which cannot be sacked, the Forums can be stopped anytime. There was general agreement within the group that both should be retained.

5 **Where do the people go for answers to questions in the Community re the community?**

Hamish Taylor asked the group this question. John Rintoul informed him that questions have to be channelled through the relevant officials.

Mike advised that the elected councillors for the area are the people to ask to represent you and get answers to specific questions.

Hamish mentioned that he had a query with money for the Ogilvie building at the Wellstrand Brae.

He also mentioned the bridge problem at Milton Row saying it was removed and a fence placed over the opening. Someone had told him at the Forum meeting that it was imminent that a new bridge was being built.

Michelle McCallum was able to update Hamish that the bridge was being replaced but the remodelled bridge is currently being submitted to SEPA and April is the date for the new bridge construction.

Jennifer asked why has the Community Council was not informed that a new bridge was being built in April.

6	<p><b>Denny 4 Youth.</b>  Mick informed the group that John Murning mentioned that there may be a possibility that the Gym from the old Denny High school will be kept.  Alex Waddell suggested that this is a strong possibility. Kate informed the group that Sport Scotland funded it so it cannot be demolished or sold.  The situation remains unconfirmed</p> <p>The other Denny Centre is being looked at for community space possibilities, perhaps a youth facility and possibly the Broompark being upgraded.  Mick advised that the local Councillors are looking at the community space issues with a view to coming up with a viable solution to the problem.</p> <p>Roy expressed concerns about the community space issues.  If it is assumed that everything moves to the new school, what will happen to the facilities that exist such as the Denny Centre.  He was also concerned that a myth is being perpetuated by officials within the Council that Broompark Centre is underused. He has looked at the monthly programme and it is not underused. He expressed his intolerance that the Council officials should be continually suggesting at meetings that the Broompark Centre is underused.  He is outraged because Council officials are duty bound to tell the truth or to investigate to ensure that what they say is correct rather than self perpetuating a myth because it suits them, and so that they don't have to ask themselves hard questions about what they are doing.</p> <p>Kate has advocated that it has been overused, and has experienced difficulties trying to get use of it.  Roy expressed the view that Colin Frame and Douglas Duff are of the opinion that it is hardly ever used and are so advising Councillors.</p>	
7	<p><b>Licensing Forum Meeting Update</b></p> <p>New Act that applies to each local authority requires a forum group to meet 4/5 times per year. It is attended by Community Councillors from different areas and representatives from the Licensed trade, Police and Drugs officials.  A new chair had been appointed who is a Community Councillor.  Premises trading hours – a document was given out for all to read.  John asked that C.C. member read the document and feedback their views to him for the next Forum meeting.  Licence application for the premises at the bottom of Bridge Cres. – It was agreed that this should be objected to.  The Secretary has been asked to write and express the objections of the C.C. This has to be done before the 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.</p>	<b>Roy</b>
8	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous meeting Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2008.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate account of the meeting. Agreement proposed by David and seconded by Colin.</p>	

Matters arising form the minutes.

9

**Housing development by Persimmon Homes**

Alex Waddell has agreed to advise David Dow on exactly what grounds the proposals were eventually rejected on. The concerns are for resubmission of the application so it is necessary to know exactly what was stated as the reasons for rejection.

Roy agreed to ask the council for the original reasons for the rejection of this proposal and the current/ latest reasons.

**Roy**

10

**Denny High School Prize Donation**

Still talking and deciding – no update to add.

11

**Denny Town Centre Regeneration**

Update already discussed earlier. Jennifer expressed disappointment at the turnout for the public consultation meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

There was general disappointment expressed within the group. Hamish Taylor mentioned that the methods used by the council to advertise the meeting are not adequate.

12

**Safer Routes to Schools**

Christine informed the group that this is still progressing and that she has linked up this project with the CTRA as the issues of paths/schools and litter strategy are all interconnected.

13

**Michelle McCallum was asked at this stage to provide a brief overview of the work being carried out by the CRTA.**

Michelle advised that CRTA proposes to form a group which can focus solely on litter and environment cleanups - she is forming a core group to draft a constitution for this. Arthur Berg from Falkirk Environmental Trust had been a reliable advisor on funding capacities.

Gala Park community clean up is due to take place on Sat April 26<sup>th</sup>. This is proposed to be a high profile community event to help change attitudes and clean up at the same time.

£3000 has been allocated for funding this but is unlikely that it will cost that amount.

Michelle is involving youth groups and local schools. The Gala park has been chosen as it is central, highly visible, in need of a clean up and will help raise the profile of the cause.

A meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. identified many concerns with litter such as lack of bins etc. and these are all going to be addressed.

River Carron clean up is also due by way of removing Japanese Knot weed and litter at the same time.

Fly-Tipping is also a major problem in the area.  
It was agreed by all that fly tipping is a major problem.  
The litter strategy team will accept anonymous report about offenders.  
The number for reporting people should be advertised at the event.  
Michelle will keep the C.C. group informed of the activities of her groups.

Christine added that there was a meeting held recently to start a residents association in Barnego Road area and that she has talked to residents in the Ingleston Ave. area to set one up. So that would then be Dunipace covered in terms of residents associations. This will mean that there will be active groups within the area who will talk, will communicate and work together to make improvements to our areas.

Michelle agreed that this was the way forward and that the Council has been keen to support her group since it was formed.

John thanked Michelle for her contributions and invited her to all meetings. Jennifer mentioned that it would be useful to have representatives from all the residents groups at the meetings. Christine agreed.

14

### **Friends of the Earth.**

Roy confirmed that Clare is meeting with the CC next week to advise what is possible for community consultation.

This is due Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.00. John Rintoul urged everyone to come along to this as it should be useful.

Mick asked if this could be opened up to anyone who wished to attend as the last meeting she presented at was very informative.

John confirmed that it should be open to all interested parties.

Roy expressed concerns about opening this up until the Community Council heard what Clare was to suggest first.

Mick expressed that we as a group should open meetings to our community wherever possible.

So next Monday anyone who wishes to attend is welcome to come and listen to the presentation by Clare.

All

15

### **Wind Farm**

Colin informed the group that wind farm applications for funding forms are now available. Grants are for available from £200 to £10,000 with varying criteria.

Colin has forms available.

16

### **Identity Cards**

Colin is meeting Ian Tough on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb re this.

17

### **Information Handling Fee**

Mick confirmed that £30 had to be paid by all Community Councils for data holding and handling so will need to pay this fee. The Scottish Gov will advise of this soon.

18	<p><b>Corporate Plan</b></p> <p>A copy was received by John Rintoul from the Chief Exec.</p>	
19	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>Response from Falkirk Council Malcolm Smith, Development Manager, Planning and Transportation, regarding the problems with engagement of the planning services. The letter was read in full. Roy intends to follow this up.</p>	Roy
20	<p>Mick expressed concern that the Denny &amp; District group had not been informed of the development of Cloybank Estate. He was advised of the development details and it is a major dev in the area. He heard that they developer had been asked to donate £25,000 to Dunipace Primary School for extensions. Although the development is not in our area we should have been advised of the development and the funding of our local school . Christine expressed that this development was presented by John Penman the developer at the launch of the local Community plan meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 07 and had since been approved, building and construction works are now underway. Mick intends to go into the Council building on 5th Feb to view the plans and Roy will write to request details.</p>	M Mc Roy
21	<p>Letter from Sarah Bromley re Child Poverty Action. No immediate action possible within time limits,</p>	
22	<p>Housing and Social Work Services – procedure for allocating housed is currently under review. The views of Community Councils are required and questionnaire to be completed. This would need to be addressed a.s.a.p. and agreement was given for Roy to deal with it on behalf of the C.C.</p>	Roy
23	<p>Statement of Accounts for the Council received. Passed round the group.</p>	
24	<p>Planning applications Application has been made for flats in a conversion to house of multiple occupation. The property is above a pub in Broad Street. Revised rules were issued last year which these must be adhered to. This is a re-application and Colin pointed out that it is for housing people within one building. It was decided that the C.C. would object until further details are obtained. We should ask for more information, if anything is objectionable Roy will object and refer to the C.C. at next meeting.</p>	Roy
25	<p>An application for an extension to a house in Dunipace, 9 Crathie Drive – considered not problematic so should not be objected to. John Cooper knew of the details.</p>	Roy

26	<p>Falkirk Council Draft Corporate Plan. The Plan has been received for comments. Letter was read in full. Feedback by 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Anyone who wishes to see this should be able to download it. Comments to the Secretary if possible prior to 28<sup>th</sup> February.</p>	<b>All</b>
27	<p>Airth Parish Community Council Letter received concerning drinking age limits seeking off sales age limit to be increased to 21 for selling alcohol. Letter read in full. Also amendment requested to bylaws re alcohol consumption in streets. No action to be taken.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed. Next meeting due to take place Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</p>	