

## Denny & District Community Council

### Minutes of Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Meeting held in Denny Business Centre - Carronbank 7p.m - 9p.m.

#### **PRESENT:**

Community Councillors:     John Rintoul  
   Roy Robertson     David Dow  
   Mick McIntosh     Colin Belbin  
   Christine Bell     Chrissie Docherty

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Jennifer Steel  
John Cooper

#### Local Councillors:

Councillor Alex Waddell  
Councillor Johnny McNally  
Councillor Jim Blackwood

#### Regular attendees:

Jim Marshall – Falkirk Council Community Services  
Deborah Punchon – Falkirk Herald  
Lindsay Burns – Denny High School  
Ray Richards

#### Guests:

Lynne Belton – Denny Community Flat  
Jeanette Thacker -             “  
Nora Fowler -                     “

#### Minute Secretary:

Christine Bell

	This meeting took place immediately following the AGM during which John Rintoul welcomed everyone present.	<b>Action</b>
1	<b>Community Flat</b> Guests from the community flat were invited to address the meeting first. They conveyed that although there are many things they would like to improve in the community, there was not a specific issue which currently needed to be addressed by the community council. John expressed sincere thanks for their attendance and conveyed that the C.C. is there for the sole benefit of the community. They will always be welcome at C.C. meetings and any issues they have will always be taken seriously and assistance offered where possible.	
2	<b>Proposed changes to working practice for C.C.</b> All agreed on a separate meeting to formalise any changes which can be made to improve team working practice. JR will arrange a sub group meeting to formalise proposals for discussion at the Dec meeting.	J.R.
3	<b>Denny High School Prize Donation.</b> Lindsay Burns to arrange a meeting between C.C. and S. Millar to finalise the prize donation details.	L.B.

4	<p><b>Town Centre Regeneration.</b> Request received from Falkirk Council to nominate two members to attend a working group which is planned to meet every two months to discuss the progress of the regeneration project. Mick and David were nominated and Roy suggests we have a 3<sup>rd</sup> member. Roy to email D.Duff to inform him that we propose a 3<sup>rd</sup> member. Still major concerns surrounding traffic flow issues. Plans have changed again but have not been seen by C.C. Concerns were raised by Roy re the lack of involvement that the council have had with the C.C and hope this can improve. Recent letter states that C.C. will be appraised on changes. This implies that C.C. will be informed of changes but not consulted on proposals Time pressures seem to be influencing important decisions - which should not happen. F.C. still taking a top down approach. D. Dow did state that F.C. are working on improving communications but general view is that progress is slow and informative rather than consultative, and only after extensive work already been done on plans. <b>Next meeting Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.</b> Group to be updated at next meeting.</p>	M.Mc D.Dow  Roy.R
5	<p><b>License Group Forum</b> John reiterated that this group appears to have more powers than previous licensing regulatory groups so is hopeful it will be more effective at addressing issues related to sales of alcohol which are contributing to extra high incidences of anti social behaviour. <b>JR attending a meeting on Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b> He will update group at next meeting.</p>	JR
6	<p><b>Ian Martin Falkirk Council – Trees Issues and Legislation</b> Ian was due to attend but failed to turn up. John will contact him to rearrange at a later date.</p>	JR.
7	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 07.</b> Correction to the Date of Next meeting was made – changed to 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. All recipients of minutes had been informed of change on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov to allow time to rearrange but apologies conveyed for short notice of change.  All other details of minutes were agreed.</p>	
8	<p><b>Safer Routes to Schools</b> C. Bell updated the group. Launch of Local Community Plan went really well with many inspiring groups in Denny presenting details on what they are doing for the community. The team from the Community Flat were one group who delivered an excellent presentation at the launch. The Safer Routes to schools presentation by C. Bell was enthusiastically received with many of those attending asking for more information and to be updated. A meeting took place on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct with Falkirk Council officials, C. Bell, Ian Howarth and J.McNally who conveyed budget details for paths network. Only path due for expenditure is the one connecting new school with Town House area. Mandy Brown from FK Council will confirm who is responsible for which areas so we can target the appropriate people to push this further. C.Bell proposing to join forces with the Carronvale Residents Association to work together on this. <b>Meeting arranged Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b> C. Bell to update group at next meeting.</p>	C.Bell

<p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p>	<p><b>Meetings attended by Mick McIntosh. 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1st Nov and 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov.</b> Mick provided the following summary of meetings attended which was very informative.</p> <p><b>Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> Oct Falkirk Town hall</b></p> <p>Attended regional meeting of association of C.C's. Good exchange of views as to how Councils treat their C.C. groups. Summary is that all of the council's attitudes including our own leaves a lot to be desired. Afternoon session with MSP's SNP labour and a spokesperson for Lib Dems. All said they were very supportive and believers of C.C.s. However the SNP's review of C.C.s role in the democratic process will not be backed up with legislation or new money. In my opinion this is a missed opportunity to make local authorities give us equality and respect as a right and not to be treated as a nuisance as sometimes seems to be the case at present.</p> <p><b>Meeting Carlton Hotel 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2007</b></p> <p>Attended meeting of Community Development Alliance (Scotland) on New Powers for Communities. Very mixed group of people present. C. Councillors and activists. Voluntary sector people and various council officers. Workshops threw up very different views as to what communities are and what they want and require, maintaining and enhancing their communities. Lots of great ideas put over. Further work to be done in future to try to get consensus on way forward. I found it very encouraging and a good meeting. My personal view was that there were too many officers at this meeting.</p> <p><b>Meeting Parliament Building Holyrood 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2007</b></p> <p>Attended AGM of Association of Community Councils. First part was on getting constitution agreed to take the Ass of CC's forward after some serious problems in the past. There was some very strong views expressed and after two and a half hours it was decided to amend some clauses and bring back to another meeting. I pointed out that there was a serious lack of gender balance on the executive, i.e. NONE. Received promises more would be done to encourage women to stand for election. There was about 60/40 balance of men and women in the meeting so should be able to rectify this. Second session with MSP's showed roughly the same dialogue as regional meeting. Did however get a commitment from one labour MSP that she would put a motion to her group to advocate that dedicated money goes to Community Councils in Government review of Community Councils.</p> <p><b>Avon Burn Bridge Repair.</b> C.Bell updated that repair is going ahead soon and Carronvale Residents Association are dealing effectively with this issue and all council communications surrounding it.</p> <p><b>Armistice Parade.</b> This years event went exceptionally well with almost all groups attending being most satisfied with the parade and the organisation of it. The Para's who attended the C.C. meeting in Sep to voice their concerns with 2006 event, expressed the fact that they were very pleased with this years parade and all aspects of it. Roy Robertson arranged most of this and thanks are extended to him for his involvement.</p>	<p>M.Mc</p>
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12	<p><b>Festival of Remembrance on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> This event was attended by Roy and Chrissie Docherty who both agreed it was an excellent event.</p>	
13	<p><b>Friends of the Earth</b> Roy has discussed training for our C.C. group on how we can widen and deepen our consultation skills and relationship with F.C.</p>	
14	<p><b>Driving Force</b> Race night was cancelled. Roy will refund those who paid towards it. Still problems with trying to get drivers. AGM for this group is due in 2 weeks.</p>	Roy.R
15	<p><b>Roughmute</b> Due to be opened to public only on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. Opening hours 9am-5pm All business waste still to go to Boness.</p>	
16	<p><b>Launch of Denny &amp; District Community Plan</b> As discussed earlier, this was an excellent event and very well attended. This event really did represent what the community in conjunction with some support from the local council can achieve and hope to improve on in the future. There are many community organisations in D&amp;D who are doing excellent work in the area.</p>	
17	<p><b>Earlsburn Windfarm</b>  Colin informed the group that the existing windfarm is now complete. First meeting for how to deal with generated funding due 12<sup>th</sup> Dec venue tbc. Extension due to take place to existing development 8-9 turbines at Earlsburn. Predicted funding could be as much 60K per year for D&amp;D area. Colin will confirm exact figures when he gets the relative correspondence.</p>	Colin Belbin
18	<p><b>Denny High School</b> Lindsay informed the group about a Children in Need concert due to take place on Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Nov in the school at 7.30pm and she urges that we encourage as much support for this as possible. It is for a good cause and should be an excellent evening. Tickets are £4 per ticket and can be purchased at the door. Sky Dive being carried out by some pupils should be shown on the night and raffle tickets etc will all be available to help with the fund raising efforts. Lindsay should report back to the C.C. the outcome of the evening. Cans for Grans scheme hoping to be rolled out to other areas of the district as it has been restricted to Denny in the past. Other high schools are liaising with Denny on topics such as fund raising and other innovative ideas.</p>	L.B. All
19	<p><b>Planning Application</b> Further discussion on the planning application last month was reconsidered and that rejection will be withdrawn. Roy will deal with correspondence.</p>	Roy
20	<p><b>Poppy Can Collection</b> Meeting planned for Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7p.m. to count cash.</p>	All

	<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	
1	<p><b>Community Planning Partnership</b>  Email was sent by Roy on 16/10 to Linda Gilliland to request that C.C. members can become members of the Community Planning Partnership, in an effort to improve the relationship between the C.C and Planning dept of F.Council.  Response from Andrew Wilson on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, informed that his request was passed on to Grace McClure who would be in touch. – No communication from Grace has been received to date.</p>	Roy.R
2	<p><b>Friends of the Earth</b>  Three training courses are offered to people who are active in the communities, as follows  1) Scotland's planning system.  2) Using the media to promote your message.  3) How to motivate and encourage your community to take action.  Training is specifically aimed at people in roles such as community councillors etc.  Courses based at FOE Scotland Office in Edin City Centre. Each is 4 evening classes 6-9pm on Thursdays, Jan – March. Have to apply before mid Nov costing £200. With an ILA account the cost could be £10 but individuals need to apply for this. Roy has applied for his. Roy will be attending the planning course. If any other members wish to join let Roy know and apply for an ILA as soon as possible.</p>	Roy All
3	<p><b>Communities Scotland Correspondence</b>  Letter received outlining some changes about to take place which are a little unclear at the moment. Will be clarified in due course.</p>	
4	<p><b>Scottish Landscape forum</b>  Letter outlining changes being made. Roy made it available for all to see at the meeting.</p>	All
5	<p><b>Falkirk Green Space Strategy</b>  Questionnaire received from Danny Thallon to distribute to all members for completion and return to him. This is the same consultative document distributed by C. Bell after having received it at the Launch meeting for the community plan on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. All members are urged to complete and return one. Available on line at Falkirk gov site.</p>	All
6	<p><b>Waterworks Scotland</b>  Meeting to take place in Park Hotel Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Nov at 5.30. Colin Belbin agreed to attend.</p>	Colin
7	<p><b>Public Sector Reform letter from COSLA.</b>  Letter needs no action.</p>	
8	<p><b>Central Scotland Community Police</b>  2 copies of chief constables annual report made available for all to see at meeting. Also a questionnaire which Roy agreed to complete and return to them.</p>	All
9	<p><b>Licensing Board Regulations</b>  Correspondence received detailing that the doc is available on line for anyone who wishes to see it. Robert Watson at Falkirk council can be contacted should anyone wish a paper copy of this doc.</p>	All

10	<p><b>Review of Polling Stations</b> Letter inviting us to feedback opinions on current arrangements and to suggest any changes.</p>	All
11	<p><b>Community Council Updates on Falkirk On Line Website</b> Email to Roy to highlight that we can all now use the Falkirk On Line website to update the public about any community council details eg meeting dates and minutes etc.</p>	All
12	<p><b>Post Office Limited</b> Letter detailing the proposed closures. Our main concern is the Fleming Court closure. We will oppose this closure. Falkirk Council will also be opposing this. There is an acute social need to keep these open, all agreed with this. We will discuss again at the next meeting.</p>	All
13	<p><b>Denny Town Centre Regeneration Plans</b> Plans were discussed briefly but are about to change again.</p>	All
14	<p><b>Application for planning for 870m Footpath</b> To be situated near Mydub Farm. Will not be opposed by C.C. All agreed. Roy will report.</p>	Roy
<p>Meeting was closed.</p>		
<p><b>Next full meeting Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007.</b></p>		