

LARBERT STENHOUSEMUIR AND TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING - 27 April 2009 Held in LARBERT LIBRARY, STENHOUSEMUIR

1. Attendance Details

Committee:

- Charles Ambrose
- Evelyn Crosbie
- Pat Devlin
- Gerry Murphy
- Marguerite O'Rourke
- Lauralin Scott
- Denis Shovlin
- John Silvers
- Yvonne Weir

Also Present:

- Councillors Gow, Kenna, MacDonald and Martin
- PC Reid
- Inspector Jim Allan and Jill Brown, Central Scotland Police
- 1 member of the public

Apologies

- Bill Robertson
- Councillor Coleman

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- CA welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- DS provided details of the obituary put into the Falkirk Herald for George Blades, former Convenor of the Community Council from 1995-1998 who sadly lost his battle against cancer.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- YW advised there was an error on page 1 Matters Arising of the previous minutes - the sum due to Salvation Army is £90 and not £120 as stated.
- The previous minutes subject to the amendment were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- Page 2 - Bus Services - YW advised that she had not received any nominations from members of the Community Council to participate in a sub-group to determine the levels of demand for a bus service into the Town Centre.

- Page 3 - Planning Officer's Report - YW advised holding letters had been sent to Falkirk Council.
- Page 3 - Planning Officer's Report - YW advised that no response had been received from Councillor Buchanan in response to invitation to attend this meeting.
- Page 4 - Report on Community Council Liaison Meeting - PD asked YW to forward him the new figures detailing the calculation of Community Council annual grants.

Action: YW to provide PD with figures

- Page 4 - Report on Community Council Liaison Meeting - YW advised the next meeting of the liaison group had been cancelled to allow Brian Pirie to attend a national meeting on the new schemes for Community Councils as this would be the key agenda item.
- Page 4 - AOCB - Anti-Social Behaviour in Torwood - YW advised she had received an e-mail from PC Scott Noble in relation to the issues raised. The police are aware of the issues and has asked the Sergeants who cover the area to advise that their officers to be mindful of the increase in complaints and that the area be patrolled as much as possible.

4. Presentation on new Denny Sub-Area Command HQ in Larbert - Inspector Jim Allan and Jill Brown from Central Scotland Police

- Inspector Allan provided an update on the plans to build a fit for purpose building in Larbert to replace the current police offices in Larbert and Denny which are no longer suitable for modern day policing in terms of layout and scope for expansion.
- A business case was put forward in 2006 to replace the buildings and land in Larbert was procured in March 2008. There will be 2 stories with police officers based on the ground floor and office accommodation on the first floor. The work will commence on 20 April 2009 and be completed by 31 October 2009.
- A community facility will be provided in Denny and the police are scoping out potential shared services with Falkirk Council in Stenhousemuir to ensure continued physical presence in the centres. It was advised that only a small number of non-planned visits currently take place each day at each building.
- The current offices in each centre will be disposed of by the police. Consideration at both sites is being made to social housing. If the social housing proposals do not go ahead, the buildings will be put on the open market.
- The key benefits of the new building will be:
 - Improved access for officers and the public
 - Improved management of resources with responses from 1 location
 - Reduction in number of staff briefings
 - Reduction in energy and repair costs
 - Provision of a new kennel complex
 - Good access to road network and next to hospital

- Community liaison with the new facility will be paramount and there will be an open invitation to visit once the building is opened.
- CA thanked Inspector Allan for his presentation and opened up questions.
- CA asked about the initial proposals to open a small office in the new Stenhousemuir precinct which had now been dismissed. Inspector Allan advised that when fully considered the costs of this facility had outweighed the justification for it.
- EC asked about any potential for a reduction in the number of officers. Inspector Allan advised there would be no reduction and the new building provided capacity for expansion in the number of officers.
- EC asked about out of hours calls going to the new building. Inspector Allan advised that evening calls will continue to go to the dedicated centre in Stirling although the new building will have a call point outside it.
- DS asked about the provision of accessible affordable housing in the existing Stenhousemuir buildings. Inspector Allan advised that any housing was likely to use the existing structure.
- JS asked about re-location issues for existing staff. Inspector Allan advised that all staff were happy with redeployment to the new building.
- CA thanked Inspector Allan and Jill Brown for their contribution.

5. Police Report

- PC Reid provided a Police Report.
- He advised the police are aware of the issues in Torwood. There had also been damage to the castle there and word had been put out about the use of taxis to transport youths to the area.
- There has been a reduction in issues in Stenhousemuir town centre following a number of youths who have been charged.
- There have been a number of speeding and parking complaints in the areas.
- He advised that a rave was planned for Saturday 2 May in the Dobbie Hall. There had been issues outside the previous rave in 2008 but lessons had been learnt and the police have been working closely with the organisers to minimise any potential issues this year.

6. Correspondence Report

- YW circulated the correspondence report and the key items requiring action were discussed:

- In/09/73 - GM & YW updated on licensing applications. There are no issues with proposed applications.
- In/09/81 - YW advised invoice from Salvation Army had been passed to PD for payment.
- In/09/82 - YW advised she had been requested to provide e-mail details for future reports from the Scottish Commissioner in relation to applications for licences for goods vehicles at sites.
- In/09/85- A large consultation for the proposed Scottish Planning Policy and associated Environmental Statement was received from Michael Matheson MSP. Responses are due by 24 June. It was agreed JS would support BR in responding.
- In/09/90 - An invitation has been received from Jones Lang LaSalle for the Community Council to attend a community consultation event on 5 May 2009 for the proposed housing development at McLaren Park in Torwood. CA advised anyone was welcome to attend from the Community Council.
- In/09/91 - It was agreed that the request from the ASCC requesting views and experiences over the Closure of Schools Bill was passed to EC for comment.
- In/09/92 - The request from Falkirk Council for nominations for the CES Presentation for Certificates and Awards was discussed. It was agreed the community policing initiative at Larbert High School would be put forward.

7. Treasurer's Report

- PD advised that the grant application for 2009/0 had been prepared along with the budget which was circulated. It was agreed that if no comments put forward at the next meeting, the budget would be considered approved.
- PD advised the balance was £8,968.97 including the £5K grant from the Co-Op.
- It was agreed to award the LASER group £500 to undertake signage and additional information for the Mill Lade project. YW suggested that the LASER group should also consider matching the £500 with LEADER money from the Communities Along the Carron project to enhance the project. It was also suggested that the Round Table, Awards for All and the Climate Challenge Fund could be approached. The next meeting is 11 May 2009 in the Crown Hotel and there will be a presentation on the Mill Lade project.

Action: YW to provide funding information

- Proposals for the £5K Co-op funding were discussed. It was agreed that John Banks from Falkirk Council would be invited to the next meeting of the Community Council to discuss options for the funding. A schools competition was suggested although it was agreed that care was required in terms on community aspirations. PC Reid advised that results of a school questionnaire undertaken for a kick pitch would also be useful in terms of what young people want.

Action: YW to arrange for John Banks to attend next meeting and PC Reid to provide results from questionnaire

8. Planning Officer's Report

- The Planning Officer's Report from BR was circulated.
- The ongoing issues in Torwood in relation to unregulated development and creeping development extending the settlement boundaries of the local plan and into protected woodland were discussed at length. Residents have now handed over a petition with circa 450 signatures.

Action: It was agreed that YW would

- **Issue a letter to all 3 Councillors for the area outlining the concerns of the Community Council**
- **Arrange a meeting for a small group from the Community Council with Alan Rodgers from Falkirk Council who is responsible for the local plan to discuss the local plan in more detail and its implications for ongoing development in the area.**

9. Discussion on new Community Council Model Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils, Constitution and Standing Orders, and Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

- The documents were discussed and it was agreed that there were no major issues with any of the proposed documents and if adopted steps would be taken to implement changes and additional requirements.
- YW advised she had written to Brian Pirie at Falkirk Council to ask if Falkirk Council intended to adopt them. There would also be a discussion at the next Community Council Liaison meeting. YW and GM will report back on these discussions.

10. Other Reports

- There were no other reports.

11. AOCB

(a) Retired Senior Volunteer Programme - DS provided an overview of the programme and advised that Falkirk Council would be required to provide £50K of development funding if the proposal were to be taken forward. It was agreed to support the proposal in principle and that DS would arrange for a presentation to be proposed for the Area Forum

Action: DS to propose a presentation on the Programme to the Area Forum.

(b) Coal Trains - JS provided an update and advised that Network Rail had written to

Michael Matheson MSP. There is to be an work carried out to map the complaints and a small amount of remedial work to be undertaken. However, there are no proposals to change the speed limit of the trains. A further letter is expected next month.

(c) New Acute Hospital - YW advised that the residents have been invited to a Resident's Meeting on 7 May 2009 between 6:30pm and 8:30pm in the site offices.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Monday 1 June 2009 at 7:15pm** in Larbert Library.