

LARBERT STENHOUSEMUIR AND TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING - 27 February 2008 IN THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, STENHOUSEMUIR

1. Attendance Details

Committee:

- Evelyn Crosbie
- Pat Devlin
- Bill Robertson
- Marguerite O'Rourke
- Denis Shovlin
- John Silvers
- Lauralin Scott
- Yvonne Weir

Also Present:

- Councillor Kenna, Councillor Coleman and Councillor MacDonald
- Lesley McArthur and Frank McChord, Falkirk Council
- Niall McLean, Maurice McCann and John Ross from McDonald Estates
- Chief Inspector Beaton
- 6 members of the public

Apologies

- Councillor Martin
- Councillor Carleschi
- Charles Ambrose

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Evelyn Crosbie chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Evelyn apologised for the last minute change of venue. Stenhousemuir Primary School was not available due to staff illness. The agenda was altered to allow the presentation on the new town centre by McDonald Estates to take place before the main business of the meeting.

2. PRESENTATION BY MCDONALD ESTATES

- Niall McLean and the team from McDonald Estates provided an overview of the project to-date and the various stages of works that are ongoing in the development. Construction started on 5 March 2007. The first of the new shops opened in January 2008. The library is scheduled to open by the end of March 2008. The old library will be demolished after the new one opens. The play park will open shortly thereafter. The demolition of the flats and shops on King Street will start next week. This will take approximately 4-5 weeks. The new ASDA store will be handed over to ASDA to commence a period of fitting out on 9 June 2008. This will take approximately 16 weeks. The public realm work will commence in stages to minimise disruption. Appropriate security and fencing will be in place. The additional retail unit and parking at the entrance to the new centre will take about 18-20 weeks. Work on this will start once the King Street block is demolished. By September, it is anticipated that most of the works will be completed.

- Niall explained that there were 2 development agreements in place. One for the new town centre and the other for the health and community centres. There have been a range of reasons behind the delay in the works on the health and community centres. There have been disputes between the medical practices and NHS Forth Valley over leases. There have also been changing requirements for services in the new health centre. NHS Forth Valley have now signed off the agreement but are awaiting final sign off from the Scottish Government. Due to the delays, the project lost the original contractor and the works had to be re-tendered. The revised programme of works agreed with the new contractor is for the construction of both buildings at the same time. The result of this is that the constructions period will be reduced by 20 weeks to 55 weeks. Once the agreement is signed, it is anticipated that there will be a 2-month period before the start of works on the 2 new centres.
- Following the presentation, A series of questions came forward:
 - Vandalism and the play park - CCTV cameras will be in place and the positions have been agreed with the Police. The library also has cameras inside and outside. The Secure by Design Scheme has been used in the development
 - Presentation to the Area Forum - It was advised that good timing for this would be after the formal sign off for the Health Centre. It was also advised that a newsletter would be produced shortly updating residents of progress.
 - Relocation of the Cannons - It was advised that the cannons which were gifted to the community would be relocated and be part of a featured area.
 - HGV Routes - The contractors have all been reminded about HGV routes and the restrictions on Tryst Road and school times. McDonald Estates have agreed a Method Statement with Falkirk Council especially for materials which are being taken off site.
- Niall McLean asked what the general opinion was of the development. The general opinion was good. One regret voiced was the reduced size of the park.
- Evelyn Crosbie thanked Niall and the team for their presentation.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. They were proposed by Lauralin Scott and seconded by John Silvers.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- Page 1 - New RC School. It was advised that a consultation meeting had taken place back in 2004. It was also advised that Gary Greenhorn had met with 3 residents from Antonshill and was prepared to speak with them again in the future.
- Page 2 - Stenhousemuir Regeneration - Evelyn Crosbie advised that given the delay in the closure of the Tryst Centre, she would cancel the arrangement with Stenhousemuir Primary School and the Community Council would continue to meet in the Tryst Community Centre until its closure.
- Page 2 - Open Space Strategy - It was advised that David McLeod had difficulty accessing the on-line information for specific sites.
- Page 3 - Correspondence Report - In/08/9 - Carronvale Action for Road Safety (CARS). Gary Alexander was advised that the points he was raising would be discussed under AOCB.

- Page 5 - Item 11 - Membership of the Community Health Group - The minutes were incorrect. It is Marguerite O'Rourke who will represent the Community Council on the Community Health Group and not Lauralin Scott.

5. Police Report

- Chief Inspector Beaton gave a report.
- Speeding in the Tryst Road has been an issue and c3000 vehicles were recorded over the period of one day. The average speed recorded was 19mph and 26mph at the top end of the road. Six cars were recorded breaking the speed limit.
- There has been a reduction in vandalism related crime. There has been a big increase in diesel theft from industrial premises.
- The Community Team has been trying to get shopkeepers to only sell alcohol to over 21s. Bottle marking is also being carried out to identify the source of alcoholic beverages. Controlled test purchasing by 16-year olds is also underway. Shopkeepers are also being advised if they have passed the test purchasing.
- There is an increase in the number of officers on foot patrol in the area.
- The initial results from the police officer based at Larbert High School are encouraging with a decrease in anti-social behaviour reported in and around the school particularly from ex-pupils and vandalism in the car park.

6. Correspondence Report

- Yvonne Weir circulated the correspondence report and highlighted the key items which required to be actioned/discussed:
- In/08/42 - Scottish Road Safety Strategy Consultation - to be completed by John Silvers.
- In/08/45 - Application for Public Procession 28 June 2008 - no comments to be made.
- In/08/48 - Licensing Policy Statement - Additional information on Premises Trading Hours - no further comments to be made.
- In/08/51 - COSLA paper on community empowerment - to be circulated to members of the Community Council.
- In/08/52, 53 & 57 - Planning related information from ASCC to be forwarded to Bill Robertson.
- In/08/54 - Letter from Mick McIntosh to Councillor Waddell - no response to be issued.
- In/08/55 - Community Development Alliance meeting 18 March 2008 - Denis Showlin to attend. Registration fee to be paid by Community Council and travel expenses to be refunded.
- In/08/60 & 62 - CHG Health Fair and Dare to Care Campaign - to be discussed further by Charles Ambrose, Evelyn Crosbie and Yvonne Weir.

- In/08/61 - Consultation on the Future of Flood Risk Management - to be completed by John Silvers.
- In/08/63 (received after Correspondence Report printed) Launch of Community Support Pack for litter picking - 19 March 2008 - Lauralin Scott to attend.

7. Treasurer's Report

- Pat Devlin provided a Treasurer's Report.
- The grant of £1036 from Falkirk Council has been received. A further cheque for administration of £200 had been received and this will be discussed further.
- The funding for McLaren Park is still being held. It was agreed that Bill Robertson, Yvonne Weir and Frank McChord would meet to discuss further.

Action: Bill Robertson, Yvonne Weir and Frank McChord to meet to discuss McLaren Park.

- There were no comments or questions raised on the previous year's accounts.

8. Planning Officer's Report

- Bill Robertson provided a planning report. There were items including the erection of a new children's nursery and outline planning permission for 48 flats at Torwoodlea. It was agreed that no further action to be taken at this time.
- It was advised that the planning committee at Falkirk Council had approved an application for change of use of land at Torwood that had been refused on a number of occasions and had been recommended for refusal by officers. There is concern over the protection of woodland in the area. It was agreed that Bill Robertson would write to Falkirk Council expressing concern over the application.

Action: Bill Robertson to write to Falkirk Council.

9. AOCB

- Denis Shovlin advised that the Core Group of the Local Area Forum was due to meet on 28 February and was seeking proposals for items to be discussed. It was agreed that the Community Council would ask that discussion on the town centre development be taken forward.
- It was suggested that Community Council meetings should commence at 7pm. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- Gary Alexander was then given time to put forward concerns that he and 2 other residents present at the meeting have about the proposed RC School in Antonshill. He was advised that concerns over car parking in the area could not be considered until the plans become available. He was also advised that the selection of the site was a matter for Falkirk Council and not for the Community Council. The 3 residents were advised that they would have to consider the views of the other residents in Antonshill.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on 26 March 2008 at 7:30pm. Venue to be confirmed.