

LARBERT STENHOUSEMUIR AND TORWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING - 31 January 2008 IN THE TRYST COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Attendance Details

Committee:

- Evelyn Crosbie
- David McLeod
- Bill Robertson
- Marguerite O'Rourke
- John Silvers
- Lauralin Scott
- Yvonne Weir

Also Present:

- Councillor Kenna, Councillor Coleman and Councillor Martin
- Iain Tough, Kevin Collins and Russell Steedman, Falkirk Council
- Suzanne Hart, Falkirk Herald
- 3 members of the public

Apologies

- Councillor Carleschi
- Chief Inspector Beaton
- Charles Ambrose
- Pat Devlin
- Denis Shovlin

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Evelyn Crosbie chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. They were proposed by Bill Robertson and seconded by David McLeod.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- Page 1 - Cheque for Kinnaird Primary School - Yvonne Weir confirmed Pat Devlin had written a new cheque which was hand delivered by Yvonne to the school. A letter of thanks from the School has also been received.
- Page 1 - New Roman Catholic School - Evelyn Crosbie confirmed that she had spoken to Gary Greenhorn at Falkirk Council. An open meeting for the residents is going ahead to discuss the proposals.
- Page 2 - Planning Officer's Report - re Planning application to convert a quarry to a garden in Torwood (P/07/0940/FUL). Bill Robertson confirmed that a he had enquired about a site visit and that it would not be advantageous. Further investigation has revealed that local residents will be glad to see the site filled in. Marguerite O'Rourke confirmed this to be the case.
- Page 2 - Planning Officer's Report - Proposed landfill operations near

Carrongrange Gardens (P/07/0789/FUL). Bill Robertson advised that over the next 5-7 years non-toxic waste is to be used to fill the hollow. The application is currently being considered by SEPA.

- Page 2 - Stenhousemuir Regeneration - Yvonne Weir advised that a letter had been received from Mike Watson at Falkirk Council confirming that whilst Falkirk Council is not satisfied with the timings for the closure of the Centre, there was no alternative but to decant services to other venues at this time. Evelyn Crosbie advised that the main issue remains the provision of services for youths which have been moved to Stenhousemuir Sports Centre. The letter indicates that a minibus service is operational. It was also suggested that the pod could be used in the Stenhousemuir area as alternative provision.

Action: Yvonne Weir to write to Mike Watson to ensure that youths are aware of the minibus service and to suggest that the pod could be utilised as an alternative venue in the interim period.

- Page 3 - Community Wardens - Yvonne Weir confirmed that a letter of support for the continuation of the service had been sent to Falkirk Council. Iain Tough confirmed that the agenda and minutes of meetings were now being forwarded to Franca Cianni at Falkirk Council.
- Page 5 - Meeting of Falkirk Area Community Councils - 6 December 2007. Evelyn Crosbie confirmed that she had gone to the meeting as had Charles Ambrose, Yvonne Weir, Bill Robertson and Denis Shovlin to represent the Community Council. The key outcome of the meeting is that there will be increased consultation with Community Councils. Iain Tough confirmed the meeting was good in light of proposed changes to the role of Community Councils being proposed by the government. He also advised he is going to take forward for consideration the creation of an Association of Community Councils for the Falkirk area.
- Page 5 - Postwatch Scotland - Lauralin Scott confirmed she had completed the survey.
- Page 5 - St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Church - Yvonne Weir confirmed a letter had been sent supporting the co-location of the church with the new RC School. Evelyn Crosbie confirmed she had also raised it with Gary Greehorn.
- Page 5 - Open Space Strategy - Yvonne Weir advised that she had not yet allocated responses to members of the Community Council. It was agreed that John Silvers and Bill Robertson would liaise over responses for the Larbert sites; David McLeod would complete the responses for the Stenhousemuir sites; and Marguerite O'Rourke would complete a response for the Torwood site.

Action: John Silvers, Bill Robertson, David McLeod and Marguerite O'Rourke to complete surveys for sites. Yvonne Weir to forward paper based version to Marguerite O'Rourke.

- Page 6 - Co-option - Evelyn Crosbie advised that the nomination received for Kenny Smith to be co-opted was unfortunately null and void as the person who seconded the proposal was not a member of the Community Council. She apologised to Kenny for this error.

4. PRESENTATION - Falkirk Council Road's Section

- Kevin Collins and Russell Steedman provided a comprehensive presentation on the proposed road improvements that have either been completed, underway or planned following all the major developments in the area. The slides included a range of improvements including alterations due to the new town centre, the new car park at the station, the improvements to the roundabout at Foundry Loan/Main Street, the roundabout at Tryst Road (including improvements to the cycle and footpaths), the proposed roundabout to the new business park development off Bellsdyke Road, improvements to Larbert Cross, improved HGV Signage to prevent HGVs using roads such as Tryst Road, improvements to the junction in Camelon at the Mariner Centre and the M876 slip roads.
- A number of questions/issues were raised and discussed including:
 - The new traffic islands on Bellsdyke Road were discussed. There is a narrow gap which could lead to accidents. This will be looked into by the Roads Section.
 - The M876 slip roads at Glenbervie - Yvonne Weir advised that the Community Council had written to agree to meet Transport Scotland with the residents to discuss the position of the off slip but had yet to receive any confirmation from Transport Scotland. It was advised that a new project manager had recently been appointed and this may explain the delay.
 - Concern was raised as to the routes HGVs would use to access the new town centre and some of the tight turns on the roads which would be used.
- Evelyn Crosbie thanked the Roads Section for their presentation.

5. POLICE REPORT

- In the absence of Chief Inspector Beaton, there was no Police Report at the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Yvonne Weir circulated the correspondence report and highlighted the key items which required to be actioned/discussed:
 - In/08/7 - Confirmation has been received that Niall McLean from McDonald Estates will speak at the meeting on 27 February and provide an update on the Town Centre Development.
 - In/08/8b - An invitation to attend the presentation at Airth Castle for the proposed Glenbervie Development had been circulated to all.
 - In/08/9 - Lauralin Scott confirmed she had attended the meeting of Carronvale Action for Road Safety (CARS). The meeting was to discuss the safety issues of parking and cars at Ladeside Primary School. Lauralin advised that the local residents at the meeting had commented that the situation had got worse. She advised that a number of suggestions were made to improve the situation primarily focussed around better education to parents/carers of the issues and alternative routes. The Roads section confirmed to the Community Council that there is now a Schools Travel Co-ordinator in place looking at options across the Falkirk area for car sharing,

walking and cycling to school.

- In/08/15 - It was agreed that further information would be obtained from Stirling Council of outline the planning application for 500 houses and other associated works/infrastructure in Pleas as this will impact on the roads and services in the Community Council area.
- In/08/17b - Yvonne Weir advised that there had been an administrative error with invitations to the Tryst Road Focus Group meeting on 12 December 2007. This resulted in a number of residents not receiving invitations to the meeting which had led to a complaint. Yvonne apologised again for the error and advised that Councillor Martin had offered to co-ordinate a meeting at Abbotsford House for those residents not able to attend.
- In/08/18 - Yvonne Weir read to the meeting the reasons behind the decision for the closure of Church Street Post Office. There are no avenues to appeal the decision. Councillor Kenna advised that Falkirk Council's P&R Committee are looking at ways to take forward the discussion on the closure of all the post offices set to close in the area.
- In/08/32 Falkirk Council - Review of Housing Allocations Policy. Lauralin Scott agreed to complete the questionnaire.
- In/08/33 and In/08/35 - It was agreed that the Community Council would accept the request from CSV Scotland to organise an event to raise awareness of child poverty. It was agreed that Yvonne Weir would contact NHS Forth Valley and suggest that it takes a stall at the Health Fair in the Dobbie Hall on 27 March 2008 to raise awareness of child poverty.
- In/08/36 - Airth Community Council have proposed an amendment to bye-law covering drinking in public places extending the bye-law to cover those found with open alcoholic beverages. It was agreed that this amendment would be hard to police. It was agreed that all members would consider ideas to combat anti-social behaviour in the area as requested by Airth Community Council. It was also suggested that this could be a matter for an agenda of any future meeting of Falkirk Area Community Councils.
- In/08/38 - A letter had been received from Councillor Waddell advising he would seek an update on the new RC School and capacity issues at Larbert High School. It was agreed to accept his offer to attend a future meeting of the Community Council

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

- There was no Treasurer's report at the meeting.
- Pat Devlin had provided the annual accounts for circulation. Members of the Community Council were asked to review the accounts and raise any queries at the next meeting.

Action: All to review the accounts and consider questions for the Treasurer.

8. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

- Bill Robertson circulated his report.
- There was an item P/07/1117/VRC which made reference to the deletion of a condition of planning. Bill Robertson is to seek further information.
- There was a discussion around the application for a care home, pub and restaurant at the new Kinnaird development (P/07/1128/FUL). There were no objections to these plans.

9. OTHER REPORTS

- Health - Evelyn Crosbie provided feedback on the PPF and the development of Community Health Plans. She advised that the Community Health Group had suggested that the Community Council manages a £600 budget on its behalf. It was agreed that this was not appropriate. Iain Tough also confirmed that he did not believe this to be appropriate.

10. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Yvonne Weir confirmed that the current membership of the Community Council consists of 8 elected and 3 co-opted members. Iain Tough advised that the maximum number of members is 11 and not 12 as previously assumed. As a result, there is currently no vacancy for new members.

11. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH GROUP

- Evelyn Crosbie advised that she was no longer able to attend on behalf of the Community Council due to other commitments. It was agreed that Lauralin Scott would represent the Community Council.

12. FUTURE VENUES

- There was a discussion over possible future venues given that the Tryst Community Centre will soon close. There are issues over parking at the Dobbie Hall which is the venue offered to the Community Council as an alternative whilst the Tryst is closed. It was agreed that any venue chosen should be accessible for people with disabilities. It was agreed that Yvonne Weir and Evelyn Crosbie would meet the Registrar to explore the possibility of meeting in a local school.

Action: Yvonne Weir and Evelyn Crosbie to meet the Registrar to look into the possibility of holding meetings within schools.

13. AOCB

- There were no items under AOCB.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Wednesday 27 February 2008 at 7:30pm. Venue to be confirmed.