

Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council
Monthly General Meeting
Held on Thursday 13th October 2016 at 7pm
Avonbridge Community Hall

Meeting chaired by Jo Hirst

1. Present

Jo Hirst, Doreen Goldie, James Anthony, Dave Cameron, Cllr McLuckie, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Murray, P.C. Wallace and 7 local residents.

2. Apologies

Ann Wallace, Cllr Hughes, Harry Broadley, Iain McGillivray, Steve Maguire, Jill Davidson

3. Local Police Update – PC Wallace

Since the last meeting there have been 11 calls made to police from the village of Avonbridge. Those consist of the following:

- X 4 Parking related issues (Pedal for Scotland)
- X1 Abandoned 999
- X 1 Vandalism (Car tyre slashed)
- X2 External agency request
- X1 Missing Person
- X2 RTC
- X1 Registered Vehicle

For the village of Standburn there is only one call relating to dirt bikes in and around Craigend Brickworks.

With regards to crimes committed Avonbridge currently has 4 crimefiles which relate to
2x Vandalism – Slashed vehicle tyre and damaged septic tank

1x Dangerous driving

1x Theft (Trailer from wind farm)

In relation to Standburn there have been no crimes reported

ASB, VIOLENCE & DISORDER

There are no specific threats at this time in relation to this priority. Patrols continue at weekends, targeting licensed premises, known offenders, and youth disorder.

DRUG DEALING & DRUG MISUSE

With reference to the Avonbridge and Standburn area's there has been no reported incidents involving drugs nor have there been any drug related police operations.

ROAD SAFETY

Speeding x4 for the village of Standburn., none for Avonbridge, officers are deployed to key roads where analysis indicates that there is a risk of collisions and a risk of people being killed or injured. Officers also aim to deploy at locations where the local community report concerns in terms of road safety.

DISHONESTY CRIMES

There has been one such incident for the village of Avonbridge that being Theft of a Trailer.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Police Scotland is launching a new process for public consultation. The aim is to widen the existing consultation process by making the consultation survey available online and accessible all year round.

The survey can be found via the Police Scotland website; www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

Since the start of Tuesday 4th October 2016 a road traffic operation has been taking place within the Braes area of Falkirk which has included locations within Avonbridge and Standburn.

The operation is due to conclude on the evening of Thursday 13th October 2016 with the results of which being provided during November's meeting.

Please e-mail any feedback to: - derek.wallace@scotland.pnn.police.uk – Our local police officer.

4. Approval of Minutes

Proposed by D.Cameron Seconded by D.Goldie

5. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

Doctors Brae – Cllr McLuckie confirmed the new litter bin is now in place, D. Cameron noted his grateful thanks.

6. Chair's Report

Correspondence

1. Email from Sgt Craig Heron referring to Police Scotland National Campaign to tackle hate crime. Also Police Scotland's new public consultation process this is an ongoing survey which can be completed at any time. The survey is aimed at people aged 16 or over who live or work in the community.
www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

2. Email request received from Kevin Smith a PE teacher at Braes High School to attend our next meeting with pupils to promote their new community café. The aim of the community café would be to inform a variety of different age groups about mental, emotional, social and physical well-being. The groups will be - over 60's, adults, and finally P7's. The meeting agreed to respond 'yes'.

3. Email received from Kelly Fitzpatrick [kelly.fitzpatrick@scottishhealthcouncil.org]

"The Re: Collections project is looking for volunteers!"

The project aim is to create a memory bank of photographs and oral history interviews based in the 16 branch libraries in the Stirling Council area to act as a resource for reminiscence work and to facilitate work with dementia sufferers in the future.

4. Email from Kay Wood [olderpeoplesforum@btconnect.com]

You may know that responsibility for around 15% of the benefits budget is being devolved to the Scottish Government. It is currently consulting about how best to use its newly devolved benefit powers and has approached Age Scotland to ask for assistance in this process. The Government will have the opportunity to design and deliver a range of benefits: those most likely to affect older people concern disability-related benefits, benefits for carers, cold weather and winter fuel payments and funeral payments.

This is a great opportunity to have your say and let the Scottish Government know what is important to you email in your comments. Kay Wood D/D - 01324 712106

7. Treasurers Report

Current Bank Balance = £ 1,136.94 – no outstanding invoices. Annual funding applied for. Scottish Government sent us £20 instead of £24 to cover the rental of a meeting room in Falkirk this has been noted and will be rectified. £1050 in the account is from the wind turbine fund which will be transferred to a separate account currently being set up at Airdrie Savings Bank.

8. EDF Burnhead Moss Wind Farm update and CARES grant process

- CARES application: Steve McGuire has responded to their request for further information and we have been promised a decision "within three weeks".
- Wind Farm Opening attended by representatives of ASCC. Beneficiaries of initial grants were presented with 'supported by EDF-ER Burnhead Moss' plaques (Avonbridge & Standburn Primary Schools, Avonbridge Village Hall and ASCC).
- Foundation Scotland has finalised year start / end dates for the Fund, 29-Jan-2016 to 28-Jan-2017, and the MOU which sets out how they expect to pay out the fund via a local panel guided by a Community Plan. The MOU was agreed to have been thoroughly reviewed so taken as read and approved by a show of hands.
- Micro-Grant Applications and Approvals: to date, £150 micro grants have gone out to the Avonbridge senior citizens lunch club, Avonbridge Homing Society, Avonbridge Community Garden Club. Avonbridge Kids Club

submitted a Micro Grant application. A further micro grant application was presented and approved for the Avonbridge Baby and Toddlers Group to buy mats and a trampoline.

- ASCC will apply for a separate grant to fit a baby-change unit in the accessible toilet in Avonbridge village hall. Approved.
- Foundation Scotland have asked for ASCC help to (finally!) deliver leaflets about the wind-farm fund to all households in the area. They have offered to meet expenses and we are preparing our own flyer to be delivered at the same time.
- Details of the Education and Training sub-fund have now been agreed and forms, etc. are being finalised. The colleges are helping to identify eligible students and if all goes well with the application process, FS hope to pay the first round of grants out around Christmas-time.

ASCC have worked hard to ensure a substantial fund is available for the next 25 years and they are now working to set up the mechanisms that will be used to distribute it. It was emphasised that it is now up to clubs, groups and individuals in the community to get involved, plan projects and bid for this money, otherwise it could just sit in the bank and be wasted.

9. Pedal for Scotland Update

The Pedal for Scotland event was held on September 11th 2016.

This event caused considerable disruption and inconvenience to many and all that we received was the traditional platitude of “an apology for any inconvenience.”

The impact of the cycle event varied in the different areas given the individual road closures. The closure of four churches, the isolation of the old folk’s home and the cutting off of over three hundred houses from the road network; disruption to public transport, carers being unable to make their visits and many folk inconvenienced including shop keepers, Polmont golf club, licensed premises, a haulage contractor and a kennels in Maddiston alone. A myriad of additional problems were experienced by the residents of Avonbridge and California. Community concerns raised in previous consultation seem to have been ignored.

Regretfully the event organisers did not consult with the local communities this year and notification of the details of the event was only published at the last moment. As the organisers of the event are chiefly funded by the tax payer (£2.6mn in 2015 was provided by the Scottish Government, 80% of revenue) a degree of respect and understanding would not have gone amiss.

The Communities of Avonbridge, California and Maddiston would appreciate an explanation as to how the Pedal Scotland event was planned and handled before and during the event and an assessment of whether the disruption caused was warranted.

Despite the de-brief meeting taking place with Falkirk Council roads department the Community representatives of the above named areas would like to meet with the organisers of the Pedal for Scotland event.

We are now in possession of direct contact details for the management company who organised the event so will be contacting them to request a meeting to discuss revising the route and reducing the impact on the local community.

10. Wester Jawcraig Update

- Shooting School Application approved by Nth Lanarkshire Council. This has raised concerns in the local community and it is disappointing that Scottish Natural Heritage have made no comment despite our correspondence to them, raising our concerns as regards the impact on wildlife in the close vicinity especially migratory pink footed and bean geese.
- Construction of a new road into the Shooting School Site - no response has been received from John Milne Falkirk Planning Dept regarding our enquiry into a new road at this site and his promised inspection.
- The meeting was advised Falkirk Council have changed their policy on private roads allowing 5 houses instead of 3 to be serviced by one road. This contravenes all guidelines.
- ASCC will email John Milne and follow up on the road inspection.

11. Concerned Communities of Falkirk Community Avonbridge Public Meeting 21st August 2016

- This was a pilot Consultation Event following the Scottish Government moratorium on unconventional gas development (includes coalbed methane extraction and ‘fracking’ for shale gas).
- Comments and Outcomes will be fed back to Scottish Government by the CCoF.
- The meeting agreed the views gleaned from the meeting could be endorsed by ASCC.

- If anyone has additional views or comments, there is still the opportunity to add these full details of the matters discussed are available on request.
- It appears this style of community involvement has been seen as fruitful and there are plans to repeat it in more community council areas, Shieldhill and Blackness were mentioned.

12. Scottish Water Update

- 2 new members of staff have been employed by SW as land managers and they will be identifying tipping points, dealing with soil analysis, application rates and crop suitability
- SW confirmed they have introduced independent sampling and testing so contractors are no longer self regulating.
- There has been a reduction of odour problems in our area although this may just have been moved to other areas as the spreading is taking place elsewhere.
- Currently SW are tendering the local contract for the transporting and spreading of sludge. 11 tenders were issued and 9 bids have returned, the new contract to be awarded will cover 9 sites 3 in the Central belt.
- It was noted that current spreading activity seems to be concentrated in Fife.
- It is felt that Scottish Water has responded positively to our concerns and we hope that this will continue.

13. School Intake for Avonbridge & Drumbowie – future considerations

- Drumbowie: no Primary 1 intake this year; the school roll is approx 14 pupils.
- Avonbridge: the Nursery has benefited from moving to mornings; the school roll is just short of 50.
- More FK Council savings required: a £20M reduction in overall budget. Education accounts for approx. 50% of Council spending but a good proportion of this is 'statutory provision' that cannot be whittled.

14. A.O.C.B.

- ASCC Notice Board in Avonbridge will be moved to a new location on the wall of the Community Hall
- A damaged brick wall at Bridgend Road, Avonbridge was reported to be in a dangerous condition. Cllr. McLuckie took note and agreed to make enquiries.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday 10th November 2016 in Drumbowie School Standburn at 7pm.