

**Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council  
Monthly General Meeting  
Held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7pm  
Drumbowie Primary School, Standburn**

Meeting chaired by Jo Hirst

**1. Present**

Jo Hirst, Doreen Goldie, Iain McGillivray, Ed Chappell, P.C. Wallace, 8 local residents and 4 visitors from Braes High School.

**2. Apologies**

Ann Wallace, Steve Maguire, Jill Davidson, James Anthony, Mathew Gracie, Dave Cameron

**3. Local Police Update – PC Wallace**

Since the last meeting there have been 9 calls made to police from the village of Avonbridge. Those consist of the following:-

X1 Abandoned 999            X 1 Theft            X1 Firearms incident – Sound of airgun being fired  
X1 Car blocking driveway   X1 RT Incident out of force area            X2 Youths            X2 Fire Raising

For the village of Standburn there have been three calls which all relate to Public Assistance.

With regards to crimes committed Avonbridge currently has 5 crimefiles which relate to  
1x Theft of Fuel for motor vehicle    1x Vehicle with No Insurance  
1x Theft of Strimmer from unlocked garden shed    1x Threatening and Abusive Behaviour  
1x Fire Raising – Garden Shed

In relation to Standburn there have been no crimes reported

**ASB, VIOLENCE & DISORDER**

Specifically for Avonbridge, there have been 2 incidents of ASB since the last meeting both relating to youth disorder type calls There are currently no repeat or priority locations in terms of ASB, Disorder and Violence.

There have been no such offences recorded in Standburn.

Specifically for both villages, there have been no crimes of serious violence such as Attempted Murder, Serious Assault or Robbery.

**DRUG DEALING & DRUG MISUSE** - no reported incidents

**ROAD SAFETY**

From Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 a road traffic operation was conducted within the Braes area of Falkirk which included locations within Avonbridge and Standburn.

The results of the operation are as follows.

Hand Held Radar – 20hrs, x12 speeding charges, 50 warnings, x3 charges relating to vehicle excise, x1 No MOT and x1 No insurance

**DISHONESTY CRIMES**

There have been two such incidents for the village of Avonbridge that being Theft of Fuel and Theft of a garden strimmer.

No incidents for Standburn

**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](http://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts)

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

#### **4. Presentation by Braes High School – Community Café Project**

JH welcomed Iain Livingstone, Kevin Smith, Scott Docherty & Sandy Robertson to the meeting and Iain Livingstone (Head Teacher) gave a brief introduction relating to the Braes High School position in the Community.

Kevin Smith then explained the proposal to host a number of Community Cafes in the coming months, the first planned event being for P7 pupils on 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is a transition event designed to introduce new pupils to the school from the Drumbowie and Avonbridge areas.

The second planned event will take place in March/April 2017 and will cater for all ages from 18-110 years focusing on Health & Well being.

The format will include guest speakers, group discussion sessions, advice on nutrition and diet among other things.

The Cafes are being organised by the Community Leadership Team including staff and pupils.

Kevin Smith (P.E. teacher), Scott and Sandy (pupils) all contributed to a very interesting presentation.

Iain Livingstone then gave a short presentation relating to the achievements of pupils from our area and noted that despite being a small percentage of the school population they make a significant contribution in a variety of areas including football, dancing, gymnastics, music and fundraising.

Finally Iain emphasised Drama, Music, Sport and Community Involvement were all very positive activities within the school.

Statistics were provided in the form of a Results Analysis 2016 detailing the achievements of relevant year groups at SCQF Levels which showed a significant improvement over the last two years, success upon which the school hopes to build. After their presentation the group left the meeting.

A short discussion then ensued relating to concerns in Avonbridge over youth behaviour, lack of educational opportunities, reduced teaching hours for staff in the primary school and composite classes.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

Proposed by D. Goldie Seconded by E. Chappell

#### **6. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting**

None

#### **7. Chair's Report**

- **Email Kelly Fitzpatrick -**

Please find attached information in relation to Veterans Carers events (Dementia training for Veterans and families/carers). The first event is planned to take place at Forth Valley Sensory Centre on Tuesday 29 November from 1- 4pm.

- **Email - Kay Wood [olderpeoplesforum@btconnect.com]**

Hope you are well. I've attached Make It Happen newsletter - it has information on the proposed Falkirk Council cuts, a new project in Falkirk called Food Buddies, an event in the Sensory Centre on Nov 15<sup>th</sup> and details of our local meetings.

Falkirk Council has announced their proposed budget cuts and it's worth looking on their website for details. For example, there are proposals to cut more transport subsidies, close public toilets, charge for garden refuse uplift etc. They are looking for feedback and want to hear what you think so please voice your concerns and opinions by December! <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/budgets-spending-performance/council-budget.aspx>

**Knit a hat. Make a difference!** The Big Knit is a joint campaign between Age Scotland and Innocent drinks to combine a love of miniature things and helping older people to Love Later Life! If you'd like to knit smoothie bottle hats then let us know and we can get together to raise funds for Age Scotland and Make It Happen!

Make It Happen is continuing to raise awareness of Power of Attorney and we can arrange a talk for your group on "The Six Legal Things that Older People should do" which includes Power of Attorney, Guardianship, Advance Directive, Wills, Care Home Costs and Legal Aid. The talk is approx 45 minutes and is ideal for older people's groups, NHS and Local Authority staff and is *free*! Contact me if you'd like more details.

We're now on Facebook! Join us by searching for Make It Happen Falkirk Forum.

Please let me know if you'd like your group or event included in our January newsletter.

- **E mail - Kelly Fitzpatrick [kelly.fitzpatrick@scottishhealthcouncil.org]**

**Public Views Wanted Across Scotland - National Review of Community Eye care Services**

The Scottish Government has launched a review of community eye care services (optometry/optician services) and as part of this review, the Scottish Government has asked the Scottish Health Council to help by seeking the public's views on their experience of using eye care services in Scotland.

The questionnaire is available online via smart survey on this link:

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ReviewCommunityEyecareServices/>

A hard copy of the survey is also available for individuals who are unable to access or do not wish to use the electronic survey. Individuals can obtain a hard copy of the survey by calling the Scottish Health Council office on 01786 471550 and we will also supply a prepaid envelope for their reply.

**The survey link is now live and will close on 30th November 2016** – thank you in advance of your assistance and support.

Please contact us if you have any queries or if we can help in any way.

- **Email - Arthur Berg – Falkirk Environment Trust - info@fet.org.uk - 04 Nov 2016 01324 504816**

Scottish Landfill Community Funding is currently available for Community led projects relating to:-

1. Creating or enhancing an existing community area
2. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
3. protecting repairing and conserving a heritage building
4. Community recycling projects.

JH confirmed she had spoken to Arthur Berg in relation to the upgrading of both the Standburn and Avonbridge playparks. JH highlighted the need for drainage and then the requirement for new play equipment , seats and picnic benches so the areas could be upgraded to become useful public amenity areas and beneficial community spaces. A meeting has been arranged for Wed 16th November 2016 at 10.30am to carryout an inspection of the two areas and discuss how to progress the project.

It was also suggested matched funding may be available through LEADER and this will be investigated.

Concerns were raised at this point regarding vandalism and anti social behaviour in Avonbridge associated with youths walking to and from the Park.

**8. Treasurers Report**

DG confirmed the new CC Burnhead Windfarm Account was now active and the funds had been transferred.

Annual funding has been received from Falkirk Council in the sum of £227.00 this is a significant reduction from last year and no notice of this was received from the Council.

The £4 outstanding from the Scottish Parliament has been received for room hire in Falkirk.

Current balances are now: -ASCC	£317.79
Burnhead Wind Farm Fund	£1178.66

**9. Roles & Responsibilities**

Ed Chappell is a new member of the CC and agreed to take responsibility for publishing the minutes on the Falkirk Council website, creating an ASCC website in due course and maintain it, liaise with Jill D with regard to the Facebook page to promote the ASCC. He also agreed to monitor BT Broadband provision development and planning applications in the ASCC area.

His contribution is much appreciated and JH thanked him for his assistance.

Helen Konkol agreed to take an interest in education in Avonbridge and was thanked by the committee.

**10. EDF Burnhead Moss Wind Farm update and CARES Grant progress**

- **Leaflet deliveries** – JH & DG confirmed they had collated and delivered leaflets in the Candie and Blackston areas. Local residents agreed to assist with deliveries in the area and took the appropriate leaflets. All residents should receive a Burnhead Moss Windfarm leaflet, an education and training leaflet and an ASCC community grant leaflet. All this information will be made available on the Facebook page and subsequently on our website complete with application forms. Thanks to all those helping with distribution were noted.
- **CARES Grant** – CARES have requested additional information.

- **Micro Grant Applications** – An application from the Avonbridge Kids Club was approved for £150 to buy arts and craft materials.

### **11. Muiravonside Country park Update**

The most recent report from Simon Bowers the Ranger for Muiravonside Country Park was read at the meeting, details will be available via the Facebook page. Significant progress has been made in the Park and the visitor numbers continue to grow.

### **12. A.O.C.B.**

- **Grit bins** in the area have not been filled for the winter and some are in a very poor state of repair. JH to contact Falkirk Council and request they are filled and replaced where necessary.
- **SEPA Odours**– There has been a significant stench recently from EWOS the fish processing plant in Westfield, it has been reported by a couple of people but SEPA should be made aware.  
**Phone Number 01786 457700 SEPA.**
- **DG advised the meeting of a number useful websites**
  - <https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>
  - <https://www.actionfraudalert.co.uk>
  - Phone 105 if you encounter a power cut and don't know who to phone. It's a new national power cut phone line to help people contact their local electricity network company. It's free to use and saves people contacting the wrong organisation.
- **Refuse Uplift** – Residents should note if their bins are missed by the bin lorry it must be reported within 24hrs or a charge of £15 will be levied to uplift the bin. A revised timetable for collections has been issued by Falkirk Council please check the website for further information <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/bins-rubbish-recycling/household-waste/bin-collection-dates.aspx>
- **FREE WI-Fi** is now available in the Avonbridge Community Café.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in Avonbridge Community Hall at 7pm