

**Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council**  
**Monthly General Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7pm**  
**Avonbridge Community Hall**

Meeting chaired by Dave Cameron

**1. Present**

Doreen Goldie, Ann Wallace, Ian McGillivray, , PC Wallace, Cllr Hughes, Cllr McLuckie, Jit Singh, S Maguire, Ed Chappell and 6 local residents.

**2. Apologies**

Jo Hirst, Alison Harris MSP

**3. Local Police Update**

Since the last meeting there have been 10 calls made to police from the village of **Avonbridge**. Those consist of the following:-

X2 Abandoned 999, X 1 Theft, X4 Public assistance Calls, X2 Road Traffic Enquiry Calls

X1 Warrant Execution (stolen property)

For the village of **Standburn** there have been no calls made to police.

**CRIMES COMMITTED**

Avonbridge currently has 4 crimefiles which relate to:-

1x Theft of Fuel for motor vehicle, 1x Theft Of Mobile Telephone 1x Threatening and Abusive Behaviour (Male Charged),

1x Fire Raising – Garden Shed

In relation to Standburn there has been 1 crimefile raised which relates to:-

X1 Speeding (51mph in 30mph zone)

**ASB, VIOLENCE & DISORDER**

Specifically for Avonbridge, there has been 1 incident of ASB since the last meeting relating to Threatening and Abusive Behaviour from which one male was charged. 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**

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**

X1 male charged for speeding in Standburn

**DISHONESTY CRIMES**

There have been two such incidents for the village of Avonbridge that being Theft of fuel and mobile telephone.

No such incidents for Standburn

Your View Survey still open - [www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](http://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts)

Report submitted by P.C Derek Wallace (515) [Derek.Wallace@scotland.pnn.police.uk]

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Proposed D Goldie seconded Ed Chappell.

**5. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Planning Application on land at Stevenson's Avonbridge – New Mobile Phone Mast.**

This issue prompted a heated discussion to the point that there was a suggestion from the floor that the meeting might have to be abandoned, which prompted the chair to state that if we could not proceed with order, one person would be asked to leave.

Subsequent interruptions and a lack of respect for the chair and other CC members persisted however:-

The following points were discussed and clarified:-

**Question** raised on why no notification was given to neighbours – this was **clarified** by Cllr McLuckie advising no legal requirement to notify beyond 20m from border of development (National planning policy).

**Question** raised why Councillors were not aware of the application prior to granting – **clarified** this is only brought to Planning Committee's attention if objections are raised and requires to be passed or rejected by Planning Committee.

**Question** raised why CC did not raise objection to planning application

**clarified** – First and foremost the CC are not notified or consulted on planning applications submitted in the area.

Also **clarified** that it is not the remit of the CC to check for upcoming applications, furthermore CC objections will only be raised if requested by the community and if there are material grounds to object.

**Question** raised as to why when asked at previous meeting what was going on at the site that no objection was raised – **clarified** that at the time there was no information available regarding the application or about the works being carried out.

**Question** raised as to what the CC will do now –

**clarified** that as the application has been granted there is no action the CC can take as there are no material grounds for objection. The matter was above and beyond the remit of the CC.

**Question** Local resident asked if it would be possible to arrange a public meeting with O2 as developer to discuss their concerns and consider any alternative options available.

**Clarified** - Chair advised they were at liberty to arrange a meeting and invite local residents but this would not be arranged by the CC.

## **6. Chair's Report**

### **Correspondence**

**Plan Application Mobile Phone Mast** – various e-mails.

I. A number of emails have been received from a resident regarding the Planning Consent issued at Stevenson's Avonbridge for a mobile phone mast.

They were unhappy the Community Council failed to notify the meeting nor did we object.

For confirmation ASCC were unaware of the application, we were never notified, no longer receive planning lists and had no grounds for objection. Furthermore, no objections were received from members of the public prior to the determination of the application. Responses have been sent regarding this by Cllr John McLuckie, Cllr Gordon Hughes, me and the planning dept confirming the planning decision has been made, cannot be revisited or reversed and there were no material considerations in planning terms to warrant refusal. The application was also advertised in the Falkirk Herald for 3 weeks and requisite neighbourhood notifications were issued. This matter is outwith the remit of the Community Council.

### **Response from Kevin Brown Falkirk Council - Planning Officer to the resident**

I can confirm that neighbour notification was carried out in line with national guidance. This resulted in two properties triggering formal neighbour notification (The Old Bakery, Falkirk Road, Avonbridge and Stevenson Brothers Ltd, Blackston Road, Avonbridge). In addition to the neighbour notification letters that were sent out, the application was also advertised in the Falkirk Herald for 3 weeks from 01 September 2016. I can confirm that your own property was outwith the neighbour notification distance of 20m from the application site and as such was not neighbour notified. No objections were received during the course of the application. I cannot comment on why this application was not discussed at any community council meetings I'm afraid.

In respect of the concerns you have raised, I can confirm that health impacts are not material planning considerations and therefore cannot influence the outcome of the application process. By their very nature, mobile phone mast installations require to be close to residential properties in some instances in order to meet coverage requirements. The provision of telecommunications infrastructure is supported by national and local policies and the siting of the mast in this instance was deemed to be acceptable in visual amenity terms.

The application has now been granted and cannot therefore be revisited. I have attached a copy of the officer report on this application for your information. At present there is no third party right to appeal planning decisions of this nature.

I trust this information is of use to you at this time.

Regards

Kevin

Further emails received:-

- [Edinburgh Airport Initial Consultation Findings Report](#)
- **Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles** - <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/consultations-surveys/>
- Email from [info@scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk)
- Email from: [noise@edinburghairport.com](mailto:noise@edinburghairport.com)
- Email from - [newsletter@primarycaresupplies.uk](mailto:newsletter@primarycaresupplies.uk) – Sales promotion.

## **7. Treasurers Report**

Current Bank Balance

ASCC Account = £ 317.79.

Burnhead Moss Wind Farm Fund = £1246.66.

## **8. EDF Burnhead Moss Wind Farm update and Cares Grant Progress**

- CARES Grant update – grant now confirmed.
- Flyer Deliveries – all areas now covered. Micro Grant application have been very successful as most of initial money now issued.
- Interim Grant Fund – Avonbridge Community Hall baby change facility request made for funding
- Education Fund update – 11 possible applicants for funding. Remaining funds to be available from January for short term course funding.
- Christmas gifts of books for both Primary Schools and Nursery – approval given for supply of books for 61 children as per school roll information funded by Micro Grant funding.

### **9. Condition of Footpaths in area**

Cllr Hughes will chase up inspection and repair works to footpaths in particular at play park in Avonbridge.

### **10. SEPA – EWOS noxious smells across areas.**

A hot line number has been provided and will be posted in both villages to be contacted whenever the smell is detected.

### **11. Facebook Page**

Ed's Report – approx. 5 to 9 posts per month – unable to gauge public access to site.

Item Removal – posts have been removed as this is a public forum and as such must remain non-provocative and unbiased.

### **12 Falkirk Environment Trust**

JH and DG will meet with Arthur Berg on 16<sup>th</sup> of December to discuss flooding issues and possible upgrades to both play parks in Standburn and Avonbridge. Arthur will look into possible funding to assist with works required.

It was suggested that the burn running from the play park in Avonbridge to the River Avon is becoming more choked and is not being maintained which could be a contributory factor to the flooding.

### **13. A.O.C.B.**

- **Avonbridge – wall at pub** – advised by Cllr McLuckie this is still awaiting quotes before work can be carried out – request made to at least make safe.
- **Grit Bins** – now filled and some promised to be replaced.
- **Open Reach** – fibre optic cables are now in place from the exchange to the junction cabinet, advised if properties are more than 1 mile from the cabinet then they will be unable to receive high speed broadband as this is the maximum distance Broadband signal can travel on copper lines.
- The micro grant application from the Avonbridge Community Café for approx. £150 was presented and received general approval

### **Next Meeting Date**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Drumbowie Primary School at 7pm.**