

**Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council**  
**Monthly General Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7pm**  
**Avonbridge Community Hall**

Meeting chaired by Jo Hirst

**1. Present**

Jo Hirst, James Anthony, Ian McGillivray, Dave Cameron, PC Steve Lorimer, Ed Chappell, Jit Singh (SCCC), Cllr McLuckie, Cllr Hughes and 6 local residents.

**2. Apologies**

D. Goldie, A. Wallace, PC Wallace, E. Lipski, J Hunter, J Davidson, S Maguire, M Montinaro, Cllr Rosie Murray, Alison Harris MSP

**3. Local Police Update**

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 2 Theft related calls      X1 Public Assistance calls  
X2 Road Traffic Enquiry Call                      X1 Noisy Music Call      X2 Police Information  
X2 Complaints re vehicles causing obstruction

For the village of Standburn there has been 1 call made to police which related to a speeding vehicle.

**ASB, VIOLENCE & DISORDER**

Specifically for Avonbridge, there has been 1 incident of ASB since the last meeting relating to a Noisy Music Call. There are currently no repeat or priority locations in terms of ASB, Disorder and Violence.

No such calls for 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 has there been any drug related police operation.

**ROAD SAFETY**

No such offences have been detected in either Standburn or Avonbridge

UPDATE – HILLEND LODGE FIRE - As regards the recent fire at Hillend Lodge, Blackston Road, Avonbridge one male has been traced and charged with Wilful Fire-raising.

**Community Engagement and Reassurance**

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

Housebreaking in the Braes area prevalent at the moment all residents requested to be aware.

Reports from public at the meeting:-

- Standburn - Highway Maintenance flat bed truck is being parked overnight causing obstruction on the Main Road in Standburn, vehicle is obstructing the footpath and sticks out onto the road at an awkward angle – police requested to make enquiries.

**4. Community Safety Team Report**

None

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Proposed E Chappell seconded D Cameron.

- Noted that H Konkol's comments re. phone mast for appendix as yet not received.
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**6. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a) Hillend lodge: ruin to be demolished and rubble removed. JMCL hopeful that the site can finally be sold and cease to be a focus of nuisance.
- b) Condition of Footpaths in ASCC area – Gordon Hughes. These have now been inspected and status moved to "Actionable".
- c) Concrete blocks at Stevensons. Stevensons have noted that these have been moved because they impeded the sight line at the field access. Cllr. McLuckie confirmed that, because they are portable, these would not be a planning matter.

## 7. Chair's Report

**Hillend Lodge Avonbridge** is expected to be demolished this week and the land resold. The empty homes officer who took over from another officer last July has been working with various parties and lawyers and sending weekly e-mails trying to address the complex issues there.

### **Gardrum Moss – Update**

Material (i.e. sewage digestate) being stockpiled on site. One side claims volumes are “minimal”, JMCL notes they are “substantial”. SEPA to sample, trace source and report quantities.

JH has emailed SEPA, Kath McDowell, to report material stacked on top of asbestos.

Enquires made regarding planning status and enforcement. JMCL concerned that the original case has been won but must keep vigilant on future planning proposals.

The traffic to the site is also excessive and outwith normal working hours.

### **Fracking**

Referred to Falkirk herald Article 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. quoting Angus MacDonald MSP.

Scottish Government has launched its National Consultation on the unconventional gas industry and fracking this week.

The consultation is online and is open for submissions until 31<sup>st</sup> may 2017 please participate and get your views across.

Visit [www.talkingfracking.scot](http://www.talkingfracking.scot)

A question was asked about the present status of ‘underground trespass’ law in Scotland, in the light of the changes introduced by the Infrastructure Bill in Westminster. Cllr. Hughes agreed to enquire about how the law stands currently in Scotland.

### **An email has been received from Jamie McKenzie Hamilton of Concerned Communities of Falkirk**

Good news! It seems that Scottish Government HAS taken notice of the ASCC pilot consultation!!!

They have included a participatory component in the consultation, one which is heavily based on the procedure we employed.

This re-enforces the view the public consultation held in Avonbridge was considered to be valuable.

**Note:** The development licences are held by Ineos Shale.

Helen Konkol said she would have preferred more information at the consultation meeting.

## **Correspondence**

- NHS-24 draft strategy – (link to FB) –  
Current consultation taking place on NHS 24's draft strategy, seeking support to link in with patient groups/PPF's across Scotland.  
The draft strategy and details of how to take part can be found here: draft strategy  
[www.nhs24.com/aboutus/nhs24board/strategicplanning/](http://www.nhs24.com/aboutus/nhs24board/strategicplanning/) The consultation closes on Friday 24 February 2017  
Davie Morrison  
Participation and Equalities Manager  
NHS 24  
0141 337 4532  
07833 402 604
- Kevin Smith at Braes High – Health and Wellbeing Marketplace and activities. Mon 27-Mar-2017 at 6-9.30pm.
- Notification of the **WattBike cycle race on Sun, 26-Mar-2017**, involving around 800 cyclists. Route will be marshalled but no road closures. It was noted that this day is Mothers' Day and we should seek a meeting / correspondence to ensure that access to Care Homes, etc. had been considered and would not be compromised.
- Notification of **A801 closure over 3 weekends from 24-Feb to 12-Mar-2017**. Signs have been requested to avoid re-occurrence of short cutting sown small roads.
- Galliford-Try: re. mobile phone mast planning pre-notification. JH confirmed a letter was received on the ASCC email on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 advising a planning application was to be submitted for a mobile phone mast at Stevensons in Avonbridge. It provided plans and a letter explaining their reason for choosing this site. Unfortunately, this email was missed as the ASCC was in recess and JH & DG were on holiday. JH apologised for this oversight.
- Edinburgh Airport flight path changes: secondary consultation under way Link to consultation document website  
<http://www.letsstofurther.com/> (link to FB).  
All are encouraged to make their views known on the proposals.

## **8. Treasurers Report**

JH reported both she and DG had visited the Airdrie Savings Bank in Airdrie and had closed our existing accounts. New accounts have been opened with the Clydesdale Bank in Falkirk as they were the only bank offering a treasurer's account as required by ASCC.

We are awaiting cheque books and internet access for the purpose of viewing statements.

### **Current Bank Balance**

ASCC Account = £ 390.91.

Burnhead Moss Wind Farm Fund = £2316.70.

## **9. Planning and Online Update/Report**

No planning applications to report

### **9a. Facebook**

- FB views this month 304, considerably up from 53 in previous month. Six items posted.
- Articles and local interest stories to be sent to Jill Davidson for addition to the ASCC facebook page

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

- CARES Grant update – first meeting of project team still to be time scaled.
- Draft tender document and list of potential consultants in place
- Dave C took charge of the CARES offer letter.
- Education and Training sub-fund: scheme for short courses is evolving and should be in place soon, hopefully sometime in March. DC is looking at ways of using local businesses as 'vehicles' to support individuals' training.
- Ed Chappell is working on a 'Punters Guide to Grants' to help inform folk and show where to go for more information and help with applications. Will be on FB when done and eventually on Website.
- Micro grants – no applications this month.

## **12. Broadband provision in ASCC area.**

Status of Avonbridge exchange can be checked using this link <http://www.telephone-exchange.co.uk/Avonbridge-ESAVO.html>. A more technical discussion of the various schemes in use can be found at <http://www.thinkbroadband.com/fag/sections/radsl.html#227>.

- EC is hoping to contact the Provider.
- Question regarding any possible improvement available for longer EO (Exchange Only) lines, e.g. 70 properties in Standburn.

## **13. Pedal for Scotland update**

- Proposed route is the same as last year.
- Meeting on 16-feb-2017 with Shieldhill, AS and Maddiston CC's with Rupert Martin from WMP Creative the event organisers of Pedal for Scotland.
- The main challenge is for the route to avoid impacting the A801 trunk road.

## **14. A.O.C.B**

- Ed Chappell: New website will require a domain name... what should it be? E.g. AandSCC<something>.org or .org.uk.
- HK suggested that details of all planning applications be added to the facebook and website. EC noted this was not practical because of time constraints but a link to the Falkirk planning website could be added to the footer on minutes and the facebook site for people to use.
- James Anthony: 30mph limit sign-age in Standburn needs upgraded (comment also applies to Avonbridge). JMcl suggested contacting Russell Steadman at FK council for latest guidance on 30 zones. JA to action
- Notice of an Open Day at Armadale Shed community workshop.
- Consultation on proposed permanent closure of the Boness road through the BP / Ineos site at Grangemouth. JMcl to send over link for this.
- The damaged wall near the pub in Avonbridge has now been completed round of thanks to Councillor McLuckie for his help with this.

**Next Meeting Date**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Drumbowie School Standburn at 7pm

**Useful Links:-**

**Burnhead Moss Windfarm – Grant applications**

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/burnhead-moss-avonbridge-standburn>

**Police Scotland - engagement survey**

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

**ASCC Facebook page –**

[www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=avonbridge and standburn community council](http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=avonbridge+and+standburn+community+council)

**Fracking & Unconventional Gas Extraction**

Voice your opinions on Fracking in Scotland, be part of the national consultation before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

[www.talkingfracking.scot](http://www.talkingfracking.scot)

**Advanced planning searches for planning applications**

<http://edevelopment.falkirk.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=advanced>