

**Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council**  
**Monthly General Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 26th October 2017 at 7pm**  
**Avonbridge Community Hall**

Meeting chaired by Doreen Goldie

**1. Present**

J. Anthony, D Goldie, D. Cameron, E. Chappell, J. Hirst, P.C. Todd and four members of the public.

**Apologies**

I McGillivray, M Lourie, Cllr J Kerr,

**2. Local Police Update (PC Gordon Todd)**

**Avonbridge** - Since the last meeting there have been 29 calls made to police. Those consist of the following call types: Stolen Vehicle (actually a DVLA No Excise Uplift); Anti-Social Behaviour; Firearms Incident (cannot disclose details however the incident was not as reported, no risk to public who may have seen firearms officers using the primary school grounds as an rendezvous point to arm prior to attending the call) Domestic Incident; Road Traffic Matters/Parking Issues; Youth Disorder; Concern for Person; Power line Fires Vandalism (vehicle); Abandoned/Silent 999; Police Information; Theft from insecure greenhouse (child's mountain bike); Neighbour Dispute

From these and other calls, 6 Crime Reports have been raised, these relate to;

Threatening & abusive behaviour; Theft x2

Police Assault (officer bitten during detention of a person under the Mental Health Act whilst assisting colleagues from NHS); Vandalism (vehicle); Fraud

**Standburn**- there have been no calls made to police and there are no recorded crimes since the date of the last meeting.

**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.

There are currently no repeat or priority locations in terms of ASB, Disorder and Violence.

Of the 5x ASB/Youth Disorder calls received in Avonbridge since the date of the last meeting none resulted in any charges or form part of a pattern that would require specific targeting. For Standburn there have been no ASB calls in that time.

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

**DRUG DEALING & DRUG MISUSE**

There were no calls of this nature in either Avonbridge or Standburn since the date of the last meeting. There have been no drug related police operations in either village.

**ROAD SAFETY**

There have been no road traffic offences detected in either village since the last report.

**DISHONESTY CRIMES**

There have been no reported housebreakings in either village since the last report. The two reported thefts in Avonbridge since the date of the last meeting relate to a theft of a child's mountain bike from an insecure greenhouse and a theft of keys from an insecure residential property. No suspects have been identified in either enquiry which are both ongoing.

**General discussion**

'**Gentlemen of Drumbowie Park**': GT said he had passed several times and seen no significant parking activity... floor provided an example of 6-8 cars parked at 2.30 in the afternoon. GT suggested discreet recording of car registrations; he will be happy to follow-up phone or email notifications.

**Speeding traffic**: GT has now refreshed his training on the speed-gun but would also need a colleague to assist any serious use. Floor enquired possibility of engaging with school children on this as Mrs. Sweeney (head teacher) is keen to involve him wherever possible... GT said he would be happy to.

DG proposed JH should write a letter from ASCC to Falkirk Council Traffic Dept, requesting a meeting. We continually hear 'No' to any requests and proposals; what practical measures can they actually offer? Floor suggested a low-cost first step might be priority chicanes (as in Slamannan) to back up existing signage at the school 20/30 limit points in Standburn and Avonbridge.

### **3. Approval of Minutes from meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017**

Proposed D Cameron, seconded E. Chappell.

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

None.

### **5. Chair's Report / Correspondence**

1. **From Cllr Gordon Hughes:** Bridge decking renovation in Avonbridge commencing 30-Oct-2017 for two weeks. Temporary single-lane with traffic lights; footpath closure. EC concerned this might feed extra traffic onto Blackston Road... will contact FKC.
2. **Grangemouth- Bo'ness Road Closure:** Councillors have unanimously rejected the proposal. Now escalated as appeal with decision reserved to Scottish Ministers, see DPEA website for details.
3. **Local Development Plan:** update received providing details of outcomes from the public consultation on the Main Issues Report (MIR) details available at [www.falkirk.gov.uk/ldp2](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/ldp2). Publication of the Proposed Plan is scheduled for May 2018 with adoption due in May 2020.

#### **4. Community Council Elections:**

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION TIMETABLE - 2017**

- Notice of Election – w/b Monday 23 October 2017 by Falkirk Council
- **Nominations to be submitted by 4 p.m. on Monday 13 November 2017**
- Withdrawal of nominations by 12 noon on Thursday 16 November 2017
- Notice of Poll – w/b Monday 27 November 2017
- Issue of Postal Ballot Papers – 27 November 2017
- Receipt of Ballot Papers – Monday 11 December 2017
- Postal ballot opening/Count – 13 December & 14 December 2017
- Report to Executive confirming results –
- Online application form for Nomination

<http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/community-councils/election/docs/Nomination%20pack.pdf?v=201710231105>

### **6. Treasurers Report**

This year's accounts have been picked up from the Accountant. Advice is that the transactions are very straightforward and that it is sufficient to produce a single account that covers both Falkirk Council and Foundation Scotland money.

#### **Current Bank Balances:**

ASCC Account = £ 163.80

Burnhead Moss Wind Farm Fund = £3988.62

### **Micro grant applications this month**

-no new applications.

General encouragement to pass the word about micro-grants up to £150 being available via ASCC. Applications should be received in time for the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **7. Planning and Online Update/Report including Broadband Provision**

1. Planning – 1 application received this month to 26 October:-

Erection of 3 Dwelling houses and Associated Infrastructure Open for Comment

Land To The West Of 10 Avonpark Avonbridge

Ref. No: P/17/0609/FUL | Received: Tue 26 Sep 2017 | Validated: Tue 26 Sep 2017 | Status: Awaiting decision

2. Broadband – exciting news... there is a green cabinet in Avonbridge and some numbers are showing on Digital Scotland website as 'cabinet-2' rather than 'exchange-only'. Apparently, it would be technically feasible to run fibre to a local cabinet in Standburn but there is no contact available for local project management so the actual plan is unknown. A similar problem exists in Limerigg and they wish to collaborate with us... possibly join forces to contact Fergus Ewing MSP. HIE offer a Community Broadband solution for far flung remote properties – EC to fact-find. Noted that connection to superfast is not automatic – subscribers must apply and pay.

3. **ASCC Facebook:** 650 views in Sept; 900+ views in Oct. One (EDF) post attracted over 300 views.

## **8. Community Consultation Plan Update**

The Consultation “Outcomes and Proposals” report is now in the final layout phase: text was approved in early October and final illustrations have just been delivered. The full 36-page report will be available to download plus a small number of bound paper copies will be provided for public spaces. A shorter, summary leaflet will be distributed throughout the community.

Once the report is published, the consultants will receive their final payment via the CARES funding and the Community Council’s working group will stand down.

## **9. Fracking and Unconventional Gas Scottish Government Consultation**

Concerned Communities of Falkirk (CCOF) have been in contact to thank ASCC for supporting their campaign against unconventional gas development and for contributing to the “Talking Fracking” consultation.

## **10. Burnhead Moss Wind Farm update**

JH and DC continue to attend meetings with Limerigg / Slamannan, Blackridge representatives, and Foundation Scotland that are aimed at reviewing and improving the Education and Training scheme.

At a meeting in Avonbridge on 5<sup>th</sup> July, we sketched out some thoughts for improving the relevance and take-up of these grants, especially for short-term courses. Foundation Scotland offered to follow up the possibility of engaging a project worker or ‘dot-joiner’ to assist folk with the practicalities of researching courses and filling forms.

In Limerigg on 18<sup>th</sup> September, we saw that the E&T scheme has become popular to the point of being oversubscribed, with 24 applications currently being assessed. DC agreed to summarise and anonymise these numbers, so they can be published via the ASCC Facebook.

The main fund (awards up to £3,000) has not had so much take up to date. Of the ~£70K allocated to Avonbridge and Standburn so far, around £23K has been claimed. Over £47K, equivalent to 15 full awards, is available **now**.

The application scheme and supporting material is well established and seems to be working reasonably well for those who have applied. It is hoped that the recent Community Planning exercise has helped to encourage local ideas and that existing or new constituted groups will be inspired to take some of these ideas forward and to claim these available funds.

Lists of the micro-grants awarded by the Community Council will be posted in the Avonbridge Hall Café and on the Community notice boards.

## **11. Community Council Elections**

Last-minute information meeting called by FKC, coincides with this meeting... (JH attempting to attend both!).

JH noted further projected cuts in local funding over the next 2 years circa £40m per annum.

FKC is very much banking on communities starting to organise and provide for themselves.

Falkirk Council has adopted a new system of Community Action Planning and has divided Falkirk into 3 areas, East (includes us), Central and West.

We are currently aware of a few expressions of interest from those willing to join the Community Council. Please consider becoming a member and taking an active role in supporting this community. With the reduction in Council services continuing Communities will need to help themselves far more, help us to harness the potential of our community and get involved.

The Falkirk Council directive now calls for five elected members. Nominations to be submitted to Brian Pirie by 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

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

- DC to contact primary schools re. Head-count and what’s preferred for individual Xmas gifts to children from the Community Council, possibly book-tokens. Also, to ask whether a micro grant would help towards Xmas parties.
- Likewise, JH to contact the Community Hall about possible Xmas micro grant help for the kids’ clubs.

## **14. Next Meeting Date**

**Thursday 9th Nov 2017 in Drumbowie School, Standburn at 7pm**

**(This will be the last meeting before the Community Council elections so possibly the last chance for micro-grant applications).**

## **Useful Links:-**

### **Burnhead Moss Windfarm – Grant applications**

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

### **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)

### **Advanced planning searches for planning applications**

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

## **Community Engagement and Reassurance - YOUR VIEW 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)