

Blackness Area Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 20th June 2018 - Blackness Boat Club

<p>Attendees: Community Council members: Nick Paul (NP), (Chair), Helena Paul (HP) (Minutes), Helen Brown (HB), Cllr David Aitchison (DA), PCs Greg Cruickshanks, (GC) and Graeme McDougall (GD), Police Scotland Members of the public: 1</p>	
<p>Apologies: Dorothy Garrow (DG), Merv Archibald (MA), Karen Walker (KW)</p>	
	Action
<p>1. Approval of Previous Minutes: HP noted a couple of typos and the May minutes to be altered accordingly: Point 3 line 6, change licenses, to “licenced”, point 10 Flight paths: spelling error in “historical”. And two suggested amendment: Under point 2, Community Police Report, Action ALL to contact police on 101 or 999 as appropriate if any suspicious activity is observed. Point 11.1 Debrillator training – the Blackness Boat Club offered the use of their premises for this. Proposed: NP Seconded: ? Unable to second the minutes, due to nobody else present at the June meeting having also been present at the May meeting except HP who had also prepared the minutes. Action: A member who was present at the May meeting to second the minutes at the next scheduled meeting in September.</p>	ALL
<p>2. Community Police Report</p>	
<p>One incident last month – an house break-in and theft during daylight hours to a house in Mannerston Holdings. Police are investigating.</p>	
<p>Roads and parking update: General discussion about the recent productive and helpful meeting with Roads Dept at Falkirk Council, kindly arranged by Cllr David Aitchison in response to concerns raised at previous BACC meeting. MW, KW and HP had met with 2 reps from Roads dept with Cllr Aitchison on 18th June. Roads have investigated the issues raised, and have agreed to: Contact Road Maintenance team about various matters raised re potholes and road markings on B903 and A904, the visibility splays at Rouken Glen / Strip junction with A904, inspect road markings in Village and renew as required, assess speed limits on all major roads in the area, A803, A904, B903 and B9109 in accordance with national guidance for the setting of speed limits. In addition Roads dept had mentioned that in the planning application made in 2009 for allotments at Rouken Glen Garden Centre, a planning condition had been imposed developed relating to the roads junction. Agreed that BACC would write to Planning dept to enquire what had been done to enforce this condition, and whether it could now be enforced in the interests of road safety as residents had noted their concerns about the increase in traffic around the Rouken Glen / Mannerstons junction and the confusing road layout.</p>	
<p>All agreed the meeting had been very helpful, and thanked Cllr Aitchison and the Roads dept staff for attending to these issues promptly.</p>	
	HP / MW / KW DA

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<p>Further discussion on the design of the Champany junction, and what actions could be taken to improve road safety here. A suggestion that possibly a mini roundabout might improve matters was made, which Cllr Aitchison will pursue with Roads.</p> <p>Brief discussion about Police Scotland management arrangements across different areas now that all forces have been merged. Confirmed that while even when separate forces operated, all police officers had powers across the country. Now Police Scotland shares resources, which has led to efficiencies in the use of certain shared services, such as Police helicopters.</p> <p>HB mentioned the change to extend the opening hours at Blackness Castle which will mean that the gate will be open later till 8pm in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. From 1st October the Castle will be open 7 days a week all year round. Noted this is due to the large increase in visitor numbers at the Castle, due in part to the “Outlander effect”, which, while welcome, also creates knock on pressures for the locals.</p> <p>Police Scotland were warmly thanked for continuing to attend BACC meetings, and we look forward to seeing them again after the Summer recess.</p>	
<p>3. Actions and matters arising from previous minutes</p>	
<p>Broadband issues: TR has circulated a draft questionnaire to distribute to residents with the summer newsletter to assess the extent of the issues residents are experiencing with slow and/or unreliable broadband. This will be very helpful in assessing the scale of the issue for residents in the area.</p> <p>Action – add questionnaire to newsletter, with a method of response TBC- possibly a post box in the shop?</p> <p>Meeting with Blackness Castle: HB to arrange an informal meeting with the new contact at Historic Environment Scotland. Agenda items to include: parking, funding for play park, gate signage.</p>	HP
<p>4. Future Events / Fundraising</p>	
<p>No update.</p>	
<p>5. Community Projects</p>	
<p>Playpark Update: Funding continues to be applied for – looking hopeful that FET (Falkirk Environment Trust) will fund £20k for the project, which will be discussed and we hope approved at the FET funding meeting in November / December.</p> <p>Funding for the residual shortfall of around £4k is also being applied for.</p> <p>A good flurry of letters of support, which are helpful in the funding application process, and assuming the necessary funding can be secured, a spring 2019 start for the project should be possible.</p> <p>HB was again thanked for her very hard work on this project.</p>	
<p>6. Budget</p>	
<p>No update.</p>	
<p>7. Councillors’ Update</p>	
<p>Cllr David Aitchison attended the meetings</p>	

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8. Planning Update	
<p>8.1 Weekly planning list: Still looking for a volunteer to review the weekly planning list and flag up any relevant applications. This is now an urgent task, can anyone help please? Contact HB for details of what is involved.</p> <p>8.2 P/18/0341/FUL Clairdhu House Extension. Plans reviewed. No comments from BACC</p> <p>8.3 Some comments were received via email from a member of the public about the proposed additional retail unit in the pub garden. Concerns expressed about the planners decision to allow the plan – doubts on viability of two shops, and that the existing shop did not appear on the plans submitted. Unfortunately there is no further community right of appeal, so the decision of the planners appears to be final.</p> <p>8.4 Further communications received from Maria Montinaro, Sheildhill CC, regarding a community right of appeal in planning applications. The matter is now set to come before the full Falkirk Council on 27th June, with a request for a deputation of community councils in Falkirk to attend. Unfortunately nobody present would be available, although we all wish Maria and the deputation well with this.</p>	ALL
9. Broadband update	
See matters arising above.	
10. Flight path matters	
<p>HP updated the meeting: A further consultation on Route E has been launched by EAL. EAL has changed the preferred route, and has designed a new route called E7a, which it is now consulting on. Very short period to respond – 4 weeks – extended by one week to 28th June deadline for responses. Blackness is one of many communities that will be affected by Route E which has not been included in the communities that the airport has contacted about the latest consultation process. The materials are available on the airport's website, but give very little clarity on what the impact will be for residents. A recent public meeting in Inverkeithing called at very short notice, was nevertheless very well attended by angry and articulate residents who were vocal in their opposition to the proposals. HP would draft a response on behalf of BACC, and would try and get some publicity about it in the shop to encourage residents to respond.</p> <p>New Noise and Track-keeping System has been installed at EAL, and when complaints are raised the airport is encouraging people to use it. The problem is that it is not compatible with all browsers so cannot be used by everyone.</p> <p>Comments again made about how noisy the planes are over Blackness – the recent run of</p>	ALL

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<p>Easterly winds continues with disturbance from around 6am until midnight most days, with some planes being markedly noisier than others.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to complain to the airport, and to all of their elected representatives. Airport email is: noise@edinburghairport.com Elected reps details can be found using the www.Writetothem.com website.</p>	
<p>11. AOCB</p>	
<p>11.1 BACC has been allocated a grant of £500 for IT equipment and software. Suggestion we could upgrade the laptop or buy another printer, and that we should try and ensure we spend the funds accordingly.</p> <p>11.2 Potential car parking areas in village raised – possibility of land at church, although residents not all in favour, also possibility of yard around Boat Club during the summer months. Question raised of who is the owner of that land. Cllr David Aitchison to investigate</p> <p>11.3 Community Buses have been named – Beau Nessie and The Kinneil Connection. Various ideas about increasing the user numbers including promoting the bus for birdwatching groups possibly via the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative or RSPB, via Outlander fans websites or social media, and various hotels and other outlets in Edinburgh.</p> <p>11.4 Summer Newsletter: items to include: Playpark project update Broadband survey Flight paths update Defibrillator demo date (just before next BACC meeting in Sept, or other date that can be arranged by First Responders) Castle opening hours Roads update New community bus and names of busses Dates of next meetings “What else the CC talks about....” HP to draft when time allows.</p>	<p>HB / DL</p> <p>DA</p> <p>HP</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting; Wednesday 19th September at 7 pm in the Boat Club. BACC now on summer recess with no meetings scheduled for July and August.</p>	
<p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.50</p>	