

## Strathard Community Council Meeting Minutes

**Place:** Aberfoyle Village Hall

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

**Present:** Michelle Colquhoun, Ros Dingwall, Trevor Geraghty, Jimmy Quinn, Geraint Short, Colin Smith

**Apologies:** Andre Goulancourt, Stuart Stephen,

**Attending:** Alison Boa, Jane Fairfield, Michelle Flynn (Stirling Council), Linda McCall, Cllr Jeremy McDonald, Toto McLellan (Minute Secretary), Fergus Wood

Item	Content	Action	Date
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions.</b> Chair Trevor Gerhaty welcomed all to the meeting.		
2.	<b>Approval of minutes</b> Proposed by CS, seconded by MC. It was noted that the minutes were circulated electronically, as was the agenda, and that several people were not in possession of them.		
3.	<b>Matters arising</b> L LLTNP Planning Officer Stuart Mearns will attend next month's meeting. It was agreed that clarification of planning procedure would be beneficial. and this will be a welcome opportunity to gain confirmation that LLTNP are following a legislative template and to question Mr Mearns on what feeds the Park's planning decisions, which can sometimes appear inconsistent and difficult to rationalise. Comments raised in discussion on this topic were as follows: Concern was expressed that the Park is under pressure to raise visitor numbers, and as such, decisions are frequently made in favour of augmenting the tourism infrastructure, without due regard to the requirements and preferences of communities. Consideration of landscape was also thought to be absent in instances of the damaging effects of temporary track construction on open hillside and within the forest, as reinstatement is not generally carried out. It was thought that companies such as FCS and Scottish Water, whilst obliged only to give notification of works, should not be exempt from this condition, and should be held to account by the National Park as custodians of our landscape,		

	<p>particularly as the statement ‘environment takes superiority over everything else in the final analysis’ forms part of the Park’s remit. This raised the comment that not all environments are considered, archeological, for instance, receiving no mention at all in the Live Park Plan. Concern was also expressed that there seems to be no rationale for economic development for existing communities. The necessity for us to a) harness the positive effect of being seen as a proactive community with a clear idea ourselves of where we want to go, and b) to have LLTNP see us as potential allies, rather than complainants was highlighted, and as such it was agreed that questions should be formulated and presented to Mr Mearns in advance of his attendance. CS suggested the following format:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent does the Live Park Development Plan steer the National Park’s planning strategy and ultimately individual planning decisions?</li> <li>2. How is the success of the National Park’s planning Department assessed, what are the current performance indicators?</li> <li>3. In what ways does the Planning Authority drive the economic development of the area? How has the planning authority developed and amended it's policies to reflect the Strathard Flooding crisis?</li> </ol> <p>Other points raised included the observation that the Live Park document does not address the fact that our population is ageing and diminishing, leaving a deficit in upcoming generation to take over jobs, and that the active retired are not being utilised. Comment was drawn on the fact that Aberfoyle is only mentioned in the Live Park Plan in connection with flooding, and Stronachlachar is not mentioned at all.</p>		
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurers Report:</b> Treasurer was not present at the meeting, but reported that there was no movement in the finances.</p>		
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Matters FCS:</b> Notification of temporary forest track construction 40m north of Loch Chon. <b>Altskeith:</b> An appeal is being lodged against a condition imposed by LLTNP regarding refusal of inclusion of a canopy. It was noted that no definition of a canopy was available. Comment on the lack of consistent detail in planning applications/approvals was raised, and it was suggested by MF that training in planning procedure should be sought, as Planning guidelines have changed and many areas are in confusion regarding the Park’s requirements. CS has attended briefing sessions organised by the Scottish Government, and will circulate dates of these</p>		

	meetings. Training is also available from LLTNP, but for Councillors only.	CS	
6.	<p><b>Correspondence Local Community Transport Consultation:</b> An online survey is being carried out regarding provision of transport. The talks on DRT have given rise to a wider consultation, leading to drop-in meetings, arranged by SC Transport Department, scheduled for Callander and Killin only. This prompted discontent that Strathard had not been offered the same, as the bus route between Aberfoyle and Callander is an essential link for the area. Comment was raised that the residents who need local transport have no way of getting to the meetings. The need to co-ordinate transport, the integration of transport ( eg. school buses being open to wider use), and the formation of a resilient community based scheme were discussed. It was agreed to invite a Transport Department representative to attend a meeting, and to make transport a specific topic at future meetings. MF advised that communities will be able to access funding for buses more efficiently than local councils.</p>		
7.	<p><b>Reports: Councillor:</b> It is felt that the present format of Councillor’s surgeries is not effective, and alternative ways of reaching the public are being sought. Suggestion was made of utilising a small section of the library bus, which would familiarise a wide age-range of the community with their local Councillor, and encourage approachability. It was thought that perhaps other Council Services could also be combined in this way. The importance of the library service to the community was stressed to Councillor McDonald, and he was asked to protect it. He was also asked if Budget Roadshows would be repeated this year, and if new Waste Collection calendars could be issued. <b>Police:</b> No anti-social complaints. No Road Traffic offences. Thefts on 24<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> July from cars in Go Ape car park. <b>Rural Business Hub:</b> No response has been received from Stirling Council Estates Department regarding use of a portion of the Visitor Centre, although visits have been made to the site. Recent feedback confirms that many residents in the area would consider using the premises, those working from home would appreciate a neutral space in which to meet clients. Exhibition, retail, training and social hub were also mentioned as potential uses, and the benefits of encouraging LLTNP and other major local organisations to locate outposts in the building was discussed. Broadband strength is sufficient to service requirements for all suggested uses. MF of Stirling Council advised that funding is available for such projects, but speed of application is essential. Communication with Callander, who have experience in this field, and Doune, who have a Community Tourist Advice Centre was suggested. It was remarked that</p>	JM	

	<p>the name ‘Life Hub’ might make the project more approachable to some members of the community, but ultimately it was thought that the term ‘Business’ might be helpful in attracting funding. Cllr. McDonald is willing to highlight the project with the Economic Development Team, and would appreciate any support. It was collectively agreed that the consultation regarding the project will be re-circulated to residents and businesses, TG to take forward. <b>Broadband:</b> The meeting was informed that BT are trialling a Lightweight Armoured Cable installation along Lochard Road between Aberfoyle and the Glassert, which has the potential of allowing fibre optic connection to premises over poles. This information from Douglas Baillie of BT, at Gartmore Community Council meeting, which Councillor McDonald attended. As yet no-one has been offered the new super-fast connection. AB agreed to enquire with BT. It was mentioned that BT are visiting to ascertain if the mast behind Ledard is suitable for taking fibre. It was noted that Ben Guillipan is the nearest mast for Briscona, line of sight to the mast is required for connection. SC are considering siting a mast on Ben Guillipan, and the potential of approaching them to site one in this local area was mentioned. <b>Flooding:</b> No progress this year due to lack of staffing. The Trossachs Road/Limecraig Avenue works is due to be completed this financial year making the upstream connection which will alleviate flows coming from the Duke’s Pass. The flow on this pipe will be restricted to ensure there is no increased flood risk. Flood Risk Assessment for this work is available. No other capital works are scheduled for this year. February’s paper on the issue was accepted with the proviso that no detailed design work will be taken forward until the community is consulted again. With a view to this, a freepost-return survey will be posted to all residents and businesses, and an online survey launched which will link to the relevant council web page. Historical information is also being uploaded to this page to allow public access. An Open Day in Aberfoyle will be held. Stirling Council however stress the fact that consultation and support does not guarantee the work will go ahead at this time, as there is a £4M+ deficit between the cost of the scheme and what they have committed to spend. Grant funding and other options are being sought. A report to the Committee will follow the consultation. The meeting was asked to pinpoint a suitable time for the Open Day, and to report on any new flooding issues or maintenance requirements following the recent heavy rainfall.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>TG</p> <p>AB</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>AOCB: Roads:</b> Concern was expressed that SC information on road closures remains lacking in crucial detail. <b>TEST:</b></p>		

	<p>Volunteers are sought to assess energy efficiency in local homes. This project is organised by the Energy Saving Commission. <b>Community Development Trust:</b> Meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> August, open to members only, but anyone is eligible to join in advance of meeting. John Clow has advised that he is willing to stand for re-election, or to stand down if anyone else wishes to replace him. Attendance was encouraged. <b>Twinning:</b> FW put forward the suggestion of twinning Strathard with the French town of Chatillon-sur-Indre, the centre of the Auld Alliance. The Aberfoyle Heritage Group will be contacted for input. <b>Guidelines:</b> Universal Credits Guideline booklets were made available at the meeting. <b>FCS:</b> Discussion arose concerning FCS and SW using separate holding areas for construction materials and kit. It was thought that communication between the two would reduce disruption to the landscape by sharing of sites, and that LLTNP should be managing and facilitating this. The local intentions of FCS were queried, as regards apprenticeships, contribution to community, and projected works. Following comment that sight of Corporate accounts for FCS and SW would be useful, it was noted that FCS follow a 5 year and a 10 year plan. While the 10yr plan is accessible only to management, the 5yr plan becomes accessible to the public following ratification by the Scottish Government, and communities have the right to be involved in the consultation process for it. <b>Lochard Road:</b> it was reported to the meeting that parts of the road along Lochard are moving when timber lorries pass over them. This gave rise to the comment that the running of these vehicles on small roads does NOT constitute normal road usage; they are causing damage which should perhaps incur some community input from FCS. <b>RSPB:</b> No more contraceptive darting of goats will be carried out, and the situation will be monitored. RSPB are writing to landlords to encourage monitoring and culling. <b>5year Plan:</b> During discussion on the Rural Hub, it was thought crucial that a 5 year strategy for the community should be formulated, to ensure jobs for the future, and to attempt to populate the empty premises in villages.</p>	FW	
9.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting.</b> 7.30 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> September at Kinlochard village Hall</p>		
10.			