

## **Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council Ordinary Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 7pm – by Zoom Minutes**

### **1. Attendance**

**Community Councillors** - Stuart Paton, Chris Claydon, Stewart Pritchard, Andrew Cave, Calum Martin, Lachlan McEwen, Laura Graham.

**PKC Councillors** – Grant Laing, Anne Jarvis, Ian James

**Members of the public present:** Alistair Smith (Heartland), Rachel Unwin, Pam Green, Hugh Cuthbert, Ramsay Beattie (Heartland), Alasdair Wylie, Dave Roberts, Alex Kettles and Kat Waldron, Kat Brown, Jacky Cuthbert, Alex Lee, Euan Robinson, Nikki Herbertson, Caroline Robinson, Jess Pepper.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

A small addition to the minutes regarding Chris having made contact with Living Streets was added. **Minutes approved**

### **3. Co-option of Laura Graham onto the Community Council**

Having completed all the paperwork and been approved by PKC, Laura was officially co-opted by the meeting onto the Community Council.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Community Council funds £453.14 – Grants account - £13,865 – which includes Micro Grants - £2600, Covid related issues funds £7,661.

Stewart Pritchard reported that the examined annual accounts have been submitted to the Council.

### **5. Police update**

Only one crime of note - Between 1600 hrs Monday 02/11/2020 - 0830 hrs Tuesday 03/11/2020. Theft by Housebreaking to a garage in Atholl Park, Dunkeld. High value mountain bikes stolen from within. CR/29843/20.

With long dark nights now upon security of outbuildings/sheds should be considered. Good quality padlocks and hasps, shed alarms, security lighting, covered shed windows and CCTV all play a part in reducing the potential of being a target. High value items stored within outbuildings/sheds should be detailed by photograph, make, model and part numbers and marked in some way with UV pen, smart water technology or other specific identification means.

**Helen will send Chris this report and Chris will post it up on Facebook.**

### **6. Forestry consultation by Savills for Scone Estate – South side of Strathbraan (North Logiealmond)**

Large forestry proposal on Scone Estates. The Estate have contacted local residents and have also contacted the CC. Forestry Planning is managed by Scottish Forestry (not Perth and Kinross Council) Scone Estates are seeking local views on this proposal. The formal consultation from Scottish Forestry will come out at a later date when they submit their application. We are pleased that the estate has taken the steps to engage with the Community on this proposal.

## **7. Road Safety Sub Group discussion**

As introduction, Andrew Cave outlined where his interest in this issue stemmed from. Andrew attended a A9 Co-creative meeting and has updated his Road Safety Sub Group Discussion paper since then. The spirit of the process is to get the broadest possible view from folk and explore the feasibility of things.

Lachlan expressed his concern about the out of scope items which the co-creative group gathered together, and that these should not be overlooked. **Andrew apologised and said that he would ensure that it is clear that the ideas gathered by the co-creative group are being included in the process.**

Grant Laing, said it was important to get the evidence behind the anecdotal. The traffic measuring devices are coming to Dunkeld and Birnam soon – which will be vital in giving evidence of the speed and weight of the vehicles. Getting hard data will be very useful to get. Calum explained that PKC has some new fancy data gathering equipment which we have our names down to have a turn of in Dunkeld. It was noted that it will be important to site this equipment in the right places in order to ensure that we are gathering the data that we need.

Some road safety items which have previously worked on by the Community Council are (still) waiting to be delivered; upgrading of the pelican crossing to a puffin crossing, some double yellow lines, and disabled parking bay outside the Chemist. When asked how we get things up the queue, Grant Laing said that probably by pressure from the CC to the Council Officers. However, timescales have been adversely impacted by Covid. Calum has successfully sourced us a couple of cut out policemen, which are ordered but not arrived yet. Grant Laing can lend us a couple if that would help.

Alasdair Wylie explained that the speed sign at the north end of the village and the one as you cross south over the bridge are probably not working to the best effectiveness and should be reviewed and upgraded. **Andrew agreed to add the effectiveness of the existing speed signs into the list.**

Euan Robinson – did a survey of parents and the Royal School of Dunkeld about their concerns around road safety and walking and cycling to school. Two thirds of parents responded. The aim was to gather data and quantify the level of concern at the school, and what the measures which were most favoured. The Bridge was the key thing that

they were worried about. 47% gave a story about a near miss with children on the way to school. 74% wanted improved cycling infrastructure, something done about the bridge and extended 20mph limit. Also showed high appetite for children to walk or cycle to school independently.

Kat Brown – Highland Perthshire Cycling – explained how as a cyclist she notices a big difference between cycling in Birnam and in Dunkeld, with Birnam feeling less threatening; although there are pinch points and issues in Birnam, Dunkeld was much more challenging to cycle in. She outlined the different issues along the different bits of road through Birnam and Dunkeld. Despite Kat's cycling experience she feels that cycling with children in Dunkeld is very very difficult, so for someone less confident it is not an accessible place to cycle. Kat feels that we need to look at the whole place and see what radical changes we could make, rather than just talking about a bit of paint on the roads.

Jess Pepper – Royal School of Dunkeld Parent Partnership Group – spoke to the Head Teacher about the discussions on the road safety surveying. Jess is keen to see that every child has the right to have a safe route to school by walking or cycling. She mentioned the mural produced by the P7 children as part of the A9 Co-creative process and said that the elements in the mural should be included in the road safety groups deliberations. The Head Teacher has offered to facilitate further consultation around road safety with the school community.

Andrew Cave – mentioned the school exclusion zone. This is whereby the roads around the school are blocked for cars during school in and out times. Perth and Kinross Council is exploring implementing this around more schools in the area and is it now being explored with the Royal School of Dunkeld. Jess Pepper pointed out that it was important that wide consultation was undertaken before making any decision on a School Exclusion Zone.

Laura pointed out that the school has in the past had cycle to school weeks which everyone got involved in, but after the week was finished everyone went back to normal and travelled in their cars. She also asked whether the school still ran cycling proficiency sessions with the pupils as this was surely something very important to do.

Kat Brown explained that the cycling proficiency initiative is now Bike-ability, and it is for P7. This was paused when Covid struck, but it should start again. However she emphasised that it was good to have the community pushing the school on this as it would encourage them to get it restarted. Kat confirmed that the Royal School of Dunkeld was an 'I Bike' school – but is no longer, however they should have the skills to continue this, so this too could be encouraged.

Chris Claydon commented that her approach to crossing the Bridge with children was to position herself on the road beside the children as that forced the traffic to slow down.

She asked Euan if he found out what percentage of parents drive their children to school? Chris said very much in favour of the village being redesigned to make the walkers and cyclists come first. Chris keen on the idea of the cycling bus which lots of children cycle together. Also going back to the Living streets again - this is all about making the streets for people and not cars. It would be good to set up a Living Streets group – but she does not have the capacity to do this.

Pam Green explained that she is concerned about the Rotmell junction, as once the Dualling happens it will cause more issues in Dunkeld. As a result of traffic not being able to turn north onto the A9 at the Rotmell junction, this will mean that more traffic (including HGVs) will travel through Dunkeld in order to be able to head north. Pam also mentioned the Birnam Junction onto the A9 and the need for improvements to that, but it was recognised that with the Dualling in the offing Transport Scotland may be unwilling to do anything significant. **Pam said that would be happy to get involved in helping on some of the work of the Road Safety Sub Group (Andrew to note).**

Alex Kettles explained that her particular interest is the Boat Road. The main concern stems from the number of HGVs coming along the road. The Mills lorries seem to be one of the issues. The volume of traffic coming in and out of the slate quarry area where Mills are working is really significant. She wondered if there is scope to examine what is happening at the Mills site to see if they are actually adhering to permissions and what is the length of time that they are going to go on. Grant Laing said that there had been enforcement undertaken on the site but that Eddie Jordan the enforcement officer would be happy to revisit and ensure that everything was being adhered to. **Stuart will pursue this.**

Caroline Robinson, reported that a lot of the parents who drive their children to school do so because they are really scared of walking their children over the bridge, consequently it is very important to get something sorted out, as it is a vicious circle.

**What happens next?** Andrew Cave – everything which has been mentioned tonight is/will be captured in the list. **Andrew will initiate feasibility discussions with PKC and then will try to come up with a top 10 list of things which could be achieved potentially as stand-alone items.** However, it is clear that there are some things which are bigger issues which will need to be looked at in a more holistic way. Maybe the PH8 Community Vision work (see below) is the best avenue for these bigger issues. **Andrew is keen to get an action group together to progress the initiatives which are feasible.**

Grant Laing – highlighted that the school roll is only being kept stable by placement requests – who will be driving to school. As the population of Dunkeld ages and the lack of affordable housing for young families.

## 8. AOB

Pam Green wanted to highlight an incident 3 weeks ago when a walker was attacked by cattle while walking on the path up at Balhomish – the person was injured and had to be airlifted off. The incident has been raised with the community greenspace officer, and Pam is at early stages speaking to the council about it and piece it together about what has happened, and the Council have been in touch with the landowner. The cattle should be off the hill between November and April. Pam was keen to highlight this to people so that folk are aware. **Chris will publicise this on the Facebook group (Stuart to write post) and if people have experienced any other incidents like this, they should pass on the information the PKC Community Greenspace Officer.**

**PH8 Community Vision group.** This has grown out of the Covid lockdown work and is seeking to capture the spirit of this and grow it. There is a group of people acting as a steering group and the plan is to produce a Community Profile, a Community Survey and a Community Plan – with the aim to make Dunkeld and Birnam a better and fairer place for everyone who lives in it. Some new members joined recently; Lachlan McEwen, Lindsay McManaman, and Anne Robinson. Funding has been secured from PKC Leader application – this will pay for part of the work. Also looking for funding from the SSE Griffin Fund for this. Hope to see much more about this over the next few months – and the road safety issues will also be the sort of thing that this group could cover.

Chris Claydon – suggested that maybe Calum Martin – who is on the PH8 group – could also be the Dunkeld and Birnam rep on the Strathtay Action Partnership (SAP). **Stuart said that happy to discuss this and also happy for anyone else who might be interested in getting involved in the SAP.** Caroline Robertson reported that she was at the last meeting and she felt it was very vague and not very clear and did not get answers to the questions. Grant Laing agreed that it was too big to start and had been sceptical about it but should give it one last chance. In Strathtay the issue is that the issues are not the same in the different communities covered by the Partnership. However it is now under new chairmanship so it may become more relevant and useful.

Meeting with the PKC CEO – Community Council invited to attend a meeting next week 19<sup>th</sup> November – 6.30pm – about Building Back Better – COE and officers keen to hear what the issues are etc. **Stuart is unable to attend this so will ask for a volunteer or two to deputise for him.**

Jess Pepper highlighted the Perth Most Sustainable City Conference. Part one looked at case studies from around the world and was very inspiring. It fits into the Just and Green Recovery. She also said that PKC have their Climate Engagement on at the moment – so do feed in thoughts (this can be done via the website <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21853/Climate-Change-Engagement> ). The Climate Cafes are working with PKC, these are being held across the area. Encourage people to come. Part two of the more sustainable cities conference is on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. You can sign up here - <https://mostsustainablecity.com/>

Chris Claydon reported that the Archive screen is still on from 8am to 6pm so feels that we should engage with them again on the times. The agreed timings had been 9am to 5pm. However there might also be a need to consider winter hours due to the different day light times. **Stuart will speak to the Archive to ask for the timings to be reviewed and at least the agreed 9-5 implemented.** Chris was also concerned that we should make some representation to PKC when the advertisement application was submitted, even though there is no official ability to comment.

Laura reported that Planning Aid Scotland could deliver tailor made courses for the Council on planning. **Laura will explore how we could organise some training sessions for the CC.**

Stewart Pritchard is doing the Bridge rota this month.

## End of main meeting

### 9. Griffin Grants

#### a. Micro grants –

Application from Dunkeld and Birnam Royal British Legion - everyone happy to support this.

Application from Servite – need to be clear that the money is to be for the residents of Servite but otherwise everyone happy to support.

#### b. Griffin Windfarm Main Fund –

The next meeting is on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Quite a number of applications being considered. A couple from the Dunkeld and Birnam CIC group, one from Corbenic and one from the Sports Hub.

Chris asked about the Griffin main grants and community consultation. **Helen agreed to check that the assessment reports that SSE produce to see if the community consultation element of the application is shared with the Griffin Panel. If not ask that it is.**

**Next meeting: - Unless nothing urgent next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 7pm probably by Zoom – email**

**[Dbcc.correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:Dbcc.correspondence@gmail.com) to register for attendance**

**Members of the public are most welcome to attend**