

**Forth and Endrick News - Killearn - Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

*Arnprior Balfron Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen Fintry Gargunnoch **Killearn**  
Kippen Strathblane*

**Councillor Lambie Report**

- **Stirling Council Budget:** A number of the more contentious **Stop/Reduce** options were rejected by both the Administration and Opposition groups including – Review of Winter Gritting, Removal of Special Uplift Concessions, Review of specialist PE/Music, Increase Nursery Fee charges. One item that wasn't rejected which will impact on some rural communities is the **Introduction of Road End Collections**, although the service will wish to avoid the accumulation of bins in single places. However, arguably the biggest impact on rural communities is the cut in the Roads, Paths & Pavements capital budget - £2.710 Million for 2015/16 as compared to £4.728 Million in 2014/15. According to the budget note "...the first £1m of any additional receipts or other adjustments will be spent on augmenting the roads budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17. At this stage until we see the approved roads maintenance budget I do not know how this will affect area 2 (Forth and Endrick) but will anticipate there will be fewer road projects in the ward.
- **Roads Officers:** My former contacts namely Stephen Todd and Peter Turner have moved on – Stephen to New Zealand and Peter to Callander. Their replacements respectively are Iain McDonald (Rural Team Leader Roads Maintenance) [mcdonaldi@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:mcdonaldi@stirling.gov.uk) and David Maley (Area Officer - Road Maintenance) [maley@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:maley@stirling.gov.uk) **Update:** the other contact is Jim McGregor.
- **Roads – Sunken Drain at Blackhill:** There is a significant hazard at Blackhill going from Killearn to Balfron. This is a sunken drain which is causing drivers to move into the other lane to avoid it. This has been reported to Jamie Wright (Roads and Transport Manager).
- **Roads – 2015/2016 Maintenance Programme:** A request has been sent to Jamie Wright for a date when the next Road Maintenance Programme will be sent to the CC. Apologies if this has been done.
- **Roads – Inspection Visit:** An inspection was carried out in Feb in Strathblane with the CC roads correspondent and Jim McGregor (Network management Team Leader), who is responsible for footpaths, parking bays etc. It would be useful to carry out the same exercise in Killearn.
- **Roads:** The 2015/2016 proposed road maintenance programme will go to the Environment and Housing Committee in March. There are some projects that have overrun from 2014/2015 including – **(1)** Resurfacing in Gargunnoch McNeil Crescent – **Road Closure** 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, Gargunnoch – Manse Brae 1<sup>st</sup> Mar – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar **(2)** Resurfacing on B818 near Carron Valley – **Road Closure** 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Update: There may be other additional projects to follow from the 2014/2015 programme.

- **Stirling Council Restructuring and Staff changes:** The council has returned to a Director structure – the previous structure comprised – Chief Executive, 3 Assistant Chief Executives and a number of Heads of Service. A number of experienced senior officers have left the council including Kevin Robertson, Les Goodfellow, Willie Watson, and John Risk. There are 3 new directors Robert Steenson (Housing and Environment), Stacey Burlet (Communities and Partnerships), Gerard O’Sullivan (Corporate Operations). The latter appointment is significant as Mr O’Sullivan was formerly a senior BT employee, and brings private sector experience into the council. **(See Appendix 1)**
- **Police Patrol:** On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb I attended an evening/night police patrol with Sergeant Adrian Robertson starting at Balfron Police Station. Due to heavy rainfall the patrol was quiet although we did find some flooding – worse location was on the A809 just south of Croftamie. The patrol covered every village in the Forth and Endrick Ward, including Strathblane, the Mugdock car parks, and east Loch Lomond side up to Rowardennan. We also visited the Randolphfield HQ in Stirling and I sat in on a briefing of the night time patrol – 8 officers including 4 WPCs. The visit also include a tour of the cells – there are 21 in Stirling, more in Falkirk. There were 4 prisoners in custody at the time. The Sgt also referred to the seizure of some £300K of heroin from a Carbeth Hutter property. The patrol concluded with a visit to the Kirkhouse Inn at 01:00 to speak to officers watching late night traffic on the A81 Glasgow road. The entire patrol lasted some 9 hours from 17:00 until 02:00 on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. I came away very confident and reassured about the work that the local officers are doing in keeping our villages safe. Instead of having one community officer responsible for 3 villages – e.g. Strathblane, Killearn, Fintry we now have 15 community/response officers and 2 Sergeants based in Balfron covering the Forth and Endrick ward - [www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/forth-valley/stirling/forth-and-endrick/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/forth-valley/stirling/forth-and-endrick/) - Blane/Killearn/Fintry: **Constables Lorna Deans; Paul Roose; Alan McCallum; Ross McNaught and Steven Graham.** Also, I would encourage communities and members of the public to check out the **Stirling Police Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/stirlingpol>
- **Killearn Community Action Plan – Resident Survey:** This is an excellent easy to read survey with clearly set out ambitions for the community. High on the list on Question 4a – are Roads and Traffic, Housing Strategy, Public Transport, Broadband, and Policing/Community Safety.
- **Police and Road Safety Issues in Killearn:** The requests to move the 30mph sign on Station Rd. and the installation of a 20mph speed limit on Birch Rd, have been passed to Inspector Gerry McMenemy. He has in turn passed this onto the Road Policing Team. I also contacted Robert Steenson (Director of Housing and Environment) who I understand has met Margaret and Jim.
- **Police and Road Safety Issues in Other Areas:** Residents may have seen references to the A809 (Stockiemuir) road as being one of Britain’s most dangerous roads. The council have made some good improvements e.g. at Finnich Glen but there is still more to be done. We are looking to lower the speed around the Carbeth – Edenmill Farm section and I have asked the Road Policing Team to give their opinion on this and what measures should be installed – 40mph, signage, cut back of banking at the B821 (Cuilts Rd) entrance etc. Strathblane CC are looking to setup a petition and Killearn residents may wish to participate.

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** I am broadly in support of this as long as they can be properly manned. I have asked Inspector McMenemy for his views.
- **Planning – Craigton and Spittalhill Windfarm 13/00728/FUL:** The planning officer is recommending refusal of the application and it has been referred to the planning panel. This is consistent with all previous windfarm applications. **Update:** The planning panel attended the site visit on 10<sup>th</sup> March and the application will be determined at the planning panel on Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March where the applicant and objectors will present their respective cases.
- **Planning – CC168:** I noted the two applications in the February Minutes. These look like two householder applications and are subject to delegated decisions by planning officer. They cannot be referred to the planning panel.
- **Turnip Field opposite Bungalows:** I contacted John MacMillan (Manager Housing Property) about this and have received this response. "We had carried out work on the area in the Autumn (2014), to de-stone the area, fill any depressions and seed. I will speak to one of my colleagues in Land Services and have the area inspected again to ensure that it meets our standards for playing fields, if any further work is required I will instruct this."
- **NHS Forth Valley Board Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Jan:** I attended this meeting expecting an update on the situation with the Drymen and Aberfoyle Practices. However, it was not on the agenda. The meeting covered a range of issues under the following main banners – Quality/Safety, Health Improvement & Inequalities, Core Performance, Strategic Planning and Development. Most of the agenda items were **For Noting** and it was hard to identify opportunities where the board could make decisions. The NHS board meeting are open to the public and are held at Boardroom, Carseview House, Stirling – Next Meeting - **Tuesday 31st March 2015** 09:00 Hard Copies of the board papers are available at the board meeting.
- **Health and Social Integration Scheme:** This paper was submitted to council and was approved. The relevant scheme Forth & Endrick is the Clackmananshire/Stirling one. Strathblane CC asked about better integration with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- **Scottish Fire and Rescue - Safe Drive Stay Alive:** This is a hard hitting show aimed at young drivers and future young drivers. All secondary schools are encouraged to attend and I understand that Balfron High had participated. The event is coordinated by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service but includes all of the other main rescue services – police, paramedics etc. The show also features relatives of young drivers who have had RTCs (Road Traffic Collisions).
- **Community Projects Funding:** Forth Valley Leader should be open for applications in early 2015. **Update:** Leader have not released official dates for the availability of funds, but we are hoping these will available around April 2015.
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**Appendix 1: New Council Structure**

