

Forth and Endrick News - Killearn - Wednesday, 15th April 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. (**Update:** I had asked for details about the implementation of the Road End Collection policy with respect to the Buchanan Estate near Drymen. I received a very encouraging response from David Hopper (Waste Recycling Manager) who said that the policy would be phased in over a 2 year period and in this case, as the road structure is good, there would not be a requirement to heave bins down to the estate entrance. I'm hoping that Ibert Road will receive similar treatment.
- **Road Maintenance Programme:** This was approved at the Environment and Housing Committee and CCs should receive a copy of the schedule. In summary the programme for the Forth and Endrick ward is – **A Roads** A81 Douchlage Cottage (Balfron Station) – Surface Dressing £50K; A81 Douchlage Cottage – Surface Dressing and Patching £40K; A811 Redlairdston (Buchlyvie) – Surface Dressing £38 K; A811 Redlairdston - Surface Dressing and Patching £38 K; A811 Easter Balfunning (Drymen) - Surface Dressing £28K; A811 Easter Balfunning - Surface Dressing and Patching £15K; A81 (Blanefield) – Resurfacing £48K; A811 Garden Bend (Arnprior) – Resurfacing £60K; A811 Geotech Patching (No specified location) - £95K. **B Roads** B818 Bogside (Fintry) – Resurface £40K; B818 Honeyholm Junction – Resurface £80K; B821 Carbeth Loch (Strathblane) – Resurface £45; B837 (Milton of Buchanan) – Resurfacing £35K; B837 Main Street (Balmaha) – Resurfacing £55K; C21 Station Rd. (Balfron) – Resurfacing £30K; C22 Old Dumbarton Rd. (Gargunnoch) – Resurfacing £40K; **Unclassified Bansford Rd. (Gartness) – Resurfacing £66K. Streets** Menzies Estate (Fintry) – Resurfacing £40K; Roman Rd. (Balfron) – Resurfacing £35K; Mains of Arnprior – Resurfacing £46K. **Footpaths and Pavements** Roman Rd. (Balfron) - £30K; A81 Blane Valley Inn (Blanefield) - £42K; **Blackhill Crossroads (Killearn) - £33K**; B837 Main Street (Balmaha) - £20K; Station Rd. (Balfron) - £25 – **TOTAL VALUE = £1,260,000** (Greater than other 2 council road areas). **Notes:** The above programme includes an additional Roads Spending allowance of £1M.

- **Consultations:** Arrangements will be put in place to meet with communities and stakeholders who will be affected by the proposed investment works. This will ensure that communities are well informed of the works and can, where feasible, influence the phasing of the improvements to minimise disruption. Inevitably, some projects will create insurmountable inconvenience. Officers have extensive experience of mitigating the adverse effects of their works on local communities and businesses, and will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum during the works. (Ref: Environment and Housing Committee 2nd April 2015)
- **Roads – Sunken Drain at Blackhill:** There is a significant hazard at Blackhill going from Killlearn 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). **Update:** I'll ask if this can be dealt with under the Blackhill Crossroads project.
- **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** 23rd Feb – 27th Feb, Gargunnoch – Manse Brae 1st Mar – 6th Mar **(2)** Resurfacing on B818 near Carron Valley – **Road Closure** 23rd Feb – 27th Feb. **Update:** The Gargunnoch projects have been completed. I still need to check the B818 project but am assuming it has been completed.
- **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 10th March and the application was determined at the planning panel on Tues 24th March. The applicant and objectors presented their respective cases. The panel supported the case officer recommendation to refuse the application. The applicant has the right to appeal the decision.
- **NHS Forth Valley Board Meeting 27th 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. (**Update:** I contacted the NHS office who confirmed that the Drymen practice was not on the agenda.)
- **Comfort Partnership:** As a regular user of this facility I will personally be sad to lose the toilet but would be prepared to accept a comfort partnership if it offered reasonable opening hours. Another partnership option might be for a community group to take over the toilet block?
- **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.
- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling
FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk