

Forth and Endrick News - Killearn - Wednesday, 16th September 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:** Officer Quote "I have conversed with a significant number of residents from Buchanan Estate and hopefully reassured them that they should not be directly impacted by this decision, as the access road condition to the properties is of a reasonable condition. Also, as there are a **significant number of properties associated with this area it is very unlikely that they will be impacted.**" David (Hopper) has changed roles and the contacts I have are George Sommerville (Waste Operations Manager) and Jim McBrier (Business Improvement Team Leader) – I have asked for a list of all roads affected in the Forth and Endrick ward. If communities have specific roads I can pass these onto the council.
- **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.

- **Road Safety – A81 Glengoyne Distillery:** I was contacted by Mr. Robbie Hughes (Group Distillation Manager – Glengoyne Distillery) re. the malfunctioning speed warning signage near the distillery. I met with Mr. Hughes on site this week to discuss this. During the meeting we discussed other possible speed mitigation measures at the site including extending the 40mph zone towards Duntreath. This would move the sign just beyond the new bollards but would be within the Killearn CC area, any further and it would be into Strathblane CC territory. I would like to seek the views of both Killearn CC and Strathblane CC on this. I have contacted roads about this along with an update request on the approval for a walker car-park on land owned by Duntreath Estate (a couple of years ago). I have also contacted roads about the ownership of the large cable drum behind the bollards. **Note:** Mr. Hughes showed me an extremely frightening video of a 'near' miss where a distillery visitor was nearly hit by a skip lorry.
- **Roads – Garden Bend A811 – Arnprior:** This is on the 2015/2016 maintenance schedule but I have no details of the dates. Unfortunately, it is not a realignment which is what, in my opinion, the road needs. I am considering going back to the Scottish Government and new transport minister Derek Mackay MSP to request that they consider upgrading the A811 status to a trunk road. One development that could change the thinking on this issue is the construction of a slip road from the motorway onto the A811. However, this decision can only be made by Transport Scotland. **Note:** This plan is on page 16 of the LDP report.
- **Roads – A81 Resurfacing – Blanefield:** The works were completed ahead of schedule and on budget. The community liaison for these works appeared to work well and is a model to work on for future projects – particularly for the remaining stretch of the A81 between Spadework Corner and Blanefield which will require a further road closure(s).
- **Road Safety:** I have emailed Angela McGibbon re. Station Rd and the Distillery 40 mph signage.
- **Killearn Hospital Site:** There has been some movement on this as Planning Officers met with the owner on 4th September. The meeting included the contaminate land officer. The Council's Quantity Surveying team have been assisting the owner to prepare an indicative cost for the remediation of the site that, in turn, would help determine the extent of enabling development required to 'cross-subsidise' the remediation works. This will require removal of all soil within the development site to a depth of 200mm (minimum). If the soil is classified as 'mildly' contaminated' and SEPA's criteria could be satisfied, then it may be possible to retain the soil off-site but within land adjacent to the hospital site. If the soil is classed as 'waste' it would all have to be removed from the site and disposed of at a properly licenced landfill site, adding greatly to initial site preparation costs and, consequently, significantly increasing the number of houses required. However this could only be determined by a suitable qualified, established and recognised specialist consultant. The owner is responsible for engaging the specialist consultant. I have passed details of a consultant to the owner.
- **LDP Local Development Plan:** Stirling Council released the revised MIR Main Issues Report in August 2015. A number of site assessments have been lodged for Killearn – according to the MIR (Main Issues Report) Option category these are all classifies as 'Not an option'.

- **Public Access Defibrillators:** I attended the Balfroon Bash last month and was speaking to 2 of the volunteers from the Trossachs Search and Rescue Team, who were very pleased that the use of defibrillators had contributed to two lives being saved in the National Park area.
- **Planning – Wind Turbine 15/00374/FUL South Ballaird Farm Buchlyvie:** According to the planning portal this is still pending consideration. I contacted the case officer Mark Laird and his recommendation was for refusal. In which case I am not intending to refer this to the planning panel.
- **Policing:** There have been reservations expressed about the changes to the local policing model where we now have 5 Community/Response officers responsible for the following villages - Balfroon/Arnprior/Kippen/Gargunnock: The Constables are - Mark Harvey; Raymond Murphy; Scott Craigie; Ryan McGill and Derek Byrne. There are discussions about a possible return to area policing which could be a better strategy for rural areas. This may be something that is top of the office in-tray of the new Chief Constable for Police Scotland. For Stirling Police matters check the **Stirling Police Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/stirlingpol>
- **New MP – Steven Paterson:** I attended the Drymen Show with the new MP for Stirling Steven Paterson, Bruce Crawford MSP, Cllr Ian Muirhead, and Provost Mike Robbins. It was also good to see former ward Cllr and Provost, Colin O'Brien at the show as well. I am hoping we will be able to use the offices of Westminster to benefit the Forth and Endrick ward in the way that our previous MP Anne McGuire helped with the contaminated land at Blanefield. Two reserved areas we are looking at are European Agricultural Reforms, and Energy/Climate issues. Unfortunately road funding is not a reserved matter but I'll make the request anyway.
- **Stirling Council – Local Government Boundary Changes (LGBC):** The council has been presented with the LGBC proposal and officers have prepared 3 alternative options. The LGBC proposal is to create a new 5 x 3 Multi Member wards and 2 x 4 Multi Member wards – one of which would be an extended Forth and Endrick ward to include Cambusbarron (West of Motorway) and Carron Valley. Most of the elected members appear to be opposed to this as it creates unnatural community splits and in the case of Cambusbarron adds a semi urban village into a rural ward. The administration passed an amendment to ask communities to make a decision on this.
- **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 lodged an appeal and this has been allocated to the reporter who I understand has carried out a site visit.
- **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 be available around April 2015.
- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling
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