

**Forth and Endrick News – Killearn – Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017**

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

**Councillor Lambie Report**

- **Stirling Council Administration:** SNP/Labour Coalition = 9 SNP + 4 Labour. 9 Conservative, 1 Green. Total = 23 Cllrs. Positions: Provost Cllr - Christine Simpson (Lab); Depute Convener - Cllr Graham Houston (SNP); Council Leader - Cllr Scott Farmer (SNP); Depute Leader - Cllr Danny Gibson (Lab). Bailies – Cllr Evelyn Tweed (SNP), Cllr Bryan Flannagan (Con), Cllr Alasdair Tollemache (Green), Cllr Chris Kane (Lab). **(See Appendix 1 for Committee Conveners)**
- **Cllr Graham Lambie Duties include:** Planning & Regulation Panel, Local Review Body LRB, Education Committee, Public Safety Committee, Audit Committee, COSLA Health and Wellbeing Group, Vice Chair Mugdock Country Park Management Committee, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Board Member, Strathblane Village Club, Drymen Village Hall.
- **Road Maintenance Programme 2017 – 2018 Endrick and Blane: A Roads:** A81 (Ward Toll) SD and Patching = £14K Start 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul - No Closure; A81 (Duntreath - Blanefield) SD and Patching = £18K Start 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul - Traffic Lights; A81 (Mid Ballat) SD and Patching = £17K Start 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul - **Closure**; A811 (Oxhill – Buchlyvie) HRA Inlay = £80K Start 31<sup>st</sup> Jul - **Traffic Lights**; **A875 (Blackhill – Boquhan) HRA Overlay = £50K Start 7<sup>th</sup> Aug – Closure**; A81 (Mid Ballewan - Blanefield) HRA Overlay = £60K Start 14<sup>th</sup> Aug – Traffic Lights; **B Roads:** B822 (Cauldham - Kippen) SD and Patching = £35K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun – Closure TBC; B835 (Gartinstarry – Buchlyvie) SD and Patching = £23K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun – Closure TBC; B818 (Fish Lodge – Fintry) SD and Patching = £19K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun – Closure TBC; B818 (Carron Valley - Fintry) SD and Patching = £23K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun – Closure TBC; B818 (Water Works – Fintry) SD and Patching = £15K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun - Closure TBC; B822 (Station Rd – Kippen) SD and Patching = £20K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun – Closure TBC; B822 (Balafark – Kippen) HRA Overlay = £70K Start 26<sup>th</sup> Jun – Closure; B821 (Station Rd – Blanefield) HRA Inlay = £65K Start 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul – Closure; B818 ( Bogside – Fintry) HRA Overlay = £40K Start 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – Closure TBC; B835 (Arnfechlach - Buchlyvie) Full Construction = £20K Start 5<sup>th</sup> Mar – Closure TBC; **C Roads and Streets: C54 (Ballochruin – Killearn/Balfron) SD = £12.5K Start 12<sup>th</sup> Jun - Closure**; C118 (Finnery Road – Croftamie) HRA Overlay = £40K Start 10<sup>th</sup> Jul – Closure; C6 (Critreoch – Rowardennan) HRA Overlay = £30K Start 16<sup>th</sup> Oct - Closure TBC; Lernock Rd (Balfron – Fintry) HRA Overlay = £36K Start 9<sup>th</sup> Oct - Closure; **Drumtian Rd (Killearn) HRA Overlay = £15K Start 16<sup>th</sup> Oct - Closure**; **Drumbeg Loan (Killearn) HRA Overlay = £70K Start 13<sup>th</sup> Nov – Closure**; **Harpers Rd. (Killearn) HRA Inlay = £20K Start 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - Closure TBC**; **Footways:** B822 (Kippen) Overlay = £15K Start 13<sup>th</sup> Nov – Closure N/A; B818 (Bogside – Fintry) Stabilisation = £60K Start 8<sup>th</sup> Jan - Closure N/A; **Harpers Rd. (Killearn) Inlay = £20K Start 26<sup>th</sup> Jun - Closure N/A**; Spinner St/Kirkmill Rd. (Balfron) Inlay = £25K Start 11<sup>th</sup> Sep - Closure N/A; Station Rd. (Killearn) Inlay = £40K Start 15<sup>th</sup> Jan - Closure N/A; **Other Projects:** Rural Road Safety = £30K; City/Region Deal – Smart Screens (£14K each) – Drymen, Balfron; Tactran – Bankers Brae – Completed?; Killearn Park = £15K; Additional Resources from 2017 Budget - Rural Carriageways = £100K, Rural Footways = £150K. **Key:** SD Surface Dress, HRA Hot Rolled Asphalt. **Update:** Subject to change as projects are brought forward into 2017.

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- **Killlearn Roads Inspection – Drumbeg Loan and Harpers Road:** I visited the works at Drumbeg Loan on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept and spoke to the supervisor who happened to be a Killlearn man. The program is for a 4 week closure with repairs to include new drainage, kerbing, footpaths, and an HRA (Hot Rolled Asphalt) resurface. However, this is only for the top half of the road – I will be insisting that the lower section is included in the 2018/2019 schedule. I also inspected the Harpers Road pavement work and it looks high quality with bevelled kerbs to allow smooth drive access. I will ask roads when the Harpers Road resurfacing is scheduled. My inspection also included The Branziert estate which is not in a good condition along with a number of other Killlearn estate roads and the Main Street.
- **Balfron Station Bridge Repair:** The A81 is currently closed at the bridge with diversions in place. The road will re-open with traffic lights to cater for seasonal summer traffic with a further closure in late summer to complete the repairs. The Aizle will be open for business throughout this period. **Update:** According to the latest communication from Scottish Water the road the road will be closed for 3 months starting on 18<sup>th</sup> September. I've asked if this means that the bridge will be fully repaired by the 18<sup>th</sup> of December – a longer repair time than we anticipated. **Contact:** Scott Fraser, Corporate affairs Regional Manager, Mobile@: 07875872872 Scottish Water – [www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk)
- **Road Safety – Finnich Glen Site Visit:** Residents are probably aware of an increase in parked cars and visitors at this site. This has been mainly as a result of the Glen been used as a film location – The Eagle, Outlander, King Arthur. The landowner of the Glen has been at pains not to disclose the location but I note that VisitScotland have it featured on their community page. I met with the landowner some years ago to discuss a visitor centre and car-park which at the time did not appear to get much support from planning officers. I would like to re-open this one and am looking for the views of CCs and residents to see what level of support there is. Short term the police have been up several times and we may need to place police no waiting cones at the bridge. The council have erected bollards which may have exacerbated the problem. **Update:** I attended a site visit in July with: the land owner; 2 members of Killlearn CC; 2 police officers; and a council roads officer. During the visit we were able to assess the: Inadequate parking; Lack of proper pathways and viewing platforms; Lack of visitor facilities etc. Both Killlearn CC and my-self have requested the installation of information signs highlighting the dangers of the glen. Margaret also provided a comprehensive report of the visit highlighting all of the salient concerns. The landowner has ambitious proposals to create a visitor centre on the site which the council's economic development team are aware of. Stuart Oliver (Service Manager - Economic Development) has visited the site and there could be some partnership opportunities. In the short to medium term car and visitor numbers will need to be managed and given the popularity of the Outlander series visitor numbers will probably increase. The other suggestion is to look at how similar sites are visitor managed e.g. Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve (National Trust for Scotland). **Note:** The Glen is entirely within the Croftamie CC area although the associated Carnock Burn from the base of the Glen to the Blane Burn is in the Killlearn CC area. **Update:** The lead officer for this is David Hopper (Sustainable Development Manager). The signs have been designed and have been supported by the landowner and Croftamie CC. Installation should be at the end of Sept 2017. **(See Appendix 2)**

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- **Road Safety – Glengoyne Distillery:** The lack of parking for Dumgoyne hill walkers has been raised by CCs and residents. A previous plan for a walkers car-park on land owned by Duntreath Estates was approved some years ago, but has now lapsed. This could be revisited but it would be unlikely that any new car-park would be free. The other option is to approach the distillery to see if they have any spare sites for a car-park. Given that the average spend per distillery visitor is around £26 they may be reluctant to provide a free car-park unless the council or other body paid for it. **Update:** There has been a suggestion that a bus bay is created on the left side of the road, near to the Dumgoyne access path. I am planning to speak to the distillery management about this and also if the speed warning signs can be adjusted to a lower speed limit.
- **Road Safety – B837 Milton of Buchanan Cycle Lanes:** I have driven over this route several times over the summer and admit it looks confusing. I spoke to some residents in Balmaha who have observed that the new layout appears to be contributing to a reduction in speed at the school. Also, the Buchanan Community Action Plan states: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT: PRIORITY 3 SAFE CYCLING ROUTES Pursue establishment of a cycle route between Drymen, Balmaha and Rowardennan. **Update:** I've contacted the Buchanan Primary HT and Balfroon Police for their views.
- **Policing:** PC Ray Murphy has transferred to the road traffic division. His replacement is PC Scott Craigie who has worked in the Balfroon area for some time. The new Divisional Commander of Forth Valley is Chief Superintendent Thom McLoughlin. Thom was a junior officer in Stirlingshire and knows the area challenges very well. One of those challenges is to address the consistency of police attendances at CC meetings – an issue that is due to be debated at the first meeting of the new Public Safety committee. Contact details for local police are [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or use the 101 number. For Stirling Police matters check the **Stirling Police Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/stirlingpol>
- **Income Generation:** Following a meeting with KCFC (Killearn Community Futures Company) I met with Carol Beattie and Stuart Oliver (Stirling Council Economic Development Team) to discuss some options for Killearn. One of those was a potential solar array on the Killearn Hospital site as part of a wider mixed development of the site. We are also looking at a site in Mugdock Country Park for a solar farm - Stirling Council has a proposal for an energy company. The council now have an in-house team who have carried out a site visit to Mugdock and that expertise could be available to communities. One long held ambition I have had is to see every community benefitting from a renewable project as seen in Gargunnoch, Kippen, and Fintry who are set to see some £20K per annum flow into their Community Benefit Funds - £500K over 25 years for each community, from the Kingsburn Wind Energy Extension. (Part of the original Earlsburn development).
- **National Park:** I attended an inaugural meeting with James Stewart (Chairman), Gordon Watson (CEO), Willie (Nisbet), and an Argyll Councillor last month. I also attended a full meeting of the board on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.

- **Killearn Planning Issues:**

- **Blairessan:** This was approved by the planning panel. Cllr Berrill spoke at the meeting as a local member and proposed refusal on a number of grounds including access and road safety. I proposed an amendment to refuse based on the inadequacy of the traffic mitigation proposals. Officers had considered a realignment of the bend but this option was not presented to the panel during the meeting. I was not able to obtain a seconder for the amendment so this was defeated and the application was approved by 4 votes to 1. With respect to the decision making a full site visit, and hearing were carried out where the applicant and objectors made their views known to the panel who questioned both parties about the application. The application was passed by 4 panel members belonging to 3 separate political parties, which reflects the quasi-judicial way in which the panel is expected to make its decisions.
- **Killearn Hotel:** I have referred this to the planning panel 'to allow the Killearn Community to fully investigate all possible development possibilities on what is a key site in the village'. I have also requested a site visit and a hearing. The panel will meet on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept to decide if the site visit and hearing will go ahead. As Cllr Berrill and my-self are both on the planning panel we cannot provide any public positions of support or opposition to what is a 'live' planning application.

- **Stirling and Ward Bridge Closures:** There are 2 other planned closures. **1).** Springkerse in Stirling to allow Network Rail to install rail electrification cabling – 6 month full closure starting in early 2018, but dependent on the approval of a traffic management plan. **2).** Catterburn Bridge on the A809m at Croftamie – partial closure, with traffic lights, to allow repair/replacement of the old sandstone bridge. Repair work is unlikely to be carried out before completion of the Ballat Bridge and length of repair time will depend on issues such as whether the bridge is listed.

- **Other Issues:**

- **Blane Burn Bridge Parapet B834:** I've asked the new Bridges Officer to look at this. Maria Lucey MEng (Hons) CEng MICE.
- **Birch Road Bungalow Water Runoff:** I've lined up a site with an officer to try and resolve this before the snow and ice!!
- **Marking Enforcement Main Street:** It looks like the traffic wardens will be issuing tickets for cars parked on new yellow lines. I will be seeking the views of the panel re. are yellow lines required and if so are they in the best location. I've also asked where the fine monies go to and if the surplus can be used for vehicle activated signage.
- **Road Closure A809:** This work, which is laying a high friction surface, is due to be completed on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. **Ref:** [www.roadworksscotland.org](http://www.roadworksscotland.org)

- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling  
FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 [lambieg@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:lambieg@stirling.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1 – Council Committee Conveners**

**Audit:**

Convener – Councillor Neil Benny (Con)  
Vice Convener – Councillor Martin Earl (Con)

**Community Planning & Regeneration:**

Convener – Councillor Chris Kane (Lab)  
Vice Convener – Councillor Maureen Bennison (SNP)

**Education:**

Convener – Councillor Susan McGill (SNP)  
Vice Convener – Councillor Margaret Brisley (Lab)

**Environment & Housing:**

Convener – Councillor Jim Thomson (SNP)  
Vice Convener – Councillor Danny Gibson (Lab)

**Finance & Economy:**

Convener – Councillor Margaret Brisley (Lab)  
Vice Convener – Councillor Alison Laurie (SN))

**Social Care & Health:**

Convener - Councillor Scott Farmer (SNP)  
Vice Convener – Councillor Graham Houston (SNP)

**Housing Portfolio:**

Convener - Councillor Evelyn Tweed (SNP)  
Vice Convener - Councillor Alasdair MacPherson (SNP)

**Planning Panel:**

Chair - Councillor Alasdair MacPherson (SNP)

**Public Safety Committee:**

Chair - Councillor Maureen Bennison (SNP)

# Finnich Glen (The Devil's Pulpit) – Propose Sign

## Exploring Finnich Glen (The Devil's Pulpit)



**DANGER  
OF DEATH OR  
SERIOUS INJURY  
FROM FALLING**

Finnich Glen is a steep sided sandstone gorge carved by the Carnock Burn. It is a beautiful and very fragile environment.

It also contains a number of natural hazards that visitors should be aware of including unstable gorge edges and hidden, sheer drops.

**For your safety please:**

- Keep a safe distance from the edge of the gorge.
- Keep children under close supervision
- Wear appropriate footwear

Dogs must be kept on a short lead and under close control at all times for the safety of livestock and for the safety of the dog.

Finnich Glen is privately owned. Members of the public have access rights to Finnich Glen under The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

**Take responsibility for your own actions**

- The outdoors is a great place to enjoy but it's also a working environment and natural hazards exist.
- Take care of yourself and others with you, including your dog.

**Respect the interests of others**

- Respect the needs of other people enjoying or working in the outdoors.

**Care for the environment**

- Our environment contributes greatly to everyone's enjoyment so treat it with care.
- Take your rubbish home and consider picking up other litter as well.
- Do not light fires
- Don't disturb or damage wildlife or special places.
- Leave the land as you found it.



**KNOW THE CODE  
BEFORE YOU GO**

SCOTTISH  
OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE [outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)

