

**Forth and Endrick News - Killearn - Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

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

**Councillor Lambie Report**

- **Planning - LDP Reporter's Examination:** This has come back to the council with some significant recommendations from the reporter. The recommendations are not at all what we expected i.e. complete removal of the Station road site and re-allocation of Blairessan Field. I spoke to Cllr Neil Benny about the opportunities to challenge the LDP and he said this should be possible. I have also emailed the other ward councillors re. the possibility of challenging the recommendations, especially as the reporter did not agree to hearings for both Killearn and Fintry, despite a letter from the full council requesting this. I will be seeking the views of Killearn CC as to how they want elected members to proceed on this issue – although a whole scale rejection of the Killearn LDP section may not be possible. The LDP should be presented at the next Environment and Housing Committee Meeting in early April who will request a Special Meeting of Full Council with a single item agenda i.e. the LDP.
- **Planning - Killearn Hospital Site:** I have a meeting arranged with the site owner at end of March beginning of April and note the comments by the reporter. There may be some new information on a potential clean-up proposal for the site which may go some way to allaying the cautions expressed by the reporter.
- **Planning – LDP Windfarm Policy (Page 198 – 207):** The reporter has added some recommendations with respect to the SC Windfarm Policy. These include: Contribution of the development to renewable energy generation targets; Effect on the local and national economy and tourism and recreation interests; Benefits and dis-benefits for communities. This would appear to bring the SC policy more into line with national guidelines but does not remove the robustness of the existing SC windfarm policy. Since the new policy has been introduced, to date all windfarm applications that have been refused by the SC planning panel have subsequently been refused at appeal.
- **Planning – Site to Rear of 29 Main Street:** I have been contacted by the applicant's agent and have responded by asking if he has contacted Killearn CC for their views.

- **PBB Priority Based Budgeting:** This is the council's new approach to budgeting which is designed to achieve savings of some £29 million over the next 5 years although officers have mooted that this program could extend to 10 years. The PBB has identified 3 core budget categories for each council service – **A. Transformation Options. B. Efficiency Options C. Stop/Reduce Options.** The latter category, arguably contains many of the more unpalatable options, a number of which could have more impact on rural communities than urban. These include – Fintry Nursery Closure, Withdraw Specialist Teachers (Music), Reduce Grey Bin Collection to 4 weekly, Introduction of Charge for Brown Bin Collection, Introduction of Road End Bin Collections, Stop Treatment of Invasive Plant Species, Reduce Frequency of Grass Cutting, Withdrawal of Mobile Library Service, Reduction of supported bus service budget by 50%, Increase Council Tax on Long-Term Unoccupied properties etc. **Community Engagement:** There have a series of meetings throughout the Stirling Council area including well-attended ones at Balfron High on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014. There is also an online survey for residents and groups to express their views: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SC-PBB-E> The Priority Based Budgeting page on the Stirling Council website can be found by typing into Google - **stirling council working together** or there is a link on the council home page. The draft PBB report can be downloaded from the website.
- **PBB Priority Based Budgeting Update:** At the Council Budget meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, most of the Stop/Reduce measures, put forward by officers, were rejected by the administration. These included Closure of Fintry Nursery, Withdrawal of Specialist Teachers (Music and PE), Libraries Review (including mobile libraries), Introduction of Mandatory Recycling, Introduction of Road End Collection Policy, Reduce Grey & Brown collection to 3 weekly, Stopping treatment of invasive species, Closure of public conveniences, Review and reduction of respite provision – adult / all care groups. PBB will be the direction of travel for the foreseeable future and both the Administration and Opposition groups on the council will be seeking further input from communities on PBB. I have asked that the PBB is a standing item on the Area Forum agendas. If any community group or individual resident has an innovative idea or system that could be used to in the PBB process please bring this up at the forum – the ideas could be income generation based or focused on greater community empowerment etc. **(Appendix 1)**
- **Roads Maintenance Schedule 2014/2015:** This should be subject to public consultation and it is planned that this will also be presented at the next Area Forum meeting. The road maintenance draft schedule should be made public sometime in late March early April, depending on the next Environment Committee meeting. Projects should include further resurfacing on the A81 – Duntreath to Blanefield, and the A875 Balfron to Killearn, especially the at the Black Hill section.
- **Road Mitigation Measures at Boquhan:** Having driven over this many times, since the start of the year, it looks like most of the traffic safety measures requested at the petition panel meeting, held at the McLintock Hall, have been implemented. However, I recall that there was a request for signage improvement and I can't see if that has been addressed.
- **Station Road Speed Signs:** I have contacted Brian Roberts re. the installation of a 40mph buffer sign as has been done in other villages. This may also come with the inevitable rumble strips and other mitigation measures.

- **Road Patching and Resurfacing Works:** B834 from Blane Smithy to Junction with the A809. This will necessitate a road closure from 14<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> April. According to the CC boundary map most of this work may be within the Croftamie CC area.
- **Road Works in other areas of Forth and Endrick:** There are ongoing resurfacing works at Kippen, Balmaha, and Gargunnoch. These are jobs that were postponed due to industrial action in 2013 and are not part of the new 2014/2015 Roads Maintenance Schedule.
- **Roads Resurfacing Operation:** I spoke to Stephen Todd (Roads Area Manager) re. resurfacing operations. He indicated there would not be much deviation from the 4 to 5 day closure practice. Some residents have suggested that the roads department resurface longer stretches of road – however this could necessitate closure lengths of 10 days which I don't think would be popular.
- **Community Pride:** Communities are being encouraged to apply for Community Pride Funds as part of Stirling 2014. The applications must demonstrate how they intend to celebrate a key 2014 theme or event. **(Appendix 2)**
- **Other News from Forth and Endrick:**
  - **Blanefield Contaminated Land:** The remediation works have now been fully funded with an additional £300,000 from the Scottish Government and the works should be commencing this summer. This was the result of a concerted effort involving residents, Strathblane CC Chair, elected members, council officers, MSP, MP, Government Ministers (Westminster and Holyrood), The One Show - and was one of the most successful cross party campaigns I have been involved with in Stirling Council.
  - **Drymen Pharmacy Application:** This was approved by the NHS Forth Valley Pharmacy Practices Committee. Both Cllr Muirhead and myself submitted letters of objection to the application based on – a more than adequate provision in the area already, and the knock on effect to patient care with the subsequent closure of the Drymen Health Centre Dispensary.
  - **Balfron Co-op Car Park Resurfacing:** This is now complete including white and yellow lining and having used it on a number of occasions, looks like a first class job.

Councillor Graham Lambie

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## **Appendix 1:**

### **Five-Year Business Plan and Budget Approved**

Following a comprehensive communication and consultation exercise, Stirling Council has now approved its first **five year Business Plan and budget**, using the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process.

The Council has approved plans to spend approximately **£200M** per year during the next five years and approved plans to deliver savings of £10.7M of the indicative required savings of **£29M** over the same period.

#### **Key service options included in the budget are:**

- **A variety of options based on an alternative service delivery model for providing services, or for sharing service provision with another public sector body**
- **A number of options to redesign service provision within Social Services**
- **A review of grant support to external and third sector bodies**
- **An improvement in street lighting energy efficiency through capital investment**
- **A revised option to reduce funding for All sorts out of school care, based on a phased funding reduction over four years rather than one year**
- **A revised option for re-negotiating the service for supporting primary school swimming rather than withdrawing the service**
- **A revised library review proposal, based on a lower reduction in budget provision than originally proposed**
- **An option to investigate alternative, more cost effective community transport solutions**

#### **Among the following options originally proposed, but rejected after our engagement exercise are:**

- **Withdrawal of visiting specialists in music and PE to primary schools**
- **Reduce grey and brown bin collection to four-weekly**
- **Stopping treatment of invasive species**
- **Closure of Fintry Nursery**
- **Closure of public conveniences**
- **Review and reduction of respite provision – adult / all care groups.**

Full details of the approved and rejected options can be viewed in the budget papers

#### **Reference:**

**<http://www.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-government/workingtogether>**

## **Appendix 2: Community Pride Funds**

Communities are being encouraged to apply for Community Pride Funds as part of Stirling 2014.

Applications must demonstrate how they celebrate one of the following 2014 themes or events:

- **Food and Drink Scotland**
- **Active Scotland – our reputation as an active destination**
- **Creative Scotland – a place of culture and creativity**
- **Natural Scotland –a place of natural beauty**
- **Bannockburn 700**
- **Commonwealth Games**
- **Ryder Cup**
- **First World War.**

The Community Pride Fund is open to community councils, community development trusts and incorporated organisations, provided they're delivering a project to a single geographic or community council area.

Stirling Council Funding Officer Jean Cowie said: "In recognition of the importance of 2014, we will accept more than one application per community, where funds allow, provided each application celebrates a different 2014 theme or event."

Applications are now being accepted and will remain open until November 2014. Applications will be considered and awarded on a regular basis, with the final round of awards being made by early December 2014. All grants must be spent in full by the end of December 2014.

Jean added: "All projects must be fully inclusive and aimed at all sectors of the community, without political or religious bias."

Application forms are available by phone (01786 233143), email (cowiej@stirling.gov.uk) or from our website (<http://www.stirling.gov.uk/services/community-life-and-leisure/community-advice/community-advice-grants/community-grants>)

ENDS

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