

**KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2009-2010**

The past year has seen the ending in October of the previous Community Council and the installation of a new Community Council in November. The retiring members were Iain Moreland, Kay Pollock and Christopher Riches, all of whom have given excellent service. Killearn Community Council won an award for the Most Outstanding Local Group in the Stirling Local Newspaper Awards and this was presented to Kay Pollock as a mark of appreciation for having served with distinction on KCC since the formation of Community Councils thirty-six years ago.

Two new members: Jenni May and Nigel Kelly (who has seen previous service) were welcomed to the newly formed Council comprising: Brenda Pell (*Chair*); Peter Wilks (*Vice-Chair, Minutes Sec., Webmaster*); Heather Wright (*Sec.*); Betty Smith (*Treasurer*); Peter Rea (*Planning Correspondent*); Janet Duncan; Nigel Kelly; Aileen May; Jenni May; Derek Stuart with Iain Beaton and Cairi Macintosh (*Youth Members*). One vacancy remains. Any resident interested in serving on KCC would be welcome to complete the team.

Our meetings have been attended by one of our Councillors, in rotation, by our Community Police Officer, David McNally as well as by a number of residents. As well as dealing with concerns raised by residents, the regular business of roads and traffic management, planning matters and local projects, KCC has endeavoured to keep the community informed of new developments by inviting speakers to address meetings on specific subjects. Our guest speakers this year from Stirling Council, have been Tony Cain, Head of Housing and Sarah Winstone, Youth Services. Community Council members also attend a range of meetings, such as the Local Area Planning Forum, the NHS Forth Valley Forum and others, in order to participate in discussion of issues that affect or will soon affect our community. Reports are communicated at our regular monthly meetings and included in the Minutes.

Aileen May is to be congratulated for producing a KCC handbook which provides members with an easy reference manual for their Community Council work. Stirling Council also produced a handbook for Community Council members. These, combined with the excellent support we receive from Pam Campbell, Rural Villages Development Officer, and our three elected Councillors, have resulted in an improved communication system between us and Stirling Council and enabled us to transmit your concerns as speedily as possible.

The first stage of the traffic management plan, designed to address concerns about road safety and the speed of traffic passing through the village, was completed with the re-positioning of the bus stop and alterations to parking at Spar. Whilst there have been complaints about the narrow entry to this car park and sometimes drivers are guilty of thoughtless parking in this entry or even on the pedestrian pathway, on the whole this has eliminated the dangerous practice of reversing on to the carriageway and made this a safer area. It is hoped that the marking on the road surface and the new signage at the bank corner will improve the safety of this area. The installation of illuminated speed warning signs is helpful in reminding drivers to slow down as they drive through the village.

Drainage problems which caused flooding around the Well Green have hopefully been eliminated by remedial works to the culvert in that area. The severity of the winter caused further degradation to the roads in and around the village but Stirling Council has gradually been addressing these over the past months, although we should also like to see the pedestrian pathways improved.

The retirement of our Village Officer has meant that the cleansing of our streets is now conducted by the Mobile Squad who visit daily. The National Spring Clean Campaign was again supported by several youth groups and we are grateful to the Boys Brigade, Rainbows, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Killearn Brownies, 1<sup>st</sup>. Killearn Guides and P5/6 pupils of Killearn Primary School for their work in tidying up our village. Certificates were given to these groups as a mark of our appreciation.

Various projects, such as the renovation of the War Memorial, the adoption of the telephone kiosk at Dumgoyne and the improvement of footpaths are either ongoing or nearing completion. Major village projects come under the 'umbrella' of KCFC but receive the support of KCC. Important at present is the proposed renovation of the Village Hall. KCC sees this as the means of providing the village with a valued facility suited to present day and future needs and signified its support by hosting a special meeting to present the plans to the village. Linked to this is our interest in the provision of amenities for young people which found expression in our Focus on Youth at a recent meeting when information was exchanged between those involved in working with young people. Our Youth Members have, throughout the year, given admirable leadership in pursuing ideas for expanding facilities for the young in our community.

Matters that are expected to arise in the near future are proposals for affordable housing on the 'turnip field', which has been held by Stirling Council as potential housing stock for as long as the village has regarded it as recreational land, together with the provision of changing rooms for the Football Club. In what could be a series of contentious issues it is hoped that a compromise solution may be found that will satisfy all parties. The new Local Development Plan, currently in production by Stirling Council, emphasises that change must come everywhere and certainly it is agreed that affordable housing in the rural areas is a must. Recent changes in planning legislation have relaxed some of the restrictions for building in the countryside but balancing this is the Open Spaces Strategy which encourages us to think about how we value spaces in our local area.

Finally, we are encouraged to turn our thought to broader issues which confront our civilisation. KCC held a Special Eco meeting in May. It was an 'awareness raising' venture and was designed as the preliminary to an Eco Fair planned for 18 September. In our village there are a number of initiatives going on in an attempt to achieve a 'greener' lifestyle. It is our aim to spotlight these ventures and to encourage us all, as a community, to develop a more thoughtful and cooperative approach towards our use of scarce resources. We hope you will support your Community Council in pursuing this ideal.

KCC news can be found on the noticeboard, in the local press and on our website: [www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk) .

*Brenda Pell  
June 2010*