

Minutes of the Bo'ness Community Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 14th April 2010 in Bo'ness Library Meeting Room

Present: Madelene Hunt (Convenor) Gail Fairholm, Tom Sargent, Bill Kelly, Len Ainslie, Lyn Cranwell, David Findlay, Malcolm Gilfillan, Alex King, Stuart McAllister, Liliias Sneddon, Joan Boyd, Maria Ford, Owen Griffiths and Rob Willox

In Attendance: Councillor Adrian Mahoney, Catriona Morrison and members of the public.

Apologies: Ann Cromie

Police Report: PC Heron sent an apology for absence due to urgent operational matters.

Presentation: Keith Morton, Area Estates Coordinator, F.C. and representatives of Atkins Ltd. Consultants to Falkirk Council (Garry McCann & Corrine McDougall) made a report on plans for Kinneil Kerse Landfill restoration. This report was due to be made locally for consultation before a formal request for Planning Permission. The site had been in use for Landfill since the 1950s and had been the subject of several reports in the past. The 147 hectare site was known to include a breeding ground for migratory birds and a Site of Special Scientific Interest on the mudflats. It also included a public recycling area and a soil hospital. Certain areas might contain toxic materials which would have to be checked and dealt with appropriately. Other areas were approaching maximum use and Landscape Architects had produced plans for capping these areas and planting woodlands. Outline plans had been drawn up and were displayed to the meeting. They covered the next 10 to 15 years work and included provision for consultations from an Ecology team, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the road traffic authorities. This meeting was part of a public consultation due to take place between February and May 2010. A questionnaire was made available for individual comments and was to be returned to Atkins.

The meeting was opened for comment and questions.

It was noted that the meeting had not been advertised in the Bo'ness Journal only the Falkirk Herald so many local people who might have wished to be present did not know of the meeting. Representatives of Atkins apologised for this and agreed that a further meeting would be arranged with appropriate publicity. The date of 6th May could be extended. There would be publicity materials within Bo'ness Library and a further consultation held. Consultation onsite and with local schools was suggested. After all the youngsters would have to live for a long time with what we decided.

Questions of access were raised. There was a coastal path and walkers should have access. There was no problem about this especially for birdwatchers but motor bikes and quad bikes could cause risk to paths, pedestrians and birds during the nesting season.

Atkins noted that fencing and gates had been in place but (as with the foreshore) these could never be completely tamperproof and access was required at times for council vehicles. The security of fencing would be checked frequently. Quad bikes were a problem and it was suggested from the floor that it might be possible to consider a site within the area for their appropriate use.

The tidal lagoon was accessible to children and their safety was questioned. It was felt that whereas any depth of water could be dangerous, the water was no more of a risk than anywhere else on the shores of the Forth.

Funding was questioned in the current economic climate.

The land use was in the long term plans of Falkirk Council so though there may be delays on specific items the long term use was within the legal responsibilities of the Council. Much of the recycling equipment was already in place for example the large bin areas and soil hospital.

A local Nature reserve within the site area was suggested. There was already a bird watching hide and considerable local knowledge of plants and animals. Such information could be made available to any ecological survey. Atkins would be glad to receive it. Many local people had photographs to illustrate points raised and copies could be made available as appropriate.

The presenters were thanked for their evidence and the way in which they had dealt with the question and answer session.

Minutes of the meeting 10th March 2010 were considered. Tom Sargent apologised to Maria Ford for not noting her presence and report on the activities at Kinneil House.

The Minutes were proposed by Len Ainslie and seconded by Maria Ford. There were no matters arising.

REPORTS

Gail Fairholm

Nothing to report

Tom Sargent

Reported that Falkirk Council had held an introductory session for new Community Councillors and 5 of us had attended. Paperwork produced in support had included an 89 page suggested guideline on good practice. Those present for the first time at such a meeting greatly benefited. The guidelines were not yet fully accepted by any local authority but were a useful aid on procedure.

Len Ainslie

Noted the impending Fair appeal for funding and the Safety Group meeting on April 27th. He had reviewed the possible representation or presence of Community Councillors at local groups. There were up to 35 local groups present at the last Area Forum event in Kinneil School.

Malcolm Gilfillan

Planning matters - application for flats at Kinacres Grove had been turned down by the Falkirk Council. There was a possible framed building application in the Grangepans area from Anderson's and a previous planning problem in that area was noted from the floor. Malcolm would request plans for this. Members of the Community Council had met with the Anglia Water Group about a possible planning application involving a large area of green belt on Crawfield Road being put forward for housing. An outline plan had been produced and a copy was shown to the meeting for information. No definite comment could be made without formal application for planning permission so the Council merely noted the matter and will report further should matters change.

Stuart McAllister

Reported the presence of the Safety Group at the "Crucial Crew" event where some 2000 Primary 7 children had a review of safety matters in small groups with differing scenarios. This was a well run and extremely educational event. They were also represented at three "Health aware" sessions in the

town open to anyone interested and had attended the Bo'ness Academy Youth Fair. They were purchasing a trolley for moving equipment and publicity material, funds for this being provided by Falkirk and District Community Safety Panel.

David Findlay

No report

Rob Willox

Noted that Bonnie Bo'ness AGM was in May and the impending Photographic Competition was on going. Entry forms would be available in the library and elsewhere.

Tenders for a reproduction of the Bridgeness Slab had been requested from six companies. The cost was likely to be in the region of £75,000 which included managing the project, copying the original slab by laser (£60,000), transport and setting up the slab with a plinth and information plaques. The site suggested was Kinacres Park area opposite Bridgeness Bowling Green. This was near to where the original slab was discovered. Four tenders had been received and the plans were being drawn up. Further information should be available for our next meeting.

Maria Ford

Reported on the Friends of Kinneil Members evening and a talk by Ian Scott about the residents of Kinneil House. There would be a litter pick in Kinneil Estate on Sunday 18th April from 10am to 12 noon and the House would have open days on the 24 and 25th April.

Joan Boyd

Reported that Bo'ness Means Business had money left from last year's event to give to The Victorian Fair once they had the Events Account opened.

Alex King

Reported on the official opening of the extension of the Bo'ness and Kinneil railway to Manuel Junction where it would be possible to join with the main rail network. There were 2 visiting engines at the station. Members of the Council expressed their enjoyment of the inaugural trip and a celebration thereon of an important date in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Lennox Ainslie.

Lyn Cranwell

Witnessed a near miss road accident at the narrow part of Gauze Road and Kinglass Avenue. Might there be a lollipop person at Gauze Road? Councillor Mahoney noted that there were already problems with recruitment of Lollipop staff but representations could be made. Also noted vandalism with black boxes for glass recycling and the matter was discussed. Lids were available to order from Litterzone and the One Stop Shop. From the floor it was raised that the various playgroups did not have addresses on their adverts, just a phone number. This made deciding what area they were located difficult.

Lilias Snedden

Reported that the young folk would be doing a litter pick at Kinneil Halt the next day and suggested that those present would be welcome to help! The platform daffodils were up and plans for flower beds were in hand.

Three visas for the Indian visitors had arrived and a further two were in the pipeline. Most of the funding was in place.

Community classes for the Public School were being devised.

She hoped to graduate in July so would have more time to work in the community.

They had a grant of £4800 for the production of Arena Film

Owen Griffiths

Noted that the number now attending the Venue was 80 which was more than could be managed. The group had been split into junior (S1-3) and senior (S4-6).

There was a Homebase Competition for funds to decorate premises. Rather to their surprise the group had reached the last 15 in the UK.

They had been involved with the Youth Space Committee.

Bill Kelly

Noted that the Treasurer's account was £816.77, the Mining Memorial account £729.37.

He spoke further quoting the guidelines from Falkirk Council on how to manage the accounts and the timing of payment of expenses. There followed a rather grumpy session particularly from those who did not understand the references or have a copy of the guidelines. There was no question as to the accuracy of the figures quoted.

This session was brought to a halt by the Convenor, ruling that it should continue in private with a smaller group. A report and solution will be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Adrian Mahoney

Reported on Falkirk Council matters. There were new leaflets, a diary, dates of Festivals including the Kinneil Heritage Day on 29th August and a map of the Council area. There was a need for more brown (Tourism) signage in the area.

Google Street Maps now cover Bo'ness though residents of the Kinneil Estate had forbidden coverage of their area.

The Hippodrome had had some 18,500 patrons in its first year, an average of 40 per showing. (The scaffolding was only in place for access to repair a minor leak and would be down soon.) These numbers added to the opening of more restaurants and resulted in there being more people about in the streets which was favourable.

The current national financial crisis had resulted in most groups in Falkirk District having a drop in funding of 3%. This may have to be adjusted in the light of future events and circumstances.

Madelene Hunt

Noted that the Community Council website was now linked to Facebook which might encourage more users and raise our profile.

The Victorian Street Fair plans were moving ahead.

Bill Bruce had become involved in The History of Mining Project with St Andrew's and Sanctus Media. It was agreed to co-opt Bill on to the Council as our link with the project and he would report back to us when necessary.

There was information just to hand about a planning training event in Falkirk on June 12th. A small number of places might be available. Individuals should let her know and names would be put forward. There is a waiting list.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.