



Kilsyth Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 in Burngreen Hall

PRESENT: Scott Johnston, Janet Mckerral, Jim Hutcheson, Margot MacMillan, Bill Craik, Amy Jarvie, Jean McLachlan, John Freebairn, James McCormack, Alan Stevenson, Anne McDowall, Jane Winters, Kay Thomson, lynsey Bastion, Carol Sullivan.

ALSO PRESENT: Jean Jones, Mark Kerr, Heather Mcvey, Sgt Stephen Shanks, PC Kevin Cloherty, PC Lynne Cole

Apologies Dot Clelland, Charles Coulthard.

1. Police Report

During the previous month there were 21 crimes of which 8 had been detected. Assaults were up with 10 assaults (some violent) in the area. The majority of the assaults were at the weekend. There were also three break-ins including Lidl.

Officers were also busy during the month with visits and presentations to the local schools regarding use of the internet and keeping safe on- line. Talks had also been given to the Guides and Brownies on Road Safety.

Talks had also been given to older children on drugs and they take along the “drugs Box”. Talks at the Academy are also planned in conjunction with the drama group. Police Liaison officers are working closely with the new Head at the Academy.

Police are also supporting a scheme for street soccer in conjunction with David Kyle NLC. It is proposed to start in Rennie Road in March. If this is successful it will move to the Burngreen and be rolled out elsewhere. Police have also been active in promoting what is on “for free” in the local area, particularly at the Tryst.

Traffic surveillance has also been ongoing with enforcement of parking restrictions. Issues of immigration had also been investigated, resulting in two detentions and six being returned home.

Police confirmed that the four surveillance cameras in the town are operational. Incidents recorded are generally kept on record for 21 days.

Plain clothes Police officers have been in attendance in the Main St and will be there again over the coming weekend to reduce the problems in the “hot spot” It was noted that the gathering spot for youths appeared to have moved along Burnbank Terrace and out to Colzium.

A member from the Public asked for follow up on a case in Finlay St regarding damage to a car. PC Cole will follow up.

A member of the Community Council also asked for follow up on a verbal assault at Chillies.

2. Kilsyth and Kelvin Valley Local Plan

Bill Craik had prepared a detailed response on behalf of the Community Council and all his comments were supported by the Council and it was agreed that Bill would submit on behalf of the Council. The response is noted below.

The **photographs** throughout the document are dull (taken on a rainy day) and uninspiring, they do not show how beautiful and inspiring Kilsyth and the Kelvin Valley are. There are many photographs available from professional and amateur photographers in the town far more inspiring and they will be provided.

Before the final document is issued it is suggested that it be carefully read for grammatical and spelling errors as this response is not identifying such discrepancies.

After all the consultations have been submitted and the document amended to take account of relevant comments a copy of the final document should be sent to Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum and Kilsyth Community Council for information before it is presented to the NLC Planning Committee.

The comments submitted by the Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum in June 2017 should be taken into account when considering the following observations.

It is considered that there are three elements which the Framework and Action Plan should focus on.

- 1 To include actions that will promote synergy between Kilsyth Town Centre and the various attractions of the Kelvin Valley.*
- 2 To include actions that will improve the viability of Kilsyth Town Centre.*
- 3 To identify how the Action Plan proposals will be delivered.*

The draft Kilsyth & Kelvin Valley Framework and Action Plan tends to lack clarity and consistency at this stage. For example; Kilsyth is described as both a ‘**gateway**’ (page 10) and a ‘**hub**’ (various pages) and ‘**nestled**’ (page 25 in the Kelvin Valley. It is very obviously the centre so one description should be used.

The Plan needs to ensure that its content is not out of date, that any errors are excluded and any desired items/projects that are unlikely to be deliverable within the timescale of the plan be clearly identified as such. It may be wrong to exclude them as the Community may have strong desire to see them implemented but on a practical basis they may not be deliverable.

Major emphasis is placed on the NK10 building which has recently failed to secure funding for redevelopment is an example. The plan should include identifying all the unused land and properties in the Town Centre and state that these will be catalogued along with ownership details, reasons for lack of development, possible uses and actions that would be required to bring them back into use or built on. This information or some of it could be presented in a development document for promoting Kilsyth Town Centre.

Transportation is a major problem for the Communities in and around Kilsyth. The Community recently lost the X86 bus service. The public transport system to Stirling and Falkirk in the east, along with the smaller villages in between, does not exist or is virtually none existent. The Public transport system to the south is equally difficult with a poor service to access the rail system at Croy Station. The document should clearly identify that improvements are required and that connection between Kilsyth Town Centre and the various attractions in the Kelvin Valley require resolving.

The Antonine Wall is the subject of a new '**Rediscovering the Antonine Wall**' project as listed on the Heritage Lottery website as costing over £1 million. The Action Plan should not be seeking to double up on a well-funded project. A visitor's centre at Auchinstarry should be substituted for the proposal for a visitors centre for the Antonine Wall due to Croy Miners Welfare building now being a commercial property. Scottish Canals should also be brought into the discussions for a location at Auchenstarry along with other outside bodies such as Visit Scotland.

A feasibility study called '**Canals by Bike**' will be carried out by Kelvin Valley and Falkirk LEADER. This should be born in mind when proceeding with the implementation of this Action Plan and working closely with them to deliver the studies recommendations is essential.

Item 4 Partnership for Delivery – In the 'Actions' the term 'Stakeholder Forum' should be replaced with Establish Working Groups to investigate and develop elements such as common branding, transport, empty properties.

Item 4.1 page 9 - All reference in the document to **Friends of Kelvin Valley (FoKV) must be deleted**. The understanding of what this organisation is and how it fits into the community is obviously not understood. The only current function of this group, which is a sub-committee of the Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum has been to publish The Kelvin Valley News. Mention should also be made of the other Villages Community Councils participation.

Item 6 page 11 Monitoring - Another action should be incorporated 'Use and Develop visitor numbers and other statistics'. The Action 'Monitor number of Visitor' does not create an action to do something with the numbers.

Item 7.5 Page 14 delete reference to NK10 Building.

Item 7 Page 15 Projects - this should be reworded taken out the NK10 building and should read 'Create a community hub within Kilsyth Town Centre providing orientation for attractions in the Kelvin Valley'. Tourist information will not just be at Colzium.

There should also be a new action to 'Develop a Business Working Group to cover the whole of Kilsyth'

Page 16 The NK10 Building - There is too much emphasis on the use of this building which is in private ownership and to date the owner has shown no interest in developing and there is no public finance available to obtain control over the building. The title of this page should read 'Vacant Land and Buildings in the Town Centre'. In addition to the NK10 building the Council representatives are totally opposed to moving the Library into the Town Centre so this statement should be removed. As previously stated one of the 'Working Groups' should be tasked with investigating all the empty property and vacant land within the town centre. This page should be reworded accordingly.

Page 17 - Photograph should be deleted and an alternate one chosen with revised actions.

Page 19 A Sense of Welcome – An Action should be included here such as 'Improving Derelict Sites'.

Page 21 There should be a new action 'To raise the awareness off and improve the Conservation Area and its Principals'.

Item 8 page 25 The Kelvin Valley - It was felt that the plans shown on pages 26 and 30 should be deleted as their scale does not allow all information to be shown and that shown appears to be incorrect.

Item 8.9 Page 28 should be deleted, for the reasons stated earlier in this response.

Item 8.10 This replica should be in the vicinity of Auchenstary so that the bulk of visitor to the area can see it especially if it is related to a Visitors Centre at Auchenstary.

Item 8.11 This should be reworded to show that **Digital Interpretation Resources** are already underway and that Action Plan should assist with their further development.

Page 29 Actions should read 'Continue Development of the Digital Interpretation Resources'. Projects, the Delivery of a visitors Centre for the Antonine wall should be deleted as it should be located at Auchenstarry.

Item 8.19 Page 32 A community led Steering Group should be replaced with 'Friends of Dumbreck Marsh'. This keeps terminology consistent since it is 'Friends of Colzium'

There is also a current project which should be included which involves several agencies relating to improvements to the Garrell Burn and Dumbreck Marsh. Consult with Planning on this one.

Page 35 Projects add a project 'To digitise existing information and publications, review and reissue'

Page 36 There is no chapter headings in the consultation document covering Colzium Lennox Estate or the Forth and Clyde Canal both of which are major attractions within the Kelvin Valley.

Page 37 Within the Action incorporate ‘that the development of a centre along with local partners’.

The Project Summary Section Page 44

- Item 1 NK10 building should be deleted.
- Item 2 Relocate the Library should be deleted as NLC will not agree to this.
- Item 7 Delete visitor centre at Antonine Wall and replace with Visitors Centre at Auchenstary.
- Item 9 Substitute ‘enhance accessibility to the Antonine Wall’ not along the wall.

Page 45 Costings

- Item 4 Car parking is not responsibility of SPT this is NLC
- Item 7 World Heritage does not exist and if the visitors centre is moved to Auchenstary then it would be a multi-agency funding group.
- Item 10 Dumbreck Steering group does not exist and it would not be taking forward a path between Banton Loch and Craigmarnoch as this is on the opposite side of Kilsyth to Dumbreck Marsh. This route does not require creation as it already exists but it does require signage and some sections require widening and surfacing.
- Item 11 Would not be funded via Friend of Kelvin Valley see previous statements

3. Matters arising/ General issues

Bullying in Schools

David Craig has advised he will attend the November meeting to provide an update regarding bullying in Schools.

It was requested that David be asked to invite the appropriate person from social work along with him to the next meeting.

Action J Mckerral

Meeting with Head of Kilsyth Academy

Bill Craik and Allan Stevenson met with the Head of the Academy, Gregg Orrick during October. The Mai points of the meeting were:

- Gregg is keen to engage with the Community Council and for Pupils to be involved. Bill briefed him on the past and current involvement of Pupils. Gregg will speak to the Head of Humanities to take this forward.
- The Academy wants to be more proactive in responding to issues the Council raise.
- Extensive remodelling of the school grounds and playing fields is proposed, including polymer surface tracks and courts. The Rugby field will also be upgraded.
- His impression is that Pupils are well presented.
- The incident of bullying in the school is low (below other schools he has worked in and below the average), but accepts that there are incidents and these need to be resolved. He has undertaken to be personally involved in future incidents and will meet with Parents if they have issues to be addressed.
- Out with the school his powers are limited – but he still wants to know of the issues and will be involved if necessary.
- There are a number of pupils on the “transfer” list.
- The issue of closure of the Home economics dept was discussed. This is not an issue of funding but of staff availability. There is a chronic shortage of teachers across Scotland in Home Economics. 40% schools are without teachers. PE is also a problem.

KCC members expressed concern that subjects such as HE which encouraged life skills for Pupils should cease to be taught and agreed to communicate this concern to MSP and seek a response as to what action is being taken.

It was agreed that similar dialogue should take place with St Maurices (Mr James McFarlane)

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the September meeting were approved, proposed by Margo and seconded by Bill Craik.

5. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer had sent notice that the accounts remained unchanged with the Admin account balance at £ 605.22 and the project account balance is £463.39.

6. QR Codes

Bill advised that the QR codes have now been erected in Colzium. Work on the narrative for the codes for the website is continuing and a budget of £300 was agreed for using the services of Robert Pender. Bill has been liaising with Robert to import all the information onto the web site.

Action Bill Craik

7. Planning

There were two applications to be considered:

17/01680/FUL 3 Storey Flatted Development (9 Units) Site At 95 Main Street Kilsyth

17/01626/FUL Replacement of Roller Shutter, Shutter Box and associated Signage 27A Main Street

There were no objections in principal to the flatted development – but it was noted that a two storey option would be preferable and in keeping with the rest of the buildings.

The other part of the site is part of a discussion with Clyde Valley Housing.

The roller shutter should be concealed (i.e. not beyond the building line) in keeping with the conservation area.

Work is expected to start on the former Police station in March/ April and dialogue with NLC re the final design is still ongoing, it is important that the community council preferences are incorporated into the final design. Jean Jones will request an update from CVH.

Action Jean Jones

Discussions are also ongoing regarding development of the former Health Centre site.

8. History and Heritage:

The Cafe will now be open during the winter and will not close at the end of September.

During the Sept Open day there were 39 visitors to Colzium house with 16 people on the walk. £22.35 was given in donations.

Colzium Signage

Proposed options for the signage for Colzium were circulated prior to the meeting.

Comments should be forwarded to JMCK for inclusion in a coordinated response. Monies have been allocated in NLC 2018/19 budget.

9. Environment

Environmental Services have been notified of a problem with Rodents and pigeons in parts of the Main St, around the gap site, West Burnside St and Police Station.

The problem is exacerbated by carryout litter and residents in the West of Scotland housing who throw food out the window.

Lynsey Bastion advised that Scottish Canals were seeking volunteers to help with the sensory garden at Auchinstarry.

10. Website

The number of visits in September was 341. The main topics were Colzium and what's on. Visitors to the site were from UK, Canada, China and S Korea. 75% of the visitors to the site were new.

11. Reports from other Organisations:

The Friends of Colzium AGM will be held on 26 Oct from 7 to 9pm and is open to all. John Rosenfield will be the speaker.

Friends of Colzium will also hold their Christmas dinner on 21 Dec at 7pm in the Coachman. Margo has tickets.

The Rotary Club will hold their charity dinner on 3 Nov in the Coachman. The Rotary Club will be planting 5000 crocus for "end Polio" on Saturday at 9am.

BAM Nutall have been successful in securing a prestigious contract for the Antarctic survey.

12. Correspondence

All correspondence has been covered under other items.

A.O.C.B

There had been a question raised regarding the availability of allotments in Kilsyth. The Community Council are not aware of any and suggested that an approach be made to Edmonston Estates.

It was reported that the footpath from Tak Ma Doon Road to the lade at Colzium was in a very poor state of repair.

Action J Mckerral

A member of the public gallery advised that there was a Wifi booster available for the Cafe at Colzium to use to help with the signal issues (card machine).

It was highlighted that the Community Council are always happy to have new members onto the Council.

These minutes are issued unapproved and will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Community Council.

Date of next meeting 15 Novemeber 2018 at 7pm in Burngreen Hall Kilsyth

Chairman: Scott Johnson

Secretary: Janet McKerral 4 Prospect Road Dullatur G68 0AN 01236 739765

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SERVING THE HISTORIC BURGH OF KILSYTH