**CROFTAMIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**held on online**

 **Wednesday 11 November 20 @ 7.30PM**

**Attendance:** Peter Lloyd (PL), Margaret Firth (MF), Mary Dickie, MD), **Graham Lambie (GL),** Donnie Watson (DW), **Henry Braid, (HB),** Willie Nisbet (WN), Rob Davis (RD), David Young (Finnich Glen) and 4 **residents**

1. **Apologies - Police,** David Armstrong (DA)
2. **Previous Minutes**- Proposed DW by and seconded MD
3. **Police Report –**Nov 2020 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

**Antisocial Behaviour**

Call re suspicious males within 3 vehicles on the Pirniehall rd near to old school. Police attended however they had made off prior to Police arrival.

**Road Safety**

There has been damage caused to the wall by a vehicle at Drymen Bridge. Enquiries are continuing to trace the driver.

Local officers have and will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to improve road safety.

We’re aware that speeding is an issue within the village. Hand held radar was carried out recently and this will carry on.

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road.

Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.

Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.

Please ensure that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.

**Theft**

An apparent attempted housebreaking occurred in the Drymen area, whereby it looks like someone has tried to jemmy the rear door of the property. No access was gained and nothing stolen.

All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

With the earlier dark nights coming soon we have the potential for daytime Housebreakings which unfortunately have been a seasonal trend in the past. We remind residents to be ever vigilant and contact the Police should anyone see anything suspicious. Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it make it harder for the thieves.

Please consider the following:

• Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.

• Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.

• If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.

• Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don’t give the thieves the tools to break into your house.

• Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.

• Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.

• If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.

• create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com

• If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

There are guides on the Police Scotland website giving other ideas to protect property in rural areas:

https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime

**Fraud**

There have been numerous reports of a fraud involving tickets being sold via a website for “Winter Wonderland”. Many people have been scammed with this and enquiries are ongoing.

Fraudsters can make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information such as bank details or they might be someone offering you a deal or a prize. Recently calls have been made by persons purporting to be from HMRC stating that there was a warrant out for the receiver of the call and was asked to contact the number that was given. This is clearly a false call so please heed the below advise:

•Consider making your phone number ex-directory.

•Don’t give out any personal information unless you are the one who made the call and you are certain of the identity of the person you are speaking to.

•Don’t give out your credit card or bank card details to strangers on the telephone.

•NEVER tell somebody your bank PIN number, even if they claim to be the bank or police. If the caller is genuine they will never ask for this information.

•Don’t give out information which may infer that you live alone, are older or vulnerable.

•Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you.

•If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

•Contact local trading standards – they may be able to use approved ‘call blocking’ technology.

**Community Engagement and Reassurance**

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems

PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

[www.twitter.com/policescotland](http://www.twitter.com/policescotland)

Q asked how does logging the contents of the house affect House Insurance?

Q any solution to the damage at Drymen Bridge? There is a badly damaged car in the village which appeared on Sunday morning and was this connected?

1. **Planning Report – MD**

Ballatone, 15 Cattermills. Erection of ancillary residential unit (renewal of planning permission ref: 2017/0343/DET**)**

1. **Roads Update- DW**

**Planned works schedule previously sent –plans in Stirling and Killearn but nothing for this area.**

**Balfron Gateway project at the Clachan in Balfron and plans at Eastern side of Buchlyvie A811 and B822 at Kippen.**

**There will be works on the Stockiemuir Road and GL has asked if this can be done in the evenings.**

1. **Treasurer Update**
* **The Bank balance is £3514.75 – this is after the deduction of £200 for minute taker and £500 has been paid to the Community Trust for the Mini Bus. A letter of receipt has been received as acknowledgement.**
* The Bank account includes £1000 ringfenced for the Drymen/Croftamie Food bank.

**£678.50 paid into our account which was coins from the Drymen Support Group. This full amount will be repaid to them as soon as they open their new Bank account. In the meantime they want £150 of it towards buying fresh food for some residents using the Food Bank.**

**There is an Old Grant in the account of £328 to be used buy a pop up banner originally planned to be displayed in the Library or Nursery. This needs to be purchased before any funding from the Community Grant funds can be submitted so MF to arrange its purchase. MF to provide the wording and circulate it to Councillors and then order the banner.**

1. **Stirling Council Update – Councillors**

**GL passed on the sad news that Stuart Ballantyne from Balfron has passed away. He was involved with Trossachs Search and Rescue for many years. GL has passed on his condolences.**

**Covid is an issue in Bannockburn-you can go to Public Health Scotland site and see area results. Possibility of closing their High School. Possibility of our area being placed into Level 4. We can’t let our guard down- please follow the rules.**

**Prior to Forth Valley there were three regions:**

**Balfron and Drymen- numbers have come down,**

**Blane Valley and Kippen/Fintry ( these are used for the reporting)**

**See Invest in Stirling for Grants available throughout Covid. Furlough scheme being used.**

**Education – Nursery closure will be next year but no date provided.**

**Balfron Bank will close on Mar 8th 2021. Council are considering taking the building over and perhaps a Credit Union/Business unit could be set up.**

 **Bins -residents will receive a letter replacing old brown and grey bins starting at the end of this month. £185K and 4500 bins a year lost in the current vehicles which are to be upgraded. You will be able to change the size of the bins if you need a smaller one. Can check on the website.**

**Working on concessions to the £35 annual fee for brown bin collection. Provisional date for Croftamie is 16 Nov to 29 Nov.**

**Q- asking about collection day on a Sunday in Balmaha. GL has raised this with the Council but no update given**

**Q- changing of bins – older bins? Will they be collected? Yes as the old bins cannot be used in the new trucks.**

**Nat Park- East LL Community Trust –looking at transferring car park to the National Park.**

**Carbeth drive through Mocha Coffee shop has opened.**

**A811- slipping in the Endrick**

**Before you leave Croftamie on way to Gartocharn- road is slipping. Traffic lights are not reactive and don’t change when you approach.**

**GL confirmed that if road is in failure or destruction then reserves can be used.**

**WN asked is the road safe/ carriage way has cracked and has dropped slightly. Concrete posts have gone and slipped into the bank.**

**Integrity of the road that is being used and whether it is safe for a large vehicle?**

**Asked GL/RD for the road to be checked.**

**Road accident means that the Croftamie/Glasgow sign is sitting on the Ground at T junction and MF has asked for it to be fixed but will not be done until the beginning of Dec.**

**RD- update.**

**Covid briefing- cases are rising and parties in houses spreading the disease. Noted that the majority are following the rules.**

**Q from PL: Waste has been left at No1 Mill Quadrant due to renovations and has been there for approx 3 months – building rubbish. RD took a note to investigate.**

1. **LL&TNP -****WN update**

**Board meeting will be held on 9 Dec and on Monday there was a meeting of Chairs and Executives. Discussions held around how we will manage our staff next summer. This plan may be changed based on the news of a Vaccine- not planning to open the Building until Easter.**

1. **Outstanding info from last meeting**
* Nursery- PL has asked and is waiting on a response re discussions about what can happen with the building**. Update- no response has been received.**
* **Christmas Tree- PL and DA will put the lights onto the tree but sadly there will be no Community sing along and mince pie get together this year.**
1. **Correspondence Received**

**Draft community engagement strategy – has been circulated. How council are going to engage with the community =- Thurs 19 Nov and 2 Dec dial into Event Brite. Community planning and regeneration committee will discuss :**

**Pavements- Rural communities –**

**Isolated pensions with no bus routes.**

**Participation request- on Council website Strathblane= right to ask officers to ask them to participate- Community empowerment act 2015.**

**MD- MF document received – Rural was only mentioned in Passing. Croftamie have been sidelined. Some elderly don’t have computers and twitter and some are finding it difficult to go shopping. DRT- really good but is not 100% effective. Taxis not arriving when they are due.**

1. **Any Other Business**

**Traffic calming- question around where we could position this. Road engineers would assess best location. PL commented that we have asked for a speed survey – any update? We have been asked where we would like it positioned.**

**Participation request can be made for a traffic calming measure.**

**Pelican crossing at Cycle path is another suggestion**

**GL confirmed that in the Borders council there is a speed limit of 20 MPH in all villages.**

**Recent Survey completed and included were ideas for traffic calming and pavements.**

**Local mechanic, Willie Mackay has retired but there is a new mechanic- Simon Skene.**

Christmas Shopping. Approx less than 6 people in the village would need support. No one has asked for that service-– PL confirmed that the support group can deliver shopping from Spar, Butchers and Aldi.

RD commented that we really shouldn’t be sharing cars but as this is an essential service- this is adequate. Concern about car sharing – well being and shopping v catching Covid. Buddy system best way to go. WN- concerned to MD that she is taking another person in her car.

PL suggested paying for taxis for those who used to use the Community Minibus from the Covid fund. (The community bus cannot run at the moment. The issue is safety from Covid.)

PL asked for the list of people who need support.

The support group can offer a Buddy system for shopping, grants for phones or other assistance if someone is feeling isolated.

There was concern that people don’t only need shopping but they need social interaction and a shopping trip would provide this. People wanting out of the house.

HB- What can be done? Vaccine is coming but in the shorter term?

What is the need? Suggestion of a meeting at But and Ben to discuss shopping arrangements. Face to face. RD to attend.

PL- paid for monthly Zoom- if anyone wants to have other meetings- Rural etc.

Or to speak to family – for non commercial basis the details can be shared.

PL- web developer – now asking him to put the minutes onto the website. From the £15 a month we pay him - £9 a month goes to web storage. It was agreed to pay an extra £4 a month.

DRT- we need to use it or we may lose it. New development at Finnich Glen will hopefully bring more public transport. Need to feed back any issues where someone is stranded when DRT doesn’t pick them up.

WN asked to pass on all of our best to a local resident that has been in hospital.

Dates were agreed for next year’s meetings- 10 meetings a year. Happy to continue on 2nd Wednesday of the month, no meetings are held in Jul and Dec.

Dates will be Jan 13th, Feb 10th, Mar 10th, April 14th, May 12th, June 9th, Aug 11th, Sept 8th, Oct 13th, Nov 10th.

**PL wished everyone a Merry Christmas- if we didn’t see each other before then.**

**Confirmation next Meeting Wednesday 13 January 2020 at 7.30pm.**