



Coupar Angus and Bendochy Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on Monday 10 February 2014 at 7pm in the Town Hall Chambers.

Present, Duncan Kettles, Michael Gallagher, Jo Kettles, Councillor Denis Melloy, Clare Damodaran reporter for Blairgowrie Advertiser, Michelle Peet – minute taker. John McKinneer, Mike Roy, Ann Campbell, Claire Eason, John Eason, Susan Shirrar, Daryl McKeown – PKC Traffic Safety.

Apologies Steve Cummings, Carolyn Brown

Report from Daryl McKeown The trial in Queen Street had now been completed and Daryl was at the meeting to hear how the residents and the Community Council felt the trial had gone. There was a comment that there was more congestion as drivers tried to get in front of the barriers and ended up blocking the road as there wasn't space for the driver to pull in after the barrier. Daryl had witnessed this when he visited and noted that the congestion was cleared within one cycle of the lights. Whilst Daryl was out visiting he spoke with John McKinneer regarding the fumes from the traffic sat at the traffic lights. Jo Kettles pointed out that during the trial there had been no reduction in the fumes emitted near the houses in Queen Street and that vehicles were still driving on the footway. Jo asked if it was possible to move the traffic lights further back for instance back to the junction with Precinct Street. Daryl suggested that might be a problem as the cycle on the lights would have to be much longer. Mike Roy pointed out that there was total chaos one day when a vehicle broke down within the traffic controlled area. There was a comment that the trial had been to partly to slow the traffic down but the general opinion was that traffic actually went faster trying to get through the lights. Susan commented that since the traffic lights had been put in everything bumps up onto the footway causing structural damage to her house (and others around her) and endangering pedestrians. In her opinion the road isn't wide enough for the traffic using it. Daryl commented that he had looked at putting bollards on the footway but that would restrict the footway and cause problems for the large farm vehicles that use the road. Susan suggested that a thin metal barrier rather than bollards would protect pedestrians. Michael asked if the space had been measured. Daryl said the road width was a lane and a quarter to a lane and a third and that the footway was 1.8m wide. The footway could be reduced to 1.5m wide. Susan suggested making the area from Precinct Street to the junction one lane and putting metal barriers on both sides of the road – again it was commented that farm vehicles might struggle to get through. Claire Eason pointed out that the trial had general been good for her as vehicles did not come onto the footway in front of her house although she struggled to cross the road. John Eason commented that he had no idea what was happening when the barriers for the trial went in; he felt that the residents of Queen Street should have been informed. Ann Campbell asked if bigger vehicles could be sent a different route. Daryl replied that the Council could not insist. The road was an A class road and that designation could not been taken away as it has nothing to do with the width of the road but the economy link, there is no real alternate route. It was pointed out that the road surface was being damaged and also all the service plates. Michael commented that the Scottish Government Planning Reporter said that Coupar Angus needed a bypass. Councillor Melloy pointed out that the New Local Plan was out but there was no bypass for Coupar Angus. He also pointed out that the situation was not going to change in the short term and unlikely to change in the long term. It was agreed by all that the

recent trial on Queen Street had not been a success and therefore Daryl indicated that the trial would not continue. Councillor Melloy asked if the current traffic lights could be realigned. Daryl agreed to speak to his colleague Sarah Miller regarding the realignment. He agreed that a trial with temporary traffic lights would be a good idea. Michael asked if it would be possible to have a pedestrian crossing on Queen Street, Daryl said no as there was not enough pedestrian traffic to warrant a crossing. A question was asked if the sequencing of the lights could be looked at. Daryl commented that the police were aware of the concerns of the community regarding the behaviour of the traffic at the traffic lights. Mike Roy asked how far back the traffic lights would be moved. Daryl answered probably to Precinct Street. Mike commented that the flow of traffic need to be maintained but also needed to ensure that the traffic was slowed down around the junction especially during school time. Daryl then went on to explain other improvements for Coupar Angus under the School Travel Plan. Two ramps were to be put in, a small footway from the bus stop to the water tower, a pedestrian link from the east side of the school through the park to Forfar Road with possible funding being available in the next financial year. Daryl then asked if there were any questions. Duncan asked if the traffic lights were moved back on Queen Street would the footways be widened. Daryl replied yes probably as the traffic flow would be controlled and this would hopefully stop damage. Michael asked how do we fight for the bypass to be built, he pointed out that there is public support; should there be an action group and demonstrations? Councillor Melloy reminded Michael that there is no funding for a relief road/bypass in the foreseeable future and suggested that he should concentrate on getting Queen Street sorted first. Claire Eason pointed out that the volume of traffic was increasing year on year it would be cheaper and shorter to take traffic through the other side and out by the chicken factory rather than hold out for the previously proposed bypass. Daryl suggested need to focus on sorting out Queen Street, have the trial traffic lights and then see what happens. Daryl agreed to take the email addresses of all members of public present and let them know when the trial traffic lights were due to be put in place and asked them to pass on the information to their neighbours and interested people. Duncan agreed to take the email address and forward to Daryl. Michael asked about the footway between the Care Home and the town centre. He was reminded that he and Daryl had met and walked the route but the building within the Care Home area was not complete and therefore was not adopted by the Council. Daryl pointed out that other parts of the footway were on the list for improvement but they may or may not be done this coming financial year. Kings Road to George Street footway is progressing slowly; it is at the planning department currently. Daryl is planning on widening the footway a bit at the junction at Bogside Road and the school so that there is more room to stand when waiting to cross the road. The Blairgowrie/Forfar road junction – Daryl said he hadn't had a chance to look at yet, he asked what the problems were – he was told that the traffic from Blairgowrie tends to keep going and the Forfar Road traffic have frequently had to brake hard to avoid an accident. He was also asked if a pedestrian crossing could be put across Forfar Road. Where the footway from the Care Home to the Red House crosses Station Road was to get a drop kerb, this work was in for the next financial year but Daryl couldn't say when it was to be done. Councillor Melloy asked when the temporary traffic lights would be installed; Daryl indicated it would be within the next few months and he would inform the Community Council and Councillor Melloy. A question was asked if the pedestrian crossing at Station Road could be moved back a bit; Daryl said it could not as there was a problem with land ownership. It was also pointed out that there was no sign for the pedestrian crossing; Daryl agreed to investigate.

Daryl and the public then left.

Claire Eason was co-opted onto the Community Council. Jo Kettles proposed and Duncan Kettles seconded. Councillor Melloy reminded the Community Council that a form was to be filled in and returned to Brenda at the Council and that Claire was only co-opted for one year. Michael agreed to give Claire a copy of the constitution.

Police Report Duncan had been emailed a copy of the police report and noted that it was unlikely that a member of Police Scotland would be available to attend the meetings in future.

Adoption of Minute of previous meeting held on 9 December 2013 was proposed by Duncan Kettles and seconded by Jo Kettles.

Matters arising from the previous minute. Councillor Melloy had nothing more to report regarding the requests for bus stops at Bendochy crossroads and Abbey Road; he is still actively reminding the relevant department that the bus stops are required.

Councillors' Report Michael had emailed regarding street lighting issues in Princes Croft. Councillor Melloy had contacted Scott Denyer regarding the issues and had received a reply that all reported faults had been dealt with within the timescale set down in streetlight procedures. Councillor Melloy will forward the reply email to Michael who will discuss with the person who had the concerns. Councillor Melloy reminded the Community Council that there were various road closure for Coupar Angus. BATTERYBANK, School Road and Precinct Street would all be closed for six weeks at various times which would cause lots of disruptions. From April a new law would come into effect regarding high hedges. At present if the problem hedge is on Council housing property then the Council can do something about it, if the dispute is between two private landowners then the Council will not get involved. Councillor Melloy reminded the Community Council that if people drove through signs advising of flooding ahead or road closed signs and got stuck or required assistance then the police would charge the driver. There had been an incident reported of dog fouling within the play park area of LARGAN PARK, Michael asked if it was possible to fence the play park off as he was aware that this was done in at least one park. However it was agreed that whilst this incident was disgusting it was probably a one-off event; it was not a problem. Incidents of dog fouling had reduced in general around Coupar Angus – it was not as bad as it had been in the past. Councillor Melloy reminded the Community Council that there are only three dog wardens for the whole of Perth and Kinross Council area. Fife had the highest number of notices regarding dog fouling – 37; in the same period Perth and Kinross Council had only 1. In 2013 there were 520 legitimate complaints with another 30 on private land. There had been 7 fixed penalty notices with 4 being paid. There had been no prosecutions. Bags are now being used by dog owners. There was some discussion about doing something to encourage the use of bags. Councillor Melloy was asked about the use of CCTVs/webcams. He pointed out it was his understanding that you were only allowed to use CCTVs/webcams within the boundary of your own land, that is it was not allowed to point on to the street without a licence. He advised that the issue should be discussed with the police.

Councillor Melloy then left the meeting.

Chairmans' Report Nothing to report.

Treasurers' Report There was to be a treasurers' report at the next meeting.

Secretaries' Report The cup for Citizen of the Year was to be engraved when it was returned.

Correspondence The secretary had received a letter from East Haven, Angus. The town was one of the earliest fishing communities which was gifted by the monks of the Abbey at Coupar Angus. East Haven was celebrating 800 years of existence and wished someone from Coupar Angus to stitch some bunting. Jo had passed the letter to the school who would make a pennant with the Abbey on it.

Resume January meeting There was a short discussion regarding resuming a January meeting of the Community Council but it was decided not to reinstate a January meeting.

Community Council Website Michael indicated that he intended updating the Community Council website which had been neglected of late. He reminded the Community Council that a fee of £7 for the domain name was due.

Date of next meeting Monday 10 March 2014 at 7pm in the Town Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:56pm.