

Mount Blair Community Council Meeting
7.00pm on 31st August 2015 in Kirkmichael Session House

Present: Tony Thompson (Chair), Ali Petrie, Charlie Brown, John Manning, Bernard Noonan, Donald Cameron, Robert Brawn, Cllr Caroline Shiers, Cllr Bob Ellis,

Apologies: None

In attendance: 6 members of the public

1.	Welcome & Apologies	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting 9th March 2015 AP proposed, JM seconded	
3.	Matters Arising CB asked if the owner of the McEwen & Fraser board on the bridge junction in Kirkmichael had obtained permission to have it there. AP to investigate.	AP
4.	Chairman's Report The open day was considered to have been a success, and it was discussed if another open day should be planned for the future. Originally there were difficulties in confirming the date as the Credit Union kept rearranging and in the end it was decided that the event should go ahead without their presence. The Council expressed their thanks to Sue Smith for all of her hard work.	
5.	Secretary's Report CB had received a communication from P&K Council about the upcoming Community Council elections, and had circulated flyers around the community shops and on Newsgroup. CB had been contacted by a number of Kirkmichael village residents concerned about an unlicensed vehicles parked on public roads around the village. Also a number of unlicensed quad and off road motor bikes using public roads around Kirkmichael. The 9 th September will mark the 300 th anniversary of raising the Banner on the Bannerfield. The Council was unaware of anything having been planned.	
6.	Treasurers Report Main account is at £345, Drumderg account is empty. TT had been chasing up the micro grant fund situation with SSE. RB had received a remittance for £443 to do with the Broadband Survey.	
7.	Police Report <i>Crime Prevention – sheds and garages</i> There are a wide variety of garage or shed buildings, all with their slightly different security needs and although people do actually put cars in their garages, many of them contain everything other than the car! Commonly they are used to store garden and DIY tools, deep freezers, bicycles, ladders, camping equipment and all of this adds up to a great deal of value. As a result, sheds and garages are frequently targeted by offenders and currently, as power tools and gardening equipment are favoured items for stealing, its worth considering a few security tips in an effort to deter a thief. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit additional locking devices to shed and garage doors • If your house already has an intruder alarm system, consider extending it to include the shed • Fit a battery operated intruder alarm • Secure items together – or to a ground or wall anchor point, using a chain or cable. • Make sure your items are marked to make them identifiable in the event of theft and 	

	<p>descriptions/serial numbers etc noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to lock and secure sheds or garages when you leave your property – whilst this might sound obvious, outbuildings are left open or insecure in a number of reported thefts. <p>If you see anyone acting suspiciously or actually committing a crime, please contact the police as soon as possible on 999 in an emergency or 101 at any other time. You can also contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online.</p> <p>Youth calls since the last meeting None</p> <p>Crimes/Incidents since last meeting Vandalisms - Sillerburn Road, Kirkmichael overnight 18/19 June – tyre punctured Sillerburn Road, Kirkmichael overnight 19/20 June – 2 tyres slashed – both under enquiry</p> <p>For information Across Perth & Kinross, there are still a number of reports of individuals “cold calling” householders in an effort to obtain work, a lot of which turns out to be of inferior quality and often charged at inflated prices. If you are to be accepting work carried out in this fashion, make sure you know exactly what work has been agreed and how much the work is to cost. If you think this activity constitutes bogus workmen, contact the police with any details of persons and vehicles involved.</p>	
8.	<p>Road Maintenance and closures A discussion was had regarding the road closures. TT had been contacting the roads department to try and find a way around the closures, however the problem seems to be with regards to passage for larger vehicles.</p> <p>The Bridge at Bridge of Cally will be needing repairs in the near future, however it had been risk assessed for safety until the repairs are carried out.</p>	
9.	<p>Green Space Maintenance Regularity and standard of maintenance had been monitored and revealed that it hadn't been carried out to specification. Grass had been cut and not collected, and some areas had been left to grow for up to four weeks. Weeds hadn't been sprayed until already fully grown which left a mess of rotting weeds. The Bannerfield car park and picnic benches had been left in a very poor state, and the owners of the Bannerfield tidied it up in time for the Gathering. CB noted that there had been broken glass left on the floor where the recycling lorries had been emptying the bottle banks. CB to contact Lucy Garthways regarding this. TT to ask PM to copy BE & CS into any reports sent to Nigel Taylor.</p>	CB/TT
10.	<p>Roadside Grass Cutting - Tay Infrastructure Partnership Tay Infrastructure Partnership are very interested in keeping wildflowers, but the council had been cutting the verges which had wildflowers growing in them; TT & JM are working out a system of designated areas that will be cut, which they aim to have by the next growing season. BN said that the Bridge of Cally trimming had been done very badly.</p> <p>JM advised that Ragwort needs to be pulled out by the roots, not cut, and whilst wearing gloves. It is poisonous to most livestock so please be extra vigilant. BE to find out if the Council is responsible for pulling Ragwort. JM to email Nigel Taylor and copy in CS and BE.</p> <p>Please note that tree trimming is the landowners responsibility if it is on their land, if it</p>	BE/JM

	is on the dike after their land then it is the Councils responsibility.	
11.	<p>Defibrillators</p> <p>At present there are defibrillators at the Blackwater Hall, Gulabin Lodge and at the Kirkmichael & Glenshee Fire Stations, with thoughts of putting further defibs in Bridge of Cally and Enochdhu. Several fundraisers had already taken place organised by the Log Cabin and the Fire Service. Originally there had been a course organised to run yearly and the community council would like to restart this. A member of the public suggested putting the defibrillators into the unused phone boxes. JM to investigate.</p>	JM
12.	<p>Broadband</p> <p>The Broadband survey was sent out to 656 dwellings and received a response of 166. 98 responses were infill dwellings. TT had a meeting with John MacMillan who had been working with a Dutch company called Imtek. Imtek are putting in a wireless system for Broadband, and because of the proximity of the project to Mount Blair, John had suggested that we join his project. The system would work on a microwave mast overlooking Bridge of Cally. Because of the geographic spread of Mount Blair it could potentially cost more than John's project, but it was discussed that if it works then it would warrant more investigation.</p>	
13.	<p>Community Open day</p>	
14.	<p>Spittal Project</p> <p>TT had written to the owners of the site regarding the valuation and their valuation was vastly different from ours. There had also been issues with the fuel tanks, however both the diesel and petrol tanks have now been checked and are considered very low risk.</p>	
15.	<p>Public Transport</p> <p>TT said that MBCDT was in the process of setting up a survey for Mount Blair's public transportation service in the interest of making it more user friendly for locals as well as tourists.</p> <p>TT had been in contact with the manager at Ardblair Medical Practice regarding the difficulties getting appointments for people relying on public transport. He said that the practice would be more accommodating in these circumstances. Ordering prescriptions must now be done through the Ardblair website or in person which also creates difficulties for people without transport or without internet access. Davidsons is no longer delivering prescriptions to the area. TT to chase.</p>	TT
16.	<p>ABO Wind Farm</p> <p>Over 750 personally addressed envelopes containing survey were hand delivered to residents of the Mount Blair Community Council Area. Over 220 replies had been received since early July and were still coming in. The statistics (listed at the end of the minutes) were analysed on Wednesday 26th August 2015.</p> <p>ABO were at the open day and will be putting in their approval roughly end of September to early October. An email from a resident expressed concern regarding the environmental statement which is only advertised in the Post Offices, and it was discussed that the statement needed to be circulated in more ways.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if the amount of responses was enough for the Community Council to become involved, but it was unclear if there was a minimum number of responses needed to validate the survey. The Community Council is required to remain impartial, however if the members of the community who are against the windfarm wish to form a group it would be advisable to take their case straight to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>CS said that Blairgowrie Community Council use a statistician for surveys which has been beneficial. CS to pass on contact details to TT.</p>	CS

17.	<p>Community Council Elections Community Council election flyers had been circulated, anybody interested should submit an application to the Atrium in Blairgowrie by 4pm on 24th Sept.</p>	
18.	<p>Drumderg Panel Members An invitation had been circulated for new members to join the Drumderg Community Fund Panel which received 4 applications; these will be introduced to the panel at the next Drumderg meeting.</p>	
19.	<p>Kirkmichael Footpath Network – Paths for All The funding had been obtained and ring-fenced and so will need to be used within a certain period of time. BE to find out information about work start dates.</p>	BE
20.	<p>MBCDT Report The archive project had a display at the gathering and the open day which were both quite successful.</p>	
21.	<p>Reports from Councillors Discussions had begun about winter maintenance issues; the snow cutter at Glenshee had been replaced and the funding is in place for the webcam at the Spittal Snow Gates. The biggest issue last season was keeping the public informed about the road closures, however a weekly conference call session had been set up between the roads department and the police department to encourage regular contact. PC Sandra Burgess was asked to find the numbers for the sign by the old cheese shop, are they still able to be used for the coming season? CS to find out. A variable sign board had been discussed for seasonal use, as well as flashing speed limit sign. CS to investigate further.</p> <p>TT said that communication between P&K Council, the Police and the Community Council had been appalling. Often there is a lack of respect or no response at all to communications. Several meetings had been arranged to try and amend the level of service; BE & CS will be contacting Provost and the Chief Executive.</p> <p>BE said that a group had been formed to go for walks in the Mount Blair area and to update the Glenshee Tourist Association leaflets. The GTA AGM is to be held on 16th September. CB asked if the GTA could work with Strathardle. BE said that the GTA and BEPTA cover all of East Perthshire, it had been raised that it would be helpful if Strathardle could be in the title. BE to investigate.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>BE/CS</p> <p>BE</p>
22.	<p>Area Reports CB noted that the Kirkmichael Post Office is now open 5 days a week from 9am-5pm making cash withdrawals much easier. The All Weather Court at the School had been resurfaced and will be opened in the coming weeks.</p> <p>JM mentioned the Bannerfield's new fence; reports had surfaced about people being turned off the field for no apparent reason. It is a privately owned field but surely the Right to Roam applies. The fence was erected to prevent travellers from pitching their camps on the field but it would be good to know if it is still a space that is to be enjoyed by the public or not. BE to investigate.</p> <p>AP had been speaking to Willey Mahoney about the roadworks and had asked him to investigate maintaining the high trees. AP to copy TT into any communications.</p> <p>BN said the culverts on Bridge of Cally side of Ballintuim sustained damage in the recent flooding so further roadworks can be anticipated.</p> <p>DC had nothing to report.</p> <p>RB said the bulging wall by the Post Office at Bridge of Cally hadn't moved since the</p>	<p>BE</p> <p>AP</p>

	<p>last meeting, and the Bridge will be needing repairs. The damage in Alyth had been prioritised but we can expect repairs to be carried out in due course.</p> <p>JM asked if there had been a decision made on what to do with the Straloch School. The telephone box at Enochdhu needs attention and painting.</p> <p>TT the door no longer opens on the Glenshee telephone box.</p>	
23.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The running of a Facebook page for MBCC was discussed, combining MBCDT, Newsgroup etc. JB to investigate and implement.</p>	JB
24.	<p>DONM</p> <p>Date of next meeting 9th November 2015.</p>	