

**Mount Blair Community Council
Public Meeting
7.00pm on 9th March 2015 in Kirkmichael Session House**

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

Apologies: Caroline Shiers

In attendance: David Woodcock, Georgina Spiers, Colin Murdoch, Simon Fairclough

1.	Welcome & Apologies	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting 19th January 2015 Approved. Proposed CB, seconded RB	
3.	Matters Arising TT had undertaken to contact Liz Grant regarding the Kirkmichael School All Weather Court and would now do so.	
4.	Chairman's Report TT had attended a meeting together with Bob Ellis and Chick Haggert regarding the footpath between the village and the Strathardle Inn. Chick Haggert was to respond and had not done so, TT would chase up. TT had attended a workshop on learning and communications in Rattray, TT had attended a workshop on footpaths, see later. TT had attended a community share workshop. TT had had a meeting with Wilie Mahoney. TT had attended a board meeting of the MBCDT as an observer. TT and David Bailey Chair of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council were due to have a meeting with Bernadette Malone (Chief Executive) regarding the inadequacies of the service from PKC.	
5.	Secretary's Report Community Purchase of telephone boxes from BT; JM to check that this has been done. Notification had been received regarding community empowerment at Holyrood. BE encouraged attendance by a representative.	
6.	Treasurers Report £343 in main account and this was likely to be the position at the end of the month. £95 in Drumderg account, which was due to be topped up and new applications could be considered. The main account will be topped up to £700 at the end of the month.	
7.	Police Report Bogus callers/workmen These are people who use distraction techniques to preoccupy a victim and steal from their home. This could be someone asking to use the bathroom or telephone or for a drink of water. Whilst the occupier's back is turned, the thief will steal whatever they can find. Bogus callers may also pretend to be a utility worker or tradesman to gain access to a property. Bogus Workmen are different from bogus callers as they will carry out general maintenance work which is often shoddy or not completed. They will then charge an excessive amount for the work carried out. They may also ask for the money up front under the pretence of purchasing building materials. After the money is received they will not return to the premises and the work is left undone. On no account allow the "workmen" to take you to the bank to withdraw sums of money either.	

Bogus callers are very sophisticated and are very skilled at deception. They will use a number of ways to try and gain entry to your home to steal and trick you out of money.

As well as workmen or sales people, bogus callers can also pretend to be someone in need of help. If somebody calls at your door looking for help, be careful as they may not be genuine. If you're not sure who they are or you live alone don't let them into your home.

- Use the door viewer when answering the door.
- Check identification badges of anyone calling at your door.
- If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- If the person refuses to leave your door, dial 999 and ask for the police.

Keep the caller out of your house or ask them to leave and call the police immediately. You might also want to try to alert a family member or attract a neighbour's attention but you should always contact the police first by dialling 999. The police would much rather attend a false alarm than have someone fall victim to a bogus caller.

Crimes/Incidents since last meeting

A storage container at Middleton Caravan site in Bridge of Cally was broken into between 21 and 31 Jan – nothing stolen – undetected

For information

There have been lead thefts from roofs of churches and other buildings across Tayside recently which are presently under enquiry – any information can be passed to Police Scotland on the non-emergency line 101 unless the theft is actually taking place.

There have been a number of thefts from works vehicles recently across Perth and Kinross and also a number of break ins to commercial properties where the favoured goods for stealing are power tools and equipment. It is important that you ensure that the security of your vehicle or premises is adequate for the value within.

SCAMS – the persons carrying out scams are finding more ingenious ways of making you part with your money – remember banks will never ask for details of your account over the phone. Make sure you research a company to which you are divulging your details and ensure they are genuine before making any payments. Stopping Scotland's Scammers is a new mini series on STV (Monday evening) which will offer viewers an insight into scams in Scotland and provide advice on how the public can protect themselves against financial fraud. The real life stories are illustrated with reconstructions to show the truth about financial crime in this country.

BE said that councillors had an opportunity to speak with the community police at a monthly drop in session in the Atrium. TT suggested that communication could be

	made utilising the email group. BN asked how many police there were at Blairgowrie.	
8.	<p>Broadband Update</p> <p>TT and Petrina have now cross referenced drawings and a digital list of addresses to identify the properties which would be likely to receive Superfast Broadband in Mount Blair. These properties will mainly be in Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally. Those not covered by Superfast Broadband would be eligible for inclusion onto a community broadband initiative. Once all properties, not included are identified a consultant would be appointed to survey the area and asses on the technical difficulties and recommend a viable type of systems. Those outside the superfast broadband area would be guaranteed 2mb which would be an improvement on existing. AP said that upgrading broadband was included in a CAP for farmers but in reality they had no answer in remote rural areas. TT said that within the next 2-3 weeks he would write to all those in the infill areas with a form to be completed requesting the views of the community. When all the forms have been returned advice would be sought regarding funding for a feasibility study. There would be some funding from Community Broadband Scotland and some funding from the BT project. TT thought that there were probably 230 properties in the 'infill' area. TT hoped that there would be further funding available for maintenance of the community system TT was going to consult with community groups doing similar projects in other areas of Scotland.</p>	
9.	<p>Planning</p> <p>a. PKC local development plan call for issues and sites 2018 to 2028, a joint submission by the community council Glenshee Tourist Association and Mount Blair Community Development Trust a draft was tabled and is attached.</p> <p>CB was concerned that new housing should be allocated to local needs rather than priority cases in the housing list. BE said that there was a high demand for housing in Blairgowrie. TT said that the problem was bigger than just housing, people require jobs. JM commented that with a decline of agricultural employment there were significantly reduced opportunities for work. JM also commented that the solution to providing affordable housing might be less conventional solutions including the conversion of non-residential buildings. TT was concerned about the implications of the poor broadband and mobile phone connectivity on employment prospects.</p> <p>b. There will be a session to explain Tay Plan in Dundee on May 5th to which attendance is invited.</p> <p>c. Windfarms</p> <p>AP said that the Green Burn proposal had reduced from 14 to 11 turbines. There had been community liaison exhibitions which were badly promoted although they were advertised in the News Group. TT commented that there was some difficulty in getting the information out. AP said that the Green Burn proposal was not yet subject of a formal planning application.</p> <p>Members of the public expressed concern about the impact of the various proposals on their properties or those they represented and complained that there had been little information given out by ABO and that some of the information at the exhibitions had been inaccurate and misleading. TT offered to write to both the planners and ABO if he is furnished with a list of problems and those affected.</p> <p>BE said that there has been a presumption that there would be an extension to the Drumderg Windfarm but any proposal would have to go through due process.</p> <p>There was dissatisfaction expressed as to the inefficiency of wind turbines. AP suggested that they were only 25% efficient and pointed out there were other issues</p>	

	<p>relating to the construction of windfarms such as access by heavy vehicles and the cabling to connect to the grid. DC said that he understood that the Drumderg windfarm had brought the grid connection to capacity.</p> <p>David Woodcock suggested that noise was a significant issue and that the Drumderg wind turbines can be heard from Ashmore and there was significant impact of low level noise.</p> <p>DC said that PKC had never yet approved an application and that decisions were taken either on appeal or direct by Holyrood. It was noted that Angus Council is objecting to Saddle Hill proposal and PKC is likely to follow suit.</p> <p>AP said that she had contacted as many people as possible asking for comment. CB said that as a whole the community don't really care. JM pointed out that if landowners considered that their property would be adversely affected by any proposal they would be well advised to engage professional help.</p>	
10.	<p>Spittal Re-development</p> <p>TT said that the hotel had been burnt down last August and there had been a well attended public meeting to assess community support taking forward a community buy-out and subsequent re-development. The first step would be to have a feasibility study carried out at a likely cost of £20k. A steering group had been set up and some fundraising events planned. TT said that possibly included on the site would be some hotel or similar accommodation, bar and restaurant and craft outlets. It was pointed out that the Spittal area is not so seasonally affected. The location on the A93 is important and is also a staging post on the Cateran Trail.</p> <p>TT said that the owners had been established and contacted and there was a burden on the site in favour of Invercauld Estate that the site should remain in hotel use.</p>	
11.	<p>Kirkmichael Village Shop</p> <p>The village shop was invited to attend or make a submission.</p>	
12.	<p>Kirkmichael Path Network</p> <p>JM reported that through the efforts principally of MBCDT, the funds were now in place all except the last £10k and this was expected to be forthcoming. There is a further £5k available through the funding of the core path network which is likely to be used for signage. BE said that he would be happy to help particularly in light of the success in setting up a footpath group around Blairgowrie called BRAN: They had produced a map of the paths in the area and set out in reports as to what work needed carried out and where benches and other facilities would be sited. BE said that he could set up a session with Paths For All so that it could be explained how to go about the project and carry out practical path work. BE could also arrange for group training for the use of chainsaws and strimmers through Dave Stubbs, who can also provide some tools, and there is a website on how to start up a path group. BE will provide further information and contacts. TT asked JM to get the names of those who might join a local path group.</p>	
13.	<p>Ground Maintenance</p> <p>TT had confirmation from Nigel Taylor that all the grass cutting and maintenance would be carried out regularly and on time. TT will keep an eye on this.</p>	
14.	<p>ABO Community Development Fund</p> <p>TT had been asked to form a committee and had sought the advice of DC as he had been involved in setting up the Drumderg Fund. DC said that there had been 6 members of the Drumderg panel from Mount Blair and 6 from Alyth. Initially the Drumderg fund had been administered by the Scottish Community Foundation but now had been taken over by SSE. The community Benefit Fund would be shared out amongst other affected communities, possibly including Alyth, GlenIsla Blairgowrie</p>	

	and Rattray. The fund was likely to be a total of £165k per year.	
15.	<p>Digital Media</p> <p>AP had attended a community engagement day which explained about community empowerment, democratic societies and setting up development trusts, and trying to get community councils to look at these and to use digital media such as Twitter, Facebook etc, some community council meetings had already been live-streamed (dependent on broadband speed) and looking at how to develop communication systems. Data protection was also covered and JM confirmed that CC has the appropriate registration.</p>	
16.	<p>Rural Transport</p> <p>TT was going to have a meeting with Andrew Warrington, Nigel Taylor and Mike Purdie on the 19th March which would be fact finding on what might be on offer. Thereafter the community would be consulted. TT inquired whether the Heather Hopper would be running this year, CB complained that the timing of the existing service was unsatisfactory. BE said that he was trying to get the bus service so that it could be used by walkers.</p>	
17.	<p>MBCDT</p> <p>JM said that their principal activity had been the Kirkmichael Footpath Network reported above.</p>	
18.	<p>Councillors Report</p> <p>BE said that he had been successful in getting the road signs changed in Ballintuim. Wearing his BEPTA hat he reported that a number of walkers were doing “human baggage” ie staying in one place and walking the CATERAN Trail in sections.</p> <p>BE reported on the CATERAN Common Wealth organised by Claire Cooper which should bring substantial number of visitors taking part in cultural events. There would be sculptures and works of art - about 100 in nine themes – around the trail. Concerts are also planned and £10k of grant funding has been obtained with a further £11k expected. There would shortly be a press release.</p>	
19.	<p>Area Reports</p> <p>CB said that the regular gritting had been carried out very efficiently; he was concerned about dog fouling in Bannerfield as it is used by the Primary School, noting that the red container had been removed. BE said that dog ‘poo’ suitably wrapped can be put in the ordinary bin and that a sign should be put up to that effect. It was noted that the owners of the Bannerfield had put up a fence to prevent gypsies camping on the Bannerfield. It was pointed out that there is a gate onto the Bannerfield so that it can be maintained. CB suggested that it might help if micro chipping dogs was mandatory, he thought that there were a number of unchipped dogs noting that the dog warden had been up.</p> <p>TT and CB had been to Paths For All meeting at Stirling on how to advertise and sign paths.</p> <p>DC said that culverts along the A93 needed clearing and this had been pointed out to Brian Milne who had taken over from Willy Mahoney.</p> <p>AP was concerned about the tree and bulging wall at Bridge of Cally. TT said that he will do what he can to sort this out. RB said that he will continue to measure and date the deflection on the wall. It was pointed out that the vibration from heavy lorries will accelerate this.</p> <p>TT said that the major repairs at Rochallie were likely to start in May, most of the</p>	

	<p>work being carried out at night. Other than the resurfacing stage it is hoped that the road would not be closed during the day. AP asked if it was possible that the heavy goods lorries owners such as Stevenson and James Jones, be informed that the road when diverted around Drimmie is not suitable for these vehicles.</p> <p>BN that although the road has been resurfaced at the bridge there is still a problem with the drains being blocked by leaves etc.</p> <p>TT had a meeting with Willy Mahoney about the approach to the Bridge at Cray who admitted there was a problem and he would attempt to get this addressed by lowering the level at the bottom of the slope, lifting the side and providing a grit bin.</p> <p>TT has a meeting with Willy Mahoney on Wednesday about tidying up the lay-bys and Glenshee Tourist Association would put in trees and provide picnic tables etc.</p>	
20.	A.O.C.B.	
21.	<p>D.O.N.M – May 11th following the AGM. The meeting ended with applause for the Chairman.</p>	