



Minutes of the Meeting of Beith and District Community Council
Held in Beith Community Centre on Tuesday the 9th August 2022 at 7:00pm

In Attendance:

Helen McNaughton	HM	Chair, Beith & District Community Council
James Waite	JW	Vice Chair, Beith & District Community Council
Janet Barr	JB	Beith & District Community Council
Michael Deadman	MD	Beith & District Community Council
Cllr John Bell	Cllr JB	Ward 2
Cllr Anthea Dickson	Cllr AD	Ward 2
Cllr Margaret Johnson	Cllr MJ	Ward 2
Cllr Donald L Reid	Cllr DLR	Ward 2
Sgt Douglas Clark	DC	Police Scotland

10 members of the public

		<u>Actions</u>
	Apologies: Sandy Blackwood, Robert Winning, Cllr Ronnie Stalker, Patricia Gibson MP, Christina Pieraccini	
1.	The chair welcomed all those in attendance. Apologies were recorded. Introductions were made as there were several members of the public present who had not previously been to our meetings.	
2.	<p>Police Report:</p> <p>Sgt Clark advised that rather than providing reports based on the four weeks predating the meeting, future reports will be based on calendar months. He then read out the stats for June and July (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>Sgt Clark advised that drivers of cars with keyless entry systems should invest in a Faraday box to store their key. Currently, criminals have found a way to stand beside the car while a second criminal stands next to the house with a transmitter. The key thinks someone wants access to the car so opens the doors. By using a repeater, criminals can use this trick if the car is up to 50ft away from the house. These Faraday boxes are available online and start at only £4 on Amazon.</p> <p>Sgt Clark also reported that he was pleased to see youth disorder was down by 75%. There have been no incidents over the summer at Red Brae or the former Speirs school.</p> <p>As well as Sgt Clark answered a couple of questions about Kilbirnie and Dalry as well as Beith. The security camera in Kilbirnie Main Street is monitored by NAC, not the Police.</p>	

3.	<p><u>Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> The minutes of the previous meeting had previously been circulated and were approved as an accurate record by:</p> <p><u>Proposer:</u> Janet Barr <u>Seconded:</u> Michael Deadman</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising:</u> HM has met with Sarah Watts, Choose Life Manager for North Ayrshire, who has promised to provide helpline numbers but these have not yet been received.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Planning Applications</u> None</p>	
6.	<p><u>Accounts</u> Closing Balances: Admin account £176.92 Project account £10,717.53</p> <p>The bank account has now been transferred from Brian Smith to Robert Winning. For account breakdown details, see Appendix 2.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Place Plans</u></p> <p>Place Plans are an opportunity for a community-led collaborative approach to creating great local places. They will help inform NAC planners what areas have meaning for local people as well as finding new and creative uses for vacant and derelict land, both public and privately owned. B&DCC attended a meeting in June to discuss how to create a Place Plan for the Garnock Valley (See Appendix 3). Beith Trust have applied for funding for consultants to help identify the areas in Beith that are to be developed.</p> <p>There was a lively discussion about regeneration. One of the ideas proposed was that Eglinton Street should be returned to residential uses so that shops are more concentrated around Main Street. It was also noted that despite having a few takeaway shops, there are no coffee shops in Beith, other than Mokka Jacks at Geilsland. Although Geilsland isn't far from Beith, to send people there means taking them away from the town centre. In some cases, it may be possible to use the Land Reform Act Sections 3 and 3A to force owners of derelict buildings to sell if they don't maintain them.</p> <p>One of the topics discussed was about creating a theme for the town such as marketing Beith as a music town. There were several comparisons drawn with West Kilbride's Craft Town model. There are a number of choirs and other musicians, both groups and individuals who live and operate from Beith.</p> <p>There was also a discussion about the rise of hybrid shops that have both a physical and an online presence. In some cases, the online presence was more profitable than the physical presence as they could reach people further away. For some businesses, this was a blessing but for others, it was a curse. For example, the gift shop not only survived but thrived thanks to online sales. For the local butcher, he was making more money online than with a physical shop so has closed his doors, leaving another empty shop in Main Street.</p>	

	<p>When asked if anyone present would be interested in joining a group to focus on Place Plans and regeneration, there were six volunteers from the floor. JW collected contact details.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Place Framework – NAC Regeneration Team</u></p> <p>While the Place Plans are community-led, Place Frameworks are council and developer led. NAC has funding available for this project. Currently, there are pilots in Kilwinning, Saltcoats and Largs. Garnock Valley is the next area to be covered. The projects need to be realistic and deliverable within the timescales. They have two main questions to answer: What does our town need? How do we move this forward?</p>	
8.	<p><u>Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) – Sustaining Choices</u></p> <p>PAS are an Edinburgh based consultant who work across Scotland. They are helping NAC to prepare a transport strategy by Jan 2023. There was a presentation on 6th July where they gave a presentation followed by questions about how to move around the Garnock Valley such as walking, cycling and using public transport. Unfortunately, the Garnock Valley scores were low. Some issues were identified such as existing walking routes and paths not being adequate. For example, there is no off-road route to Dalry from either Kilbirnie or Beith. NCN 7 uses the Auchengree road. Other concerns included public transport infrastructure, i.e. trains and station facilities but more importantly, the state of the current bus services. The recent changes are not meeting the needs of the community and some people are already having to give up their jobs because they now can't get to work.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Queen's Platinum Jubilee</u></p> <p>This event was a huge success. The weather was good and the turnout from Beith and the surrounding area was incredible. It was hoped that this would be an event to remember and a story to tell the grandkids as there will not be another Platinum Jubilee this century. Part of the legacy of the Jubilee is an effort to keep Beith's history alive, not just furniture making but also other aspects as well. Part of the outdoor gym project will include the placement of heritage signs to denote key places and events.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Beith Community Association</u></p> <p>At the AGM a few months ago, a new Executive was formed and this group is more community focused than has been the case for many years. The Association has started the new larder called "Beith Community Spence"; they are supporting the new committee with Lights 'n' Laughter for the switch on of the Christmas lights; there will be meals provided on Christmas Day to help tackle food poverty and social isolation over the festive period. Looking ahead to next year, St Inan's fete will be a week long celebration as it will be the 90th anniversary of the first event. There are also discussions about Hallowe'en events for children and events for adults too. B&DCC organise a Best Dressed Window at Christmas. It was suggested that they organise a similar event for Hallowe'en. It was also suggested that a treasure hunt could be set up to find key items in shop windows. This would be fun for the kids but also bring families into the town.</p>	

11.	<p><u>Mental Health & Well Being Monitoring</u></p> <p>The monitoring form has been submitted. The first part of the funding has been received but not the second part. H MCN to chase up</p>	H McN
12.	<p><u>Emergency Services Event</u></p> <p>The Kilbirnie Ambulance Station are holding a community event on Saturday 20 August from 11am – 4pm. The event has now grown to include the Fire Station and the Scouts next door to the Ambulance Depot. The 3x CCs are taking a stall. This will give us an opportunity to progress and promote some of the consultations that are on the go.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Garnock Valley Working Groups</u></p> <p>There was some discussion about the working of the three Locality sub-groups: Facilities & Amenities meets in person on the first Wednesday of the month in Bridgend Community Centre, Kilbirnie; Moving Around meet online on the second Wednesday of the month and is chaired by Dalry CC's Peter Stevenson whilst Work & Local Community meet online on the third Thursday of the month and is chaired by JW. These groups have been going for about five years now and are getting a bit stale. All three need new blood and new ideas to bring new life to the groups.</p> <p>The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership is made up of NAC Councillors, one rep from each of the three CCs, the North Ayrshire HSCP and other public sector groups, including schools. There are also three Community Rep positions which need to be filled. The previous Reps were due to stand down at the June meeting and then the Locality would seek to recruit volunteers, ideally one from each town, to ensure the voices of the community are heard. Unfortunately, the recent campaign has only brought in two applicants, both from Dalry. There were no volunteers from Beith or Kilbirnie.</p>	
14.	<p><u>Stagecoach Update</u></p> <p>On 21 June, we hosted a public meeting in Beith Community Centre that was so well supported by people from across the Garnock Valley and beyond that we had to set up repeater speakers out in the car park because there wasn't enough room in the hall! Kenneth Gibson MSP had put out an update on social media that ScotGov were to continue to provide Covid funding until October but despite this and other representations to Stagecoach from Community Councillors, Local Authorities, MSPs and MPs, they went ahead with their timetable revision on 17 July. This means that the last bus out of Glasgow will be at 5.15pm, therefore anyone working 9-5 in Glasgow will be hard pushed to get home again by bus. There are also concerns about changes in the early morning timetable, in particular, people can no longer get to their work on time, especially those who start before 9am.</p> <p>Whilst part of the focus has been about Beith to Glasgow, the removal of the Express buses means that there is a corresponding lack of services from Beith to Irvine / Kilwinning / Ardrossan. There is still the 25 scheme bus to Irvine but it takes such a long route to get to Irvine that it is quicker to take the car. There are also a number of variations of the 25 service that you need the app to work out the timetable. It is no longer as simple as saying at x minutes past / to the hour there will be a bus because some of the buses terminate earlier on the route than other buses.</p>	

	<p>As well as office workers, these changes are having a detrimental affect on the hospitality and entertainment sectors, two of the areas worst hit by Covid and who were just getting back on their feet. At a time when the government is trying to get people out of cars and onto public transport, Stagecoach decisions mean that people are coming off public transport and back into cars. The recent warm weather shows some of the effects of climate change. Stagecoach decisions therefore contradict the government’s messages about tackling climate change.</p> <p>Apart from reduced passenger numbers – and we can’t know exactly what those passenger numbers are because Stagecoach are refusing to release the data, hiding behind the excuse that it is “commercially sensitive information” – the other problem Stagecoach has is a lack of drivers. Currently, there are 300 vacancies for bus drivers. Part of the reason is poor pay and conditions for bus drivers. The other reason is Brexit, which saw a number of foreign EU national HGV drivers going back to their home country. Bus drivers then cross trained from PCV to HGV licences and were, in some cases, able to double their salaries. There is still a shortage of HGV drivers, so why would anyone choose to become a bus driver? Passenger numbers are down just now, during the summer, but when students return to college and university in September, it will be interesting to see what happens to passenger numbers then. 16-25 year olds can apply for free bus travel but this card does not work on trains.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>There are a few consultations on the go just now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant & Derelict Land Strategy – shared on FB • SG Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy – shared on FB • Sustainable Transport in the Garnock Valley – shared on FB • Regional Transport Strategy – shared with CC members <p>It was noted that the upcoming Chairs & Vice Chairs meeting that was due to be held on 22nd August has now been rescheduled to Wed 31st. This is a hybrid meeting held on Teams and in person at the Fullarton Centre in Irvine.</p> <p>The dates of next meetings for the next year were given on the agenda, including guest speakers from HSCP to discuss Beith Health Centre at our October meeting and our AGM on 8th November.</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p>With no further public business to discuss, the meeting was brought to a close by the Chair.</p>	
	<p>The next meeting of Beith and District Community Council will take place on Tuesday 13 September 2022 in Beith Community Centre.</p>	

Appendix 1: Police Reports

Sub-Divisional Update

The main area of concern for myself is the lack of information coming to the police in relation to drugs offences within the whole Garnock Valley. Can I urge we are contacted in relation to this.

The 4 highlighted crime/offences of thefts, vandalisms, communications and road traffic offences – Do you want to continue with these 4 or would you rather have different crimes/offences referenced?

Other relevant Information

Data collated between 01/06/2022 and 30/06/2022

147 calls to police resulting in 29 crime reports being raised.

Same time period - Last year calls: 139 Last month calls: 125

1. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse – 3
2. **Violence and Antisocial Behaviour** –
Assaults: 4 Noise: 1 Disturb: 4 Damage: 2
Public nuisance 2 of which 2 were youth related.
3. **Dishonesty – Thefts - Inc. Housebreakings**
Theft: 6 H/B: 0 Vehicle crime: 2
4. **Road Safety/Road Crime** –
Road traffic matters: 15 Road Traffic Collisions: 6
Road Traffic offences: 6

Immediate calls: 14
Missing Persons calls: 1
Concern for Person calls: 6

Crime Statistics : Monthly Report

Crime Type	Offences	Detected	Issues
Theft	6	1	
Vandalism	4	1	
Communications	1	0	
Road traffic offences	5	5	

Other relevant Information

Data collated between 01/07/2022 and 31/07/2022

167 calls to police resulting in 23 crime reports being raised.

Same time period - Last year calls: 172 Last month calls: 147

1. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse – 3
2. **Violence and Antisocial Behaviour** –
Assaults: 0 Noise: 5 Disturb: 9 Damage: 3
Public nuisance 3 of which 0 were youth related.
3. **Dishonesty – Thefts - Inc. Housebreakings**
Theft: 2 H/B: 1 Vehicle crime: 0
4. **Road Safety/Road Crime** –
Road traffic matters: 9 Road Traffic Collisions: 6
Road Traffic offences: 1

Immediate calls: 22

Missing Persons calls: 7

Concern for Person calls: 8

Crime Statistics : Monthly Report

Crime Type	Offences	Detected	Issues
Theft	2	0	
Vandalism	1	0	
Communications	4	3	
Road traffic offences	2	1	

Appendix 2: Accounts

Statement 2022/2023 -BEITH AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Account Overview	Balance	Income (Plus in hand balance)	Expenditure	Bank Balance	Variance
Admin	£176.92	£782.20	£605.28	£176.92	£0.00
Special Projects	£10,717.53	£13,578.29	£2,860.76	£10,717.53	£0.00
Overall	£10,894.45	£14,360.49	£3,466.04	£10,894.45	£0.00

All Accounts have been balanced 03/08 - Accounts are up to date with no monies owed or pending transactions.

The Platinum Jubilee Project overspent by £457.27, Due in part to the bench costing more than originally expected and extra bunting required at the Garden area. The special projects account had previously unspent funds sufficient to cover this additional spend.

We are still awaiting a 25k grant awarded for the Beith Fitness moving around project. The new treasurer is still awaiting on line access to the accounts but can now transact on both accounts by visiting the bank.

As requested we have added a rolling project summary page to track spending and create more focus on breaking down the various budgets.

Projects Spend Breakdown

	Platinum Jubilee	Fitness Project	Next Event
Cash In	£2,200.00	£9,991.50	£0.00
Spend	£2,657.27	£0.00	£0.00
Overall	-£457.27	£9,991.50	£0.00

Appendix 3: Place Plans

Place Plans 22.06.22

In attendance

BDCC - Helen McNaughton; Robert Winning; Janet Barr & Michael Deadman

KGCC – Catherine Wigzell & Allan Wright

Dalry CC – Sheena Woodside; John Higgins

Beith Trust – Jae Lamont

NAC – Christina Pieraccini; Alastair Gemmell

Key points:

New National Plan and LDP£ will be measured against Place Plans

Development or use of land

- Housing / tourism
- Open space & play – retaining & improvement
- Conservation
- Town improvement / neighbourhoods
- Renewable energy / flood prevention
- Active travel & community food growing

Place plans will influence next LDP3

- Support community aspirations on the big challenges – climate change & inequalities
- Identify buildings & land important to communities

LDP3 by end of 2023 or by March 2024

1. Guidance expected summer 2022
2. Evidence report late 2023
3. Proposed Place Plans late 2024

No specific requirement to consult with community but is recommended

No requirement to take forward Place Plans

- Voluntary
- Community led
- Principally about the use and development of land
- Needs to meet legislation and timescales – there will be some flexibility
- Can and should link in existing community planning activities
- Support from NAC – advice, guidance & technical support
- Needs to be realistic and deliverable

Beith Development Trust applying for ICF to secure consultants to take forward and requesting to work in partnership with BDCC

Group requested training on Community Empowerment Act and mapping of land ownership