

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman's Report June 2022

In carrying out our function of liaison between the community and the Local Authority and other statutory bodies, all meetings of the Community Council in the past year were held by Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. Although restrictions are now relaxed, it was considered more straightforward to conclude the session in the same mode. Discussion with Stirling Council will take place over the recess regarding a return to live meetings. Venues will also be considered and appropriate notice will be issued prior to the next meeting in September 2022.

The major events in the past year included progression of proposals for the former Killearn Hotel, where a start on rebuilding as 16 flats commenced in August 2021 and will be completed between August and October this year.

Following protracted discussions, approval was given to construct 89 houses on the former Killearn Hospital site. Work is due to commence in August this year with decontamination of the site and link path to the village comprising the initial phases. There have been no further plans so far to develop the remaining 20% of the site.

We await further information from Rural Stirling Housing Association regarding the proposed development at Lampson Road.

In order to save time at meetings, the Community Council decided not to continue noting all planning applications, but to continue posting the planning schedule on our web site and discussing only the items of significant interest at meetings, noting the occasions where comment or objection is to be forwarded to Stirling Council.

Regarding roads, there has been constant dialogue with Stirling Council regarding the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, the zebra crossings in the village and of course the bridges at Branshogle and Catter Burn. We have asked for constant updates on progress and remain frustrated at the delays with bridge repairs and the impact on the community. Contracts for repair are only now being issued and disruption has been ongoing since February 2021. Impacts on bridges at Honeyholm and Blane Smiddy have also been highlighted to the Roads Department.

In addition to this, we await remarking of the road at the former Bank.

A further audit of all roads and pavements has been undertaken and defects reported to Stirling Council. We will continue to request these noted defects are included in maintenance programmes.

Over the Christmas period, the Community Council again worked with the local nursery organisations and gave cards to elderly people within the village and continued to assure residents we were there should assistance be required.

In conjunction with Killearn Futures Company and Killearn Trust, Christmas lighting was again erected on lamp posts within the village.

Liaison was undertaken with Caledonian Water in respect of repairs to sewage pipes in the Cow Field, and with landowners in respect of dry stone wall repairs and access to the moor from Kirkhouse Wood.

An ongoing concern has been the poor Broadband delivery to areas of the village and to the Primary School. The lack of action by BT and Openreach has been extremely frustrating. The Community

Council is indebted to Doug Ashworth and Euan Shaw for their continued efforts to seek improvement.

Thanks are due to Caroline Carrick for continuing to work with representatives from CALA Homes, James Henderson at Oakwood, Keith McLellan at Country Cycles and Alyn Smith MP to develop plans for an Active Travel path route from the new development at the former Hospital site to the village. Given the scale of the development and the location of local school and health services within the village, this proposal is key to helping to encourage families and individuals to feel safe and confident in cycling or walking to the village.

Our thanks are extended to Councillors Alistair Berrill, Rob Davies and latterly Jane Hutchison for their efforts on our behalf. We welcome new Councillors Rosemary Fraser, Paul Henke and Gerry McGarvey and look forward to receiving similar support in future.

I would also like to thank all other community councillors (Heidi Bryce, Caroline Carrick, Andrew Donaldson, Susie Henderson, Elizabeth Jones, Hilary McGregor and Fiona Rennie) for all of their help and support throughout the year, and of course our minutes secretary, Christine Bauwens, who has carried out the unenviable task of capturing all dialogue at our meetings and lastly to the community for their attendance, input and discussion.

Our final input of the session has been to support the village in conjunction with other organisations in arranging events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Killearn Community Council congratulates the Queen on achieving this unique milestone.

Jim Ptolomey