

Forth and Endrick News – Killearn – Wednesday, 18th Oct 2017

*Arnprior Balfroun Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen Fintry Gargunnock **Killearn**
Kippen Strathblane*

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Bin Collections – Blue Box Changes:** Concerns have been raised over the recent change of collection of Blue Box Glass collection from 2 weeks to 4 weeks. I've asked the portfolio holder Cllr Jim Thomson if residents can request a 2nd blue box. He confirmed that this should be possible through the contact centre on 01786 404040. According to officers the change is due to the glass collection service not being fully utilised with blue boxes partially filled. However, I am concerned that this is a response to mainly urban collections and not rural ones, and I am looking for comments from community councils on this.
- **Road Maintenance Programme 2017 – 2018 Endrick and Blane: A Roads:** A81 (Ward Toll) SD and Patching = £14K; A81 (Duntreath - Blanefield) SD and Patching = £18K; A81 (Mid Ballat) SD and Patching = £17K; A811 (Oxhill - Buchlyvie) HRA Inlay = £80K; **A875 (Blackhill - Boquhan) HRA Overlay = £50K;** A81 (Mid Ballewan - Blanefield) HRA Overlay = £60K; **B Roads:** B822 (Cauldhame - Kippen) SD and Patching = £35K; B835 (Gartinstarry - Buchlyvie) SD and Patching = £23K; B818 (Fish Lodge - Fintry) SD and Patching; B818 (Carron Valley - Fintry) SD and Patching = £23K; B818 (Water Works - Fintry) SD and Patching = £15K; B822 (Station Rd - Kippen) SD and Patching = £20K; B822 (Balafark - Kippen) HRA Overlay = £70K; B821 (Station Rd - Blanefield) HRA Inlay = £65K; B818 (Bogside - Fintry) HRA Overlay = £40K; B835 (Arnfechlach - Buchlyvie) Full Construction = £20K; **C Roads and Streets: C54 (Ballochruin - Killearn/Balfroun) SD = £12.5K;** C118 (Finnery Road - Croftamie) HRA Overlay = £40K; C6 (Critreoch - Rowardennan) HRA Overlay = £30K Start; Lernock Rd (Balfroun - Fintry) HRA Overlay = £36K; **Drumtlan Rd (Killearn) HRA Overlay = £15K Start; Drumbeg Loan (Killearn) HRA Overlay = £70K; Harpers Rd. (Killearn) HRA Inlay = £20K; Footways:** B822 (Kippen) Overlay = £15K; B818 (Bogside - Fintry) Stabilisation = £60K; **Harpers Rd. (Killearn) Inlay = £20K;** Spinner St/Kirkmill Rd. (Balfroun) Inlay = £25K; **Station Rd. (Killearn) Inlay = £40K;** **Other Projects:** Rural Road Safety = £30K; City/Region Deal - Smart Screens (£14K each) - Drymen, Balfroun; Tactran - Bankers Brae - Completed?; **Killearn Park = £15K;** Additional Resources from 2017 Budget - Rural Carriageways = £100K, Rural Footways = £150K. **Key:** SD Surface Dress, HRA Hot Rolled Asphalt. **Update:** Subject to change as projects are brought forward into 2017.
- **Killearn Roads Inspection – Drumbeg Loan and Harpers Road:** I visited the works at Drumbeg Loan on Tuesday 19th Sept and spoke to the supervisor who happened to be a Killearn man. The program is for a 4 week closure with repairs to include new drainage, kerbing, footpaths, and an HRA (Hot Rolled Asphalt) resurface. However, this is only for the top half of the road – I will be insisting that the lower section is included in the 2018/2019 schedule. I also inspected the Harpers Road pavement work and it looks high quality with bevelled kerbs to allow smooth drive access. My inspection also included The Branziert estate which is not in a good condition along with a number of other Killearn estate roads and the Main Street. **Update:** The Harpers Road resurfacing is due to be done mid-November. I've also asked if the pavement outside the nearby bungalows can be done at the same time.

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- **Balfron Station Bridge Repair: Update:** According to the latest communication from Scottish Water the road the road will be closed for 3 months starting on 18th September. I've asked if this means that the bridge will be fully repaired by the 18th of December – a longer repair time than we anticipated. **Contact:** Scott Fraser, Corporate affairs Regional Manager, Mobile@: 07875872872 Scottish Water – www.scottishwater.co.uk
- **Road Safety – Finnich Glen Site Visit:** Residents are probably aware of an increase in parked cars and visitors at this site. This has been mainly as a result of the Glen been used as a film location – The Eagle, Outlander, King Arthur. The landowner of the Glen has been at pains not to disclose the location but I note that VisitScotland have it featured on their community page. I met with the landowner some years ago to discuss a visitor centre and car-park which at the time did not appear to get much support from planning officers. I would like to re-open this one and am looking for the views of CCs and residents to see what level of support there is. Short term the police have been up several times and we may need to place police no waiting cones at the bridge. The council have erected bollards which may have exacerbated the problem. **Update:** I attended a site visit in July with: the land owner; 2 members of Killearn CC; 2 police officers; and a council roads officer. During the visit we were able to assess the: Inadequate parking; Lack of proper pathways and viewing platforms; Lack of visitor facilities etc. Both Killearn CC and my-self have requested the installation of information signs highlighting the dangers of the glen. Margaret also provided a comprehensive report of the visit highlighting all of the salient concerns. The landowner has ambitious proposals to create a visitor centre on the site which the council's economic development team are aware of. Stuart Oliver (Service Manager - Economic Development) has visited the site and there could be some partnership opportunities. In the short to medium term car and visitor numbers will need to be managed and given the popularity of the Outlander series visitor numbers will probably increase. The other suggestion is to look at how similar sites are visitor managed e.g. Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve (National Trust for Scotland). **Note:** The Glen is entirely within the Croftamie CC area although the associated Carnock Burn from the base of the Glen to the Blane Burn is in the Killearn CC area. **Update:** I am very concerned that the warning signs have not yet been erected and are nearly a month overdue. A strong email has been sent to the relevant officers asking for a specific date when this will be done. I have had a request for the council to install double yellow lines at the bridge possibly with 40 mph signs. I also understand that there are historical plans to improve the junction with the B834 and the A809.
- **Road Safety – Glengoyne Distillery:** The lack of parking for Dumgoyne hill walkers has been raised by CCs and residents. A previous plan for a walkers car-park on land owned by Duntreath Estates was approved some years ago, but has now lapsed. This could be revisited but it would be unlikely that any new car-park would be free. The other option is to approach the distillery to see if they have any spare sites for a car-park. Given that the average spend per distillery visitor is around £26 they may be reluctant to provide a free car-park unless the council or other body paid for it. **Update:** There has been a suggestion that a bus bay is created on the left side of the road, near to the Dumgoyne access path. I am planning to speak to the distillery management about this and also if the speed warning signs can be adjusted to a lower speed limit.

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- **Road Safety – B837 Milton of Buchanan Cycle Lanes:** I have driven over this route several times over the summer and admit it looks confusing. I spoke to some residents in Balmaha who have observed that the new layout appears to be contributing to a reduction in speed at the school. Also, the Buchanan Community Action Plan states: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT: PRIORITY 3 SAFE CYCLING ROUTES Pursue establishment of a cycle route between Drymen, Balmaha and Rowardennan. **Update:** I've contacted the Buchanan Primary HT and Balfron Police for their views. They have responded positively, particularly after new white lining was installed at the top and bottom of the cycle lanes.
- **Stirling and Ward Bridge Closures:** There are 2 other planned closures. **1).** Springkerse in Stirling to allow Network Rail to install rail electrification cabling – 6 month full closure starting in early 2018, but dependent on the approval of a traffic management plan. **2).** Catterburn Bridge on the A809m at Croftamie – partial closure, with traffic lights, to allow repair/replacement of the old sandstone bridge. Repair work is unlikely to be carried out before completion of the Ballat Bridge and length of repair time will depend on issues such as whether the bridge is listed. **Update:** The bridge is not listed and it looks like it will not need a full replacement. However, extensive work will be required to repair the spandrels (between the arches) and parapets.
- **Policing:** PC Ray Murphy has transferred to the road traffic division. His replacement is PC Scott Craigie who has worked in the Balfron area for some time. The new Divisional Commander of Forth Valley is Chief Superintendent Thom McLoughlin. Thom was a junior officer in Stirlingshire and knows the area challenges very well. One of those challenges is to address the consistency of police attendances at CC meetings – an issue that is due to be debated at the first meeting of the new Public Safety committee. Contact details for local police are ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk or use the 101 number. For Stirling Police matters check the **Stirling Police Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/stirlingpol>
- **Income Generation:** Following a meeting with KCFC (Killearn Community Futures Company) I met with Carol Beattie and Stuart Oliver (Stirling Council Economic Development Team) to discuss some options for Killearn. One of those was a potential solar array on the Killearn Hospital site as part of a wider mixed development of the site. We are also looking at a site in Mugdock Country Park for a solar farm - Stirling Council has a proposal for an energy company. The council now have an in-house team who have carried out a site visit to Mugdock and that expertise could be available to communities. One long held ambition I have had is to see every community benefitting from a renewable project as seen in Gargunnoch, Kippen, and Fintry who are set to see some £20K per annum flow into their Community Benefit Funds - £500K over 25 years for each community, from the Kingsburn Wind Energy Extension. (Part of the original Earlsburn development). Reference Websites: **Fintry Development Trust** www.fintrydt.org.uk **Fintry Community Council Community Fund** www.fintrycommunitycouncil.org.uk/fcc-community-fund.html
- **National Park:** I attended an inaugural meeting with James Stewart (Chairman), Gordon Watson (CEO), Willie (Nisbet), and an Argyll Councillor last month. I also attended a full meeting of the board on Monday 18th Sept. First full meeting of the new board – 11th December.

- **Killearn Planning Issues:**

- **Killearn Hotel:** Residents will no doubt be aware of the decision by the planning panel to grant approval for the conversion of the hotel to 14 residential apartments. This was a very difficult decision for myself and Cllr Berrill as we were torn between opposing and supporting the application. A significant factor was the current condition of the building, particularly the roof which if left was in danger of permanent deterioration. Also, the application sought to retain the historical façade of the building, the pitched roof using local slate, with no increase in the overall height of the building. The panel also recognised the demand for this type of apartment, the lack of economic activity on the site, and the contribution to affordable housing. If the panel had chosen to refuse the application there is every chance that the applicant would have appealed the decision. The application includes a contribution for affordable housing of £173,250. I've asked when that will be available and where in Killearn it will be used. I am personally very sorry to lose the hotel but in the circumstances the panel probably made the correct decision.
- **Killearn Hospital Site:** I recently contacted the site owner and made him aware of the City/Region deal <http://www.investinstirling.com/why-stirling/city-development-framework/>. Currently there are no rural based projects west of the M9 and I have concerns that the City/Region deal is too urban centric. The Killearn Hospital site could be that rural project. Councils also now have much more flexibility to pump prime projects so I will be working with the site owner and our economic development officers to get something moving on the site. The Killearn Hotel decision makes this even more important.

- **Other Issues:**

- **Blane Burn Bridge Parapet B834:** I've asked the new Bridges Officer to look at this. Maria Lucey MEng (Hons) CEng MICE. Update: The officer has confirmed that the bridge is safe but repairs will not be made until the next financial year. The driver is being pursued by the council for costs.
 - **Birch Road Bungalow Water Runoff:** Plan to visit week of 23rd Oct.
 - **Main Street Lifting of Waiting Restrictions:** I've followed this up with a reminder to the Director.
 - **Community Council Personal Liability Insurance:** Following my last CC meeting I've asked if this cost can be met in full or in part by the council.
 - **Community Council Review:** There have been some mixed views about the need for this although I would encourage CCs to complete the survey before the cut off on 29th Nov 2017.
- **Jim Fleming Funeral:** Along with hundreds of other mourners, I attended the funeral of Mr Fleming the highly respected former head teacher at Balfron High. Mr Fleming's leadership and direction has helped to establish Balfron High as one of the top achieving schools in Scotland and he is fondly remembered by many former pupils, including myself when he taught at McLaren High.
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