



“Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas Killearn”

Councillor Graham Lambie  
Forth and Endrick Ward  
Stirling Council

## **Forth and Endrick News – Killearn – Wed, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

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

### **Councillor Lambie Report**

- **Police Patrols attended by Cllr Lambie:** I attended an Iron Works National Park police patrol in late summer. This included a visit to the Police Safety Camera at Lochearnhead. The camera is permanently manned, not automatic as I had first thought, and has been a significant factor in the reduction of fatalities in rural Stirlingshire including the Forth and Endrick ward. I attended another Iron Works Patrol on in autumn which also included speed checks using a Handheld Laser Speed Meter (UNIPAR SL700 meter). These checks were carried out on the A891 at Strathblane. We were pleased to see that drivers were complying with the speed limits and no drivers were stopped and cautioned.  
**Update:** There have been some house breaking crimes in the area including: Oakwood Post Office (Killearn) and Forestry Commission Depot (Aberfoyle). Also, tragic fatality of young man in Doune – would a 20 mph limit have saved him? At this time of year it is prudent to fit a set of Winter Tyres. These may have prevented some of the the recent incidents on the B818 Fintry to Denny road.
- **Roads – Speed Limits:** Gargunnock has had a 20 mph for some period and feedback has been positive. Other villages looking to install 20mph limits include: Balfon; Kippen; Fintry; Strathblane. Ref: Road Safety Charity [www.brake.org.uk](http://www.brake.org.uk)
- **Roads – Balfon – C54 Ballochruin Road:** We are very pleased to note that the section of the C54 in Balfon CC will be resurfaced starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct for 4 days approx. The budget for this will be £100K Approx. (original budget was £62) and will resurface 900m of carriageway up to Indians Rd. I’ve contacted some local residents about this including the Woodland Experience, and I’m hoping this will help their customers in accessing their site more comfortably and safely.  
**Update:** I drove along the road on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov and the works were good.  
**(Appendix 1: Road Maintenance Programme 2018 – 2019)**
- **Roads Programme 2018 – Forth and Endrick:** The past programme has been the most extensive I have experienced in over 11 years a councillor and we have been able to repair and resurface previously ‘hard to get’ sections such as the C54 (Above), C56 (Mugdock) and C118 (Croftamie). There has also been some good work with estate roads in Killearn and Balfon along with essential work on the A roads. However, the challenge for future years is to maintain this level of road repair. The council are looking at a longer term 10 year capital programme which would include road investment. This would allow officers to plan ahead with respect to: Budgeting; Staffing; Equipment; Materials etc.
- **Road Safety - Gargunnock Petition:** I raised this with the roads officers at the Environment and Housing Committee. There is still outstanding work to be completed between Kirk Land and Station Road. This will include: White Lining; New Signage; and Road Studs (Cats Eyes). The road department are planning to undertake this work within the next 2 months. The approx. value of the works is £10K. **Note:** A petition can be raised by any member of a community and requires 25 signatures. The petition is then sent to the appropriate committee – e.g. Environment and Housing Committee in the case of Gargunnock. Elected members are allowed to speak at the committee in support of a petition but are not allowed to sign a petition.



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- **Roads – Bridges:** There are two outstanding repairs to be completed at Blane Burn (Killearn); Cattermill (Croftamie). I have been in contact with Maria Lucey (Bridge Engineer) for progress but am not expecting work on the bridges to start this year. Some good news – The Kerse Bridge in Stirling is now open. **Update:** I’ve asked roads if priority arrows can be installed at the Cattermill and if the arrows on the Blane Burn are the wrong way round.
- **Road Safety – Finnich Glen:** The owner has engaged the services of Bell Ingram (Planning Consultants) and a public consultation was run at Killearn Church Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept which I attended. The presentation included plans for: Carparking; Footbridges; Viewing platforms; Visitor Centre; Toilets etc. Feedback was largely positive although we have yet to see the results of the survey forms. I am reassured that the consultants have received positive responses from potential funders who see the economic development opportunities from the site. Also, Stirling Council roads officers see no issue with access from the B834 (Station Rd) – where the main immediate aims are getting parked cars and visitors off the road, and navigating the site safely.
- **Road Safety – Balmaha:** During this last summer the car parks at Balmaha and other sites on East Loch Lomond were completely full of traffic with a Motor Homes and Camper Vans a particular challenge. The National Park held a stake holder group meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug to address the challenges and present an action plan with some short and long term traffic management solutions.
- **Winter Service Policy Changes:** Following the severe winter weather of last year there have been some suggested improvements to the Winter Service Policy including: Provision of Community Salt Bins for villages that do not qualify for salt bins i.e. gradient of 1:17 or less; Faster deployment of the Tayforth Machinery Ring contractors; Current Policy - “The Hire arrangements of the Tayforth Machinery Ring will only be instructed if the Director of Localities & Infrastructure considers that extreme adverse conditions are likely to prevail for a period in excess of **10 days**”. Proposed Policy Change will delegate that deployment to the Senior Manager (Environment and Place) **without the 10 days**. I would also encourage all communities to re-visit their Community Resilience plans particularly with regard to grit bin locations. It is also recognised by the Council the great efforts by communities in ‘digging’ out their villages and the crucial role of volunteers in extreme weather conditions.
- **Additional Grit Bins:** If communities are looking for extra grit bin sites, this has been included in the community resilience/emergency plan to cover criteria such as: Number of Properties; Number of elderly/vulnerable people; Lack of a footpath in a residential street; Availability of volunteers to treat surfaces etc.
- **Fintry Crow Road B822 Priority 1 Retained:** I am very pleased to see that there is no change to the winter treatment of the Crow Rd. It will remain as a Priority 1 route I will be asking what the traffic flows are on the B818 to Denny and if it qualifies for an upgrade to Priority 1. **Note:** The crow road is on a cross boundary route between Stirling and East Dunbartonshire and qualifies as a Priority 1 route with a lower number of vehicle daily movements than non-cross boundary routes.



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- **Road Maintenance - Capital Programme 2018/2019:** This has still to be approved by council at the budget meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Having seen a draft of the programme I would be confident that the council will approve an increase in Road Maintenance which will allocate funding as follows:
  - **Carriageways – 77%**
  - **Footways – 15%**
  - **Bridges, Structures and Retaining Walls – 5%**
  - **Road Safety Improvements – 3%**
- **Road Safety Improvements:** These will include Speed Activated Signage, new and /or School travel plans, and 40mph buffer zones. It is the intention that there will be much more participatory opportunities for communities to engage with officers about roads issues in their communities. I attended 2 road site visits in Killearn and Strathblane with CC members and roads officers. Indeed the Strathblane visit to the foot of Station Rd. resulted in roads officers reversing the priority arrows on their proposed plan, after consultation with community members. Update: These works are nearing completion
- **Roads – A811 Trunk Upgrade Request Follow Up:** Since my original request last year, a new Transport Minister has been appointed. Michael Matheson MSP. He is also relatively local being the MSP for Falkirk West and knows Stirling well. I will redraft the request and ask the minister to attend a route visit to the A811. **Update:** I note the works that West Dunbartonshire Council have completed on their section of the A811 – does this make the road more adoptable?
- **Transportation – DRT and Scheduled Bus Services:** At the Environment Committee on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb a paper on the extension of some rural services was presented. This included an early evening service C12 from Balfron to Stirling departing at 18:10 every Friday and Saturday. This pilot has been extended until August 2017 and usage numbers will be presented to the Environment committee after that. At a recent meeting in Balfron the Use it or Lose it statement was stressed. I have also raised a request from Drymen CC to extend the B9 service to include a 4pm run. **Update:** All 3 ward Cllrs have met with roads officers to discuss the options for a Sunday service for the **C11/C12** routes, with a follow up meeting with Cllr Jim Thomson (Environment Convenor) timetabled in October. The council are also actively looking at setting up a Public Transport company.
- **Participatory Budgeting:** This sits within the recommendations of the Christie Commission and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which support a model of decentralised decision making. Local authorities should allocate at least 1% of all budgets via Participatory Budgeting by the financial year 2020/2021. Stirling Council = £700K to be allocated across 7 wards (**£25K Revenue and £75K capital**). It is recommended that community projects have a minimum level of **£10K** and maximum of **£50K**. Lessons have been learned from the “Your Place Your Priorities” held in Callander Primary School where good projects in Forth and Endrick lost out.



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- **Killean Issues:**
  - **Station Rd Island Works:** I had a good look at this on Tuesday night after the Balfron High Concert. I note the comments in the KCC November minutes but don't know what the response from council roads officer was.
  - **Killearn Public Toilets:** I was very disappointed to note that the toilets have been locked and have asked officers for comments, particularly as the village has no 'official' alternative such as a comfort partnership as exists in Balmaha and Drymen.
  - **Killean CC Minutes:** Following Cllr Davies report on several CCs not reforming this is concerning as these villages now don't have statutory consultees for planning. One suggestion is that Cllrs engage with the relevant development trusts although that would have to be by invitation as they are not public meetings.
  - **Blaressan Development:** I have noted the complaints about breach of working hours conditions and will arrange to visit the site in the new year.
- **Planning - Referrals to Planning Panels:** There has been a very significant change to the referral to planning panel procedure which now allows a referral to come from **Significant Local Objection:** "The application receives 5 or more competent written objections on a non-householder planning application and the Appointed Officer is minded to approve the application." This means that if a local Cllr 'missed' a referral or didn't want to make one (It's not a statutory duty for a Cllr) then there is a backup procedure for a community. Update: A community referral was made to the last planning panel where 6 competent objections were submitted from neighbouring properties.
- **Mugdock Country Park:** We are hoping that the Engine Shed (Stirling) team will take on the Craighend Castle site as a live restoration project. Commercial income is looking very positive with £177K from the last financial year. It costs £450K to run the park with 87% provided by East Dunbartonshire and 12.5% from Stirling Council, who own the park and lease it to East Dunbartonshire. It is possible that the Park could become self-sustaining, and given the budgetary pressures on both councils this has been welcomed by politicians and officers alike.
- **National Park:** The planning committee attended two site visits to look at approved applications: Buchanan Hydro; Loch Achray and Loch Chon Camping Sites. Also, very positive reactions to RSHA Housing at Balmaha approval. I also attended the launch/opening of the Balmaha pontoon which will open up more opportunities to divert visitors away from vehicle access and onto boat access into East Loch Lomondside. Parking or lack of it is becoming a serious issue for the park and Stirling council. I've suggested we look at how the Lake District manage visitor access such as greater use of public transport including shuttle buses. One solution is to extend the carpark at Balmaha, which would mean obtaining land from the forestry commission. Any carpark extension would almost inevitably lead to car-parking charges. **Update:** All of the new board members have been inducted and it looks like a strong team with a wide range of skills.
- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 [lambieg@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:lambieg@stirling.gov.uk)



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<b>Appendix 1: Road Maintenance Programme 2018 – 2019</b>			
<b>A Roads</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>A811 Dasherhead to Kippen</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>£82 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A811 Buchlyvie to Redlairdston</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>£16 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A811 Arnprior Approach (East)</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>£20 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A81 Balfroon Station to Blane Smithy</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>£47 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A811 Kepculloch (A875 Junction)</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£71 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A809 Edenmill</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£93 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A875 Killearn Coop</b>	<b>HRA</b>	<b>£44 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>B Roads</b>			
<b>B822 Kippen Muir</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>£13 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>B822 Crow Road</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£142 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>C Roads</b>			
<b>C118 Pirniehall @ Junction A809</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£17 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>			
<b>Balfroon - Lernock Rd</b>	<b>Overlay</b>	<b>£36 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Buchlyvie - Heights Rd</b>	<b>Overlay</b>	<b>£20 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Streets</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>Balfroon – Kirkmill Rd</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£32 K</b>	<b>Nov/Dec</b>
<b>Killearn – Elm/Cedar Rds</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£40 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Footpaths</b>			
<b>Fintry – B818 Bogside</b>		<b>£50 K</b>	<b>Complete*</b>
<b>Balfroon – Kirkmill Rd</b>		<b>£45 K</b>	<b>Nov/Dec</b>
<b>Killearn – Elm/Elder/Cedar Rds</b>		<b>£50 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Additional Capital Projects</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>A809 – North of Finnich Toll</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£61 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>A875 – Balfroon Co-op</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£46 K</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>A811 – Kippen Roundabout</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£107 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>C56 Craigallian Rd @ Junction A81</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£10 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>C54 Ballochruin Rd to C21</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£62 K</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Glinns Road</b>	<b>Inlay</b>	<b>£52 K</b>	<b>TBC</b>

**Key:** \* Fencing is owned by the council and needs repaired.