

## Killearn Community Council Chairman's report, year ending June 2024

We were fortunate to have one new member and two new co-opted members this year, so we were delighted to welcome Michael Bowdidge, Susie Clarke and Calum McLean. Michael has taken up the mantle of lead for the local place plan, Susie will be involving herself in matters affecting young people, along with Heidi Bryce, while Calum has taken on the remit of road concerns.

We also sadly had a resignation; Caroline Carrick has resigned from the committee but will continue all her work with active travel with KCFC. We would like to thank Caroline for all she did on KCC and we look forward to working alongside her in future.

We also had the retirement of Christine Bauwens, our minute secretary, after ten years of fantastic work turning our meetings into intelligible English. We thank her for all her brilliant work, and wish her well with her free time.

And we extend a warm welcome to Emily Semple as our new minute secretary, and greatly look forward to working with her.

In planning matters, the CALA development is now well underway, and conversations continue with both CALA and Stirling council regarding safe path access from the site to the village. This includes an undertaking to repair the pavement on Station Road, but this remains an ongoing discussion as although the work is agreed, it has not yet commenced.

Jim Ptolomy, as our planning associate, has attended Stirling Council planning panels on behalf of Killearn residents for many years, as well as giving us expert and sensible advice on all planning matters relating to the village.

Jim steps down from this role in June, and he has all our thanks for his unfailing help and guidance over the years. His friendly advice and good sense will be much missed.

The potential Stirling Council budget cuts was a significant concern at the end of 2023, with several rural community councils coming together to campaign on behalf of issues disproportionately affecting rural communities. Our major concerns of reduction in bus service, and in nursery provision, did not come to pass on this occasion, and the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues was an unlooked-for bonus of the process.

We continue to receive monthly crime reports from the local police, although their staffing levels mean they are seldom able to join in person.

Fraud has continued to feature in these reports, and we were thankful to Fiona Rennie, for a presentation on online security, building a strong password, and generally having a high level of awareness.

The Local Place Plan is an ongoing project, designed to inform us, and therefore Stirling Council, about the feelings of Killearn residents towards their village. A survey has been circulated online (and with paper copies), and an engagement event is planned this month, with possibly another in the autumn. The results will be formed into a report, which will be submitted to Stirling Council but will hopefully also allow us, as a community, to think about changes we would like to see.

As with all attempts to gauge village opinion, our biggest challenge is reaching the widest possible demographic. This applies to all we do at KCC, hence the decision to retain the hybrid meeting format, with a zoom link for those who prefer not to attend in person.

We also hope to make some changes to the way in which our meetings are advertised in the next term, to ensure that everyone who wishes can have a say in what is discussed, and feel as involved as they wish to be.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole KCC committee, Fiona Rennie, Andrew Donaldson, Hilary McGregor, Heidi Bryce, Michael Bowdidge, Susie Clarke and Calum McLean for all their sterling support over the year, and we look forward to meeting up again in September.

Elizabeth Jones  
KCC chair