

Killearn Community Council

Chair's report 2024-2025

We have had a well attended year, with a healthy amount of audience participation, which is great to see.

We will continue to run our hybrid model for the foreseeable future; there is a consistent demand for online viewing, the numbers for which are not far short of the number of residents attending in person.

Planning had continued to generate the greatest debate, and there is clearly a high level of concern regarding some of the decisions made by Stirling Council planning department. In order to address this, and to allow greater understanding of the planning process, Sharon Marklow, head of Planning and Enforcement for Stirling Council, joined us for our January meeting. She was very generous with her time, and answered many questions. It did provide much greater clarity around the decision making and enforcement processes, but clearly frustrations remain, and effectively representing the view of the village in planning matters remains one of our greatest challenges.

On a similar vein, in conjunction with our friends in KCFC and Killearn Trust, we continue to pull together the results of the two surveys carried out this year to inform Killearn's Local Place Plan report.

We had good engagement with the survey questions and are also fortunate to have a great bank of knowledge and expertise in the village, to contribute to the report.

Tree protection, in terms of the village streetscape, and also wildlife habitat, is a consistent concern, and will be well represented in the report. Another significant concern will be balancing the requirement for greater housing diversity alongside maintenance of the village character and much valued green space. We will have a draft report to share later in the summer, before the Stirling Council deadline for submission, at the end of October.

The new housing development at the old hospital site is now filling up with new residents. The village has benefitted from the work in two main ways. One is the completion of a safe pavement for pedestrian access from the bottom of Station Road to the existing pavement above Lampson; this work was carried out by Stirling Council, but financed by CALA, and was much overdue.

We will also benefit from CALA's community pledge, which will provide donations to Strathendrick rugby club, Killearn tennis club, Killearn village hall, Colourful Killearn, the Killearn Christmas lights, and the primary school. There will also be a Rob Mullholland sculpture created for the entrance of the development, with design involvement from Balfron High School students.

Rural Stirling Housing Association are progressing well with the new housing at the bottom of Lampson Road, with new residents expected to be moving in by late summer.

The loss of some of the large oak tree in the park caused anxiety over the winter; it was initially unclear how safe the remaining tree was, and how best to manage its health, and the large branches which dropped. In addition, it destroyed the flying fox.

There has been resolution however. The tree health is not as bad as once feared, limited reduction work needed, but the tree can remain. The wood is being milled and prepared locally, the plan being to create a park bench, the funding for which has been agreed, the site still to be determined.

The flying fox is to be replaced, and the fencing around the small playpark will also be repaired, which should improve the quality of a much valued play area.

In other news, the 20mph speed limit in the village, initially a pilot project, will now be permanent and the temporary signs will be replaced by the definitive traffic signs.

KCC was approached to consider adoption of the phone box outside the little classroom, and we have done so, but without applying for any change of use. The box is safe, but would need considerable work to be fit for any other use. It is currently used as a floral display, and adds greatly to the view around the Wellgreen.

We have had a busy year, and as ever, our thanks go to the whole committee, and to Emily, our admin secretary, for all their support, and to our three councillors, Gerry McGarvey, Rosemary Fraser and Paul Henke for all their engagement and input.

We are also thankful to have such an engaged and enthusiastic village, and will continue to do our best to resolve the issues you bring.