

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2025

Members present Elizabeth Jones, Fiona Rennie, Andrew Donaldson, Calum Mclean, Hilary McGregor, Heidi Bryce.

Apologies Michael Bowdidge, Matt McCammon (Police Scotland), Jim Ptolomey (Killearn Trust)

In attendance Cllr Paul Henke, Graeme Fraser (KCFC), Tasha Houchin (KCC Planning Consultant), Lindsay Kirk, 28 members of the public, Emily Semple

How to contact us Go to www.killearncc.org.uk and click on the contact button.

CC15782 - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 October '25

Minutes were approved by Andrew Donaldson and Calum McLean.

CC1583 - MATTERS ARISING

- Community Council Membership - Calum McLean has been a co-opted member of the Community Council since Oct. '23 and as such, is eligible to be voted in as a full member of the Council. Based on a show of hands, Council members supported Calum's move to full membership and welcomed him aboard.
- Following Calum's move to full membership and Susie Henderson's recent resignation when she moved away from the Killearn area, KCC has vacancies for two new co-opted members.
- Local residents are invited to join the council as a co-opted member. To find out more and to request a nomination form please email contactus@killearncc.org.uk. The form must be completed and returned by **30th November**.

These nominations will be shared with Stirling Council to verify that those being considered are in the electoral district. KCC will give notice of the outcomes and names by 3rd December and the new co-opted members will be appointed at the meeting on 17th December.

- B834 Blane Smiddy Bridge - No further update following the October meeting.

Members of the community raised further concerns following a recent impact to the westerly side of the bridge which has dislodged stone and caused significant damage. There are still remains from the vehicle at the site.

It was noted that the overgrown hedge and trees are obstructing the road's line of sight, rather than simply affecting the visibility of the signage.

Action: KCC (Calum) to follow up on timescales and further actions on repairs.

- EV charging units in the Health Centre Car Park - The EV company has been out to the site and the Council has isolated the power 98-2025 supply and left a part of new pavement without top coating to give access to the power supply.

Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up with Cllr Rosemary regarding the new faster charging point and the introduction of an overstay fee (as discussed in October)

- Blackwood's Beech House - KCC have requested an update but not yet heard back. An unofficial update was shared by a member of the community who explained that following discussions with Councillor McGarvey, there have been conversations between the Health & Social Care Partnership, Home is Best, and Abbeyfield - challenging Blackwood's actions.. There has been no further communication from Blackwood since they gave notice to their tenants.

Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up and see if there is any further update.

- Rhododendron and Invasive Species

Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up.

- Youth Member - With the new year there hasn't been a re appointment.

Action: KCC (Fiona) to follow up with Balforn High School.

CC1584 - POLICE MATTERS

- A vehicle, which had been parked close to Finnich Glen, was stolen and taken to another location before machinery, including a generator, was taken and the vehicle left at the site. This crime is still under investigation.
- Police were informed regarding a vehicle which had been damaged within the car park of the Medical Centre in Killearn. Enquiries were carried out and the driver of the vehicle was cautioned and charged with failing to stop and failing to report an accident.
- Incidents of note - Police responded to various calls in relation to road issues such as no injury, single car collisions or animals, such as cows and sheep, on the roads around Killearn.

The full police report will be available on KCC website www.killearncc.org.uk

CC1585 – KCFC UPDATE

Graeme Fraser gave the following update relating to KCFC activities:

- Fireworks - The Annual Fireworks event was held on Sunday 2nd Nov. and Graeme thanked all of the volunteers who helped this year, particularly those who helped out with the bonfire after the post on Facebook for support with the build. Donations on the evening and online were much appreciated, and without these funds the event wouldn't be able to go ahead. The fireworks group will be reviewing the event and considering plans for next year.
- Christmas Lights - thanks were noted to Killearn Community Council, CALA homes, Killearn Community Futures Company, the Beer Festival and Killearn Trust who are funding the Killearn Christmas lights and these will be going up on Wed. 3rd Dec.
- Advent Windows - There are now 41 advent windows taking part this year. It starts on 1st December at the COOP with carols being sung by the Guides and the window at the Village Hall is once again being designed and created by Killearn Primary School and will be 'opened' on Thursday 4th Dec. and there will be a Primary School Fundraising Group Fair in the hall to help add to the celebrations

- Christmas Christmas Market - 6th December, 11am until 4pm at the Village Hall.
- Christmas Tree - The Christmas Tree will be put up outside the Church, on the first weekend of December. Huge thanks is noted to Edenmill who are very generous in donating the tree.

KCC recorded a thanks to Graeme for the fireworks and to Callum for his support also.

CC1586 – PLANNING AND LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Local Place Plan - Received a comment regarding the LPP Executive Summary where it was stated that there had been concern around inconsistencies with Stirling Council Planning and breaches of condition, which was causing lack of confidence in the planning process. It was suggested to KCC that this was in regards to one property in particular but that is not the case.

This has come from the survey and multiple cases and was not reference to one particular planning proposal.

Planning Applications

There are currently 9x applications live in the Killearn area 4x recent applications:

- 25/00539/FUL - Land Some 85 Metres To East Of Mullanhead Cottage Balforn: Erection of dwellinghouse and upgrade of existing access to public road
- TREENQ-2025-108 - Spittal Farm, Drumore Road Killearn G63 9NX: Fell one fir tree in garden
- 25/00598/FUL - Archfield 6 Castle Gardens Ballikinrain Balforn G63 0LT: Extension to dwellinghouse
- 25/00597/FUL - Carbeth Lodge Drumtian Road: Three storey side extension with raised patio, dormer extension, erection of canopy and alterations and extension to garage

2x applications approved:

- 25/00459/FUL - Blane River Cottage Killearn G63 9QH: Redevelopment of dwelling house involving the raising of the roof and erecting two storey pitched roof extensions
- 25/00270/FUL - 7 Alder Crescent Killearn G63 9SH: Change of use from public open space to garden ground

Two Oaks and Garden Ground of 41 Station Road - Mr Knox has approached KCC again with reference to what is happening. It is of his opinion that Stirling Council has acted illegally by breaching their own guidelines. Mr Knox is taking legal advice in the matter and is looking for KCC's support.

KCC discusses matters in public as a matter of protocol, so Liz has shared the information provided by Mr. Knox to allow for an open discussion. It appears that there are three avenues of action:

1. Say nothing because the planning process has been agreed and taken its course for these decisions to be made.
2. Say yes, KCC believes as Mr Knox believes and supports him in the legal challenge.
3. The legal aspect is not for KCC to pursue but they can accept that there is deep unhappiness and therefore approach Stirling Council as a community council to understand how these decisions were made; and to try and ensure that there are no further difficult situations for future builds in Killearn.

It has come to the conclusion unanimously that the legal challenge is not something KCC will support, however there are sufficient concerns regarding some of the decisions made - enough for KCC to arrange a meeting with Sharon Marklow to discuss the planning decisions and to understand how to avoid this type of situation again in the future.

Peter Bowness spoke about his concerns over biodiversity and tree protection in relation to the Garden Ground plot. Conditions were set outlining 2x areas for tree protection as "no construction zones" which should have been appropriately fenced off. This doesn't seem to have happened and concern over one of these areas being used as parking and yard space. The 3.5m wide driveway is now 7.2m wide, this extra width seems to have come from the tree protection zone.

Mr Bowness has raised an enforcement enquiry with Stirling Council in regards to this breach in condition and has yet to have a response. There was also a discussion / concern raised about a perceived lack of a building warrant for the roof work and modifications carried out on the existing house at 41. This could be a safety issue and should be resolved prior to any future sale.

Action: KCC (Fiona) to follow up with Stirling Council and arrange a meeting with Sharon Marklow to discuss.

Action: Cllr Paul Henke also requested that a short list of points that need to be addressed be emailed to him directly. (Peter Bowness to email)

CC1587 – ROADS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Calum shared the following updates with reference to local road activities:

Road Closures

- Napier road – from B8334 Station Road to Allan Road, closed 26/11/25
- Kerse Road, Stirling – 20/11/25 to 7/12/25, partial closure with traffic lights

Blane Water Bridge

- Works were completed at the end of October to address the drainage issues (easterly side). [a local resident commented that this process had been wholly inadequate and would need to be repeated shortly]
- There has been continued correspondence with Stirling Council, but the most recent response confirms that traffic lights are not required, and ongoing cutting of the foliage will help.

- Drivers are expected to follow the existing give-way signage and adjust their speed appropriately to the road conditions.

Hedge on Graham Road

- Following KCC passing on a report to Stirling Council of a significantly overgrown hedge on Graham Road, the hedge has now been cut back and both sides of the road are usable again.

Suggestion of 40mph limit from Killearn to Distillery

- Following a request from a resident, KCC approached Stirling Council about implementing a 40mph limit on the A875. Stirling Council have assessed the length of road and determined the road does not meet the criteria for a 40mph limit.
- Having assessed the section of the A875 leading from Killearn to the A81, Stirling Council noted the following:-
 - The A875 from Killearn to the A81 is approximately 1.1 miles in length. There are four bends, two of which I have considered to be slight bends and two of which are severe enough to warrant the erection of bend warning signs/SLOW road markings. I do not consider this to be a high number of bends.
 - There are no junctions between Killearn and the A81, but there are seven private accesses leading to nine properties.
 - Nine properties located over a one mile length of road cannot be considered to be substantial development.
 - There is no evidence that the road is being used by considerable numbers of vulnerable road users.
 - There have been two reported injury accidents in the past 10 years.
- Based on these findings SC are satisfied that the criteria for consideration to be given to the implementation of a 40-mph speed limit have not been met.
- It is important to note that where a speed limit is set inappropriately, for example substantially lower than the speed that the majority of drivers would otherwise choose, evidence shows the speed will regularly be disobeyed. This leads to an over-reliance on Police enforcement and may lead to an increase in risk. This increase in risk is caused by greater differences in speed between vehicles that can lead to an increased number of overtaking manoeuvres. The Scottish Government is currently working through consultation responses in relation to a proposal to reduce the national speed limit in Scotland from 60-mph to 50-mph. Local authorities await the outcome of this consultation and, if taken forward, what resultant changes may be made to national speed limit policy if this proposal is taken forward. Any change to national speed limit policy will result in a review of Stirling Council's speed limit policy which may afford an opportunity for the speed limit on this section of road to be reviewed at some point in the future.

No Waiting restrictions in Drymen

- No Waiting At Any Time restrictions to be put in place at the corner of Main Street in Drymen, to prevent parking over and blocking dropped kerbs.

No Waiting restrictions in Blanefield

- No Waiting At Any Time restrictions to be put in place on the A81 Blanefield (opposite Station Road/Cuilt Brae) to improve visibility for vehicles joining from adjacent properties.

Stockiemuir Road - A member of the community has requested KCC support with getting the sunken man hole covers fixed on the Stockiemuir Road. It was noted that reporting this issue on the Stirling Council website is the most efficient route.

Action: KCC (Calum) to follow up.

Road Repair Request - The road from the Blane Smithy Road roundabout all the way to the Blane Water bridge requires repair. Additional concerns were raised that now HGVs are allowed to use this route, will accelerate the deterioration and worsen the condition of the road even more quickly.

Action: KCC (Caum) to follow up.

CC1588 – CORRESPONDENCE

Fiona reported on the following correspondence:

- CALA Street Naming - A reception was held on 13th November at the Showhome/Sales Office to celebrate the street naming. Signage has been erected for the first 4x streets; Grant Road, Bruce Court, Teasdale Street and Templeton Avenue. Fiona remarked on how wonderful it was to see the families of those being honoured in attendance.
- Balfron Household Waste Recycling Centre - Thanks to David Rae and others who led an engagement meeting at the John McLintock Hall on Thursday 13th November to discuss Stirling Council's plans for the redesign and rebuild of the Balfron Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Stirling Council are committed to ensuring that the redevelopment reflects the needs and aspirations of those who use it. Fiona, who attended the meeting with Frank Deas, outlined that their plans are to turn it into an outdoor/yard style centre to create more space and accessibility.

The only downside is that the centre will be closed for 6 months during the planned development but plans will be put in place to support those locally at other centres and the Council team is keen to cover wider consultation during the current design / consult process

- Local Place Plan - The Killearn LPP was submitted on 31st October and is awaiting validation. Once validated this will be loaded on the Stirling Council website here:
<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/development-planning/local-place-plans/local-place-plan-register/#register-2>

Action: KCC (Andrew) to remove the draft LPP from the website, as requested by a member of the community - to avoid confusion.

- Stirling Council agrees new Administration and Council Leader - Stirling Council has agreed a new Administration with Councillor Susan McGill appointed as new Council Leader. Cllr Jim Thomson will take up the role of Depute Leader, while Cllr Rosemary Fraser becomes Stirling's new Lord Provost.

KCC expresses their congratulations to all.

- Christmas Lights - Thank you to the Killearn Beer Festival, Cala Homes, KCFC and Killearn Trust for supporting KCC through their generous donations towards

the lights. The lights will be fitted and lit up on 3rd Dec. in time for the opening of the Advent Window at the Village Hall.

CC1589 – QUESTION TIME

- Access between Buchanan Views and Drumtlan Road - No update following Stirling Council review.

Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up.

- Grit Bin (opposite CoOp) - It was noted that the car park is owned by Stirling Council housing and they don't have the budget to supply a grit bin - based on previous enquiries.

Action: KCC (Calum) to chase Stirling Council for a solution to the lack of grit bin, highlighting the safety issue, and asking what solution the Council would propose, rather than requesting a new bin.

CC1590 – COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Paul Henke presented the following report:

- Correspondence - Paul has kindly outlined that any issues can be emailed directly to him and he will follow these up with the right person.
- Approaching recess for Christmas which means diaries have been cleared and meetings pushed so things will start to pick up again mid January
- Killearn Primary School Administration Clerk reduced hours - Paul has picked up on this and is in agreement that the reductions proposed are to the detriment of the community. It is early days but he will follow up.
- Killearn Nursery Administration also being cut
- Killearn Nursery cuts to staffing and numbers - the nursery has gone from a capacity of 34 to 24. A group of parents have written to Stirling Council with 100 signatures. This reduction is already causing a significant negative impact on children and families. The following concerns were raised:
 - Local demand far exceeds available places, with families frequently turned away and waitlists not reflecting true unmet need, forcing many to seek less suitable or more costly alternatives.
 - Reduced access to stable, high-quality childcare harms children's development, particularly during the transition to primary school, and raises concerns about compliance with the UNCRC's requirement to act in the best interests of the child.
 - The cuts create financial and economic strain, pushing families (especially women) out of the workforce and contradicting national aims to improve flexibility, family wellbeing, and opportunities for employment or study.
 - Reducing capacity is financially questionable, given high demand; increasing places and reallocating staff from under-subscribed nurseries would better support the community while generating potential revenue for the council.

No cuts have been made to either the Balfron or Strathblane nurseries.

Action: KCC (Liz) to speak to Stirling Council in order to understand bigger picture.

CC1591 – TREASURER’S REPORT

Andrew Donaldson presented the following report:

Income:	£0
Outgoings:	£44 Two months of hall expenses
	£40 Secretarial expenses
	£350 Local Place Plan Expenditure

Current balance: £1,503.41

CC1592 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Flu Vaccinations - A gentle reminder from Forth Valley Health Board to schedule your flu jab. If the GP surgery is fully booked, the Killearn chemist is also offering appointments.

CC1593 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next KCC meeting will be on Wed. **17 Dec. 2025 at 8.00 pm**

This meeting ended at 21:15