**Riverside Community Council**

**Meeting Minutes 26th February 2020**

**In Attendance** **In Attendance Apologies**

Di Alderdice Danny Gibson Fiona Berrow

David Sherman Wilma Comrie Emily McLaughlin

Ian Boa

Sue Dumbleton Residents: 11

Isabella Gorska

Andrew Fraser

Joan Murphy

Alison Swanson

No Declaration of Interest was recorded.

2) The previous minutes were adopted. IB Proposed

 AS Seconded

3) Matters Arising from previous minutes not to be addressed within the meeting:

JM outlined that David Love will provide a monthly update on Forthside, but that there is little to report on the issue of Japanese Knotweed and flooding. David Love is liaising with colleagues and staff at SEPA and SNH, but there is currently no evidence of Japanese Knotweed on the site. SEPA also advised that it is the developer’s responsibility to clear Japanese Knotweed.

JM updated on the derelict white building near the bridge to Cambuskenneth. Correspondence is ongoing between the Community Council and the Planning Enforcement team. The Community Council has been informed that the building does not meet the requirements/standards necessary for the Planning Enforcement team to take action.

DG reassured that various services at Stirling Council are looking into the issue and are aware of the enquires. DG has indicated that there a variety of confidential and complex issues pertaining to this property, but work is on-going.

4) Police unable to attend, but please see attached report.

SD raised the issue of reporting cars that are parked illegally or in an antisocial manner. SD also raised the fact that work to paint double yellow lines has still not been carried out by Stirling Council. SD to pass email correspondence on to DG and CC him into all future emails regarding parking.

A member of the public raised the issue of parents sitting in their cars with engines idling. She also indicated that, when approached, car owners can be abusive. DA indicated that the issue was mentioned to parents via a letter home and the school’s “Parking Pledge”. Other members of the public also indicated that drivers sit in their cars with their engines idling outside the post office and school. They also indicated that Enforcement Officers need to come during “peak times” (i.e. during school pick up) rather than during the day.

DA indicated that the Environment subgroup is working on the issue of pollution.

DG suggest that the public can email the police directly via castlecpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk to report any issues with drivers. He also indicated that the council has been granted new powers to test car emissions in addition to enforcing engine idling offenses.

A member of the public asked if it is possible to contact Community Wardens directly and DG indicated that the public should email safercommunities@stirling.gov.uk to report any issues. DG also indicated that results from a recent air quality monitoring test were not a cause for concern. DG to send results of these tests to DA.

DG also indicated that data from Transport Scotland is also available to the public.

5) DG presented written answers to 13 questions pertaining to the Forthside development and the City Deal – see appendix.

DG discussed with IG (and other members of the Community Council) the issue of social housing and how new developments fulfil requirements to provide this kind of housing. IG indicated a belief that the process of deciding upon social housing is opaque and should involve more engagement with the community.

JM asked DG if there is the provision for a community centre within the City Deal funding and was told no. WC indicated that it is possible to apply for grants relating to this issue, but that other set ups similar to the Riverbank Centre also incur costs.

JM asked DG for an update on the pontoon and was told that work is ongoing to explore a possible provision for the summer. This would take the form a commercial operator (with a boat). A member of the public voiced their dismay that this had not been explored prior to the creation of the pontoon itself and indicated some issues that canoe owners currently face due to the setup. DG indicated that he shared the community’s frustration at the lack of progress with the pontoon but was able to share more information via the River Masterplan. DG to email River Masterplan to JM/Community Council.

JM asked DG for clarity on plans for a bung to assist with flood defences. DG indicated that the bung is part of the Stirling Flood Management Plan but that it was a very large piece of work. A member of the public expressed their awareness that design-wise it is hard to get the balance right between functionality and visual impact. AS asked DG if there will be a formal consultation on the bung and DG indicated that there will be as the project moves forward. DG also indicated that Stirling Council’s Flooding Engagement Officer (Maria Lucy) would be a good contact and will make an introduction to the Community Council. This would be with a view to setting up a new subgroup relating to flooding.

A member of the public indicated that the link within the document provided by DG doesn’t work. DG to provide new link.

**6) Reports:**

**6a) Chair Report**

JM was pleased to announce that the Community Council has received funding for three noticeboards. These will be manufactured by the Men’s Shed in Larbert and will be situated near the bridge into Riverside, close to Lover’s Walk and near the bridge to Cambuskenneth.

JM indicated that a parking survey is underway by Stirling Council. Once this practical work has been undertaken, a public consultation will take place.

JM reported that Ian XXX has emailed (SEE EMAIL) with a proposal to replace the plant pots that are situated around Riverside with new, larger versions. JM indicated that she is waiting to hear back from Stirling Council to confirm that Ian may proceed with this project. There were no objections from Community Council members or members of the public.

AS gave a brief background to the “Riverside Stuff” WhatsApp group; including its initial set up and current use. AS indicated that whilst this is very useful for sharing community information, it is not affiliated directly with Riverside Community Council. Members of the public indicated their strong like of the group and praised its use. A member of the public suggested that more be done to ensure anyone who wants to join the group can do. There are practical considerations with this – largely pertaining to having to put AS’s phone number online – which will be discussed. DG suggested buying a distinct phone with which AS could use to add anyone that wants to join the group. This will be explored by AS at a later date.

SD gave an overview of the Community Council’s current insurance set up and the limitations that it places on the ability to run additional events. SD indicated that Stirling Council is seeking to act as a facilitator so that all of the Community Councils can collectively negotiate a better price. WC indicated that she is waiting to hear back from other Community Councils and that insurance pertaining to events run by council staff is a different issue.

JM shared information about an upcoming ceilidh in the Riverside boating club (NEED DETAILS) and an event called “Riverside Sing” which is also to be held in the Riverside boating club on (NEED DETAILS).

**6b) Secretary – Correspondence NOT COVERED AT FEB MEETING**

Current pending issues are

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| --- | --- |
| Parking | Double Yellows being chased up on Ronald Place/Forth CrescentParking at the pontoon layby being used by commutersParking on Shore RoadParking survey to be complete on the 24th FebruaryDiscussions will begin after this with RCC |
| Perimeter Barriers  | Have asked that they be made safe and potentially be replaced in the future |
| Benches and Fences | Will be painted in the summer |
| Noticeboards | We will find out about the funding grant on the 12th Feb |
| Bus Stop being obscured by trees | Alister from Allied Properties has cleared them away |
| Graffiti Railway Bridge | Reported and removed by Network Rail |
| Flooding on Abbey Road/Miller Place | Being investigated by the council with various ideas on how to address it. |
| Heathfield Enforcement | Ongoing |
| White Building at Bottom on Abbey Road | Being investigated for enforcement |

Calender Events

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 9th & 23rd Feb | Famiy Sessions of the Riverside Music Project |
| 10th Feb | AT&ST Meeting 7.30pm – Email for further details |
| 11th Feb | Drop in 1.30pm Riverbank Centre |
| 26th Feb | Public Community Council Meeting |
| 29th Feb | Orchard maintenance Morning & Litter Pick |
| 7th March | Klesmer Ceilidh |

 After discussion at the last meeting EM has offered to have draft minutes available for the drop in sessions.

**6c) Treasurers Report**

 IB gave details of the CC’s current financial situation.

A member of the public asked a question regarding unrestricted funds and was informed that this money belongs to the Community Council and does not return to Stirling Council at the end of the financial year.

**6d) Planning Issues**

No Planning Issues

**7) Subgroups**

**Active Travel and Sustainable Transport -** DA gave an overview of the Active Travel and Sustainable transport groups current projects. The group has been successful in obtaining a grant of £XXXX.XX – match funded to a total of £XXXX.XX.

Part of the grant requirements pertain to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. DA is seeking advice and clarification from Stirling Council (via WC) to more fully understand how to implement a policy.

A Phd student will be going ahead with pollution monitoring; including both static and moveable hotspots and coldspots. This work will be carried out over the coming weeks, with DA to share results in due course.

DA is meeting Forth Environment to work on the design of a survey to …………

**Christmas Party** – No update.

**Environment** – No update from Community Council member. Member of the public indicated that trees are being taken down (and replaced) to create a woodland garden on Riverside Way tomorrow (Thursday 27th February 2020). Member of the public indicated that the staff from Stirling Council had been incredibly helpful in getting new trees planted along the riverbank and in the area surrounding Riverside Quay.

**On The River** – No update.

**Lovers Walk** – SD spoke briefly regarding Lovers Walk – You Decide is now open online for people to view options and then place their vote.

An event will be held on the 5th of March in the Riverbank Centre, allowing the public to view the proposals in more detail.

A link to the You Decide page will be included on the Community Council website.

DG met with Network Rail who, based on the historical agreement of 1939, have accepted responsibility for elements relating to the upkeep of the bridge. DG to keep the Community Council updated regarding progress.

**8) A.O.B**

***Litter Pick***

A litter pick is being organised in conjunction with Riverside Naturally on the 29th February at 10:00am at the Riverside Community Orchard. All equipment and training will be provided.

***Resilience Plan***

PB defined and outlined the purpose of resilience planning and its ties to the Scottish Government’s work on this topic.

A meeting to build engagement across Riverside is being held on the 23rd of March from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at 15 Argyll Avenue. All welcome to attend.

**9) Date of Next Drop In & Meeting**

11th March 1:30pm at the Riverbank Centre

25th March 7.15pm at the Riverbank Centre