



Minutes for 20th June 2024

at Strathearn Community Campus, Crieff at 7.30pm

Present:

Community Councillors: Brian Wilton (Chair), Pete McCarra, Iona Macgregor, Marlene Galashan, Kayleigh Keit, Eilen MacDonald.

Ward Councillors: Bailie Rhona Brock.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Crieff Community Council (CCC) Chairman Brian Wilton welcomed the public and those representing local groups.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Stewart Donaldson and Noah Khogali, Constable Donny Florance, Peter Sinclair and Becky Millar.

2. Previous Minutes

No matters rising and the minutes for the May minutes were approved.

3. Police Report

Since the last meeting there has been 29 crimes recorded as having occurred within the Crieff Community Council Area. This compares for the 59 crimes recorded for the same period in 2023 with a reduction of 50%. Out of the 29 crimes recorded 13 (45%) of the recorded crimes have been detected.

Of the reported crimes since the last meeting 8 were vandalism in which 3 (37.5%) have been detected. 3 were crimes of dishonesty down from 9 for 2023 with all 3 counts being investigated, this is a two thirds reduction from 2023. 8 crimes of violence have been reported since the last meeting which is down from the 16 reported last year. of 50% from the same period last year. Of the 8 violent crimes reported 6 (75%) have been detected. Rates of violent crime are a key indicator of our commitment to public safety, and this represents a reduction.

The remaining crimes are bail or communication offences. 2 road traffic matters were reported, and 1 Male has been reported to the procurator Fiscal for a Serious Road Traffic Act Contravention.

Youth crime remains a concern for many residents and there is continued work to regularly meet with the partner agencies within Education, Logos, and social work to identify persistent offenders and to target early corrective support measures to those involved.

If you have any concerns that you would want passed along, please contact the following details or if you have any concerns about ongoing issues that could be brought to their attention use 101 or through the Contact Us page on the Police Scotland Website.

Donnie Florence, Constable D9571.
Community Officer, Strathearn Ward
32 James Square. Crieff.
07971 552968

4. Planning Application

Persimmon. The Persimmon house development was now 219 houses down from 222 houses, 52 of the 219 houses were to be for rented accommodation. The developers had agreed that the road would be widened to 6 meters; a pedestrian crossing would be installed near the skatepark. The planning application was lengthy and complicated and was passed to the Community Council's volunteer planning specialist Donna Brookes, who had not identified any major issues.

Persimmon Play Facilities. The Chair advised that a community benefit payment of £20,000 + had been requested from Persimmon PLC for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of existing equipment at King George V Park, the justification being that there were no play facilities being provided at the Broich Road development. The Community Council commented on the PKC proposal and suggested that it was ill-considered and potentially dangerous in that the Persimmon development was over three quarters of a mile distant from the George V Park and required travel along the known dangerous Broich Road, further travel along the very busy A822, across a bridge with narrow pavements and then an uncontrolled crossing on the A822 with a dangerous corner. PKC was urged to reconsider the use of the community benefit and to reallocate it to an area that would be of more benefit to the local community. Leaving aside the safety aspects the community council also questioned the wisdom of investing community benefit funds in an area that was frequently subject to flooding.

The ongoing issue at Drovers Gate was highlighted. The access to Broich Ave had been blocked with tree trunks by a local landowner, resulting in residents climbing over the trunks. To try and prevent that, the landowner had added cow manure. To wide agreement, the Chair condemned such irresponsible action and said that PKC councillors have been alerted to the problem and it was believed that a letter had been sent by PKC to the landowner instructing him to remove the blockage. The Chairman had been advised that the legal situation was not entirely clear, and the matter may take some time to resolve. Note: As at the 1st August 2024 meeting, the situation had not changed.

5. Reports

MacRosty Park Pavilion

Derek and Carys Hughes had acquired a 3-year lease for the Pavilion Café and would be offering soup, sandwiches, breakfast, and a range of sweet treats. They also planned to host BBQs, pizza nights, and Christmas events. They are also keen on opening space for community groups to use.

The stand-alone toilet at the Pavilion was due to be repaired but there was no completion date provided. Because of persistent technical difficulties, the 50p entranced system was to be abandoned. As an interim measure, the Pavilion Café toilets would be made available, and the premises would be classed as a Comfort Break.

Concern was raised about the Pavilion not having its opening hours displayed outside the building.

Crieff Regeneration

The Chair reported that there was no further progress getting advice for regeneration of the town, so the CC was working with Crieff Community Trust on a common-sense approach. He displayed a 2010 'Crieff Rejuvenation' report funded by PKC and commented that he could change the date to 2024 and the vast majority of the suggestions within, would still be relevant.

Public Toilets

A new lock had been installed on the public toilets and the keys had been entrusted to the Chairman who commented that even the new lock was extremely vulnerable to a break-in and he had requested that a strong padlock should be added to prevent vandalism and the weak and vulnerable, so a request has been sent out to PKC about getting a padlock installed to prevent any risk of vandalism.

The public toilet survey saw 719 responses of which 98.5% of participants said that the toilets should remain open. 91% of respondents said they would be willing to pay to use the toilets and the most preferred price was up to 50p. 87 participants indicated their willingness to volunteer in staffing and 60 participants indicated their willingness to volunteer in the management. 672 out of the 719 survey returns were from private citizens, and the rest were businesses. 25 private citizens offered to pay monthly amounts which, if realised, would total £3200 per year. Unfortunately, only 17 of the 25 participants left their contact details. Of the 47 businesses that responded to the survey only 7 said that they will contribute resources and 14 agreed to contribute a total of £3000 per year, but only 3 provided their contact details.

Referring to a reported poll on the Crieff Friendship Facebook page, the Chairman commented that in view of overwhelming support at the previous public meeting for the name of the toilets to be the Crieff Cludgie, he considered it inappropriate to give credence to responses from an uninvited, ill-informed and misleading poll that had been initiated by one individual. It did nothing but divert attention from the prime objective of finding the funds that would open and maintain the toilets for the benefit of all.

Various aspects of the toilet facilities were discussed including the possible income generation of advertising within the building which would be discussed at a later stage when the town had actually acquired the facility. The Chair said that there needed to be very much more engagement with the business community because without their financial contributions, it would not be possible to resurrect the service.

Crieff Food Fest

The Chairman advised that he had delivered the Food Fest explanatory pack to businesses around Crieff which had been met with great enthusiasm that a new event was being planned for Crieff.

Town Cleanliness

The Chairman told the meeting that he had persisted in seeking assurances from PKC on a clean-up of the town and had recently noticed a distinct improvement, possibly due to an unheralded litter-picking group. He was also pleased to report the long-awaited return of the gutter-sweeping machine which had been unserviceable for very many months.

The removal of weeds in James Square had become urgent and the Chairman had been advised that it would be completed in July by an outside contractor.

Capital Projects Update

Murray Fountain had been covered with a protective framework and the specialist cleaners were on site. Completion of the renovation was expected sometime in July. Initially the water feature would not be included but future installation had been catered for should further capital of £15,000-£20,000 be acquired.

Treasurer's update

The Chairman advised that the Community Council bank account with TSB had at long last been closed and the balance of £1,693.59 had been transferred to RBS. The addition of the Spring Fair income and a back payment from PKC resulted in a total of £2536.97.

6. Events

Crieff Food Fest. The next event coming up was the Crieff Food Festival, (7th-13th October 2024). In its very early stages, it had only been launched to the public via Facebook . The objective was to involve a variety of venues in Crieff that would have the opportunity to organise their own events or host those of others, on their premises, and promote their own food and drink related products — whether food or equipment.

Crieff Connections, Strathern Arts, and Morisons Academy had already been contacted but the very small events committee urgently needed volunteer helpers and organisers and as positive response from Crieff businesses.

The Facebook post about the event had received over 2000 views, had gathered some engagement but had not resulted in any feedback or volunteers. There were a wide range of imaginative events being planned such as a Crieff-wide pub quiz, a daily budget-price Bread 'n' Broth lunch and the opportunity for all Crieff catering based cafés, coffee shops, take-aways and restaurants to devise special menus for the event.

Halloween. A free event was being planned for the town's children in James Square for Halloween on 31 October 2024.

The King of the Hill event mentioned in the previous meeting was being further investigated and would require town consultation and a road closure. It was hoped that the imaginative uphill contest in King Street could become an annual 'fun day' rather than a one-off event.

7. AOB

Alzheimer's Scotland. The Chairman had been to meetings with Alzheimer's Scotland in Perth to look for more information about making Crieff a dementia friendly town. The Chairman was awaiting a response from Glenrothes, a town that had achieved such status.

The Chairman has also attended a meeting with the Strathern and Strathallan safety groups listening to the dangers of youngsters being used as drug couriers and the dangers faced by vulnerable adults.

Litter picking. If anyone has any areas that need litter picked, please message the new community council Facebook page so that we can compile a list of areas that can be put onto a schedule.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00 hrs.

Next meeting. Thursday 1st August 2024. Crieff Campus.