

Strathfillan Community Council

working for and representing the people



St. Pádraig's Cross
The Quagach

Appendices referred to in these minutes are available online at www.scottishdemocracy.com

Minutes of CC Meeting 3rd May 2016 Crianlarich Hall at 7.30pm

1. Guest Speaker: David Gallant, Transport spokesman for Oban CC 7.30 to 8.00. Subject: Transport in our area.

David has come to put forward certain options about change that would include public transport in this area. There is no time limit for taking up this option that he is suggesting today.

David attended meetings with Strathclyde partnership for transport and Strathclyde concessionary travel joint committee and wanted to investigate those applicable for concessionary travel by train and noticed that elderly & disabled people living in Tyndrum & Crianlarich are missing out on much cheaper travel, even though those in Bridge of Orchy – just a few miles along the road benefit from.

The current concessionary cost for the elderly and disabled travelling by train would be – Oban to Bridge of Orchy 90p single 1.30 return – changing trains at Crianlarich. Those living in this area do not get these concessions. The fare from Oban to Bridge of Orchy to Helensburgh is £1.80 or 2.60 return. Journeys in the Glasgow area up to 10 miles would be 90p single, 1.30 return - including the subway system. For longer journeys within Strathclyde half fare is given for longer journeys to destinations such as Cumbernauld, Airdrie, Kilmarnock, Motherwell and Airdrie. Travel can be anywhere in the Strathclyde area for half fare with a senior concession card or disabled concessionary card.

David asked if people in Crianlarich/Tyndrum could be involved in this scheme and was told clearly by SPT no, not unless the Scottish government transferred this area from Stirling to Argyll & Bute Council. If we did change our area and were given the opportunity to access concessionary travel there could be benefits for health and education.

Currently our residents travel to Stirling community hospital or Forth Valley, Larbert for hospital treatment. If the patient has no access to a car travel can be very difficult with no direct transport links from Crianlarich/Tyndrum. Travel has to be made via Glasgow. If we were under Argyll & Bute council we would use Oban Lorne & Islands Hospital or Glasgow Royal Alexandra Hospital, both of which would be easily accessible by train (currently 6 trains a day) and with a cheaper fare for concessionary users.

Our local children attend Callander High School by bus. After school activities can be difficult when living such a distance away from the school, unless special transport is laid on. Currently children from Dalmally attend Oban High School by train. They use a season ticket which allows unlimited travel between Dalmally and Oban. Those whose live in Bridge of Orchy/Glen Orchy have a bus laid on which takes them to Dalmally where they get the train. The train leaves Oban at 16.11, 18.11 and 20.36. It is quite easy for pupils to take part in after school activities and return home by public transport.

Oban High School is being completely rebuilt and in 2 years' time there will be a brand new building and sports field. There could be some changes to train times if children from our area were to use the service for school. The morning train starts at Glasgow Queen Street. The return train at 16.11 terminates at Dalmally then returns to Oban. Strathclyde have said they don't like doing this as the train is completely unused returning to Oban. They would propose to extend the journey from Oban to Glasgow, an increase of 1 extra train a day in each direction, if children from our area took up this proposition. This would benefit the wider community too. Oban to Glasgow 16.11, Glasgow to Oban at about 14.30.

David also investigated the method of transfer if we were interested. The community council would need to either hold a public consultation meeting or to consult widely an opinion survey to see if people in this area want to transfer. We would then give our views to Stirling council who would then decide if we could go to Argyll & Bute Council and Argyll & Bute Council would decide they could accept us.

David commented that it doesn't make sense for our area to be in Stirling – we are such a distance away. Money is in Argyll & Bute, Bridge of Orchy is in A & B. Services provided would be much better for our community.

The main advantages would be not having to travel to Larbert for hospital appointments, being able to access healthcare appointments by train, children travelling to school by train, being able to attend after school clubs and being able to return home independently, senior citizens and disabled people would probably have the most benefit by having half price train journeys for long journeys or really low local fares as mentioned previously, £1.30 return from Crianlarich to Oban.

David noted that it is cheaper for him to buy a train ticket from Oban to Bridge of Orchy to come to Crianlarich rather than direct to Crianlarich as Crianlarich is not part of the concessionary scheme area.

Alan gave our thanks to David and also mentioned that a while ago we had a communication from Stirling council about boundary changes and suggested at the time (in jest) that we should suggest that we move to A & B Council as it would solve a lot of problems with health as we have no direct access to Stirling. Many people have no access to a car and need to take a train to Glasgow, then on to Larbert to attend hospital appointments.

Alan commented that David has put forward a compelling argument in terms of costs and schools.

Isla – Regarding education there may be some resistance. There are different views on education between Stirling council and Argyll & Bute and the primary school being involved with Killin with a shared headship.

Alan – One of the things that does come up is The STD code for this area is the same as Dalmally and Bridge of Orchy – but not Killin. There is too much to discuss around the table tonight but should all go and report back and see what the general population of Strathfillan think.

Cllr- It raises questions about the competency of our regional transport strategy if other councils can do this for their elderly and young people with concessionary travel. It highlights how much Stirling Council is falling short of fulfilling its constituent's needs. I don't believe we would have to re-draw the boundaries, though I can understand why this option has been given by SPT. The boundary commission would then have to redraw all other boundaries as it is based on population numbers – I

don't think this will happen, The argument would be that we belong to TACTRAN regional transport and A & B have the West of Scotland. If there was the political will or active negotiation for this I don't see why there could not be an exchange change of subsidy to permit Strathclyde passenger transport to extend that subsidy (to two stations). There would need to be some sort of financial exchange.

Falcon commented that this would be cheaper than laying on extra buses.

David commented that A & B Council includes part of West Dubartonshire – but does not include Crianlarich.

Alan – We have been pushing with NHS Forth Valley – for the option to travel to Oban Hospital. If we could have better access to services in the West it would be much easier for our community.

Cllr Hayes thinks this would be possible to achieve with the will of the community and political agreement and financial contract.

Bridge of Orchy pupils already come here and go to Callander High, from A & B council so there is something in place. Maybe it would be better to not have a fixed boundary and have a cross boundary agreement.

We need to try and get Stirling council to look at a cross boundary agreement also contact the local transport authority regarding the concessionary agreement.

Action: Theresa.

2. Present:

Alan Smailes, Isla Craig, Andrea Hobson, Sheona MacIennan, Falcon Frost
Billy Ronald (LLTNP), Theresa Elliot (SC), Cllr Alycia Hayes, Charlie Urquhart, Alistair Macdonald.
Members of the Public: Ian Marett, David Gallant, Mary Anderson, Duncan Lemay.
Apologies: Bruce Crawford MSP, John Riley (chair), PC Craig Murray, Kelly Clapperton-Bates

3. Approval of minutes of meeting of 5th April 2016

Proposed: Isla Craig

Seconded: Sheona MacIennan

Amendment to last month – Apologies, Alistair Macdonald was present.

4. Report from Police Constable Craig Murray

There have been 49 calls logged in the last month the breakdown is

Road traffic 13 this concerns road accident breakdowns erratic driving etc.

Animal calls i.e. lost found dogs sheep etc. 3

Drink driving 1 not a local

Car on fire at Auchreaoch 1 nothing suspicious

Calls about the temp traffic lights causing issues above Tyndrum 3

Concern for persons whether medically related or lost missing walkers 8

Theft reported 1 but unable to establish if the canoe has been stolen or merely floated away in the high waters

Domestic incidents 2

Again the discrepancy in the numbers is due to duplicate calls to the same incident.

Operation Ironworks is still running and there have been no issues in our area and no indication of any displacement from other areas. However it is still early and the loch sides are still quiet due the poor weather but this will be monitored.

5. Matters Arising

Dog and human waste – All the undergrowth has now been removed in the area, thanks to a good volunteer day. This will hopefully stop people using the area as a toilet by making them very exposed. Alan asked about having more dog waste bins situated in the villages. Dog bins are no longer used, just ordinary waste bins. There are going to be 2 – 1 to be added and one to be relocated in Crianlarich. In Tyndrum one bin is going to be relocated along from the bus stop, 50 yards along into the shelter belt. Isla noted that all the bins are to be relocated rather than additional bins. The bin at the bus stop is very much needed and is very well used. Alan will write and ask for extra bins rather than relocation. (Please also see secretary's notes).

Action Alan.

Broadband Forum – Ian Marrett

Ian attended the forum on behalf of the community council. The main point of the forum was to look at putting pressure on Digital Scotland especially regarding the roll out of fibre optic broadband in the area.

Roll out in Tyndrum should be next month though no-one seems to know anything about it and there is no sign of it starting.

Ian has registered to be a community champion to liaise between digital Scotland and the community.

The Mast in Tyndrum will be 4G, planning has been confirmed so there will be some form of super fast connection in the area for people with compatible phones. It is a joint venture between Vodafone and EE.

- No representatives from either BT or DSSB were present at the forum, which was a shame as they have a lot of questions outstanding.
- Representatives from quite a few CCs and area forums were present but not all areas were present (notably Killin), however a fairly good turnout overall.
- £300k of council funding is available each year over the next 5 years for assistance with community broadband projects. This is in addition to potential funding from CBS (capital expenditure) and Leader (non-capital).
- The £300k will roll over if not used.
- A suggestion was made from the forum to investigate a suppliers day, for non-BT (and potentially BT) providers to showcase their broadband solutions. This is being followed up by Douglas Baillie.

- A robust presentation was given by Balquhiddel Community Broadband a CIC detailing the process they went through to get Gigabit fibre broadband planned and to funding stage in the Balquhiddel glen. This could act as a template for similar solutions in other communities in Stirling. No final costings were yet available, so no funding decisions were made although partial funding has been secured via CBS.
- Postcode data has been requested and is overdue from BT/DSSB which will isolate which areas in Stirling are not going to be part of the BT fibre roll out and may give timescales for those that are.
- As no BT/DSSB representatives were there, clarification on timescales for Strathfillan fibre rollout was not able to be given.
- DSSB have missed their past 2 reports on rollout timescales. (Supposed to be quarterly)
- Date and time of next forum TBC, but preferably before the next funding meeting in June.

7. Re waste left by fencing – Fraser Macdonald in the forestry has been suggested as a contact by Falcon who will forward the email address/contact details to Charlie. Billy has brought this to the attention of the National Park who will be in touch in due course.

Billy to continue to action with the LLNP.

Charlie to action.

Lifelbelts at Falls of Falloch.

Action: Billy

6. Report from Office Bearers

6.1. Chair. – No report given.

6.2. Secretary

Secretary Please find below and attached my report for May 2016: It can also be viewed on the website at: <http://www.scottishdemocracy.com/discussion/viewtopic.php?f=146&t=1929>

Secretary's Report for May 2016

Co-Options, Resignations:

We have experienced several problems since the last CC meeting. It appears that we have breached the Code of Practice regarding the co-option of council members.

As our total of elected members now stands at 6 we can only co-opt one third i.e. 2 members, this has resulted in Falcon Frost's nomination to be void. We can overcome this situation by inviting Falcon to become an associate member; such members do not have voting rights but can contribute to the business of the council. I propose that Falcon becomes an associate member.

We have one resignation from the council; Iain Wragg has decided to step down. The chairman has sent a response to Iain thanking him for his support during his tenure. We cannot co-opt any other members of the community for the foreseeable future. Those co-opted and associate members along with the elected members will be able to stand for election in 2017.

Seating Arrangements:

The practice of the general public sitting in with the elected members around the table has always been allowed, however, due to the increasing numbers of the public attending our meetings we will have to become more formalised in our business arrangements. We do not want to discourage members of the

public attending meetings, we always encourage public participation. There is a need to alter the seating arrangement at the meetings. The council members will be seated around the table with the chair, secretary and minute secretary sitting at the head and the remaining councillors arranged on either side facing the public. The public will be invited to speak only when so called by the chair.

Environment/CiA:

I have applied for a Community Pride Grant for topsoil and plants for Crianlarich.

Up to the time of writing we are holding a volunteer day in Crianlarich to prepare tubs, make planters, fix the tree seat and generally tidy up in preparation for the opening day of the Crianlarich paths network.

Lunch will be provided at the Rod & Reel, work to begin at 10:00am, lunch at 13:00. We have purchased 10 new tubs for Crianlarich thanks to sponsors from Crianlarich. This is much appreciated.

I have written to SC regarding 'dog poo bins'. They have responded positively and will relocate two general waste bins (dog bins are being phased out) at either end of the railway path in Crianlarich and one bin at the entrance to the 'Shelter belt' in Tyndrum.

Strathfillan Angling Association:

Season permit applications continue to come in and permits issued. Don't forget to look up the Facebook Page: Strathfillan Angling Club

Community Rail Partnerships:

I attended a meeting of the CRP Networking Workshop on the 15th April at the Riverside Museum, Glasgow. This was well attended with CRP groups from all over Scotland attending.

On behalf of Strathfillan I attended the inaugural meeting of the steering group of the proposed Helensburgh to Oban CRP. I have indicated my willingness to act as the Crianlarich member for this. I have written to Stirling Council regarding the possible formation of the CRP to make them aware. The meeting was well attended with representatives from four station areas and also representatives from the LLNTP, ScotRail and Tactrans. Apologies were received from Hitrans and SPT. A copy of the minutes can be found on the website at: <http://www.scottishdemocracy.com/discussion/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=1928>

Gold Panning

I have written to SEPA asking for an update on gold panning, this is after hoteliers and other accommodation providers have approached me directly with enquiries from their guests. SEPA responded by e-mail and will attempt to get information from the other bodies involved these are: SNH, Police Scotland, the National Park and the Crown Estate.

I have received SEPA's position. See below:

SEPA's Position on Gold Panning in the Crom Alit Burn and Tributaries.

SEPA will not normally require an authorisation where individuals pan for gold provided good practice is followed (see below). Panning that does not follow good practice will require an application for a simple engineering licence (under the Controlled Activities Regulations, CAR). In addition, where water is removed from the river (abstracted), diverted or dammed (impounded) then the appropriate authorisation should be sought from SEPA and complied with. Guidance is contained in the [CAR practical guide](#).

Good practice requires that:

1. Panning is limited to hand panning using only sieves, gold pans, shovels and buckets, sluice (max 1 metre in length), a hand operated pump **and not** using powered machinery/equipment e.g. electric pumps or powered dredges.
2. Panning is not undertaken during periods in which fish are likely to be spawning in the watercourse, nor in the period between spawning and the subsequent emergence of juvenile fish. For the Crom Alit Burn and its tributaries, with the exception of the location

detailed below, this means panning only between 15 June and 16 October each year. Good practice does not restrict panning to these months, in the part of the Crom Alit upstream of the point where it passes under the railway line at National Grid Reference NN 3319 3181. This section of the Crom Alit Burn is marked with black arrows on the map below.

3. Where hollows are created in the river bed, that the bed material is replaced into the holes on the same day that it was removed.
4. The activity does not involve digging into the river banks

If the above good practice cannot be followed, then panning must not be carried out without first obtaining a CAR licence from SEPA.

SEPA will consider people carrying out panning operations who do not follow good practice and who do not have the correct SEPA authorisation, to be committing an offence under CAR and may take enforcement action. SEPA will work with other authorities such as Police Scotland and water bailiffs to monitor panning activities and ensure good practice is being followed.

Community Partnership

I attended the Board Meeting on the 19th April.

The main topic of the meeting was the adoption of the new Memorandum and Articles for the CP this will now go forward to an EGM for approval and ratification. In the event of a positive vote the CP will use this as a 'toolkit' for partnership members.

Other:

The meeting of representatives from SC, FVNHS and members of the CC, regarding the outreach surgery was held on 27th April. We will be reporting on the issues and outcomes raised at a later date. Suffice to say it was a positive meeting.

Up to the time of writing (28/04) I have posted 18 items on the website:

7 (including this report) under correspondence.

5 under Planning

4 under Transport

2 under Environment

e-mails sent 11

Alan Smailes

Secretary, SCC

SCC would like it noted that the members of the public who speak at the meetings contribute a lot and are greatly appreciated. There is a great deal of knowledge that is shared (especially technical).

6.3. Treasurer

There have been no changes to our finances. Alan has applied for a grant. Charlie hopes to have the accounts audited and ready for the next meeting, the AGM.

7. Reports from delegated groups (not already covered under Matters Arising)

7.1. Environment CIA – The volunteer day was very well attended and a lot of work was completed.

There has been a good response from the community for adopting tubs to plant and maintain throughout the year. The school and nursery will hopefully be helping to look after some new tubs outside the hall.

We have applied for a grant from Community Pride to purchase top soil and plants and new tubs have also been delivered. We are looking for volunteers to adopt tubs in Tyndrum, there are 2 tubs outside the village hall and 2 at the notice board. The 2 tubs at Dalrigh are already planted with flowers and looking lovely.

The pathway is now finished, with the opening event being this Friday at 11.00am at the play park. The School and nursery will be attending. David Robertson from the Forestry commission will be cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

7.2 Health.

The outreach surgery is still no further forward. Isla and Alan attended a meeting with Gillian Taylor from Stirling council, who is committed to helping us find a solution and a National Health Service representative who is looking into bringing digital solutions for the medical world. There is a possibility that Strathfillan could be used as a pilot for teleconferencing. This would not just for GP appointments but possibly for those follow up meetings at hospital that can take 5 minutes after a lengthy journey. She is very keen to work with the community. The way forward is probably an open day in September where the technology can be demonstrated to the local community. She will be able to work with us to go forward and has links with the health centre and will work with them to see how it may work. It is a long way away at the moment. We need to get as many people as possible to the meetings in September (if they go ahead).

Ian also commented that Digital Scotland could also be included in this meeting as broadband is an issue in this area.

7.2. Planning –

Application no. 2016/0057/DET Construction of cycle path including installation of drainage scheme. Location: land adjacent to Mountgreenan, Crianlarich, Stirling.

Application no. 2016/0064/DET Change of use of existing shed to processing plant, siting of container and ancillary equipment, storage of residual material. (Temporary permission). Location: Minerals Cononish Road, Tyndrum.

Application No. 2016/0088ADV Development Proposed: Erection of illuminated replacement entrance sign. Location: The Real Food Café, Tyndrum, Crianlarich.

Application No. 2016/0098/DET Development Proposed: Retain part of the construction compound associated with Upper Falloch Hydro Scheme. Location: Glen Falloch Estate, Upper Glen, Falloch. A82

Application No. 2016/0112/DET Development Proposed: Upgrade existing telecommunications base station comprising installation of 33m high replacement mast with 3 No. antennas, 2 No. 300mm dishes and ancillary works. Location: Existing Base Station Site, Tyndrum, Crianlarich.

Application No. 2016/0046/DET Development Proposed: Alterations and extensions and change of use of private house to house in multiple occupancy. Location: Tigh Ard, Crianlarich, FK20 8RY.

No objections were made to the above planning applications.

7.3. Transport – Charlie responded to the 1 year survey. If anyone would like to add to the survey regarding the Crianlarich By Pass it is still possible to give information.

Ian has emailed a new pothole locator map.

Charlie has pointed out that the noise from drain covers is also an issue in a number of locations.

7.4 Theresa – The community engagement team have been split area into 3 – providing 3 link workers. We will be setting up community hubs and have someone from roads, housing etc., virtually every department in the council. Dionne is the community Link office in this area and will be working alongside Theresa. Reps from council may be there for possibly 2 days a week. Have not decided where the local office will be located as yet – probably Callander.

8 Report from Councillor -

The Council is very busy due to the forthcoming elections. The council are going to bid for half a billion pounds of money from the 2 governments to completely revamp the Stirling area. This will be to enable the restoration of the river to become a mode of transport again, extensive new housing and a new council building to be built as the trial of all council workers being in separate buildings has not worked. There has been interest from businesses to use the Municipal building as a digital hub.

Isla asked what the plans are for our area.

The plans for the rural area – are possibly a centre parks style resort in Callander. We already have our cycle path network here. Isla commented that no, we do not. We are struggling for our cycle pathways, scraping for money and our initial Tyndrum to Crianlarich pathway has now been cut to Kirkton to Tyndrum and we do not have all the funding needed from Sustrans. Neil Bennie suggested at a meeting with Cllr that £80,000 should be spent every single day – and that she does not have any projects.

Cllr will take this forward for us, this is part of our action plan and has been for years.

Isla will pass information of a representative from the parks, Nathalie, to Cllr.

8. Report from Billy Ronald (LLTNP) – will follow up re forestry waste and also the lifebelts at Glen Falloch.

9. Any Other Competent Business

The street lights are on continuously at Willow Square, since December 2015. SSE were to deal with it. This needs to be investigated.

Action: Charlie

There are rumours that the visit Scotland office is closing in Tyndrum.

Action: Alan will contact.

Community Action Plan: Identify who has the skills to assist, who needs assistance. Telephone numbers. Where are items stored for emergency situations, where is the defibrillator, who are the key holders of the hall. Remember the railway line phone which can be used in an emergency. It was suggested to speak

to Jimmy at the firestation. We have separate groups here so it maybe that 3 action plans are needed. It flooding is the problem we may not be able to access the hall.

Action: Ongoing Sheona

10. Date, time, place of next meeting Tue 7th June 7.30pm AGM at 7.00pm.