

Ordinary Meeting of KCC

Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Zoom Video Conference

1) Sederunt

KCC : Gavin MacLellan (GM/Chair), Andrew Sinnott (AS/Trs), Sarah Guy, Ivan Mavor (IM), Jim Morrison (JM) and David Scott-Park (DSP)

WDC : Cllr Sally Page (SP)

LLTNPA : Kenny Auld (KA)

KCT : Janet Beveridge

Plus 17 other members of the public including guest speakers

2) Apologies

Police Scotland are unable to attend Zoom meetings. A crime report was received and included below.

Jackie Baillie MSP

3) Declaration of interest for tonight's agenda

None.

4) Minutes of meeting on 6th July 2020

Proposed as accurate by DSP, seconded by SG.

5) Matters Arising and Associated issues

Fish & Chip Van

We sent a reply to the vendor but did not receive any further correspondence.

A811 Signage

New signage/street furniture to be installed once the Lomond Bridge works are complete. SP has not been able to get written confirmation that old redundant signs, bollards etc will be removed and the verge tidied up. The bridge work is due for completion in December so KCC will arrange a catch-up meeting with WDC Roads dept and ask SP to attend if possible,

AED

Trossachs SAR pointed us in the direction of the Resuscitation Council UK who clarified the laws around performing CPR and use of AEDs with respect to liability. Neither the owners or users of such a device have any liability.

Sadly, shortly after our previous meeting, our community AED was called upon but was unable to revive the patient. Trossachs SAR attended the scene and reported that, as a

consequence, we needed a new set of pads and that a low battery warning was now activated so a new battery was also needed.

6) Treasurers Report

a. Outgoings : Monthly subscriptions to Zoom, monthly web hosting, annual subscription to The Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland.

b. Current account balance : **£939.01**

c. Benevolent fund balance : **£620.81**

AED - The total outlay was **£196.80** which will leave a new balance of **£424.01** pending issue of a cheque (COVID delaying multiple signatories).

7) Planning Matters

Little America

Recently works were performed to remove hedgerow and roadside fencing, install a gate and create an access road into a field off the A811. As no planning permission had been requested or given, the Planning Authority issued a stop notice. KCC supported this action by the Authority. The owner of the field, Lewis Hall, was present at the meeting and gave a briefing on the history of his ownership and his desire to make the field useful. His intention now is to reinstate the fence to the satisfaction of the Authority and apply for retrospective planning permission for a gate and access from A811.

Updates on historic applications

Core Path along School Road

GM advised that the Reporter was still considering the case – KCC's and others objection to ADD26 Path

Kenny Auld explained the NP point of view on the designation and how it was assessed and approved by NP despite community objections. JM asked KA how and why the desires of the community were not considered foremost by the NP. KA clarified that the NP have a decision process.

Arisaig Farm

Members of KCC attended a meeting on site with the applicant on Friday 10th July to discuss the implementation of the previously approved conditions versus requested variations and additions. A summary letter was issued to the planning authority and is available on the Authority file.

New & recent notifications

No comment on the following :

Change of use from vehicle breakers yard (sui generis) to campsite and motorcaravan hire centre (sui generis), erection of toilet block and associated landscaping

Recycling Centre Stirling Road Gartocharn West Dunbartonshire G83 8SB

Ref. No: 2020/0151/DET

Erection of 1-1/2 storey side extension

Dunerica Church Road Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8NG

Ref. No: 2020/0137/HAE

Amendments to planning permission (2017/0293/DET) for change in the use of agricultural land to extend curtilage of holiday development and erect an additional garage

Ballagan Farm Garage 1 Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8LY

Ref. No: 2020/0125/DET

8) Community Matters

Balloch Castle Country Park Nature Hub Project

Cllr Sally Page gave an overview of her vision for a nature-based education hub for Balloch Castle Country Park. Long term aim of a purpose-built hide like structure on the shore as a permanent exhibition and educational space to improve people's understanding of and increase respect for the countryside. The location and setting for such a hub is ideal with public transport links a short walk away and existing accessible walking and cycling routes within the park.

SP then introduced guest speakers Ian Robertson of Countryside Learning Scotland and Fergus McFarlane of Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust

Ian described the wide range of work done by CLS in outdoor education and highlighted the benefits of such a hub. CLS are excited about the possibilities of this project and welcomed the opportunity to be involved in it.

Fergus highlighted LLFT work with schools and local communities in conservation and education and how this would fit well with such a project in BCCP.

Gillian Clark from Balloch & Haldane CC commented that they would be supportive of a project like this that can improve use of BCCP.

Food Growing Initiative

WDC sent us some correspondence with a draft strategy document which we would like to follow up. Information will be posted on our website and shared for possible inclusion in the next CAP.

9) Kilmarnock Community Trust

AS presented a note from the chair of KCT who was unable to attend tonight.

Superfast Broadband (FTTP) - an update has recently been given to everyone who expressed an interest in this initiative. Openreach have not given an exact quote but have said

that the average cost per property is £5,000. This is averaged out amongst all the properties who expressed interest and has not identified how the cost is divided. This cost far exceeds the available voucher scheme contribution. Openreach have also said we should now wait until the R100 details are released before proceeding any further.

KCT have been in regular contact with Jackie Baillie MSP, in person and by email and she is trying to obtain information about what properties will be included in the R100 scheme in this area. There will be a further voucher scheme to help those who are not included in the R100 scheme but exact details are not known at this point in time. KCT will update further once more information becomes available.

In the meantime these two websites could be of use for individuals to check on what may be planned for them: <https://scotlandsuperfast.com> and <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband> – this information has also been circulated to those who expressed an interest.

Path Grant Applications - KCT have applied for Grant Funding from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority for the much needed repair work on the Dumpling Path and the footbridge at Aber Dam. While it would have been preferable if the NPA had just done the repair work, as they have previously, this solution gives the community more control over the projects and gives local contractors the opportunity to tender for the work. If and when the funding is approved, we will form project teams including landowners, contractors and other stakeholders to manage delivery of the works.

Community Action Plan and Local Place Planning - Janet Beveridge (a KCT Trustee) has contacted local community groups, including KCC, KMA, Church Board, School PTC and KOKT about updating our Kilmaronock Community Action Plan which runs for 5 years and finishes this year. We have had 3 previous CAPs. In the past when these were prepared a Community Steering Group, led by KCT, was formed with support from the LLTNPA to guide the process and the NPA or the LLTNP Community Partnership have funded a coordinator.

The Scottish Government has recently added a new layer to planning at community level. These are to be called Local Place Plans. In Kilmaronock's case the National Park Authority should have regard to these new Local Place Plans as part of the Development Planning process. Guidance on how these are to be implemented is still awaited from the Scottish Government. KCT have been talking to Fiona Jackson, community officer at the NPA about Kilmaronock's need to update its CAP. Currently the NPA are thinking that CAPs and Local Place Plans will be prepared in one process. They envisage Local Place Plans would essentially add a spatial element to CAPs in the form of mapping which has usually been absent from CAPs in the past. It is hoped that the above groups will form the new CAP Steering Group however drawing up the plan cannot commence until 2021 once the Scottish Government publishes its guidance on Local Place Plans and the NPA has developed its thinking on how it wishes to implement them.

10) National Park and Community Partnership Issues

Kenny Auld - Recreation, Access and Health Manager LLTNPA

Kenny described his role and remit within the NP. With a team of 2 leading on access matters from giving advice to planners and working with communities and landowners on access management. Most resources recently have been focused on camping and traffic management working with the police.

For the Aber and Duncryne paths he has supported KCT in their grant applications for the funding for remedial works. Funding is tight and competitive (the main grant allocation of £90,000 has had applications totalling £180,000). There is a smaller departmental pot for essential HSE issues which may be used for the Aber bridge. Across the park, projects are realised quicker if local communities take the lead.

The development of the old Outdoor Recreation Plan to the new “Active Park, Healthy People” strategic document began with consultations in late 2018 in which KCC and KCT were involved. The draft document, delivered early 2020, outlined 6 key themes. COVID-19 has delayed further development.

Kenny went on to address some issues raised in advance on parking control, visitor management, NP access and health related achievements and working with police and councils on litter.

School Road Core Path – see under planning matters above

A811 Core Path – GM asked if NP could support our requests to WDC Roads dept – Kenny affirmed this and suggested keeping him informed of the progress.

Car parking charges – GM outlined issues and that locals are effectively being penalised all year round because of seasonal tourist pressures and suggested locals should be provided with free parking passes. DSP pointed out another issue that in certain places, providing only ‘Pay by the hour’ (in advance) option was not very practical. Kenny thought that parking charges are going to become more common but would like to see charges as being consistent, fair and the revenue ring-fenced for reinvestment in paths and public transport.

40th Anniversary of The West Highland Way – later in the year there will be some celebration of this event and anyone with stories to share can contribute them.

Dark skies – mentioned in the “Active Park, Healthy People” consultation – part of Landscape dept remit but will have some mention in the final document.

11) West Dunbartonshire Council

Cllr Page gave updates on the latest council activity and her work within it. Looks promising that 3-4 extra early learning places for Gartocharn Primary School will be allowed for local families. Proposing new build council housing to be passive houses to reduce fuel poverty. Lobbying for more allocation of MOD housing as demand is expected to increase soon. Works on Balloch bridge are on track for completion in December 2020.

12) Correspondence

Police Report

From the period 01/07/2020-07/09/2020 there have been 47 calls made to the police regarding incidents in and around Gartocharn (beat LA13).

Theses have mainly comprised of road traffic matters and waterborne incidents.

From these 47 calls received there have been 3 crime reports raised and these pertain to road traffic offences committed on the A814.

On the whole there have been very few issues raised recently.

With more people at and working from home, people have been more vigilant regarding suspicious persons/vehicles observed.

We have seen an increase in waterborne incidents, which is directly linked with the increase in people taking to Loch Lomond by water.

We continue to (where possible) have resources dispatched to Gartocharn with the Unipar device (speed gun) in an attempt to challenge driver behaviours.

13) Next Meeting

Monday 2nd November 2020 at 19:30

Guest speaker will be Nik Turner, Litter Prevention Manager, LLTNPA

Please send in any agenda items in good time to secretary@kilmaronockcc.org

14) AOB

RSPB Scotland director Anne McCall had a positive conversation with local residents about the implementation of the proposed new path network. A site meeting is proposed to discuss their concerns. Due to funding and COVID the works aren't expected to start until spring 2021.

Meeting closed at 21:30