

KCC

AGM

17 May 2021

Chairman's Report

This was an unusual Year due to the Covid epidemic which has disrupted normal life and has prevented any form of Community Meeting, however we have made full use of virtual meetings, online opinion polls and improved digital communications with the Community and with third parties. When we started the year in May 2020 there was uncertainty and it was felt inappropriate to hold a May CC Business meeting whilst we all had other priorities and concerns for each other. The remainder of CC Business meetings were held by virtual meeting and were well attended – possibly more than actual meetings.

We held virtual meetings in July, September, November, January and March.

During the year we co-opted two new Community Councillors, we welcome Anita Anderson and Rory MacLeod.

Each meeting was attended by 5 or more Community Councillors and between 2 and 25 members of the public. Each meeting is subject to a Notice and draft agenda and is open to the public which enables open discussion and feedback before CCs make decisions. We also record our discussion and decisions in our Minutes of Meetings which are available on our website and on WDC's website.

Once again, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all Councillors for their continued support, time and interest in the Community Council which in turn supports our community as a whole. Thank you to Andy SINNOTT who has done a great job as Secretary, Treasurer, and attending external events for the CC and most of all taking the Minutes and promptly issuing drafts. I also wish to thank Bob Balmer who has been providing a valuable service managing all incoming communication in our virtual mail room. Thank you again.

The year was also notable in that WDC spent over 12 months repairing Baloch bridge and traffic lights have been in place for a year on the Endrick bank near the Croftamie junction at Catter. With these disruptions and Covid restrictions there was little progress on road improvement, safety signs and roadside pathway servicing and upgrading as had been agreed with WDC, we hope these works will proceed in the coming year.

Loch Lomond Trossachs National Park

There were a number of events during the year associated with our work:

Reporters Response to the Planning Application at Ross Priory 2020/0055 –

This Application was for a large lochside development of modern design that would be visible for many miles around and to be used or select training – not open to the public. The project therefore was outside any predetermination by the Local Development Plan and fully qualifies for an EIA.

KCC asked the Planning Committee to request an EIA to be submitted following substantial representation. KCC submitted a letter to the Planning Minister requesting the Application be called

in since the site was on green field land on the loch side and should be subject to protection from development under the terms of the appointed LLNP – we were later advised this letter was lost. However, the Committee did not ask for an EIA and the application was approved but soon after Councillor Page and the KCC submitted requests to the Minister for a screening for an EIA. We again asked for the Application to be called in. In February we were advised by the Minister that an EIA was not required and it would not be called in. We understand the LLNP were acting on pressure from Scottish Government who suspected the project would fail an EIA, and did not express an independent and subjective appraisal. However, the Application is still not showing Approved on the NP portal.

Reporters Response to LLNP application for a Core Path to be established on School Road to Auchencarrich Road. KCC had objected in 2019 to this proposal on grounds of safety to users and impact on local business, but these were not considered by LLNP. The Reporter reviewed the submissions and concluded in favour of the LLNP.

Planning Application Claddoch Cottages - the CC, in its capacity of Statutory Consultee had submitted concerns for three aspects of the project. We suggested this could be discussed by means of a Committee Meeting. However no Community dialogue was made and the LLNP has approved the application.

Given the above rulings failing to respect the Community views, the Community Councillors are not satisfied with the level of Community Consultation and dialogue afforded from LLNP and are concerned that our rights as Statutory Consultee are not being respected.

In March 2021 the CC as part of the LLNP Forum of Community Councils undertook a survey of the views of the LLNP. This Community report is attached to this AGM Report and indicates substantial concern with operations of the LLNP. A copy has been issued to the Chairman of LLNP and our MSP asking for a review of the LLNP.

Community Garden

The CC have worked with a local landowner to propose a Community Garden in part of a field in the village. This is a unique opportunity for the village and we hope a leadership team will come together in the near future.

Community Council Elections

KCC is formed under the Establishment of Community Councils and procedures of West Dunbartonshire Council. Under this document we have agreed to Elections of the CC on a 4 year cycle and these were due on May 2020. However, WDC decided to delay the process and review the Establishment Document during 2020 and 2021. We are advised that the term of this CC will now be extended until the new Establishment is in place, this will be later in 2021 or early 2022.

As Chairman I feel a term of 5 years is sufficient and I will retire after this meeting. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the Community for supporting the Community Council and for the contribution given from all those Councillors who have served during the last 5 years. The CC is in good health and my successor will ensure continuity of the work by the CC.

Lastly, I also wish to record that we have completed our affairs in accordance with the West Dunbartonshire Council procedures for Community Councils and Minutes for all our meetings are available on our website.

Appendix 1

Report of Community Opinion Survey on LLNP