**Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie Community Council**

**Chairman’s Report 2016**

**28 May 2016 (amended July 2016)**

**The Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie Community Council (LRMCC) had a quota of seven out of eight members from all three community areas at the start of the 2015 -2016 reporting period. However, we lost the dedicated and valued service of Norman Strang of Moneydie who sadly passed after a short illness. We are currently seeking to elect two new members.**

**Over the last year your Community Council (CC) has dealt with many issues and concerns of local residents. This has been achieved with the assistance from Community Police Officers, local Councillors John Kellas and Barbara Vaughan and other PKC officers and specialists. We are also very grateful to those members of the public who have attended our meetings to provide comment and support for our efforts.**

**Local issues and concerns addressed/being addressed:**

**                        The CC facilitated the re-siting of the War memorial to a new location following a public outcry at the proposal to re-locate it near the playing fields opposite the shop. The War Memorial has been dismantled and re-built ten 15 metres north of its original site. This new location and associated landscaping has satisfied the majority of the village.**

**                        We once again secured the help of the PKC Community Payback Team to help repair the path between the Redgorton bus stop to the Battleby junction.**

**                        PKC officials from the Roads Department and the Community Police continue to assist with the improvement of road safety in and around Luncarty and Redgorton. We continue to work with the Road Safety Officer to investigate the high number of accidents which occur at regular intervals on the slip road from the A9 into and at the Luncarty/Redgorton Moneydie junction. Despite the removal of several trees and improved visibility to the approach to the slip road accidents continue to happen. It is apparent that a combination of high speed and adverse camber is the cause and we are investigating ways of addressing these two risk factors.**

**                        We continue to have problems with overgrown hedges obstructing a give way sign and bus stop at the A9 Luncarty slip road which have not been cut back by the owners. We have asked the Council officers to intervene on our behalf.**

**                        We continue to monitor and contribute to the implementation of the Local Development Plan/Tayplan and how the settled view will impact on us going forward, particularly at Luncarty South and Bertha Park. Our recent focus has been on the planning application for a New Town at Bertha Park, PKC officers in the planning department have been very helpful in raising any concerns that we have with the developers, Springfield (Elgin), particularly on green belt issues. The CC will vigorously resist the encroachment of housing development into our rural community through ensuring that policy initiatives and strategies for the protection of the greenbelt are enforced. We also raised our concerns over the flood risk profile at the Bertha Park site and despite reassurances from the Council that the developer will be required to comply risk mitigation conditions at the construction phase, we consider the risk of ground water flooding to be unacceptably high. Communications in this regard are on-going with MPs in our area.**

**                        Members attended Community Council training sessions and other relevant conferences throughout the year.**

**                        Network Rail asset management team responded to a request from the CC assisted to clear debris from an abandoned caravan which had been blown on to the embankment close to the railway line.**

**                        Regular updates and enhancements to the LRMCC website were applied to improve communication and visibility of the Community Council.**

**                        The A9 dualling project has now started and the Community Council is actively participating in the consultation and implementation process with A9 Contractor, Jacob’s & Transport Scotland.  Transport Scotland have finalised their preparatory work on A9 from Luncarty to Birman Pass section.  Work is now out to contract and will commence in 2017.  A request has been made to Transport Scotland for the construction of an overbridge/underpass to link the Redgorton A9 bus stops.**

**                        We are working with the Council to monitor the effectiveness of new street lighting – luminosity and installation anti-perch devices for birds.**

**                        The CC Core Paths group worked with Stanley Development Trust on the commissioning and implementation of a feasibility study for a core path between Stanley and Luncarty.**

**                        All Community Councillors and members of the public present at the October meeting rejected an invitation to participate in the PKC sponsored A9 Resilience Project.**

**                        Subsequent to the CC submission of a survey of the core paths in our area priorities for signage were accepted and have now being implemented.**

**                        Volunteers from the CC continue to clear important Core Paths that are overgrown.**

**                        The CC continues to work with the community to provide plant and flower arrangements at the entrances to Luncarty and Redgorton through the newly established “Luncarty in Bloom” group. A donation of £100 from SSE Volunteers was used by the Bloom group to buy plants and containers.**

**                        PKC Education services have fulfilled their obligation to weed kill the area of vegetation at the memorial hall twice per year. This area has provided useful extra parking.**

**                        The CC made a submission to a consultation on the effectiveness of the PKC Planning Enforcement Team. We made it clear that many members of the public are disgruntled that this team rarely invokes the discretionary powers at their disposal to ensure compliance with planning conditions.**

**                        Luncarty South development – we have not received any updates or reports on the pre-planning consultation which took place during this reporting period.**

**                        The CC facilitated the re-siting of the War memorial to a new location following a public outcry at the proposal to re-locate it near the playing fields opposite the shop.**

**                        The CC also submitted an objection to the application for a Windfarm in GlenIsla, stating that we were concerned of the visual impact of the cumulative effect of the profusion of windfarms in this area. This objection was upheld.**

**                        A request was made to Perth and Kinross Council to have a bus stop installed on Marshall Way near to the shop to allow persons to board and alight from buses as it was felt there was too large a distance between the last stop on the main road and the next one beyond the playing fields. This has been agreed and a date for installation is to be finalised.**

**                        The public defibrillator situated at the shop next to the CC notice board was examined as part of the review into all such devices in the PKC area and despite the cabinet housing it being prone to condensation we have been assured this should have no effect on the device effectiveness as they are designed for use in potentially arduous conditions. A training session in the familiarisation and use of the device was suggested and this is to be arranged during the late summer time of 2016 for persons wishing to attend e.g. CC members, shop staff and coaches for the local football teams who use the playing fields opposite.**

**                        A request for a pedestrian safety barrier to be installed on Marshall Way at the foot of the path leading from Marshall Place has also been made and agreed with the PKC Roads Department. This area was identified (before the controversial kerb build outs close to that location were installed) as being where a majority of children actually cross the road after school. It is hoped installation will have taken place during the school summer holiday.**

**                        On the subject of schools, the CC also made representation to Perth and Kinross Council regarding the proposed closure of Marshall Road at selected times of the day to encourage children to walk to school. It is felt that parents will still use cars and drop their children off and that parking difficulties will be caused by them parking in between the kerb build outs and at either end of the newly upgraded pathway which unfortunately is on a bend in the road on Marshall Way at either end of the path. These comment were made in writing and discussed at a site meeting with Council safety officers. It is acknowledged that the plan is still to be finalised and hopefully the CC's objection will be taken into account.**

**                        On the subject of roads, the resurfacing of Marshall Way itself which is in a poor state is scheduled however it could be more than two years before this will be carried out. Minor patching repairs continue to be done in the meantime.**

**Thanks must be given to our Secretary Elizabeth Comrie, Treasurer Moira Hutchison and Vice Chairman George Black (now Chairman) and other members of the Community Council for their time commitment and contribution in the running of the Community Council and also to the Church Centre for hosting us on a monthly basis. Special thanks to John Andrews, who stood down from the role of Vice Chairman, for his work and our appreciation that he will continue to support the CC as a Community Councillor**

**Finally, we hope to stimulate increased interest amongst members of the community over the coming year through the noticeboard at the local shop and the LRMCC website (**[**www.lrmcc.co.uk**](http://www.lrmcc.co.uk/)