

# **Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie Community Council**

## **Chairman's Report for the year ending October 2020**

**26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020**

### **Foreword**

Welcome to the LRMCC annual report for the year ending October 2020. The year commenced as normal in November 2019 when we held an EGM following our Community Council election and following on from our usual December break, got things going again in the January. At this time though there were rumblings about a strange virus circulating in far off climes and no one could ever have imagined what hit at the start of springtime. Who was to know that our February meeting would be the last one until a virtual meeting in October 2020? Of course I am talking about the dreaded Coronavirus or Covid-19 to use it's colloquial term. For those who don't know why it is called that it is short for "Coronavirus Disease 2019" as it had originally surfaced in late 2019.

Covid though, did not deter the Community Council as we carried on in the background dealing with issues in the community as and when they arose reporting either by word of mouth or through giving updates through our Facebook page. We have always been here.

As stated in last year's report, one of our more senior members John Andrews lost out in the election giving way to a new member, John Bowman who, keen to take on the challenge, also took up a post as one of our Facebook Editors and police liaison. Of course John Andrews didn't leave us completely and continues to serve as an Associate member.

The Community Council were appointed as below, namely,

Chairman – George Black (also police liaison and Facebook Admin)

Vice Chair – Frank Stevenson (webmaster and Facebook Admin)

Secretary – Elizabeth Comrie (data controller)

Treasurer – Moira Hutchison

Other members – Iain Matheson (planning)

Alison Hood (rural affairs)

Bruce Burns

John Bowman (Facebook Editor and police liaison)

Alistair Godfrey continues in the role of associate member specialising in wildlife and ecological matters and John Andrews was appointed as an associate specialising in core paths, access and greenspace issues. John has been with the community Council since it was re-incepted after a dormant period and remains a valued and active contributor.

Perth and Kinross elected members; Anne Jarvis, Ian James and Grant Laing are our Ward Councillors and are a vital link to Perth and Kinross Council. All three have also worked on throughout the pandemic crisis.

I also wish to acknowledge the members of the public in the area who came along to our meetings at the start of the year and to those who contribute to and post on the Facebook page.

## **Report**

The Community Council are represented on the Strathtay Action Partnership which normally provides financial assistance to local groups or organisations upon application. However this year Perth and Kinross Council who administer the scheme, refocused the funding needs more towards groups who were providing support through the pandemic.

Christmas 2019 saw the addition of a Christmas tree to Luncarty funded by Luncarty and Redgorton in Bloom who raised funds by charitable donation and which was placed at the top of Marshall Way at the junction with the B9099 main road through the village. There was a ceremony at the beginning of December which saw up to 1000 people gather. A local brass band and choir provided the entertainment while our very own celebrities Dougie and Allan the local posties 'flicked the switch' to light the way! All in all it was an

excellent event enjoyed by everyone who came along. The plan is to have a tree every year from now on.

I have already mentioned Covid-19 and this put paid – temporarily at least – to the A9 dualling works being carried out by Balfour Beatty. June saw the works resume and there is progress ongoing with overbridges and carriageway construction. The Community Council is in regular contact with Balfour Beatty.

Below is a summary of our activities over the past year in addition to the above.

1. Overgrown hedging and trees in various locations reported to appropriate bodies for attention.
2. Complaint regarding parking at the local football ground.
3. Reporting damaged road surfaces for attention and repair as necessary.
4. Traffic calming measures at Moneydie including deployment of the portable police figures to reduce the speed of vehicles.
5. Repeated attention to and liaison with the local police regarding damage being caused to the gate at the top of the Denmarkfield farm road which was sited to prevent traffic using it as a short cut to avoid the A9.
6. Report submitted to Perth and Kinross Council with comments relating to the final planning application for the construction of the Cross Tay Link Road.
7. Regular monitoring and reporting as required regarding incidence of fly tipping at Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie areas. Liaise with police as required.
8. Ongoing liaison with the NHS regarding the pending application for a pharmacy in Luncarty. Nothing has yet come back and this matter is still pending.
9. Chairman invited to attend the official opening of Bertha Park school which took place in January.
10. Early warning of residents following a short spate of thefts from gardens in the Luncarty area.
11. Three of our members, George Black, Frank Stevenson and John Bowman attended a mental Health First Aid Course hosted by Perth and Kinross Council in February.

The foregoing list was drawn up from matters arising from minutes recorded for the three regular meetings held before the enforced shutdown of most things public in late March however other issues dealt with, recorded or otherwise brought to people's attention since then include early warning of potential scams mainly to do with frauds whereby people are tricked into providing bank details for one reason or another.

At the start of the lockdown period it was decided following a successful scheme in Perth that we should have a 'Give and Take' box in the village and a volunteer came forward who offered to make such a box whereby people may donate foodstuffs in order that those in need due to the pandemic for whatever reason may use the items. The donor (of the box) wished to remain anonymous and it was sited in April outside the Spar shop in Luncarty. I was delighted to see that within ten minutes of it going up the box was filled with generous donations. The box remains in situ and is still quite popular especially now that things seem to be becoming restricted once more.

Over the spring/ summer period a donations box was started by a couple of local residents whose idea to collect toiletries for use by the residents of Luncarty House care home was particularly well received due to the restrictions on visitors not being allowed to take things in to their loved ones in residence there. This idea was so popular it had to be stopped due to the sheer abundance of donations! On at least two occasions over 100 items were donated in two weekends.

Both of the above go hand in hand with an initiative within Luncarty of a group of over 60 volunteers who were prepared to do shopping or errands for or collect prescriptions for people who were either shielding or otherwise affected by Covid. A number of persons also put their needle skills to the test and made laundry scrub bags for NHS staff and carers.

Littering reared its ugly head on a few occasions over the year whether it is along at Langlands Park or the streets in general. It was highlighted on the Facebook Page and the messages given out seem to have had the desired effect. If only the same could be said for the recklessness of some dog owners who do not pick up after their animals have relieved themselves.

We also have ongoing contact with the persons responsible for maintaining the trees on Martin Lane just up from the nursing home. Two trees were felled however a stop was put on further clearing and this is now an ongoing matter between the owners and Perth and Kinross Council.

Going forward there are always going to be things carried over. As at the time of writing this report we are still awaiting an outcome for the pharmacy application, Vehicle Activated Signage to curb speeding on the main road through Luncarty and the possibility of having a pedestrian crossing installed. Overgrown trees and bushes are always ongoing and we keep a close watch on any which present as chronic, seeking resolution either by one off cutting or as part of an ongoing maintenance programme.

In closing this year's slightly abridged report I would like to say thank you to the Luncarty Church Centre whose hall we use for our regular meetings albeit not so much this year Our Facebook page now has 620 'likes' and more followers.

We would normally meet at 7.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month except July and December at the Church Centre, Marshall Way, Luncarty however due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic we are looking to hold our meetings by Zoom for the foreseeable future.

I and others on the Community Council look forward to seeing you soon.

George Black, Chairman, LRMCC