

Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie Community Council

Chairman's Report for the year ending October 2021

20th Oct 2021

Foreword

Welcome to the LRMCC annual report for the year ending October 2021. Another unusual year of pandemic, lockdowns and relative uncertainty but here at your Community Council we have continued on throughout.

As per last year we have held our meetings online via Zoom initially on a pay as you go basis but at the beginning of 2021 we decided to take on an annual subscription with a view to reverting to our normal schedule of monthly meetings (except, as usual, July and December). As this was an allowable expense and vital to allow us to remain visible to our community this was set up and regular meetings have been held through most of the year to date. We shall review the subscription in the springtime when it falls due but we would hope, virus and rules permitting, to get back to the face to face – albeit at a distance – meetings maybe around Easter time 2022. Time will tell.

As last year we have been working through the pandemic doing what we can as and when matters arose with updates on the Facebook page. This is a public forum and we have around 750 followers on that platform.

Our membership remained unchanged except for the resignation of Bruce Burns due to other commitments. Bruce however continues to attend meetings as an interested member of the community when he has the time to do so. Consequently we have run this year one member short and there is a vacancy for a member to be co-opted on. We would hope to garner interest from the Bertha Park area however it is possible that owing to the scale of that area, a separate community council may be set up there some time in the future but this has not been decided at the time of this report.

The membership is as follows;

Chairman – George Black (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)

John Bowman (Facebook Editor and Police Liaison)

Alistair Godfrey and John Andrews continued in the role of associate members specialising in wildlife and ecological matters and core paths, access and greenspace issues respectively. Both have been valued members in this role over the period.

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 regularly sign in to our meetings and to those who contribute to and post on the Facebook page, which is moderated for clarity purposes.

Report

The Community Council are represented on the Strathtay Action Partnership by Frank Stevenson, who was elected chair of that group shortly after our AGM last year. They too have also remained active throughout the year dealing with various funding applications two of which from our area were successful in receiving funding. They were Luncarty and Redgorton in Bloom and the Luncarty Soccer School to fund repairs to the changing area at Bankfoot which, has allowed them to expand their popular and very worthwhile facility.

Remembrance day, 2020 saw wreaths laid at the war memorial by myself, the church, the sports and social club and local guide group as well as other tributes in a small socially distanced ceremony.

Christmas saw the placement, for the second year, of a Christmas tree at the top of Marshall Way at the junction with the B9099 main road through the

village thanks once again to Luncarty and Redgorton in Bloom. This is a tradition we all hope will continue and I believe plans are already in place for this year's tree. No formal ceremony took place last Christmas due to the pandemic but maybe this year a small group will be permitted to gather.

The A9 dualling works being carried out by Balfour Beatty between Luncarty and the Pass of Birnam is now complete all bar the snagging works and it is hoped this will be completed and signed off by the end of December. One example of such works identified as needing attention was a road sign which was situated in such a way that it straddled the shared foot and cycle path – also used by horse riders - and was of a height which could have been struck by persons passing underneath. This has been repositioned. This project was delayed due to Covid restraints but got back on track again once things began to relax. The next major roads project of course affecting us is the Cross Tay Link Road linking the A9 south of Luncarty to the A94 just north of Scone. Totally different projects of course and the latter has featured quite heavily during the course of the year gone.

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

1. Dog fouling in and around the area. Reported to Perth and Kinross Council for attention by Dog Wardens and consideration for additional dog waste bins. Policy now is to allow such waste to be placed in 'normal' waste bins of which there are deemed to be sufficient in our area.
2. Covid resilience played a large part in the proceedings. A fifty strong group of volunteers were identified who distributed food and medicines in the area as and when required keeping an eye on those affected by the virus.
3. Liaison throughout the year with the NHS regarding the proposed pharmacy planned for Luncarty. This was considered at a meeting in August and a final decision is due around the beginning of 2022.
4. Fly tipping of rubbish in outlying areas was reported both the council and police as necessary over the year.
5. As winter approached volunteers were sought to carry out residential roads and path gritting using council machinery. This offer was taken up

by at least one hardy soul who was often heard in the early mornings before people set off for work etc.

6. The recently reinstated gate at the north end of the private Denmarkfield Road was repaired after it had suffered damage at the hands of person(s) who apparently were objecting to its presence. It is checked regularly and closed as necessary.
7. The perennial problem of overgrown weeds and branches on various roadsides and pathways in the general area were attended to either privately or with the assistance of the council.
8. Ongoing liaison with the roads department regarding a request for a safe pedestrian crossing on the Main Road through Luncarty. Numerous updates have been received indicating that a site meeting will be held sometime in 2022 to consult on suggestions made as regards location and type.
9. Linked to 7 the long awaited and much appreciated Vehicle Activated Signage went live at the north and south ends of Luncarty in the form of flashing speed warning signs. This has been met with mixed responses but the overall consensus is that it is having a positive effect.
10. The issue of an apparently unoccupied house between the A9 and the main railway line where scrap cars and caravans had been left in the garden thereof became an issue once more and after enquiries were made it was established that the house was undergoing some form of restoration and the debris had been secured to some degree. Liaison with Network rail established they were satisfied with the measures taken to ensure it did not encroach onto the railway line.
11. We were successful in gaining a short delay in the closure of Luncarty Post Office following the announcement that CJ Lang (Spar) had parted ways with The Royal Mail and the branch was to close. It has now closed however we are aware of an application from another business hoping to move into the area to re-open a Post Office serving the area. This is pending.
12. Closure of a core path and crossing point over the A9 at Denmarkfield was announced and this raised local objection which has now triggered an enquiry which will ultimately be decided by Scottish ministers.

13. Flooding at Moneydie crossroads was a problem in inclement weather however this seems to have been improved by drainage works carried out there. We, or rather some of the residents in that area, will continue to monitor that location for any further issues.
14. The children's play area within Langlands Park was closed due to flooding some time ago. A meeting was held which I attended along with representatives from Community Greenspace and the local football clubs resulted in a ground survey being carried out and it was ascertained the water was run off from the wooded area above the park and this is now in the plans for further assessment and some form of remedial action. The meeting also identified the football area has been impacted to such an extent that this will also require some attention. As it is lease-held by the football clubs this is a matter for them to address as is seen fit.
15. The Active Travel Route between Stanley and Luncarty was discussed on a few occasions and this is ongoing. There are some hurdles yet to overcome however things are looking positive in regard to how it will cross the Shochie burn. It is accepted there will not be a quick resolution and discussions are ongoing.
16. A pop-up policeman, deployable at locations where speeding is an issue was obtained from the council and used mainly at the north end of Luncarty however it was stolen in the early autumn. This is now a police matter. It did seem to be having an effect before this happened.
17. In connection with the pedestrian crossing points on the A9 between Redgorton and Luncarty, an application was submitted to have an overbridge sited there but this was turned down due to low perceived need. This may change though if the proposed Luncarty south development goes ahead as well as the ever expanding Bertha Park estate on the west side of the A9.
18. It was noted that the community defibrillator's pads are due to expire around the end of the year and an application will be made for a charitable donation for this purpose. The defibrillator battery is also nearing its expiry date and this too will be addressed.
19. Rewilding Denmarkfield is a large scale project where it is hoped that a large section (98 acres) of the former farm will be developed 'naturally'

to encourage wildlife to flourish there. This is being co-ordinated by an organisation not connected to the Community Council but there is an intention to open up an area of individual allotments for public use which of course we fully support.

20. The railway bridge at the south end of Luncarty was damaged by an out of control vehicle about two years ago whereupon debris fell to the line below has been cordoned off since that time. Recent contact with the Council Engineers department has ascertained a date for repairs. Allowing for Covid recovery and other more high risk repairs it seems the date for this job to be completed has now been put back to August 2022 having previously been planned for 'sometime before the end of the year (2021)'. We will keep that date in the diary as it has become the subject of a few adverse comments from visitors and residents alike as it is the first thing they see when entering the village.

The Give and Take box sited outside the Spar shop is still stocked and the box provided by a local couple to collect toiletries and other sundries for the nursing home is deployed now and again and I wish to thank everyone who has done or continues to donate to either.

There are a few issues still ongoing which we will keep the community updated with as we find out the outcomes, either at our regular meetings or via the Facebook page which has what now is wearing on for around 700 followers.

For the time being and probably at least until March 2022, we will hold our regular meetings by Zoom at 7.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month except July and December. The link to the meetings is available upon request either by messaging any of us or through the messenger service on Facebook. We do hope however, restrictions allowing, to resume normal service at the Church Centre, Marshall Way, Luncarty sometime during the upcoming year.

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

George Black, Chairman, LRMCC