

# Alva Community Council (ACC)

[www.alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk)

## Minutes of Meeting

Monday 9 March 2015, 7.30pm

Venue: Alva Baptist Church

Community Councillors Present:  Community Councillors Not Present:

<b>Lynn Cameron - Chairperson</b> Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Philip Ward - Vice Chairperson</b> Convener - Data Protection / IT / Website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Secretary - Linda Greig</b> Convener - Environment inc Parks & Alva Glen Convener - Planning Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Anne Spruce - Treasurer</b> Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sandra Rees - Minute Secretary</b> Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Margaret McArthur</b> Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan Sub Committee - Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ian Cameron</b> Sub Committee - Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Kirsty Wilson</b> Convener- Health inc Alva Health Centre Patient Group	
<b>Gemma Waghorn</b> Convener - Education inc School Council & PTA Convener - Joint Community Council Forum (JCCF) Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Iain Craig</b> Sub Committee - Events Sub Committee - Community Action Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Lisa Williams</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

### In Attendance:

Members of Public (MOP) x 9  
PC Andy McGirk

MSP Keith Brown  
Cllr Donald Balsillie

Agenda Item	Minutes of Item Discussed	Action By
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Lynn welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Linda Grieg.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting 09/02/15</b> Proposed by Iain Craig    Seconded by Ian Cameron	
<b>4</b>	<b>Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b> None	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b> None	
<b>6</b>	<b>Police Report</b> PC Andy McGirk attended and gave a report - attached.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Office Bearers Reports</b>	

7.1	<p><b>Chairperson Report - Lynn Cameron</b></p> <p>Lynn has tried several time to contact Glenochil Prison regarding the supply of a wooden bench to be placed in the park as a memorial for Scott (see item 11). The contact at the prison has been busy so far and not responded. Lynn will try once more before considering a different supplier.</p>															
7.2	<p><b>Secretary Report - Linda Grieg</b></p> <p>Linda was absent but Margaret read her report.</p> <p>Alva Community Council's (ACC) response to the Local Transport Strategy Consultation has been sent to Clacks Council.</p> <p>Linda emailed the following policies to all Community Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety</li> <li>• Equal Opportunities</li> <li>• Protecting Vulnerable People</li> <li>• Safeguarding Young People.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that ACC will adopt the above policies.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed to have ACC details on business cards. Linda will look at designs and pricing.</p>	Linda														
7.3	<p><b>Treasurer Report - Anne Spruce</b></p> <p>Anne attended a grant finder session run by Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI). Nothing available for our Fun Day or Christmas Lights at the moment but there may be from April . However, it was suggested ACC contact CFSLA (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk &amp; Stirling Local Authorities) regarding their Payroll Lottery.</p> <p>Anne confirmed that bank account balances are:</p> <p><b><u>Special Events Account</u></b></p> <p><u>Income</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Clacks Council for Queens Baton Relay Plaque</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 412.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collection Boxes in Shops for Christmas Lights</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 144.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 556.82</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Expenditure</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Mossman Memorials for QBR plaque</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 412.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Lights Invoice</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2900.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electrician to fit additional Christmas lights sockets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 433.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3746.27</td> </tr> </table> <p>Balance to date <b>£3389.17</b> of which £1960 is ringfenced for CAPLan therefore disposable amount is £1429.17.</p> <p><b><u>Ordinary Account</u></b></p> <p>Balance <b>£1919.78</b></p>	Clacks Council for Queens Baton Relay Plaque	£ 412.32	Collection Boxes in Shops for Christmas Lights	£ 144.50	Total	£ 556.82	Mossman Memorials for QBR plaque	£ 412.32	Christmas Lights Invoice	£2900.40	Electrician to fit additional Christmas lights sockets	£ 433.55	Total	£3746.27	
Clacks Council for Queens Baton Relay Plaque	£ 412.32															
Collection Boxes in Shops for Christmas Lights	£ 144.50															
Total	£ 556.82															
Mossman Memorials for QBR plaque	£ 412.32															
Christmas Lights Invoice	£2900.40															
Electrician to fit additional Christmas lights sockets	£ 433.55															
Total	£3746.27															
8	<p><b>Convener Reports</b></p>															
8.1	<p><b>Convener Report - Environment including Parks and Alva Glen - Linda</b></p> <p>Linda was absent but Margaret read her report.</p> <p><b>Pigeons</b> - A member of the community has asked for details of the department in the Council they should write to regarding the on going health risk to themselves and others by coming into contact with unreasonable amounts of pigeon droppings whilst out and about attending to their daily business in Alva. Linda suggested the Environmental Health Department. Cllr Donald Balsille confirmed the letter should be sent to Ian Doctor at Clackmannanshire Council's Environmental Health Department. (See item 11)</p> <p><b>Cycle Path Project / Wild Flowers</b> The funding has come through from Grow Wild for the wild flower planting on the Alva - Tillicoultry leisure route and in Alva Glen. Alva Glen Heritage Trust (AGHT) is the Grant Holder for this project. ACC &amp; AGHT are working with Clacks Council Youth Services, Clacks Council</p>															

	<p>Adult Day Services, Ochil Community Garden, Sustrans &amp; hopefully Tillicoultry Coalsnaughton &amp; Devonside Community Council, Wee County Men's Sheds and any other groups and individuals who wish to be involved.</p> <p>The project is still in its early stage, there is a profile page on the Grow Wild website which you can look at. Linda will try to figure out how to share on facebook and ACC's website soon.</p>	
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b>Convener Report - Joint Community Council Forum (JCCF) - Gemma</b></p> <p>Gemma confirmed she attended the most recent JCCF meeting where Police Chief Inspector talked about the policy of zero tolerance of domestic violence.</p> <p>Jon Jordon from Muchart Community Council was appointed JCCF Chairperson and a vote of thanks was given to June Anderson for her previous work as Chairperson.</p> <p>Alloa Bids would like a stall at ACC's fun Day on 23/05/15.</p>	
<b>8.3</b>	<p><b>Convener Report - Planning / Licencing Applications - Linda</b> (inc' Sub Committee - Planning and Environment - Linda , Margaret, Ian)</p> <p>Linda was absent but Margaret read her report</p> <p>Nothing to report in Alva.</p> <p>However, there is a planning application in for a change of use to Inglewood House in Alloa from Offices to a Hotel with Health Spa &amp; Function Suite.</p>	
<b>8.4</b>	<p><b>Convener Report - Public Partnership Forum (PPF) and Alva Health Centre Patient Group - Kirsty Wilson.</b></p> <p>Kirsty attended a PPF meeting in Sauchie on 18/02/15 where Karen McClure, Person Centred &amp; Patients Relations Manager, gave a talk on patients rights based on Patients Rights (Scotland) Act 2011. The Charter of patients rights summarises existing rights and responsibilities of those using the NHS in Scotland. Support is available from Patient Advice and Support Service (PASS). Nurse Lynn Waddell, Equality &amp; Gender Based Violence Manager talked about regognising and respecting diversity to adapt procedure &amp; practice to suit all ages, disability, gender, gender reassignment, civil partnerships/marriage, race &amp; ethnicity, religion &amp; beliefs, sexual orientation. The aim is to improve outcomes for all and to eliminate discriminatory harassment &amp; hate crimes, also to improve access to NHS for vulnerable people and those in deprived areas.</p>	
<b>8.5</b>	<p><b>Convener Report - IT/Website / Data Protection - Philip</b></p> <p><b>Facebook</b> - Currently there are 352 'likes' on facebook and 51 on Twitter.</p>	
<b>8.6</b>	<p><b>Convener Report - Education - Gemma Waghorn</b></p> <p>Gemma reported that she had a meeting with the Head of Alva Academy as they would like to get involved with the Community Council and wondered if they could make some bunting. Lynn said she'd be delighted if they could make bunting - see item 9.1.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Sub Committee Reports</b></p>	
<b>9.1</b>	<p><b>Sub Committee - Events</b> - Lynn, Linda, Anne, Margaret, Gemma, Sandra &amp; Iain</p> <p>Linda was absent but Margaret read her report</p> <p><b>Queens Baton Relay Commerative Plaque</b> has been paid. Linda is unsure if</p>	

	<p>it has been collected and delivered to the Cochrane Hall. Cllr Donald Balsillie said he will chase this up.</p> <p><b>Public Liability Insurance</b> Linda has replied to Detlef Lorenze and asked her to include cover for Fun day, gardening activities, Christmas Fare and up to 10 volunteers. She copied in Anne to the correspondence as she may want to coordinate this for us again this year.</p> <p>Linda will write up the events meeting minutes as soon and send them to all members.</p> <p><b>EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund</b> Sandra confirmed an application has been submitted to EDF for funding for the Fun Day on 23 May and the events group are also going to submit an application for additional planters and another for additional Christmas lights. The applications must be submitted by 16 Mar.</p> <p>There will be a Christmas Fayre on Sat 21 Nov 2015.</p> <p><b>Community Week / Bunting</b> - Lynn has asked pupils at Alva Primary School to work out how many pennants will be needed to hang between lampposts in the town centre. Lynn is encouraging individuals and groups to start making pennants to decorate the town Community Week commencing 16 May '15 concluding with a Fun Day on Sat 23 May.</p>	Linda
9.2	<p><b>Sub Committee - Community Action Plan (CAPLan)</b> Sandra, Margaret, Anne, Lynn, Linda, Gemma &amp; Iain</p> <p>Sandra gave the following report:</p> <p>Clacks Council asked the Community Council to create a Community Action Plan (CAPLan) for Alva. This will be an analysis of community views which can be used to inform responses to most consultations and to direct resources to community-led action. We hope to have the CAPLan completed by January '16.</p> <p>There have been 3 public meetings so far and a CAPLan Steering Group has been formed. This is made up of 15 people i.e.7 Community Councillors and 8 members of the public. Margaret McArthur has been appointed as CAPLan Chairperson.</p> <p>12 members of the Steering Group attended the third public CAPLan meeting on <b>Wed 28 Jan</b> in Alva Parklands Centre. It was also attended by 6 members of the public, representative from Parklands, a student from Stirling University and Cllr Archie Drummond. Cllr Donald Balsillie attended as a member of the CAPLan Steering Group. We had hoped for a better turn out - the heavy snow outdoors may have contributed to this. The meeting had been widely advertised locally.</p> <p>Those attending were split into 3 groups and asked to make a list of community groups that could be contacted to participate in the CAPLan. Then they were asked to think of a list of questions for a questionnaire;</p> <p>Group 1 concentrated on the Park area Group 2 considered the Town Centre Group 3 considered the site of the former Ochil Leisure Centre</p> <p>Results of this are still to be collated but look to be similar to the interactive brainstorming session we had at the 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting on 24 Nov. The main outcomes were that people of Alva want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern Community Centre on the site of Ochil Leisure Centre with Multi-purpose rooms for hire, café, toilets, changing facilities for hill climbers/mountain bikers, etc.</li> <li>• Town centre should be more vibrant, parking on both sides of the street with bicycle parking.</li> <li>• Hydro scheme &amp; visitor centre at Alva Glen / Improvements to Alva Glen at entrance.</li> </ul> <p>During <b>Phase 1</b> we gathered information, identifying groups within Alva, etc. We are now moving into <b>Phase 2</b> where the Steering Group are going to meet as often as required to agree the next steps in the approach to the CAPLan and set it in motion. It could be some months before the next public meeting.</p> <p><b>Steering Group Meetings</b></p> <p>13 Jan - made plans for the public meeting on 28 Jan</p> <p>18 Feb - Formally agreed the approach to the CAPLan will be 'Participative' and that we will carry out a questionnaire of community interests and priorities. 5 members of the Steering Group formed a working group to prepare the questionnaire.</p> <p>18 Mar - Steering Group will meet to consider the draft questionnaire.</p> <p>25 May - Commence distribution of a questionnaire to each of the 2,500 houses in Alva. Encourage participation by offering £50 prize.</p>	

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Keith Brown MSP</b></p> <p>Keith Brown MSP offered some advice about possible sources of funding for projects and events that various members of the Community Council had mentioned in their reports. He encouraged members to look at the Asda Community Grant Scheme and also the CFSLA (Clacks, Falkirk &amp; Stirling Local Authorities) Payroll Lottery Scheme. Keith also suggested we approach Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs in the Scottish Government as there are substantial grants available and Clackmannanshirfe have the lowest take-up so far.</p> <p>Keith praised Police Scotland for an excellent job done with recorded crime at the lowest level for 35 years.</p> <p>The Scottish Government are looking at ways Local Authorities are financed as they are all under pressure with yet another year of council tax freeze.</p> <p>Keith encouraged those in attendance to visit Edinburgh for a tour around the Scottish Parliament building. A MOP advised they have visited and there is good accessibility for disabled.</p> <p>A MOP asked Keith for advice on funding for Mens Shed and following discussion recommended that the group apply to Awards For All.</p> <p>Keith Brown MSP and Cllr Donald Balsillie attended a recent public meeting with Scottish Cabinet Ministers in Alloa. Cabinet ministers visited 15 different businesses and locations through out Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>The SNP are formerly adopting their candidate Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh at an event in the Cochrane Hall on Friday 13th March to stand against Gordon Banks the labour candidate in the forthcoming Westminster Parliamentary elections on 7th May 2015</p> <p>MSP Keith Brown left the meeting at this point.</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Clackmannanshire Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Archie Drummond</b> - sent his apologies for being unable to attend but sent his report that Lynn read out and is attached to these minutes.</p> <p><b>Cllr Donald Balsillie</b></p> <p><b>Budget Cuts</b> - The £190m cuts being made at Westminster cascades to Clackmannanshire Council (CC) and £13m has been taken out of CC's budget who have £116m running costs. Alva Community Access Point (CAP) has been saved from closure following a petition but there is likely to be a reduction in opening hours; it won't be open on Saturday mornings or Monday evenings. There is 25% less book borrowing but high use of the wi-fi facility so there may be some alterations to facilities. There will be no compulsory redundancy within CC but there is a need to reduce staff so vacant posts are being filled by redeployment of existing staff. However, there is a commitment to take on more apprentices. CC have a 'spend to save' initiative e.g. some lighting is being replaced by LED. Cllr Balsillie reiterated that there is meeting space available to the public at the new Alva Academy and encouraged the community to use it. CC is mortgaged to the hilt after borrowing to build 3 new schools. A MOP asked if this debt could be refinanced by Scottish Futures Trust.</p> <p><b>Refuse Collection</b> - Many green bins for non-recyclable waste are not full at the 2 weekly uplift as many households are recycling so savings will be made by changing the green bin uplifts from 2 weekly to 3 weekly from August or September. Larger families will be provided with larger green bins. Blue bins/boxes for recyclable waste will continue to be uplifted 2 weekly.</p> <p><b>Former Alva Glen Hotel Site</b> - No planning application received yet.</p> <p><b>Empty Shop / Business Units</b> - A Community Councillor expressed concern that an application has apparently been submitted for a café in the shop (previously McIntyres) as there are already cafés/food outlets struggling to survive. Cllr Balsillie advised that market completion is not a planning issue,</p>	

there would need to be other concerns e.g. parking. The Community Councillor asked why Ochil Fudge decided not to relocate to the previous RBS building in Alva but ended up in Alloa. Cllr Balsillie advised this was due to the building being constrained, lack of parking, venting works required, etc.

**Pigeons** - Cllr Balsillie reported a slight reduction in numbers of pigeons in the town centre. A Community Councillor asked what actions Clackmannanshire Council have taken as at last months meeting Cllr Balsillie said decisive action would be taken. He explained that traps have been placed on the roof of Ochil Leisure Centre. There are apparently still people feeding the pigeons and there is nothing to prevent them from doing so but this encourages the pigeons to remain where there is a source of food.

**Appointment of Alva Primary School Head Teacher** - A Community Councillor expressed concern about plans to appoint a temporary Head Teacher when Mr Rennie retires soon. He considers this will have a detrimental affect on many aspects of the school. Cllr Donald Balsillie agreed to raise this concerns with the appropriate officers in Clackmannanshire Council.

**Making Clackmannanshire Better (MCB) Initiative / Educational Model** - Cllr Donald Balsillie explained there has been a shift in the educational model taking into consideration economies of scale, examples of this include the new Redwell primary school in Alloa that replaced Claremont and St Johns primary schools, facilities at the new school are available to the public outwith school hours. There is currently consultation for a new primary school in Tullibody that could potentially incorporate Abercromby, St Bernadette's and St Mungo's primary schools with associated community facilities.

**Memorial for Scott** - Cllr Donald Balsillie said Alva Primary School likes the idea of working with the Community Council to arrange a memorial for Scott, perhaps a tree in the park or a bench (see item 7.1)

**Land at Berryfield** (a.k.a. site of former Hodgsons mill, East Stirling St). A Community Councillor asked Donald for an update on site ownership. Donald confirmed that Alva Investments Ltd paid £2m for this site.

**Land at Former Alva Academy** - Cllr Balsille explained work on the eco-housing at Erskine Street/Queen Street is now scheduled to commence in April 2015. The delay was caused by a request from Developer Tigh Grian and Link Housing Association for funding to be released in stages from the Scottish Governement grant funding agreed for the project. This has been approved.

**Site of Ochil Leisure Centre (OLC)** - Cllr Balsille confirmed OLC will be demolished as soon as practicably possible to prevent vandalism and other problems and considers this would be a prime site for housing. A Communtiy Councillor reminded Cllr Balsillie that Alva Community Council (ACC) wrote to the CEO of Clacks Council in Dec '14 regarding the OLC site explaining we have been asked by the Council to lead the Alva Community Action Plan (CAPlan) and asked that no decisions are made regarding redevelopment of this site until results of the action plan are known in 2016. The CEO confirmed at that time that no decisions had been taken regarding redevelopment of the site and she would anticipate that elected members would be keen to hear community views on any proposals that come forward. It was agreed that ACC would write to the CEO again for an update on the situation. Indications so far from CAPlan public meetings are that many want a Community Centre to replace OLC, not housing. (See item 9.2). A Community Councillor asked why there is such an interest in this land for housing when there are many other undeveloped sites in Alva, including land adjacent to OLC. Cllr Balsillie considers the OLC land could be sold to a developer and proceeds used to provide facilities for older people on one of the other undeveloped sites.

Several MOP's commented on the loss of a swimming pool (OLC) from Alva and consider that Clackmannanshire Council have let Alva down by not maintaining the former Alva Academy pool properly before handing over to Ochil Leisure Enterprises. Cllr Balsillie added that the days of the Leisure Bowl (pool, etc) in Alloa are numbered. The Peak facility in Stirling had been used 400,000 times by people from Clackmannanshire, and cost £39m to build. Clackmannanshire Council simply can't afford such a facility

Linda

<b>12</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
<b>12.1</b>	<p>Lynn read from a note received from a MOP who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.</p> <p><b>Hustings (Political Campaign Speeches to the Electorate)</b> A request has been received from elected SNP candidate Tasmina Ahmed Sheikh asking if ACC would consider a hustings meeting at which she is willing to speak and answer questions. As the general election is on 07/05/15 this public meeting would need to be held sometime in April. A MOP advised that Alloa Baptist Church has hosted Hustings in the past. Following discussion Community Councillors rejected this proposal as their schedules are already very full with commitments as Conveners and members of Sub Committees as reported earlier. Community Councillors are volunteers with limited time for ACC work and consider that politicians are very able to organise their own meetings.</p> <p><b>ACC Place of Meetings</b> - The note from the MOP also asked that ACC reconsider using Alva Community Access Point (CAP) for monthly meetings to demonstrate a need for the facility to remain open. Following discussion Community Councillors agreed that the venue for meetings will continue to be Alva Baptist Church at least until June 2015. Rev David Fraser confirmed the Community Council are welcome as guests of the church. ACC will discuss the way forward at the May/June meetings.</p>	
<b>12.2</b>	<p><b>Recycling Bins at Alva Community Access Point (CAP)</b></p> <p>A MOP reminded ACC that he raised this issue in Nov '14 and asked if there had been any progress. He wondered why the 4 large unsightly recycling bins are on the main street outside CAP and if they are still required now that most, if not all, Alva households have individual recycling bins. He suggested they be put somewhere else out of sight. Another MOP thinks they should remain where they are as she uses them sometimes including to recycle for a relative who lives in Stirling. A Community Councillor considers that recycling for a Stirling resident is not a valid reason to keep the recycling bins on Alva's main street and asked Cllr Balsillie to find out if use of the communal recycling bins had reduced since issue of individual bins to households. Cllr Balsillie agreed to obtain a report from Waste Services and advised that the bins could be moved if ACC can identify a suitable site. Following discussion it was agreed that ACC will look at the area behind Glentanna as a potential site.</p>	<p>Planning &amp; Envrmnt Sub Com'ittee Linda Margaret an Cam'</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> - Monday 13 April 2015 at Alva Baptist Church</p> <p>7.00pm pre-meeting for ACC Councillors.</p> <p>7.30pm Public Meeting</p>	

**ARCHIEDRUMMOND**

Clackmannanshire North

adrummond@clacks.gov.uk

an independent voice for our community



### Report to Alva Community Council - 9 March 2015

Regrettably I have to attend a meeting of another organisation this evening. Please accept my apology for absence and this brief update in lieu.

### Council Budget 2015/16

This has been the big issue in recent weeks and final decisions were made at the special meeting of the council on 24 February.

I will attempt to summarise the issues that were raised in consultation by the Alva community and those decisions that I think may be of most local interest.

In addition to the response from the Community Council (only three Community Councils submitted comments); there was a comprehensive response from Alva Academy Parent Council (Only Alva Academy and Tillicoultry Primary Parent Councils responded) and a petition from Alva residents opposing the possible closure of the Alva CAP. I imagine that the numerous individual responses also included Alva folks.

### **Community Access Point**

It was not decided to accept the officers' recommendation on this so the CAP is not closing. However the council decision, in the context of "Making Clackmannanshire Better" included a plan to review the "Development of settlement hubs (including utilisation of CAPs)".

I would strongly suggest that you keep an eye on this review when it gets going as there is likely impact on the location, range and availability of all services and one of the aims is cost reduction over time.

This will address another point you raised in your submission, i.e. community use of schools. It just makes sense to optimise the use of council's facilities and schools exist for 168 hours a week but are used for around 40. However as they have been designed for a specific purpose you have recognised the need to ensure that any additional use is wholly compatible with the life of the school. So, again, keep an eye on this too.

### **School Travel**

Also under the Making Clacks Better banner, there will be a review of "Safer Routes for Communities (incl. home to school transport)".

This issue was highlighted in the Alva Academy and Tillicoultry Primary Parent Council submissions given the potential impact on Menstrie and Tillicoultry children and the possible variation of entitlement within those two communities leading to another hit on the less well off parts of those communities.

I have no doubt that they will watch this review and you may like to as well.

**Visit my website - [www.your-councillor.com/archie-drummond](http://www.your-councillor.com/archie-drummond)**

### **Making Clacks Better**

In all there are some 40 separate pieces of work planned under this banner and these are set out in Appendix D to the budget paper (Agenda Item 3 of the Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council of 24 February 2015 - available on Clacksweb)

You may want to circulate this - just one page - so that you are aware of what's on the list and which items you may want to involve yourselves in.

### **Unavoidable Costs**

Every year at budget time the council is faced with increased cost, for a variety of reasons, that it has to face up to. These include, for example, inflation in contract costs; wage inflation and changes to legislation that require additional cost/activity.

This year however, there were a couple of significant additions that I did not consider to be unavoidable and I said so. These relate to social services and amount to £1.1m extra cost.

While it is evident that our community is getting older as we live longer and that this puts an added strain on adult care services that is not the whole story and there are management options to reduce current and future costs

Similarly in Child Care before we increase cost we have to ensure that current expenditure is required and I give a few examples of where managers have to get better,

An extra £643,000 is provided for foster carers for looked after children. However it is important to note that Clackmannanshire, since around 2008, has taken at least twice as many children into care (on a per capita basis) than all other Scottish councils and no analysed reason is proffered for this statistically significant variance.

On top of this, because managers have been less than active in the recruitment of foster carers to the council, you, the taxpayer, are paying around twice as much per case to private sector foster agencies. Managers have identified a potential £1m saving but have done nothing to achieve it.

And across social services the use of private sector agency social workers, again at highly inflated costs, has been the management alternative to recruitment when recruitment is a clear possibility.

### **Nursery Teachers**

Having led the case for qualified Nursery Teachers in Clackmannanshire, I am pleased that the council rejected the officer proposal to reduce qualified nursery teachers and each nursery will have an appropriately qualified teacher in the lead position. Research shows that the educational outcomes for children are directly linked to the teaching qualifications of the staff and no one argues against the crucial nature of investment in a child's early years.

### **Savings across services**

Appendix E to the above report lists all the savings/cuts service by service - too much to reproduce here - but worth a read.

Regards

Archie



# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council meeting

Name of  
Community Council:

ALVA COMMUNITY COUCIL 12/01/2015 to 09/03/2015

Foreword:

### INTRODUCTION

I am Police Constable 231 Andy McGuirk, one of five Community Policing Officers covering Clacks Central and East (Sauchie/Fishcross/Clackmannan/Forrestmill/Dollar/Muckhart).

There are two Community Policing Sergeants (Graeme Cadden & Kevin Chase) and we are all stationed at Alloa Police Office. If you require to make contact direct please contact with the Community Sergeant on telephone: 101 or by e.mail at [kevin.chase@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kevin.chase@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [graham.cadden@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:graham.cadden@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [andy.mcguirk@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.mcguirk@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Since your last meeting on 12/01/2015 we have recorded:

17 undetected crimes

14 detected crimes

1 v-rec

for ALVA, total 32



# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council meeting

### Crime Reports

#### **Undetected 17 (selection of reported incidents)**

3 Vandalisms, windows and damage to property, more than likely local young people.

Rhodders Grove slashed car tyres, this is a quiet cul de sac and most likely to be persons with a grudge against the owners.

4 Housebreakings with intent, garden sheds, James street and Cochrane Crescent, Greenhead Alva (fire). Possible others targeted but will not be reported until found.

#### **Detected 14 (selection of reported incidents)**

1 vandalism by a 15yr old male to the Parkland day center gate.

3 theft by shoplifting coop approximately £200 on food stuffs, mainly meat products.



## Police Service of Scotland Community Council meeting

### **OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE**

27 MISSING PERSONS REPORTED IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE.  
NONE WERE FROM THE ALVA AREA.

### **STORM CALLS**

Over 132 calls allocated to Alva. Allocated through 101 and Bilston control room.

### **ANY OTHER COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Community Warden team are now located at Kilncraigs offices where they start their shifts. The library at Sauchie is still available for any local consultations or meetings if required.

PC Carrie has cleared upto 20 offences reported from June 2014 involving young people from the village. Mainly for vandalisms and thefts, assaults.



# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council meeting

Other Incidents of note:

Total Crime Reports:

**Total number of crimes - 32**

% of Overall Detection Rate:

43%



# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council meeting

Feedback from  
meeting:

**FEEDBACK FROM MEETING**