

## **Strathard Strategic Partnership**

### **Draft Notes of Meeting held on Monday, 28th January 2019**

#### **Present:**

Trevor Geraghty (Strathard Community Council – SCC)  
Jane Fifield (Strathard Community Trust - SCT)  
John Hair (Forest Enterprise Scotland - FES)  
Steve MacDonald (Stirling Council - SC- Chair)  
Michelle Flynn (Stirling Council)  
Susan Brooks (Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority -LLTNPA)  
Fiona Jackson (LLTNPA )

**Apologies:** Simon Jones (LLTNPA); Katinka Dalglish (SCT) Peter Sutherland (Aberfoyle Traders Association)

#### **1) Welcome**

Steve MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by round the table introductions. Steven then clarified that those present were happy with the meetings starting at 6.30pm going forward. The majority of those present agreed with the new start time.

#### **2) Minutes and Actions of October 29, 2018 Meeting**

Minutes were approved for accuracy and can now be published on SCT and SCC websites.

#### **3) Matters Arising**

- a) Confirmed that Enterprise Event is to take place later this year.
- b) Item 7 – Funding support page was not there!. Link to be sent to Jane

#### **Action Steven**

#### **4) Forest Enterprise Scotland**

##### **a) Achray Forest LMP**

- Four local representatives were taken on a tour around the site.
- Agencies have not been forthcoming and some local input would be great
- John will send an overview of the project to the agencies.

Forrest will retain views of special interest – Ponder points have also been highlighted Local representatives can also feed into the plan.

**Action** - John to send an overview of the project to agencies

Fiona asked if some of the locals could film priorities with their phones and feed this in. Trevor also highlighted that Vis a Vis have been collating some points around cycle and woodland priorities.

John suggested that the access should also be highlighted in the new proposed signage/interpretation. Susan then suggested that could also be part of the LLTNPA outdoor recreation plan

Jane asked John if they had any data on how many people are using the forest.

**ALL:** Still to feedback local input to John on LMP Achray engagement proposal.

b) **Timer Haulage**

- Clear fell site with felling lasting around 8to 9 months
- Milton access coming out at Craig coup

c) **Strategic Timber Access Fund**

- £7million available nationally for landowners & councils to impact the road issues from forestry traffic.
- Deadline for the funding is mid-March 2019 for Loch Con

Trevor highlighted that he is looking for SC to match fund any contribution.

**Action** Steven to speak to SC Transport Team

Pre commencement meeting for the ASN – Emergency service network. EE will be building and operating the masts with one going up on the Dukes pass. Trevor asked for clarification on will these masts also take on commercial. Jane suggested camera's on the Dukes pass to highlight snow.

**5) Stirling Council**

a) **Signage/ Interpretation**

Working with Vis a Vis around signage & interpretation particularly within the Aberfoyle village. Rural Tourism Infrastructure Funding (RTIF) is being used to put this in place.

Jane asked if Alison Boa can be added to this group as she will be around here after the consultants have left. Jane advised that Katinka is the SCT representative on the group.

Visit Scotland have an interest in the building, but this is currently sitting with SC assets team to work through. Trevor then gave an overview of the proposal for the use of the building. Overall this has still to be determined.

b) **Digital Broadband.**

The BT fibre cabinet is still going ahead with Wi-Fi access and tracking of traffic. Rapier systems have been given the go ahead following notification of the access points.

c) **Playpark**

Currently discussing with Kinlochard the replacement of play equipment due to the current equipment being close to exploration date.

d) **Flooding**

Following putting up information on the proposed flooding measures in the Visit Scotland office in Aberfoyle, the feedback is that the information is very poor and the pictures are not representative of the proposals.

6) **SEPA**

No-one was available from SEPA to provide an update.

7) **LLTNPA**

- a) Rural Development Framework (RDF) Planning Guidance will be developed by LLTNPA in collaboration with SCC and will be informed by a range of stakeholder interests/knowledge, including the recent well-attended community consultations led/funded the community in Kinolchard (pending in Stronachlachar/Inversnaid) and supported by SCC, Strathard Community Action Plan and landowners/business/public sector plans. Discussions with SCC over coming weeks will decide how the RDF will be progressed.

**Action Susan:** contact SCC to discuss and propose brief for the work

b) **Core Paths Plan Review**

Access team currently consulting on the core paths plan, which will close on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

c) **Outdoor Recreation Plan**

- The plan will align with the outcomes for health and is to be reviewed in 2019.

d) **Trees & Woodland Strategy**

A draft strategy is being prepared for March consultation with a start in April 2019. This will include new woodland creation and natural flood management.

- 2000 new hectares of trees to be planted by 2023.

e) **Review of camping management**

Matt Buckland will be overseeing visitor operations.

f) **Camping Development Strategy**

- Loch Chon still has on-going water supply problems
- Loch Achray should be fully operational by 1st march 2019.
- New litter prevention officer Nick Turner starting February 2019.
- User focused

g) **Scottish Government Planning (Scotland) Bill**

Stage 2 will be completed in November and will impact on local development plans. Further changes will take place within Stage 3; expected completion late 2019.

h) **Trossachs & Rural E Bike Demo (TRED)**

- See website –cycle route 7
- Active travel in Rural areas (Natalie)

Jane highlighted some historical work on active travel within the area.

**Action** Jane to highlight through SCT

- Cycle tourism officer based at Stirling Council

**Action** – Steven to feed in with Natalie

i) **Visitor Research Survey**

A visitor survey is going to take place over this year and next in conjunction Cairngorms National Park.

Trevor asked for more information about how local businesses can provide information about local camping opportunities e.g. local café for people who turn up on the day and want to book camping.

**8) Update from SCC and/or SCT**

a) **Strathard Community Council Update**

Trevor advised that this forum has contributed to the Kinlochard initiative which is exemplary, with planning & designing about to take place in some of the smaller area of Strathard.

- Community council meetings have reduced to 8 per year.
- Planning in for 12 houses in Stronachlacher
- Scottish Power Footpath Network
- Next meeting of SCC is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Booking.com event is taking place this Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October in Aberfoyle.
- Mini festival in the offing to extend the tourist season
- Heather has worked with the local primary school on some initiatives.

b) **Flooding**

Due to the continuing flooding issues in Aberfoyle, it is important that communication and consultation channels between the community and SC are clear. Therefore, the new Strathard Community Council will confirm their representative who will sit on the Flood group. This will also feed into the Strathard Resilience Group going forward.

**Action: Trevor/ Michelle**

c) **Rural Development Framework**

Keen to see the final report and the mapping that has taken place in Kinlochard, Inversnaid /Stronachlacher, which is to be completed by the end of March. LLTNPA will release the monies for the Stronachlacher phase of the project. However in terms

of Aberfoyle it will be important to develop a sensitive and effective approach to community engagement.

Jane advised that she has information that she could feed into the process if required.

**9) Any other Business**

- a) It was proposed that Strathard Community Council, Aberfoyle Traders Association and Strathard Community Trust bring forward strategic issues to discuss to the partnership, based on the minutes of the respective meetings as it's important that the agenda is driven by the community.

**Action Trevor, Peter & Katinka,**

- b) SSP Partners' briefings to be circulated in advance of the next meeting

**Action Steven, Susan, & John**

**Date of next meeting TBC**

**Action Steven**

## **Stirling Council Schedule of proposed works for the Strathard Strategic Partnership Area**

### **Broadband – Shaun Marley**

Broadband Projects that I am aware that might take place in the area of the timescale are as follows:-

- Aberfoyle town wi-fi ( Jan 19 – May 19)
- BT Fibre cabinet Kinlochard ( now –May 19)
- Kinlochard extension (May 19 – Dec 19)
- Inversnaid / Stronaclacher (May 19 – Dec 19)

### **Playparks – Donna Mills**

Have no planned works for this area in 2019/2020. However, a few months ago a section of the play area boundary fence was damaged by a car, we hope to have this repaired over the coming weeks.

Currently discussing with Kinlochard the replacement of play equipment due to the current equipment being close to exploration date.

### **Network Team – Carlyn Fraser**

The Network team (formally Traffic Management & Road Safety) have no works agreed for this area at this time. However, we are currently investigating a request for a pedestrian improvement on Main Street which could come forward within the next year.

### **Flooding Team – Maria Lucey**

Duchary River Monitor:

“Residents of Aberfoyle and surrounding areas may be aware that one of our key river gauge monitoring sites, near Duchray Cottage, is experiencing signal issues. Our service providers have replaced various components in an attempt to get the site up and running again, however this has not been successful. The mobile phone signal in the area has been tested and is patchy. We are currently pursuing the option of connecting the device to an active landline, which will alleviate signal issues. Negotiations with BT and other involved parties are underway. We are also exploring the potential option of a 5G “internet gateway” to be connected to a hub in Aberfoyle. This 5G gateway, acts as a signal booster and is suggested to have a reach of 10 km. Given the landscape, it is unclear whether this method will be as reliable as a landline. Presently we are unable to provide a timeline for resolution. We appreciate your patience in this matter. Further updates will be provided once we have a known timeframe.

Flood warning is the statutory responsibility of SEPA. The council provides public access to river gauges installed for our operational use as an additional service, as we understand that there is currently no warning for the Strathard area and have tried to facilitate as best we can. It is important that Community concerns are directed to the flood warning authority (SEPA) to strengthen the case for their services to be provided locally. We have worked collaboratively with SEPA, over a number of years, to ensure that the need for an official flood warning is recognised. In accordance with the

Forth Flood Risk Management Strategy, the proposed flood warning would not become operational until 2020. We have also commissioned the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to undertake community resilience work. We encourage the community to engage with this.”

### **Service - Infrastructure Delivery – Drew Leslie**

- A project at Aberfoyle Primary School is currently being scoped for delivery in 2019/20. The nursery accommodation will be remodelled and expanded and the school house brought into use for school accommodation, to improve the overall condition and suitability of the school. It is anticipated that the works will commence in early Summer 2019 and be phased over a number of months to minimise inconvenience to the school community. Engagement with local stakeholders will begin in November 2018.
- Stirling Council has just signed a lease for the car park at the Inversnaid Hotel. The Hotel plans to do works to upgrade the car park although unsure of the timeframe for the works.

### **Economic Development – Steve MacDonald**

- Ongoing support of Business Hub
- Investment in infrastructure. Capital monies have been allocated to Aberfoyle, principally to support improved signage and interpretation and shop dressing/improvements. Karen and Tracey currently working up design and costings to be submitted to Steve for approval
- Free public wi-fi for Aberfoyle. Funding allocated to install free public wi-fi in Aberfoyle. Trust to sign off.
- Programme of business support activities initiated with STEP.
- Flood alleviation scheme – info provided by Stirling Council