

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm; 10th December 2019

Present

Anna Church, Grant Franklin, Councillor Emma Knox, Bo Hickey, Alice Scriven.

In attendance

Yvonne Brown, Fred Geddes, Alistair Jack, Cameron Kemp, Alisdair MacNeil, Judith Rumbold, Lindsey Stout, Karen Young.

1. Apologies	<u>Actions</u>
Apologies from Councillor Helen Carmichael.	
2. Minutes of Meeting of 12th November 2019: Ally MacNeil proposed and Judith Rumbold seconded that the minutes of 12 th November 2019 be accepted.	
3. Matters Arising of Meeting of 12th November 2019: None.	
4. Police Report A police report was received but not distributed to all members of the Community Council.	



5. Cycle Paths

Alice Scrivens has applied to Sustrans for funding for fees and the initial design stage for the path from Lentrane House to the Drumchardine junction in Inchmore. The path would give access to the school and bus stop. It would be a shared use path with active travel, for any mode of travel.

Bo Hickey from Sustrans visited to explain the process. She is the Sustrans Infrastructure Officer for the North Highlands. 98% of Sustrans is currently funded by Transport Scotland. Sustrans was initially formed to support cycle paths but is now an organisation which supports shared use paths for all uses including walking, cycling and riding and access for disabled users. Paths require to be wide enough to allow two wheelchairs to pass comfortably; 2.5 metres. A sealed surface gives a design life of 15 to 20 years.

Sustrans was approached initially by the Highland Council about the Dunbhalloch to Cabrich section of the path. Bo Hickey met with Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust. There was a safety issue between the school and some existing quiet roads. What's been applied for was initially the feasibility study. The path would be considered to be on the south side of the A862 and there is some existing footway but the path might switch in part or whole to the other side of the road if there was a need to. There is no conclusion yet as to which side of the road would be used – this would be one factor of the feasibility study. The back roads could also be used, possibly in exchange for services to the landowner, such as improvement of drainage, farm access or fencing. Greenway (environmental) management would be used to improve design.

Grant Franklin attended as a parent of children at Kirkhill Primary School to support a safe cycle route to the school at Kirkhill from Inchberry. He said that the Drumchardine road has blind bends and blind summits. He is keen to make the route from Lentrane House to Inchmore safer for travel to school. The existing, old, narrow path to the old school building in Inchmore is covered by weeds and does not meet the required width or surfacing.

Bo Hickey passed around a crash map of the area covering the last ten years (showing car accidents). This was a demonstration of perception of safety issues measured against car accidents. Safety is a major goal for Sustrans involvement, to be weighed against the benefits to the community of safe and active travel. Bo Hickey discussed the intersections with farmlands and safety and access issues for farm machinery. The shared use path also includes access for farm machinery. The design life of a sealed surface is 15 to 20 years. Maintenance is an issue, especially in the light of exit from the European Union. The original feasibility study suggested that maintenance fall to the path group (K.B.C.T). Anna Church interjected that the path group has difficulty in attracting volunteers. The Highland Council has an adoption fee. A group cannot apply for it until the path is already built to the required standard for adoption.

The hurdles are ongoing negotiations with match funding for 50% construction. Sustrans fund 100% of design costs. There has been direct approach to several consultants of choice. Usually around six are chosen for tender, using a weighted scoring matrix being used with about 3 to 6 people evaluating each tender bid and scoring each anonymously based on methodology, qualifications, timeline and added values. The tender bid will be scored for environmental and archaeological impact.

Bo Hickey offered Community Council members the chance to see the tenders and score them. The timescale was early January.



6. Planning

Alistair Jack visited to discuss planning permission for a proposed house and garage at Lentran Drive East, Lentran, Planning Reference 19/05158/FUL. The members of the Community Council were in full support of his application.

19/05113/FUL Erection of office building, parking and access at Bunchrew. Possible safety of access from A862. No opinion expressed due to lack of information.

Noted approach from Susan Vaughan for a house at Blackpark Farm. Planning Reference 19/04994/PIP. No opinion expressed.

7. Planning

Junction of Cononbank Farm and A862 approaching Kirkhill from Beauly. There is a lack of road markings and the wall at the farm is not visible in darkness. There is a road depression at the junction. The road marking needs to be renewed. Reflective paint for the wall may be requested to be added to the Schedule of Works. Councillor Emma Knox will raise the issue of road and wall markings and the road depression at the junction with the Area Roads Manager.

Cllr.
E. Knox

**The next meeting is on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7:30pm
in the Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre**

