Kippen Community Council Meeting Wednesday 11th June 2025

1. **Membership Present and Apologies received**

Members present: S Crawford (Vice Chair), N Beaton, P McLean, A Milligan (minute taker in absence of secretary) C Stewart joined vitually for start of meeting.

Apologies: B Ross (Chair), R Clubb (treasurer), J Graham

Councillor: no councillor present

Members of the public: 5

2. **Adoption of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes proposed by N Beaton, Seconded by P McLean

3. **Matters arising from last meeting**

09/04/25 3.0 named link for Southwest Stirling Climate Action Group, details of local flora and fauna expert shared

Completed:

- BR agreed to be link for Southwest Stirling Climate Action Group
- BR facilitated link between SWS Climate group and Roy Sexton (Biologist).

09/04/25 5.H.3 Dog Fouling
Completed:

- Contact Gartmore regarding their successful Dog fouling awaiting response
- Article in the Wee Vine

14/05/25 4.B.1 Asbestos at the coup

Completed:

- Playgroup has sent the asbestos report directly to councillor McGarvey
- B Ross has contacted the woodland group to make them aware
- B Ross contacted SEPA and advice sought
- Signage sourced and erected
- Post placed on Facebook to notify the community

14/05/25 4.B.2 & 5 information passed to relevant village groups completed by B Ross

14/05/25 4.B.3 informed communities meeting

- A Milligan attended, PowerPoint has been sent to KCC as reference material

14/05/25 4.B.7 Dawn Homes allocated Monies

- ❑ A Milligan will contact J NcNeil from the playpark group to ask for update

14/05/25 4.B.9 Fraud Awareness

Completed:

- Placed on Facebook
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Still to action:

- ❑ Added to next Wee Vine article (BR)

14/05/25 4.F Community Action Plan/Local Place Plan

Completed:

- Questionnaire to be created and distributed via the Wee Vine in the July issue, 730 copies require
- Street fayre stall to be booked and manned

Still to action:

- ☐ Facebook poll
- ☐ article for the Wee Vine explaining the purpose of the CAP/LPP
- ☐ S Gardner to share information gathered from Sustainability Kippen's session.

14/05/25 5.1 A811 Safety concerns

Completed:

- contact Councillor McGarvey

4. Matters for Discussion

A. Police Report

Police report had not arrived in time for the meeting

B. Correspondence

1. Sustainability Mobility Strategy

Survey is available on Stirling councils Engage platform, member of the public advised people complete the survey

Email received from Port of Menteith Community Council, sent to all the rural CC's. Gargunnock and Gartmore Community Council sent on their replies

Concerns raised:

PoM borders a number of other Community Councils as well as the National Park Boundry. they have recently completed their LPP and moving around is a significant part of this.

PoM stated :

"*We have not had any direct engagement or consultation with the council and wondered if we should possibly invite the lead officer from the council, and elected representatives to outline this strategy and to receive some feedback directly from local communities - should we invite them to a meeting with a focus of the needs of local rural communities and the asks and aspirations within their Local Place Plans?*

The collective response by rural communities to previous budget cuts, suggested the need for stronger representation from rural communities."
Further concerns raised around the wording "*prioritised according to propensity to use active travel*" as it did not consider the willingness for people to use active travel but the significant difficulties within rural areas to due to a lack of infrastructure. None of the rural communities in Western Stirling have traffic free active travel routes between communities.

Gargunnock raised similar concerns, The Kings Highway Project to link the A811 corridor of villages with a traffic free route appears to have stalled.

Discussion took place, points raised:

- Issues with the Survey as initially Stirling was not a point of travel that could be chosen, this has been rectified
- There are excellent places to cycle/walk in rural Stirling and communities such as Aberfoyle, have extremely good off-road trails.
- Transporting to areas to walk/cycle challenging without a car
- lack of access for bikes on the public bus, bus can only take a folding bike, these generally are not designed for non tarmaced tracks (much of what is available in the national park). To get from Kippen to Aberfoyle by Bus is 2Buses and 2 hours.
- Use of old railway line as route to Stirling, issues around land access as was sold to local landowners, much of the bridge infrastructure over the Forth and tributaries has also gone. The railway line would require users to have to cross the busy A811 to access the route.

2. Local Housing Strategy (2026 –2031)

The Local Housing Strategy *is a five-year plan that outlines our housing priorities and the actions we'll take to meet local needs. It's essential that this plan reflects the voices of communities across Stirling—especially those who are often under-represented*

Request that Community Councils share with residents and encourage participation

- ❑ Scott Crawford to share Survey link on Facebook page

3. Cardross Bridge
Confirmation from the Stirling Council Cardross Bridge should reopen on 16th June 2025

4. Woodland Group mapping exercise
Kippen Woodland Group have completed a mapping exercise to establish ownership and who is responsible for which part of the community woodland. map shared with the Jeramy Gaywood as chair of the Mitchell Trust.

Map shared with all present, those present agreed map is accurate with the current limited knowledge they have.

5. Buses
Val Brand summarised information shared via email following a PTUG meeting on 20/5/25

Breakdowns
An increase in unreliability has been the no1 issue reported by passengers since the start of this year with a huge increase in breakdowns leaving X10 passengers stranded or unable to make appointments or get to work. This particularly affects residents travelling to and from Stirling although Balfron- Glasgow has also reported a rise in breakdowns.

Vehicle Quality

Quality of many vehicles currently running is appalling. When queried, Graeme Leslie, operational manager blamed engineering as the latest reason for this. The current Head of Engineering has left the business, and a new Engineering Manager has been appointed. His expertise is in Volvos, and he will attend our next meeting. They cite difficulties recruiting engineering staff as well as issues obtaining parts for vehicles. He insisted they are spending a fortune on maintenance. They have brought down some Explore Dundee vehicles to temporarily fill the gaps.
Other representatives reported the same issues on services across Stirling especially on Callander and Hillfoots buses. However, the impact is less as they have more frequency than the X10.

Communication
Still poor delays and cancellations are not being posted on app or it is the wrong information.
No-one at bus station stances to tell if buses are cancelled.
Staff at ticket office don't know.
We have asked if staff at ticket office in bus station can be updated if there are delays.

App
Passengers report no improvement at all often with wrong or conflicting information.
Similar reply to last meeting the App is provided by a third party who they are in discussions with.
Faulty ticket machines which are apparently end of life and will be updated (again same as last meeting in January) GPS is another reason given as to why app doesn't work.

Driver Complaints
Pleased to report there's been a big drop in driver complaints since introduction of designated drivers.
Still a few issues with a couple of drivers e.g. poor concentration, fast driving with harsh braking between Killearn and Milngavie to make up time is an issue and down Kippen Brae …although much improved this side.
Other driver issues still being reported;
Not looking or speaking to passengers and not wearing name badges provided.
Smoking at Bus Station- No improvement.
Learner drivers - not paying attention.
Fares: drivers overcharging - blamed this on the faulty ticket machines not updating.

Behaviour
Ongoing issue on buses and at bus station.

I met separately with Mark Ruskell MSP and Claire Baker MSP. The Scottish Government are looking at legislation to remove U22 passes for the most serious cases of bad behaviour. Education is also being looked at for future S1 pupils to impress upon them this pass is a privilege, and they must abide by the rules of carriage including showing respect to elders and those with disabilities onboard. Parents do need to encourage their children to behave courteously on public transport.

Capacity on X10 Balfron-Stirling 15.35 School Bus.
Graeme cited his reply to the CC's involved.
We dispute the figures McGills gave in their reply and will continue to monitor this when the new term starts.

Trossachs Explorer
This service will run again this year but with a new operator. Midland Bluebird failed to win the contract for this service. National Park will make an announcement as to when the service starts normally in July.

Other news:
In light of the unreliability issues on X10/X10A which McGills continually blame on roadworks on the Glasgow side, they are considering a further tweak to the timetable possibly in October.

It was raised that previous changes made no difference to the reliability of this service. We also impressed upon Graeme that passengers heading east must be able to go straight through at Balfron and not be left there waiting for connections. They have been asked to consult with PTUG in August re any changes prior to implementing them.
A new shunter has been employed at Balfron which we hope will see an improvement in the cleanliness of vehicles.

6. Email from Stephen Bly re LPP

Additional information released to Community Councils

Deadline for Submission for the Local Place Plan has been extended to Friday 31st October 2025.

7. Response received from Councillor McGarvey re Cemetery grass cutting cycle

Councillor McGarvey had raised an enquiry with land services (Lagan Ref: 101000772913)

Thank you for your enquiry regarding grass cuttings in Kippen Cemetery.

Unfortunately, we do not currently have the resources to carry out grass cutting on a collection basis. The cemeteries are maintained on a 15 working day cycle using a cut-and-leave approach. This has been standard practice for the past few years, following the withdrawal of previous funding that supported cut-and-collect operations on a number of cemeteries.

We understand the concerns raised by bereaved families and appreciate the sensitivity of the issue. While we are unable to change the current arrangements due to resource constraints, we will continue to ensure that the grass is maintained to best standard possible, within the scope of existing operations.

8. Digital Voice Transition

Information sent from Stirling Council asking CC to share with Communities with the changes to the telephone network going digital. This will impact users who use their landline for essential services like medical equipment or telecare. asked to disseminate to local community

- ❑ Scott Crawford to place on Facebook
- ❑ Add to Wee Vine article (BR)

9. AGM Update

- Draft minutes and approved Accounts sent to Stephen Bly

C. Planning

Nothing of note

D. Treasurers Report

Opening balance: £2271.85

Expenditure: £4.25 (bank services)

£282.10 (printing costs)

£25 (street fayre stall)

Closing Balance: £1960.50

E. Street Fayre Table

Stall has been taken for the Street Fayre, Christine has boards and printed information

Rota arranged: 9.30 - 12.00pm CS, BR

12.00 - 2.00pm AM

2.00pm - 4.30pm JG

Suggestions board for a big project

Spare questionnaires to hand out to villagers.

F. Community Action Plan/Local Place Plan

The deadline for the CAP is 31st October '25

Questionnaire's have been printed, after distribution via the July Wee Vine issue spare copies will be held in the shop.

Shop has agreed to have a box for the collection of the questionnaire's.

Still to complete:

- ☐ Facebook poll
- ☐ BR to complete an article for the Wee Vine explaining the purpose of the CAP/LPP
- ☐ S Gardner to share information gathered from Sustainability Kippen's session.

G. Councillors Report

Councillor Fraser had sent her apologies

H. Sustainable Mobility Survey

Discussed in correspondence, link to survey to be shared on social media

- ❑ SC to share link

I. Declaration of full member

Pippa McLean has been declared a full member.

- ❑ BR to notify S Bly

J. Round Table Discussion

1. *Bottle Bank*
   Member of the public has raised the mess of broken glass and other rubbish that is around the bottle bank.
   A member of the public present also raised the overhanging tree sited next to the bottle bank. She agreed to contact council direct as previously the council trimmed another tree she had reported.

Short discussion regarding the issues in finding who is responsible for the bottle bank as Stirling Council currently do not accept responsibility of ownership but so empty it.

- ❑ Neil Beaton agreed to take on the bottle bank and see if he could identify who originally placed it.

2. Val Brand
   Frank Deas (SWSCAN) to meet with Val Brand (aka the bus lady) regarding public transport input in the Western Villages LPP as transport affects all communities.

   'Tweek' to bus timetables
   Val shared a public consultation due to take place on Tuesday 17th Jun regarding 'tweeks' to the bus timetable. Concern has been raised with the short notice of the date (6 days) and the location and timings of the 2 face to face consultations. Balfron Library 10-12pm, Milngavie Town Hall 1.30-3.30pm, both 17/6/25.

   - ❑ Val agreed to share directly to all the local Facebook pages as context needed to be given

3. Alan Beaton
   Alan still needs to meet with R Clubb to discuss the LPP/CAP
   - ❑ R Clubb to arrange meeting

   KCC have put an application into the trust, this has passed round 1 and will progress to the next stage.

   As part of the application was a memorial bench for Margaret Beaton. Willie Mills will liaise with the family re possible site.

   Foundation Scotland Funding have an additional £500 to be spent on the village. There are no requirements attached on this occasion.

   Alan suggested if ownership of the small area of land (where the glass bin is placed) is confirmed as Stirling Council it could be proposed to buy it for a nominal £1 for the community. The Foundation Scotland funding could be used towards this and associated legal fees.

   - ❑ Neil Beaton and Ann Milligan to try and establish ownership

Date of Next Meeting 10th September 2025