



Girvan and District Community Council Minutes
Tuesday the 05th of March 2024, 06.30 pm, Carrick
Buildings, Girvan.



(The meeting started at 18:33)

Present: Rhona Walker (Chair), Jane Willis, Ken Johnstone, Karen McCartney, Ruth Gillham, John McCreath, Wilma Dunlop, Stephen Galloway, Sconaid Clark, John Young, Colin Davidson, Catherine Maguire, David Girvan.

In Attendance: Amy Duthie and Stewart Marshall (Health and Social Care Partnership); Lucy O'Donnell (Girvan Youth Trust); Ainsley McCrindle, Cllr Clark, Cllr Lamont (South Ayrshire Council); PC Paul McKinlay and PC Andrew Thorpe (Police Scotland); David Bone - secretariat.

Welcome from the Chair

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded all contributors to speak through the Chair.

Declarations

Of Interest:

None.

Apologies:

None.

Amy Duthie and Stewart Marshall - Team Around The Locality model

Stuart mentioned his responsibility for Health and Social Care in the area. Amy identified herself as the Partnership Engagement Officer. Stuart highlighted the unique care demands of each village and town in South Ayrshire.

He then emphasised the partnership's focus on improving service delivery through collaboration and prevention. Stuart noted the area's ageing population, with 29% of Girvan being over 65, leading to increased long-term conditions and issues like 'bed-blocking' and dementia.

He outlined the team's approach, dividing it into a 'response team' for community support and a 'practice team' for more complex, clinical, cases that involve multiple agencies. He added that much of this work was aiming to redefine traditional care notions. He then asked for issues from the community councillors.

There was praise for the district nurse team. Colin suggested that surgeries move away from appointments with nurse practitioners and back to GPs. Stuart highlighted admin staff acting as 'navigators' and the need for a patient diagnosis that would send them to the correct multi-disciplinary team.

Concerns were raised about accountability and nurses being stretched beyond their roles. Lack of accessibility to specialised clinical care was also noted due to the area's remoteness.

The importance of patient choice in care was discussed. Stuart replied that one of his roles was to reduce 'avoidable admissions' such as those resulting from COPD and diabetes.

Issues with GP practice management and inconsistent appointment systems were mentioned, along with the challenge of seeing different GPs who are not aware of the patient's medical history.

Stuart suggested that those seeking medical help go to the response team for general advice and highlighted the role of Community Link Practitioners. He added that enhancements for the Health and Social Care website were also proposed

Discussion over dementia. Strategies for early identification and more gentle approaches were discussed, including creating age-friendly communities, reducing stigma, and using memory-enhancing medication. Stuart added that [Stirling University has a toolkit for dementia-friendly initiatives within the community](#).

[Stuart Marshall and Amy Duthie left the meeting at 19:07]

Minutes of the February 2024 Meeting

Pg 2 - 'GGC' to be changed to 'GCC'.

Pg 4 - noted that the minutes stated that there was a 'by-election' rather than stating it was for the Girvan Community Council.

Proposed for accuracy by Karen and seconded by Ken.

Matters Arising

Rhona informed the community council members that plans for the playpark have been submitted, noting its inclusive design. However, she mentioned a piece of equipment promised for Victory Park was missing from the plans. Cllr Clark committed to investigating this issue. Jane expressed concerns about the numerical imbalance of toddler swing seats compared to swing seats for older children. Stephen noted a similar situation at the Promenade park. David G applauded the addition of a wheelchair-friendly seesaw and roundabout but noted the absence of a wheelchair-friendly swing.

The discussion then shifted to the banking hub, exploring options for securing a temporary building, with the Carrick Buildings now being considered. Jane mentioned the Post Office's ability to cash cheques, while John Mc reported on discussions with ATM providers who would need to ensure the availability of an international card-accepting ATM in town. David G explained that in the banking hub cash handling would be managed by the Post Office, with each bank having a designated representative on certain days.

Jane also mentioned the installation of fencing at the old railway bridge and the placement of temporary fencing at this location.

Police report

Paul McKinley provided the police report, stating there were 127 incidents between 06/02/24 and 05/03/24. Theft by shoplifting was notably high at 28 incidents, but the police assured those present that the perpetrators were either arrested or remanded at present.

Rhona asked what a 'planned shot' was, to which PC McKinley explained it was related to pest control.

Ruth asked what an 'external agency request' was and PC McKinley clarified that it is an inquiry from another agency such as the fire brigade or the social work department.

Ken suggested that shoplifting might be even higher, with some thefts potentially going unnoticed.

Colin said that vehicles were still speeding at Coalpots Road. PC McKinley mentioned that several speed checks were conducted there recently. This led to a discussion about the community speed watch program. Cllr Clark mentioned its poor reception. PC Thorpe noted that the majority of speeding offences tend to involve residents.

Catherine inquired about installing speed cameras, but PC McKinlay explained it would require a review by the Ayrshire Roads Alliance first. It was mentioned that the 'Back Road' serves as a diversion route but is primarily residential.

There was discussion over where the nearest holding cells were from Girvan. PC Thorpe said that there were holding cells in Kilmarnock, Saltcoats, Stranraer and Kilmarnock. General discussion over the 101 number being ineffective at times. The police office at the Community Hospital was acknowledged as being in a poor location but was likely there due to resource constraints. PC McKinley said that the online reporting service for crimes was well-received by the public. Crime Stoppers was also highlighted as well. PC Thorpe clarified that 999 should be used for *any* ongoing criminal acts.

David asked about the presence of police in Girvan, and PC McKinley explained it depended on service demands.

[PC McKinley and PC Thorpe left the meeting at 19:24]

Public Participation (brown bin permit)

There were discussions about the recently announced brown bin permits and the lack of public consultation regarding their implementation. It was noted that this idea had been rejected previously. Cllr Clark explained that due to budget restrictions, brown bin collections were considered a non-statutory service in order to protect essential services. He mentioned that the council could no longer manage it and pointed out that most local authorities in Scotland charge for this service. The member of the public present referred to it as an additional tax and suggested that it should have been put to a public vote.

David G raised concerns about administration charges and potential increases in landfill charges due to improper waste disposal. Cllr Lamont stated that the council had studied data from other local authorities before implementing this scheme. Cllr Clark predicted even more challenging financial times ahead for SAC for the next two years.

Karen highlighted replacement costs for stolen bins, expressing concerns about theft. Stephen criticised the perceived penalisation of higher council tax brackets.

Cllr Clark mentioned that the situation would be reassessed after a period of time. John Y mentioned not receiving a rebate despite not using certain bins and cited the mismanagement of funds at SAC-run buildings (TQZ roof and Sacred Heart Primary School). Cllr Clark mentioned that the Audit and Governance Panel and Audit Scotland oversee such matters.

Simon shared positive experiences with similar systems in East Ayrshire and preferred this over increased council tax.

There were concerns about affordability for those on benefits and the potential neglect of gardens. David G questioned why residents will now be charged £30 for a replacement bin when at the same time SAC have allocated £390,000 from their Capital Budget for bin replacement.

From Capital Paper:

Household Bin – replacement programme (Appendix 8 Ref: 3[1]): Funding of £390,000 has been added to the programme over three years (£130,000 in 2024-25, £130,000 in 2025-26 and £130,000 in 2026-27) for the replacement of household bins.

Catherine proposed implementing a community compost system as an alternative. Colin suggested that the capacity at the waste recycling centres would need to be increased.

John Mc inquired about the implementation plan, and Cllr Clark explained that it would be a permit-based system.

Girvan Youth Trust (GYT)

Preparations are underway for the Easter holiday. Issues have been identified regarding the behaviour of young people at Victory Park. Planning is in progress for Music on the Prom. Currently awaiting Scottish Power to install a power cable at the promenade. The boating pond is set to be sealed with a metal base and is expected to be open during the second week of the Easter holidays.

Matters arising from any group meeting at the moment:

The Heath and Social Care Partnership

Report sent to community councillors.

Girvan Town Team

It was noted that the GTT does not meet until this Thursday. New contour benching is set to be installed at the Promenade. There are ongoing discussions about establishing a group to address the mental health needs of individuals undergoing cancer treatment.

Harbour Users Group (HUG)

It was noted that the next HUG meeting will be held next Wednesday.

Simon Voce introduced himself as the New Harbour Master for Girvan. Jane raised concerns about a derelict wreck on the jetty. Simon explained that it is in the process of being broken up by Nobles, but the damaged rails have caused delays to this. In response, Simon mentioned plans to install a set of spring-loaded gates at the location. David G inquired about improvements to the jetty. Cllr Clark stated that funds are available to repair the South Pier.

Simon also mentioned that he is currently addressing issues at the Fisherman's Stores to make it more presentable.

Catherine asked if a community group could assist with cleaning up the Harbour. Simon acknowledged the possibility of this but highlighted potential safety and insurance concerns.

Treasurers' Report

Two £500 cheques have now been cashed. £2,200.06 in the bank account. No other issues.

Planning applications

17 Dalrymple Street, Girvan.

11 and 13 Ailsa Place, Girvan

Licensing applications

None.

Matters arising from correspondence

There are still two vacancies for the community council. Ruth announced her resignation as she will be moving house.

An email regarding the ICU at Ayr Hospital has been received.

A free framed portrait of King Charles III is available through the Cabinet Office.

Legal documents regarding the change of use for the common good land where the Bandstand sits were received.

An email from Foundation Scotland regarding Carrick Futures indicates that the £5000 funds will be transferred in a few days to the GCC account.

Update from local councillors

Cllr Clark

Work on relocating the library to Knockcushan Street will commence this week.

Traffic concerns at Louisa Drive are being addressed, with installed bollards to safeguard civic space and plans for proper signage to establish a one-way system. Discussion ensued regarding traffic and parking challenges at Louisa Drive.

A geographical study is underway for potentially installing a new crazy golf course at Louisa Drive, featuring a specific theme, with the possibility of completion this year. Catherine suggested the consideration of a winter theme.

Cllr Lamont

Cllr Lamont said that all the issues he had wanted to discuss had been mentioned already.

A.O.C.B.

Ken mentioned that The Quay Zone is currently using the former pool at Maybole and they are working on finding a building for the gym. However, temporary storage of gym equipment will be needed before then as the TQZ needs to be cleared.

There was a discussion regarding the cost of the use of the 3G pitch and if money goes to SAC and back into the common good fund.

Rhona and Jane are scheduled to attend an online meeting regarding place planning tomorrow night. Ainslie mentioned being in contact with Audrey, while Catherine requested another meeting on the same issue, which Rhona agreed with. John Mc noted that the email from Audrey didn't fully address the issues raised last month at the community council meeting.

Jane raised a query about the containers and construction material at the Flushes Car Park. Cllr Clark said that permission had been granted by the Ayrshire Road Alliance to use the space, though the reason for its use was unclear.

John Mc inquired about the possibility of an additional bus stop along the A77. Cllr Clark said that he would need to contact Transport Scotland for this.

The meeting also touched on Ayr Station, with Cllr Clark mentioning that the demolition crew needed to lower the walls to 3.5 meters before trains could run through the station again. Cllr Lamont said that it would likely be April before the line can reopen.

Discussion over the broken drain outside Wrights Home Hardware. Cllr Clark pledged to contact AMEY for a resolution on this.

John Y expressed appreciation for the [new interpretation boards in the Town](#), deeming them well-received and effective.

Noted that there was an ambulance incident at Victory Park with the ambulance driving onto the grass and causing deep ruts.

(The meeting ended at 20:58)

Next meeting - Tuesday the 02nd of April 2024 at 7:00 pm