



Girvan and District Community Council Minutes
Tuesday the 03rd of December 2024, 06.30 pm, Carrick
Buildings, Girvan.
(The meeting started at 18:32)



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

In Attendance: Corene McCrindle, Graham Thomson and Jennifer Freeman (Guest speakers); Pete Cheetham and Ann Young (General public); Lucy O'Donnell (Girvan Youth Trust); Ainsley McCrindle (South Ayrshire Council Link Officer); Luci Jane Galbraith, Phoebe Galloway, Willow McCormack, Declan Griffin (Youth participants); Cllr Lamont (South Ayrshire Council); David Bone (Secretariat)

Apologies: Stephen Galloway, John Young, Cllr Clark.

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all those present to speak through the Chair and raise their hands should they wish to speak.

Declarations Of Interest:

None.

Corene McCrindle - Girvan's Story

Corene explained that South Ayrshire Council and the GCC submitted a proposal to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which was approved in 2023 and is now progressing to a Stage 2 bid. They have appointed several consultants to develop a conservation management plan, focusing on key buildings in the town as well as the surrounding area. Additionally, [Ice Cream Architecture](#) is working on a transitional skills and heritage plan, covering trades such as signage work, joinery, stonemasonry, and interpretation. She mentioned that she is exploring some pilot activities to this end and is open to suggestions for them.

Rhona inquired as to why the Mckechnie Institute had been surveyed. Corene clarified that it was an asset building, and it is currently undergoing a photographic survey to assess its condition. She added that Stumpy Tower will also be surveyed, and building plans are being developed for both sites.

Cllr Lamont noted that a significant amount of work is happening behind the scenes and emphasised that the project is strongly supported by ward councillors.

Graham Thomson (SAC) and Jennifer Freeman (Curren and Brown) - Plans for the new Girvan Primary School

Graham stated that the Stage 3 design has been completed, and the project is now moving to the technical design phase at Stage 4. He mentioned that tender assessments are in progress, and a preferred contractor should be appointed by next week. He expects work on-site to begin by June next year, with completion targeted for 2026. Formal planning will be submitted this Friday. Graham also noted that he has liaised with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance and all relevant SAC departments.

Jennifer provided an overview of the plans, mentioning that more details would be shared, though the designs should already be familiar to those who attended prior consultations. She emphasised that disruption to education will be minimised through a tandem build-construction approach.

The plans include:

A full landscape condition with parking at Wreck Road.

A south-facing play space, a smaller area for ASN children, and a forest school element to the north.

A seven-a-side synthetic pitch.

A secure part of the building is designed for out-of-hours use, with zoning options for different sections.

A Sports Scotland-compliant games hall that will include a curtain to divide the space when needed.

The school will have a capacity of 462 pupils.

She added that she will be meeting SAC Education this Thursday to finalise elements.

Jennifer confirmed that the design avoids roof-mounted equipment, with all plant facilities situated on the ground floor. All playrooms will have access to covered outdoor spaces. The building also features a light tone with "tumbled brick" and contrasting cladding colours to better fit into the local area.

Noted that the ELC and primary school will have a shared theme but distinct designs.

Colin asked about security for the building. Jennifer confirmed the building will be secure, but the car park entrance will remain open to the public. She added that the existing through path would be removed, as identified during consultations.

David G asked about delay clauses. Graham replied that these would be detailed later but were usually a standard part of a construction project. He added that SAC Employment and Skills will require a certain percentage of local employment to be created during construction.

Regarding car parking, Jennifer stated she is meeting with ARA on Thursday to address statutory maximums. Graham confirmed the design meets parking requirements.

Jennifer confirmed there will only be one games hall, which can double as a community hall for weekend events.

Noted that the building will include male, female, and standalone toilets and not unisex ones.

Jennifer noted that the maintenance budget is still being finalised during the technical design phase and that she has liaised with Fiona Ross on this matter. She added that the design incorporates a mix of open-plan classrooms and solid partitions, encouraging cross-curricular learning.

Concerns were raised about drop-off and pick-up for children particularly during the winter, with Cllr Lamont emphasising the importance of getting this aspect right to avoid further issues down the line. Ken agreed that pick-up could be problematic given the volume of cars and the size of the roads at the location. Jennifer stated that the transport consultant is addressing this based on current and projected capacities, with zones on both sides of the building.

Jane expressed concern that this might limit access to the nearby veterinary clinic.

Jennifer said extending the artificial grass could reduce maintenance costs, but Cath argued it is environmentally unsustainable and sends the wrong message to children.

Jennifer said that EV chargers will be included in the car park, with 1 in 10 spaces equipped with charging units and the ability to add more as needed. Graham mentioned that discussions with fleet services are ongoing.

Cath asked about heating and ventilation. Jennifer confirmed the building will be fully electric, using mechanical ventilation with heat recovery and incorporating lessons learned from other primary schools in the area. The building will also have openable windows.

Graham expressed confidence in the project's overall strategy but acknowledged that adjustments might be needed after construction.

John Mc asked about seating in the Sports Hall. Jennifer confirmed the facility will include bleacher seating.

Luci inquired about lunch clubs, and Jennifer explained there would be multiple flexible spaces for such activities.

Sconaid asked if the building would have a lift. Jennifer confirmed that it will.

[Corene left the meeting at 19:21]

[Jennifer and Graham left the meeting at 19:22]

Police report

Sent out to all members. Any issues are to be emailed to Rhona.

[Police Report.pdf](#)

Minutes of the November 2024 Meeting

Proposed for accuracy by Ken and seconded by Sconaid.

Matters Arising

Fiona Ross did not get back about the rape seed at Ainslie Park.

Reply to David G about the dog being euthanised by SAC Environmental Health. The consensus was that a week was too short a time to do this. David G said that he was informed that SAC does not have any dog pounds. Karen asked how efforts are made to rehome dogs. Colin Davidson mentioned Allan Jeans at the last meeting stating that this was sometimes necessary to do but questioned what is being done during those seven days by SAC to actually rehome a dog.

John Mc said that there are multiple kennels in South Ayrshire. Karen mentioned that there may be liability issues and that people would need to be vetted before taking a dog. John Mc added that it could also depend on whether the dog is a specific breed or a mongrel.

David G said that he will follow this up to see what SAC is doing in that week to advertise the dog(s), what efforts are being made to rehome the dog, and who they contact.

Noted that CC vacancy has been advertised.

Noted that bin issues at North Park Avenue are not resolved yet. Ken said there are two sets of bins at the other end of the road. Jane said this exacerbates littering as well. John Mc suggested that it would make sense to have more bins on the north side of the park as this is more heavily used by pedestrians. Related to this area, Jane mentioned that someone's dog went through water that smelled as though it had gone through sewage.

Cllr Lamont said he would enquire about the clawback of funds with regards to Stumpy, although he has raised it before. He added that there is a balance to be struck here between pursuing a company and using public funds to do so.

Public Participation

None.

Youth Participation

Declan mentioned that the school theatre is being renovated with plans to host movie screenings, events, and activities for various groups. David G raised potential issues regarding its use, but Declan clarified that it wouldn't require access to the main section of the school.

Cath asked if Declan could confirm the capacity of the new theatre, which he stated is 145 seats plus 40 loose seats. She also requested the technical specifications for the theatre.

Declan added that two 72-inch TVs will be installed and that the sound system was updated last year.

Matters arising - From any meeting community councillors attended representing the community council

[Girvan Town Team Meeting Report.pdf](#)

[Harbour User Meeting Report.pdf](#)

[LPP Meeting Report.pdf](#)

[NADARA Meeting Report.pdf](#)

[SA Wide CC Meeting - Connect Presentation.pdf](#)

[SA Wide CC Meeting - Finance.pdf](#)

[SA Wide CC Meeting - Jamie Tait.pdf](#)

Action Point Log

Left for this month due to time constraints.

Treasurers' Report

£994.75 in the account

David G said that the £30 cheque for Claire for auditing the accounts had not been cashed.

Ken asked £118 for the Xmas lights. David replied that it was spent on lights for the Christmas tree.

Rhona said that Carrick Future funds of £10,000 will be received shortly with groups able to apply for up to £1,000. It was agreed to advertise the £10,000 straight away.

[Treasurer Report.pdf](#)

Planning applications

[Planning - Applied.pdf](#)

[Planning - Decided.pdf](#)

Licensing applications

None.

Correspondence

[Correspondence - Secretary Report.pdf](#)

[Galloway National Park](#)

Due to Girvan's potential inclusion in this, it was suggested to arrange a debate-like event for the proposed national park. Noted that the official events in Girvan, organised by Nature.scot would be held on 8–9/01/25. but it was also noted that this may be a bit one-sided.

General consensus that the fact it is named the Galloway National Park is misleading as it encompasses swathes of South Ayrshire.

Jane asked all those present to have a look at the recently posted consultative document and she added that comments are to be submitted by the 14th of February 2025.

Karen said that many people do not understand the relevance of this to their community. Rhona concurred and said that it would also impact house prices.

Concerns were raised that the document may have only been sent to certain streets in Girvan.

Ann Young said that there was a meeting in the CooShed about 10 days ago and no new answers were really given, and that the meeting was unconstructive.

John Mc asked what SAC's opinion was on the National Park. Rhona said that SAC had given tacit approval according to the last minutes. He added that the roads are not fit for purpose. Rhona said that it costs £15 million per year and that this could be better spent on improving infrastructure in the area. Agreed to try and organise a public meeting.

It was decided to write to Nature.scot and state that some residents of Girvan may not be getting the consultation document.

ScotRail

Rhona said that Scotrail's offer was not very good and was also not very helpful for regular commuters. They have not replied, but she will resend it.

Blue Book Sub Group

SAC is looking to form a subgroup of community council members to review the 'Blue Book' to make it more user-friendly. Ainslie said that it is a good opportunity to be represented in this. Cath said that she would do it.

SAC Link Officer

Rhona said that she has spoken to Jodie McFarlane and that Ainslie was previously not allowed to speak at meetings out with her Link Officer role. However, now she is allowed to speak on behalf of Thriving Communities.

[Ainslie, Luci Jane Galbraith, Phoebe Galloway and Willow McCormack left at 20:21]

Update from local councillors

Cllr Lamont

Stumpy is due to be handed over this week, with Building Control granting a temporary occupation licence. Some street furniture, including benches and fingerposts, still needs to be installed. Cath noted that the coping on the walls seems too sharp and could pose a safety risk, mentioning the uselessness of the railings on the coping stones as well. John Mc said that SAC staff were working on this issue today. Pete added that it is standard practice to produce a complete snag list.

The Ainslie Park toilet block will be handed over before the Christmas break.

The tennis courts are now 40% complete.

The McKechnie Institute renovations are finished, and the building is currently being deep cleaned following the construction work.

Rhona inquired about the current state of The Quay Zone. Cllr Lamont replied that a paper is being submitted to SAC next week. Ken mentioned that the SCCL directors only meet every two months.

A.O.C.B.

Karen will be stepping down from the Carrick Futures board. Rhona noted that the next funding meeting is scheduled for January 2025, but there will be a review of funds meeting tomorrow. General issues were identified regarding the lack of communication from Foundation Scotland and Rhona thanked Karen for her contributions to Carrick Futures. Rhona then asked if there was anyone who would like to replace Karen on the Board of Directors, Jane and David both expressed an interest.

Post meeting note: Following the meeting all members were emailed for consent, Jane withdrew and consent was given for David to take Karen's place. Rhona then emailed the Chair of the Board to contact David and follow the process for joining the Board

Cath mentioned that the in-house counsel for Assel Valley is reviewing the release of all funds from Foundation Scotland. She added that the increase in funds is index-linked but wasn't sure of the specific criteria.

Cath shared that the A77 meeting that she attended with Stephen provided a very visual and demonstrative example of current issues with the A77 as the road to the meeting was blocked and a diversion was in place at the time. She noted that a tree has been felled at Glenapp and that there are discussions about signage improvements. It was noted that the A714 is more like a B-road than an 'A' road. Cath said that she has requested updated data on the number of HGVs passing through Girvan, as recent data has been procured.

David G stated that the old road from Maybole has been downgraded to the B77.

John Mc added that there are three bridges along the route that cannot support heavy lorries.

Cllr Lamont commented on the issue, and Cath clarified that the A714 is the designated diversion route. Rhona suggested ensuring there is local access signed along the A77 as quite often the problem is further down the route so access to the Snack Shack and Ballantrae would still be possible.

It was noted that workers on roads need a three-meter clearance for workers to operate safely, and Jane said that the Scottish government is proposing increasing speed limits for lorries while reducing them for cars, which will further exacerbate all these issues.

Jane raised concerns about the jetty at the harbour, mentioning there are now multiple barges in the same location as the recently removed half-sunken boat. Cllr Lamont agreed to email the Harbour Master and copy in the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

Noted that the Christmas Market will take place this weekend at Stumpy.

John Mc highlighted an issue with bins being blown over in the wind and the contents spilling out, would it be possible to supply straps for bins to keep them closed as there are in other areas? . Cllr Lamont requested a picture of the issue to follow up.

(The meeting ended at 21:59)

Next meeting - Tuesday the 4th of February 2025 at 06:30 pm

Outstanding Actions from November	Responsible
To email Fiona Ross regarding forward rape seed email	David Girvan Email sent and awaiting a response
To raise Victory Park bin issue with Fiona Ross	Cllr Alec Clark
To raise flood at Play Area Victory Park with Fiona Ross	Cllr Alec Clark
To find out if SAC have enacted any pentiles regarding Stumpy corner delays	Cllr Alec Clark

Action - December	Responsible
To engage with Cllr Alec Clark on outstanding Actions from November	Cllr Alan Lamont
To contact ARA and Harbour Master regarding boats tied to the jetty	Cllr Alan Lamont
John McCreath supply Cllr Alan Lamont with a photo of bin straps	John McCreath
To organise event regarding National Park	David Girvan
To ask further questions to Environmental health regarding their treatment of lost dogs	David Girvan
To raise concerns with nature Scot and to ask Qs as discussed	David Girvan
To email John Mc & Ken Johnstone current "blue book"	David Girvan
To email Amey to ask what makes a road an A road	David Girvan