

# Shieldhill & California Community Council

## Virtual Zoom Meeting held at 7.30pm, Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **Present**

J. Singh                      G. Merrett                      M. Montinaro                      M. Merrett  
6 members of the public

### **Apologies**

G. Paterson                      C Anderson

### **Housekeeping**

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm via Zoom on-line. Meeting invites were sent to all requests to attend. All attendees thanked for their attendance. No safety announcements were required.

### **Introduction**

This was the first meeting since February due to the Covid-19 pandemic which curtailed all public meetings and this continues to be the case. The AGM would normally take place in October or November and this will be re-arranged.

### **Previous Minutes – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Proposed:     M. Montinaro  
Seconded:     L Pryde (Resident present at February meeting)

### **Treasurer's Report**

<b>Current Account Balance (26<sup>th</sup> November 2020)</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>412.23</b>
<b>Savings Account Balance (26<sup>th</sup> November 2020)</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>8789.03</b>
Defibrillator remaining funds	£	26.38
FC Computer Equipment Grant	£	500.00
SEG funds (£500 awarded to BG-SH)	£	1007.14
CCF Rendezvous & Friday Lunch Clubs	£	2000.00
CCF BG-SH	£	5250.00
Interest	£	5.51

Auditing of accounts is an issue. A solution is being sought.

### **Matters Arising**

As mentioned in the February meeting, SCCC is looking for new active members. Issue has now become more acute. Since the lockdown everyone has had to re-assess their circumstances. P Irvine and M Calder have both resigned for personal reasons. M Calder was the secretary and her loss means a new secretary is required. SCCC thank them both for all their help, hard work and continued support. Request made for new members.

### Bollards

Issue of missing bollards from the Pit Road to the Bridge – no further information.

### Draining and Jetting

Drains and re-jetting/cleaning should have been carried out since the last meeting – no updates. With the wet weather as we go into winter, this will highlight if this has resolved the problem.

**Correspondence** – to save time, correspondence would be dealt with, within the agenda item

Human Rights Framework - Proposals for a new human rights law for Scotland are in the pipeline! This will include in Scots law, for the first time, rights such as the right to food, to housing, to health and to a healthy environment, as well as rights for specific groups. It was agreed to investigate further before getting involved. A link will be sent out for the site. [www.allourrightsinalaw.scot](http://www.allourrightsinalaw.scot)

Coalfields Community Futures – see below

Local Place Plans – see below

### **Church Report**

Church services resumed in Shieldhill in September and are being held once a month. Covid-19 guidelines mean that seating is restricted. All government regulations are being followed. Anyone wishing to attend a Service is asked to contact R Moore beforehand. Services are conducted by our Locum Minister, Sandra Mathers. No singing is allowed but pre-recorded hymns are played. The next Service is on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be a Service on Christmas Eve at 3pm in Shieldhill Church.

Looking to the future, discussions are ongoing with representatives from all churches in the Braes area as the plan is for the Braes churches to operate as a 'Hub' ministry.

Needless to say, we're looking forward to meeting up with members and friends next year – as soon as it is safe and possible to do so.

### **Police**

Officers G Todd and S Davidson covered the Upper Braes area. They are now working at Polmont YOI working with young people trying to prevent re-offending as part of the national Safer Communities team. SCCC would like to thank the officers for all their help, support and service provided during their time in our villages. They will be missed but we all wish them well in their new roles.

From the start of October 2020, the Upper Braes area has been covered by Officers D Murphy and R Robertson, who previously covered Lower Braes but will now cover the whole of the Braes. Sgt S Lounsbach has taken up post as Braes CPT Sergeant. – moving from Larbert (CPT – Community Policing Team). There are currently no plans to increase these numbers. As per the February meeting, the budget for manning levels are set at a national level.

Police report (18<sup>th</sup> November 2020) is minimal this month but moving forward, more information will be included and the report to be broken down separately for the villages as per previous reports.

There have been 28 calls to police between 01/10/2020 – 31/10/2020

There have been 10 crime reports raised.

## Coalfields Community Futures (CCF)

### EARLY ACTIONS FUNDED THROUGH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Shieldhill Welfare Hall	Development of Welfare Miners Hall
California Community Hub	The refurbishment of Village Hall
Shieldhill Butterfly Project	Shieldhill Butterfly Project
Braes Greenspace – Shieldhill Hillcrest	Improve Open/Greenspace
Rendezvous Club	Events for Community
Shieldhill Gala Committee	Equipment for Gala
Shieldhill Primary PA	Extracurricular project
California Primary PA	Extracurricular project

Total amount of awards in excess of £31,000.

An important element of CCF's work with both villages has been the creation of 5 year (2020 – 2025) Action Plans. Covid-19 has meant that the whole process has been delayed but the Plans were signed off yesterday. CCF are printing sufficient for a copy for every household which will be delivered subject to volunteers coming forward to help with delivery.

On behalf of SCCC we would like to give a big thank-you to CCF in particular Enid Trevett, Pauline Grandison and Lauren Arthur for their hard work in organising the meetings and events for all the groups in our villages. They have provided great support and funding which will hopefully benefit us all. Moving forward we hope this can lead to action plans which could be considered as Local Place Plans taking place every five years.

Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, it is hoped that a celebration can take place to mark the awards.

### Local Place Plans

The Action Plans are being submitted to Falkirk Council as Local Place Plans and should be a material consideration with regard to any development in the area over the next 5 years.

### Village Matters

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March, SCCC got in touch with Falkirk Council and CVS Falkirk to see what we could do to help our community. After several meetings, we were advised that we could not offer help as we did not have sufficient insurance cover. Our only way to help was to form a "residents group of willing helpers". This was done and we were able to partner up with the Charity "Viral Kindness" who have a 24/7 helpline. One of our helpers had a spare phone so we also have a number manned by a "Willing helper". The numbers have been distributed in emails, Facebook and the Falkirk Herald. 07841 308697 or "Viral Kindness" on 0800 054 2282 (24/7).

The reason for using Viral Kindness is that it is a charity based in Glasgow and manned 24/7. It can be called by anyone needing help whether it is shopping or taking a dog for a walk or other help not requiring professional help. They would find out which area the caller is from and they would then contact the nearest help local to that person. Other organisations were happy to place us on their list of volunteers and would only use us if their current volunteers were depleted. Viral Kindness is aware of the area we are covering and will contact us if someone calls within our area.

After the massive deluge in August the Drove Road path from Easton Drive down to the Westquarter Burn had been washed away and debris had piled up against the bridge over the burn. A party of 12 residents, cleared the bridge and surrounding area of debris and litter waste. The wood was piled up for anyone to

use and the rest was collected by Falkirk Council's waste management team. The path too has now been repaired. We wish to thank the residents that gave up their Saturday and Falkirk Council who attended at a difficult time to repair the path and collect the litter rubbish.

Resident L Pryde highlighted the issue of speeding on the California Road to Maddiston. It seems to have been highlighted on social media and not restricted to one location. An offer to contact Falkirk Council and the Police was made.

### **Braes Greenspace – Shieldhill Hillcrest (BG-SH)**

BG- SH was awarded SCIO status in July 2020 and in October received confirmation from Scottish Ministers that the group were able to apply under Part 5 of the Land Reform Act 2016 for Right to Buy Land to Further Sustainable Development. BG-SH immediate objective - address the urgent need for recreational amenity and realise the aspirations of Shieldhill Village and Hillcrest Square residents by acquiring land to develop Braes Community Woodland linked to the Lower Braes Green Network. BG-SH awarded £5250 by Coalfields Community Futures.

Persimmon Hillcrest Site is being considered anew by Falkirk Council's Planning Committee. This was to have been a relatively small and contained development, with the majority of the site retained/improved as greenspace. However it the site has been reduced by a third in LDP2 yet the housing allocation has more than tripled from 30 to 91 units, the "majority greenspace" provision which should have been safeguarded by the specific site comments gone . Given the existing shortage in open space provision, the site's current use as informal greenspace for exercise & recreation and the potential the site offers, BG-SH have objected to the Persimmon Application for 91 units calling on Falkirk Council to refuse planning permission to allow BG-SH to pursue the alternative proposal Braes Community Woodland. BG-SH have the support of Avonbridge and Standburn CC; Brightons CC; Maddiston CC; Reddingmuirhead & Wallacestone CC & SCCC.

BG-SH are seeking support of Braes Communities in the form of a petition supporting the following actions to enable the creation of Braes Community Woodland:

1. In the first instance, by appealing to Persimmon newly appointed CEO, Dean Finch, to do the right thing - withdraw the Hillcrest application and walk away from the site.
2. BG-SH's objection to Persimmon Hillcrest Application P/17/0504/FUL requesting Falkirk Council refuse the application in favour of Braes Community Woodland.
3. A Part 5 Right to Buy Land to further Sustainable Development' BG-SH application for Hillcrest Greenspace to enable the creation of Braes Community Woodland linked to Lower Braes Green Network."

The petition will be live in the next few days.

The issue of including the football playing field as a Community Asset Transfer within the group's scope requires people to step forward and be part of an active sub-group to manage the area for the community and future generations.

### **Planning and Licensing**

Items were read out – see appendix. The two planning items below were discussed further.

**Craigend Brickworks** – P/19/0211/FUL - Section 42 Application for the Removal of Condition 7 of Planning Permission P/08/0086/FUL which Restricted the Operation of the Development to the Processing, Recycling and Treatment of Inert Construction Materials Only

The Reporters have now passed the application requesting strict operating guidelines to be adhered to. ASCC are pursuing Falkirk Council and SEPA requesting information on by whom and how this will be monitored.

Avonbridge and Standburn CC had objected to this application along with SCCC and other neighbouring CC's. ASCC had collected over a 1000 paper objections with more on-line objections. ASCC do not believe Falkirk Council recorded the correct number of objections sent in and although there was dialogue between Falkirk Council and ASCC, this was never satisfactorily rectified. Not recording the correct figures won't change the outcome now but it is important to record the strength of feeling demonstrated by the number of responses.

**P/17/0504/FUL - Erection of 91 Dwelling Houses, Formation of Access, Landscaping, Open Space, SUDS and Associated Infrastructure**

Holding objection sent and a full objection with legal representation will follow. Support received to object to this application and support the BG-SH initiative from our neighbouring CC's – ASCC, RWCC, Brightons CC and Maddiston CC. We thank our neighbouring Community Councils for their support.

Following on from the above, Blackness Community Council have recently objected to a planning application in their area and included they had “great concerns about the final decision and who makes it” – this was after a development had been approved by the Planning Committee even though objections were raised and it was against the Local Plan.

Blackness CC go on to say that “The Scottish Government have made it clear that they wish to see Community involvement in the planning process through a variety of initiatives and say they want to be led by local input for such issues which is apparently not the case in Falkirk region.”

They conclude “We work hard as local volunteers and rightfully expect a proper hearing of our objections on behalf of the interests of our community.”

Blackness have stated their opinions and many Community Councils are in agreement.

This highlights that Falkirk Council have an adopted Development Plan and decisions are being made against these strategic plans. What is the purpose of strategic plans and community involvement if all of this is continually being ignored? The interests of the communities and Development plans are not being considered.

**AOCB**

Resident J Sutherland asked the question of funding to purchase the lands mentioned above by Braes Greenspace – Shieldhill Hillcrest. There was a discussion on actions and developments that have taken place and possible future options. There is support from neighbouring Community Councils, Falkirk Council, Calendar Estates and Green Action Trust. This is an on-going issue and BG-SH group will investigate funding and welcome input.

Meeting concluded at 8.30pm

**Next Meeting** – TBC – Possibly Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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## Appendix – Meeting Information

### Planning Applications – 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

#### Applications

**Application No** : P/17/0504/FUL  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission **Hierarchy Level** Major  
**Proposal** : Erection of 91 Dwellinghouses, Formation of Access, Landscaping, Open Space, SUDS and Associated Infrastructure  
**Location** : Land To The South West Of Tappernail Farm Reddingmuirhead  
**Community Council** : Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone  
**Ward** : 08 - Lower Braes  
**Applicant** : Persimmon Homes East Scotland  
**Agent** : Persimmon Homes East Scotland  
FAO David Jinks Unit 1 Wester Inch Business Park Bathgate EH48 2TQ  
**Case Officer** : Julie Seidel (Tel. 01324 504880)  
e-mail : [julie.seidel@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:julie.seidel@falkirk.gov.uk)  
**Grid Reference** : 290583 677456  
[View the application details](#)

#### Objections lodged and BG-SH involvement (see above in minutes)

**Application No** : P/20/0441/FUL **Earliest Date of Decision** 21 October 2020  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission **Hierarchy Level** Local  
**Proposal** : Erection of Dwellinghouse  
**Location** : Land To The South Of 63 Anderson Crescent Anderson Crescent Shieldhill  
**Community Council** : Shieldhill and California  
**Ward** : 09 - Upper Braes  
**Applicant** : Mr Naeem Khan  
**Agent** : Architectural Drawing Services  
Andrew Peebles 32 Moss Road Tillicoultry FK13 6NS  
**Case Officer** : John Cooney (Tel. 01324 504705)  
e-mail : [john.cooney@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:john.cooney@falkirk.gov.uk)  
**Grid Reference** : 290224 676985  
[View the application details](#)

**Application No** : P/20/0443/FUL **Earliest Date of Decision** 5 November 2020  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission **Hierarchy Level** Local  
**Proposal** : Erection of 2 Dwellinghouses and Detached Domestic Garages  
**Location** : Land To The South Of 7 Blackbraes Road Falkirk  
**Community Council** : Shieldhill and California  
**Ward** : 09 - Upper Braes  
**Applicant** : Alchemy Developments  
**Agent** : Pineload Designs  
Colin Aitchison 77 Jamieson Gardens Tillicoultry FK13 6EP  
**Case Officer** : Stephen McClure (Tel. 01324 504702)  
e-mail : [stephen.mcclure@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.mcclure@falkirk.gov.uk)  
**Grid Reference** : 290719 675920  
[View the application details](#)

**Application No** : P/20/0544/FUL **Earliest Date of Decision** 20 November 2020  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission **Hierarchy Level** Local  
**Proposal** : Extension to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Outbuilding  
**Location** : 18 Merville Crescent California Falkirk FK1 2DA  
**Community Council** : Shieldhill and California  
**Ward** : 09 - Upper Braes  
**Applicant** : Mr William Leach  
**Agent**

**Case Officer** : John Cooney (Tel. 01324 504705)  
e-mail : john.cooney@falkirk.gov.uk

**Grid Reference** : 290770 676197  
[View the application details](#)

#### Determined

**Application No** : P/19/0727/FUL  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission  
**Proposal** : The Development of an Energy from Waste Facility to Process up to 150,000tpa of Non Recyclable Waste to Generate Approximately 7.4 MW of Electricity to the National Grid  
**Location** : Avondale Quarry, Polmont, Falkirk, FK2 0YG,  
**Applicant** : NPL Group, FAO Mr Arran Cameron, First Floor, 183 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5QD,  
**Decision** : Grant Planning Permission  
**Decision Issued** : 5 November 2020  
[View the application details](#)

**Application No** : P/20/0422/FUL  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission  
**Proposal** : Extension to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Raised Decking  
**Location** : 115 Easton Drive, Shieldhill, Falkirk, FK1 2DW,  
**Applicant** : Mrs Liz Paton, 115 Easton Drive, Shieldhill, Falkirk, FK1 2DW,  
**Decision** : Grant Planning Permission  
**Decision Issued** : 6 November 2020  
[View the application details](#)

**Application No** : P/20/0433/FUL  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission  
**Proposal** : Extension to Dwellinghouse  
**Location** : 120 Easton Drive, Shieldhill, Falkirk, FK1 2DW  
**Applicant** : Ms Ashley Sutherland, 120 Easton Drive, Shieldhill, Falkirk, FK1 2DW  
**Decision** : Grant Planning Permission  
**Decision Issued** : 13 November 2020  
[View the application details](#)

**Application No** : P/19/0211/FUL  
**Application Type** : Planning Permission  
**Proposal** : Section 42 Application for the Removal of Condition 7 of Planning Permission P/08/0086/FUL which Restricted the Operation of the Development to the Processing, Recycling and Treatment of Inert Construction Materials Only  
**Location** : Craigend Works, Falkirk, FK1 2HY  
**Applicant** : Anglo Scottish Biosolids Limited, Jawcraig Works, Slamannan, Falkirk, FK1 3AL  
**Decision** : Deemed to Have Been Refused  
**Decision Issued** : 20 November 2019  
[View the application details](#)

**Appeal – DPEA ref PPA-240-2063 – Application P/19/0211/FUL passed (See above in minutes)**

## Useful Information

### Environmental Enforcement Team

email address: [community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk)  
[wasteservices@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:wasteservices@falkirk.gov.uk)

Phone: 01324 506070

### Police

Phone 101 for local issues and 999 for emergencies.

Email address for local police : [upperbraesCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:upperbraesCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Link to Neighbourhood Watch : [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

Purple Heart Link : [www.purplealert.org.uk](http://www.purplealert.org.uk)

Grit Bins : Telephone – 01324 506070

Road Defects (pot holes) : [Report it at www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk)

Roads Department [roads@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:roads@falkirk.gov.uk)  
Contact Centre [contact.centre@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@falkirk.gov.uk)

Human Rights Framework [www.allourrightsinlaw.scot](http://www.allourrightsinlaw.scot)