

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 2nd December 2020

Infrastructure Working Group

MRW reported that he had been in contact with the Council and had met with Suzy Hynds, from Roads, on 30th November, to discuss the Traffic Management and Road Safety improvements, agreed earlier with the Council and which are currently underway across the Muckhart area.

He noted that the road markings at the Yetts junction, of the A91 and A823, have now been re-painted and that a re-designed junction layout is under review. Deer Warning signs have also now been installed along Golf Course Road. Further to a query received, it has been confirmed that the signs have been installed in locations advised to the Council by a local resident.

MRW noted that new village gateway signs had now also been installed, as part of improvements to the zebra crossing. New signage, involving electrical works, will be installed, and the road re-surfaced and re-painted, which should take place over the next few weeks, depending on the weather.

A new gateway installed at the top of Maudie's Loan, in the wrong location, will be re-located further towards Yetts. When the electrical works take place at the zebra crossing, new solar powered 30/40MPH signs will also be installed, at the eastern approach to the village, which will replace the previous gateway sign.

Finally, an installation date will be confirmed for the agreed new No Through Road signs, to be located at the end of Beech Loan.

Public Transport: X53 bus service

PL reported that a meeting of the Perth and Kinross Community Transport group that he planned to attend, unfortunately, was scheduled at the same time as a meeting to discuss H49 and that the latter had to take precedence. However, he had subsequently spoken with the meeting convenor, P&K Cllr Barnacle, who advised that the meeting had gone very well and that it had been decided to arrange further meetings, to take place every two months. PL expects to receive minutes of the missed meeting.

MR noted that the bus operator had not been able to take advantage of the need to get children to school due to timetabling issues. She had spoken to First Bus who explained that their first priority had been to serve Stirling University. The dialogue will continue and PL and MR will continue to liaise on how best to promote the service.

The importance of encouraging Muckhart residents to use the X53 service was discussed, due to concerns that we could lose the service again. PL will consider how the service can be promoted within our community, perhaps using the MCC web-site and other publicity.

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 28th October 2020

Infrastructure Working Group

MRW reported that he had earlier collected the Pop-up “Police” from the Council and that these were now being deployed by members of the Parent Council. He had also been in contact with the Roads Department who had confirmed that contractors would be installing Deer Warning signs, at agreed points along Golf Course Road / New Broadmeadows and that No Through Road signs, at the A823 end of Beech Loan, leading to Maudie’s Loan. The works at the zebra crossing, by the Coronation Hall, still await a start date, as these would rely on the co-ordination of three different contractors, dealing with lighting, road signs and road marking works.

JJ noted that he had a visit from the Police regarding his trees, which overhung the road and were reported to be impairing driver visibility on the approach from Dollar. This issue had now been dealt with.

MW noted that the new road surface, on approach to the Cowden bends, on the A91, appeared to be very smooth and asked if it would provide good road adhesion. MRW agreed to follow-up.

Public Transport: X53 bus service

PL reported that a video conference, regarding the new X53 bus service had taken place, the previous Friday, with Andrew Jarvis, from First Bus, who is responsible for this service. Marion Robertson facilitated this meeting which was also attended by Mark Ruskell, MSP. AJ explained that First Bus was planning, shortly, to start a marketing campaign, such as a leaflet distribution, to help promote the service and he was advised of the MCC contact that could help with this. AJ noted that the forthcoming Young Persons concessionary travel scheme should also help the service and that he is willing to attend a future MCC meeting, if it would help promote the service.

AJ also provided some useful statistics: the service was based on what one bus availability could do, requiring 1.5 FTE drivers at a total cost of circa £130K per annum, noting it gets no Council subsidy. First Bus believes there is a market for a 2-hourly service; at the moment they have some 80 to 100 customers, per day, and anticipate growth at Kinross.

Marion Robertson noted that there is a push to engage the Bus Passenger User Group to get involved and that she and PL would be taking this further.

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 2nd September 2020

Public Transport: No 23 Bus Service Withdrawal and First Bus Proposal

PL reported that he has received confirmation that the number 23 bus will be replaced with a new X53 bus service. This service will be operated by First Bus, between Stirling and Kinross, and will commence on Saturday 12th September. He had seen a draft timetable which showed services on weekdays and Saturday but not Sunday. The service will be 2-hourly, in both directions, starting circa 7:00am and on weekdays, there would be an hourly service, at peak times, for Stirling services.

Marion Robertson (MR), a local resident and a candidate for the Ward 5 by-election, suggested that a local Bus User Group should be established to encourage use of the service. MR noted that she had already been in touch with Fossoway Community Council (CC) and would contact others, including Dollar Development Trust and Dollar CC. PL will take this forward with MR, and other CCs and interested groups, on behalf of MCC.

JA noted it was unusual and very pleasing to have positive public transport news to report, and thanked all those involved who had helped to make this happen.

Infrastructure Working Group (IWG): Approval of 2020-21 Proposals

MRW stated that the latest set of proposals, agreed by the IWG, had been circulated previously for review by members. He outlined the proposed path and road safety improvement proposals, noting that the Council, at an earlier meeting, had already agreed to conduct a survey of the junction at Yetts which was intended to improve both traffic and pedestrian safety. Members, unanimously, agreed to the proposals.

SD raised the issue of drainage, noting that several local footpaths had been damaged by recent rainwater run-off. MRW commented that this issue had been raised, previously, regarding other paths (e.g. the school path running past the golf course) and that the Working Group will take this issue into account in future discussions.

JJ raised the need for a relatively flat cycle path between Muckhart and Dollar. MRW confirmed that a number of different routes, as alternatives to a new path along Upper Hillfoot Road, had already been agreed and proposed by the IWG, in submissions provided to the Council during the LDP / MIR consultation and that further discussion was awaited.

JJ also commented that a second cycle path between Menstrie and Alva might take precedence within the Council, noting there was already a good cycle path between the two villages. Cllr Lindsay stated that he understood the path to be a school route and that he would take this matter up with the Council.

2020-21 Muckhart Community Plan Approval

JA noted that the draft Annual Progress Report had been circulated and that discussions on updated Action Plans had taken place, individually, with Plan Leaders. In discussions with JA, JJ had suggested that section 5-2 of the Plan be separated from the Environmental section, to form a new section 11, on Sustainability. This was agreed and the Progress Report was approved, together with minor amendments to the Action Plans suggested by SD and JJ.

JJ further noted that a number of Sustainability events had now been held, including the most recent relating to electric vehicles, and that further events of this kind should be planned for the future. He also commented that the distance electric vehicles could travel before re-charging remained an issue for those residing in rural areas and noted that these concerns were holding up the adoption of these vehicles.

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 15th July 2020

Infrastructure

MRW reported that he had issued an email thanking the Council for the improvements made to path from the west of the village, along the A91, to Upper Hillfoots and Golf Course Road. These improvements had been undertaken due to a Government grant made available to improve walking and cycling, under the current COVID-19 measures, and which the Council was able to access. He noted that MCC had since received several positive comments from residents, welcoming the new pathway, together with a suggestion that the kerbs at each end of the path be lowered, to improve access by cyclists and those walking with buggies, wheelchairs or scooters. This request has since been forwarded to the Council.

MRW also noted that the improvements to the path along Drumburn Road, down to MGC, had also been completed and that on behalf of the Working Group, MCC and all of our community, he had uploaded a post onto the web-site thanking Tim and Kim Allan for all of their support.

It was agreed that a formal note of thanks be sent for making these improvements possible.

Promoting the MCC Web-site

JB noted that although he had still not been able to get a counter added to the web-site to measure the number of visits, the indications are that there has been more activity both on it and on our Facebook page.

Community Plan Annual Review

JA reminded the group that a Plan review was due and that we will need progress reports on the various elements of the Plan for the forthcoming AGM. He will be in touch with the various Action Plan leaders, over the next few weeks, about these and to get their input and ideas for the next years' plans.

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 27th May 2020

JA noted that, due to the current lockdown, action had been severely limited since the last meeting. However, the following was discussed:

Feasibility study into developing and improving Glebe land in front of church

JA noted that there had been a positive response from the Church of Scotland to progress this study.

Promoting the MCC Web-site

MRW asked if there had been any noticeable increase in the use of the MCC web-site, further to the decision taken at February's Sub-Group meeting, to upload Minutes, community notices, etc., directly onto the web-site. JB noted that although it had not been possible to install software required to measure site-usage, there were indications that the site had seen more use by the community, for example, on the web-site's "Yellow Pages".

JB noted that the website should be promoted on the various village notice boards, via Facebook, etc., and this was agreed.

Transport Services

PL noted that the buses through the village had ceased running, a week or two into the lockdown, and asked if anyone had been formally notified this was to happen and whether any notices had been posted at the bus stops. Members reported that they had received no information regarding this. It was agreed that PL should investigate this further, regarding decisions taken and what will happen in the future.

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 25th March 2020

Meeting postponed due to Covid-19

Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 29th January 2020

Promoting the MCC Web-site

JA reported that a meeting had been arranged to discuss further use of the web-site and Facebook page.

Infrastructure: I-1/2 Lead MRW

MRW reported that the results of the audit, to address the issues with the zebra crossing raised with the Council's Roads team, had now been received. The Council has also approved the use

of the Pop-up Police figures, requested on behalf of the Parent Council. It was noted that the Police, having approved the use of the latter at an earlier meeting, had since confirmed this fact in writing. Council proposals for improving the zebra crossing include: repainting the beacon posts and the road markings, including adding red paint to the 30MPH roundel; replacing the rumble strips; introducing vehicle activated flashing warning signs; and adding gateways, at the east end of the village, approaching the crossing. Most of these improvements are in addition to the works previously proposed by Springfield. The Council have stated that this work will be undertaken when the weather improves in the spring. MRW confirmed that the Council will also pay for the Pop-up Police figures.

The Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) will next meet on 6th February, to discuss these developments, as well as a response to the MIR, and a follow-up meeting will be held with the Council on 26th February.

MRW reported that has also advised the Council of recent incidents where, within the space of a few days, two vehicles had become stuck in mud trying to drive up Maudie's Loan, following directions from their satellite navigation systems. Together with suggested improvements, this issue would also be progressed at the next IWG meeting with the Council.

Housing development: Muckhart Housing Development Policy

SD noted that further to comments by JJ at the last meeting, regarding sustainability, and further to the developments with H49 regarding SUDS, etc., he has since updated and distributed the revised Policy document. SD proposed that this revised version be adopted, under Muckhart Community Plan, noting that it is a working document which might change in the future. This was proposed by JJ, seconded by PL and accepted, unanimously, by members. Re Matters Arising, from the last meeting, JA noted that the Church accepted the need for an extension to the graveyard in Muckhart and that, as a matter of procedure, this issue has been referred to the Stirling Presbytery for consideration.