

## Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 (draft)

### ***Image of the Village***

PW reported that funding of £2,500 has been now awarded by the BHCF, based on a successful application submitted on behalf of our community, for the proposed Muckhart Nature Trail which is intended to support Muckhart's entry into the Beautiful Scotland competition, as outlined in the MCP. The Trail is based on plans submitted for school lane and is expected to take around 12 months to complete.

PW believes that perhaps half of the existing team of 12 volunteers, supporting the Beautiful Scotland entry, may sign-up to help with the Nature Trail and that further community volunteers, and input from the school, would be welcome. MRW will post an announcement, following the Meeting, and volunteers should contact PW if they wish to be involved.

### ***Infrastructure Working Group***

MRW noted that, further to JJ's earlier comment, although the zebra crossing features had been re-painted, the supporting electrical works remain outstanding, both at the crossing and at the eastern village gateway. He will follow-up with the Council, as earlier advice suggested that all of these works would be completed in April.

### ***Public Services***

PL reported that there had been a further two meetings of the Kinross-shire Community Transport Group (KTCG). At these meetings, a proposal was made, by a group member with experience of working on the buses, to have the X53 service extended to Halbeath which would allow local communities to connect to a major transport hub, at a modest cost to First Group. This proposal may be attractive not only to Muckhart residents but also to Dollar and other Hillfoots communities. The group will be contacting the other Councils served by the X53 to see if they could support this idea. It was suggested by the KTCG that a letter of support from MCC (and from Dollar CC) would be helpful. This was agreed.

Resident Marion Robertson (MR) enquired if there had been any discussion of the X53 service at the recent JCCF meeting. DC replied that, so far, nothing meaningful had been discussed, however, he would propose this subject be added to the agenda for the next meeting. MR also noted that, very soon, the under 22's bus passes will become available and that this should increase demand for bus services.

It was agreed that publicity about the services should be posted on the MCC web-site and on our Facebook page.

JJ noted the increasing number of bad potholes in the roads, which were extremely dangerous to cyclists, and that their repair needs to be prioritised.

### ***Flood Group (Kirkhill Flooding)***

In JB's absence, JA advised that a consultant report, which was being funded by the Council, was being prepared and that volunteers from the Muckhart Flood Group were going to assist the consultant by monitoring and recording the results of the local burn water and rainfall levels. The report, with recommendations, will be submitted on its completion to the Council.

## **Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### ***Infrastructure Working Group***

MRW noted that Council works to improve safety at the zebra crossing had still to be undertaken, together with works to complete improvements to the gateway, at the eastern end of the Pool. He had been in touch with the Council and was advised that its contractors still had a large backlog of work but that it was expected that the works would be completed by April, although this could not be guaranteed.

MRW also drew attention to the Slow Ways Initiative, information on which had been circulated previously. This UK-wide initiative is aimed at recording and recognising both foot and cycle paths that connect communities throughout the country. Cllr Coyne has raised this with the Council's Traffic and Transportation team leader, who was willing to support the idea. MRW noted that support has also been expressed by IWG members for this initiative, commenting that this may help to support additional funding for recreational and Active Travel routes across the Muckhart area and that residents will be encouraged to become engaged, by helping to identify paths and by recording them on-line under this initiative. Further information will be communicated via the MCC web-site.

### ***Public Services***

PL noted that a meeting of the Kinross-shire Community Transport Group had taken place but that, unfortunately, he was unable to attend. From the minutes of the meeting, he reported that a round trip bus serving Dollar – Blairingone – Powmill - Carnbo – Kinross had been discussed and that were this route to be considered further, it would certainly be of interest to Muckhart residents. PL will keep in touch with this group and report any developments.

JA commented that local residents should be encouraged to use the X53 bus service via the proposed bus users group. MRW added that this group should include representatives from all of the neighbouring CCs. It was noted that the X53 bus timetable could be put on the web-site to help promote the service. PL further commented that at present this bus service is available due to the current lockdown support funding and that it is not yet clear whether changes will occur when this support is suspended.

### ***Sustainability and Environment***

PL reported that he had a conversation with Tim Allan (TA) relating to the Himalayan Balsam infestation in the community woodland and was informed that TA is proposing to apply

systemic weed killer to remove the infestation, later in the summer. The advice is that these heavy-duty techniques are the only effective way of exerting control and in this instance the engagement of the school children to clear the weed would be inappropriate. The situation relating to Himalayan Balsam at the Golf Course is more complex, as this infestation follows the stream which feeds into the adjacent SSSI.

#### ***Flood Group (Kirkhill Flooding)***

JA noted that two actions were currently underway. Firstly, the Council has agreed to fund a consultant to work on how to reduce the flood risk in the village and work is due to start on a local report, in April. Secondly, JB is heading up a local flood response group, which includes several volunteers from the community, and a “flood pod”, with equipment and items to be used in the case of flooding, has been supplied by the Council and has now been located at Kirkhill.

In answer to a query, it was confirmed there would be training provided on the use of the equipment contained in the pod.

JB has uploaded a post and a dedicated ‘Muckhart Flood Group’ page on the MCC web-site and will act as the contact point for the group.

### **Muckhart Community Plan: Update – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

JA suggested that, following the significant work on flooding, this should be incorporated into the Muckhart Community Plan. This was agreed.

#### ***Infrastructure Working Group***

MRW reported that he had been in contact with Suzy Hynds, from the Council, on roads issues. It was confirmed that contractors have a large backlog of work, given the current Covid situation, and the improvement works will be completed as soon as possible. JJ asked about work on the electric charging point. MRW will follow up.