

Community Liaison Group

17th August 2021

3:30pm

Minutes

Apologies : John McHardy

In attendance Ian Williams, Morven Reid, Melanie Smith, Karen Ross, Catherine Bunn, Andrew Lilley, Graham Dunlop, Helen Cameorn

1. Junction - Planning Application update

Helen noted the CC objection to the planning application for the school junction. Ian wanted to make clear this wasn't tied into the housing site but reflected concerns solely associated to the school proposals. A meeting is to be arranged with CC/Planning and Education but a date has not yet been set.

Morven asked for clarity on cycle safety and the junction design. Graham talked through the approach to cycle safety and ensuring that there was no confusion between the various road users. The proposed junctions at Balloch do take account cycle use, however it is not possible to give cyclist priority as this would lead to conflict between vehicles turning across the lane, stopping for a cyclist and thus being exposed to oncoming traffic, or in fact progressing on and hitting a cyclist.

Ian asked whether a loop for cyclists could take them further into the site, giving on-coming traffic the ability to turn in and stop within the site rather than in a traffic lane. Graham advised that this would still cause confusion as it wouldn't reflect the rest of Barn Church Road and cyclists would likely follow the same course (straight over the junction) rather than using a loop and so the potential conflict still remains

Graham explained the process of obtaining a reduced speed limit – this is through a Traffic Regulation Order. He did not feel that the Council would pursue such an order as to reduce to a 30mph is significantly more than just signage. The Parent Council and CC have raised speed concern previously but not had feedback from Council Officers.

Graham confirmed that a 30mph would likely require a reduced visibility splay, however, may not reduce the loss of trees. The required land works/ slope creation could in itself mean the loss of an equivalent number of trees

2. Housing update

The planning application is still in preparation and draft drawings will be available for the group in advance of the next meeting.

Melanie pointed out that thought needs to be given to the tree belt proposals and once the landscaping is more advanced there would be the need for a drawing showing the specifics. A Landscape Architect has been appointed and we will invite

them to the next meeting to discuss their approach to the site and the opportunities it offers. Areas to be considered:

- Routes through the community area at the bottom of the site for cyclists/kids on scooters etc (this cannot include routes through the suds basin) Graham will check the Scottish Water requirements for access and potential conflicts
- Community growing areas – what's possible and where. Could there be an opportunity to associate them to the Woodland and generate some income for the ongoing costs. Helen advised that finding such areas are challenging as she needed to consider this in within the context of the economic development of the site. Could an area of the school land be used for this purpose which didn't rely on input from school staff who wouldn't have capacity, but give opportunities for the children to get involved with community growing?
- The tree belt and associated extension to the area
- Non cultivated 'wild areas' for biodiversity

3. Woodland Update

Helen advised that there was movement on the purchase of the land from the Crown although a timeframe could not be given

Catherine stressed the importance of substantial funding coming with the Woodland to kick start a group.

The actions regarding involving the community in a 'woodland group' are carried forward from the previous meeting as the summer holidays have intervened. The project has been flagged up to Barbara Lennox who would be an asset to the group and indicated she would be interested in becoming involved.

Melanie is willing to explore the project with the Woodlands, Trust, Community Woodlands Association and the Forestry School. She is also willing to look into funding streams

Helen will seek to identify a representative for the councils Community Asset Transfer team to support the process.

4. School land

HC advised that Education did not feel it appropriate to attend this group. Karen to chase Robert Campbell regarding plans for the land

5. Date of Next meeting Tuesday 28th September at 3:30 pm