

# MEETING OF BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thursday 2 AUGUST 2018  
In BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL

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**PRESENT :** David Brewster; Max Downie; Kathleen Fiddes; Emma Galloway; Richard Henderson; Ian Hynd; Jim Polasik; Dominic Simmons; Hugh Watt; Graeme Bruce; P C Oliver Ford

**APOLOGIES :** Jack Kerr; Marion Milne; Tony Allen

**MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING :** Approved

**AGENDA :** Approved

**POLICE REPORT FOR JULY :** PC Oliver Ford in attendance :-

- RTA between a tractor and a vehicle at Thriepmuir
- Minor Assault
- Eggs stolen from Grey Horse kitchen and thrown at the building
- Housebreaking at Cockburnhill Road. Suspects disturbed by occupier.
- Damage to Dovecote on Ravelrig Drive
- Vandalism to vehicle on Cockburn Crescent
- Bottle thrown at garage door in Malleny
- Youth Problems : “This area is one to be focussed on.”
  
- Richard still has not received a reply to his letter to the Chief Constable in May.
- Jim Polasik - “fires in Sawpit Wood have the potential to cause a wildfire”.

A Balerno parent reported that, this afternoon while her son was playing on the astroturf, he was chased away by a group of youths with hockey sticks and masks. They then got on a bus. The young boy arrived home in tears. The parent will now be reluctant to allow her son, as will other parents, to play alone on the astroturf.

The following relevant comments were made :-

- “Balerno is not regarded as a crime hot spot.”
- “There is a big gap in perception in the village as to what is a crime.”
- Balerno is an area, this weekend, where P C Ford will be. However he could be required elsewhere if there are more serious crimes being committed.
- Main Street will be the main focus for the police then the pitches, rugby club and reservoirs.
- “If you don't ring, email or contact the police they don't know.”
- 999 response PCs are based in Wester Hailes.
- It is important there is a police presence at the Farmers' Market on 11 August. Police need to be present for the community to meet them.
- P C Ford emphasised the importance of keeping the pressure on our local councillors.

**PLANNING + DEVELOPMENT :**

Jill Steel from Willowtree Place attended to discuss the CALA Newmills Development. She has been in regular contact with Brian Cawley of CALA regarding complaints by residents of Willowtree Place :

- Litter, parking and noise by the sub-contractors - Mr Cawley agreed that none of it was acceptable. CALA would address this with their sub-contractors but it has no control over them. However, Jill said that the situation had improved.
  - Residents had requested that a fence be put up around the woodland area. However, SGN had said that they would not allow CALA to erect a fence.
  - Noise monitors had now been put in place. Noise from the housebuilding continues on Saturdays and Sundays.
  - Jill is having a meeting with Steven McGuire, overall Project Manager, on 15 August.
  - The woodland area is privately owned but the owners cannot be contacted. Many of the trees have TPOs.
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- Richard reported that he was scheduled to have a meeting with Derek Lawson, CALA Director.
  - CALA is very keen to have good relations with the local community.
  - Richard would ask if we could have the names of the streets/roads in the Ravelrig and Newmills developments by early November this year as it is 100 years since the end of WW1.

#### **SIGNAGE :**

- We had asked CEC about putting up “GATEWAY” signs in the village. CALA may be prepared to pay for these signs.
- Ian Hynd has been talking to SUSTRANS re paths to the Pentlands, signage and bridge repairs
- CALA will write a letter of support.
- CEC has written in support.
- “New Green Bridge would have to be bicycle friendly”

Westminster Government has a £13m fund available for robot buses. These are already in operation in England. A location is being sought in Scotland. These buses are driverless, move at about 20 mph and hold about 12 passengers. It was suggested that these could be piloted locally.

**BALERNO BUSINESS FORUM, PHRP, CULTURE & SPORT, HEALTH, PHNP, BVT : no report**

#### **CHAIRMAN :**

- CALA has agreed to provide trees at both ends of Main Street, as well as more lights.
- FARMERS' MARKET : 11 August. Police have been invited to attend.

**TREASURER : BANK BALANCE £3,090.24**

**COUNCILLORS' REPORTS :** GRAEME BRUCE reported that a new system of bus stop information boards will be rolled out later this year.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING :**

**THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER @ 7.00 P.M.**

**IN BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL**