

Councillor Barnacle

Boundaries Commission listen to Kinross-shire's 'Claim of Right' on ward boundary proposals



Readers of the Newsletter may recall my articles for the September and December 2015 editions relating to representations made to the above Commission by PKC, the Kinross-shire ward members, community councils of the ward and a significant number of Kinross-shire's people.

Councillors Cuthbert and Robertson joined me in writing a joint letter to all MSPs for our area in March 2016 asking them to declare whether or not they supported the retention of Kinross-shire's current boundaries, which featured in the April 2016 edition. We were sceptical that the proposals would be changed. However, I am pleased to report that the Commission have made Final Recommendations to Scottish Ministers on 26 May 2016 which include the decision to return to the existing Kinross-shire ward boundary to address the breaking of local ties and to maintain our number of ward councillors at four. This success is in no small measure down to the number of representations the Commission received during the consultation opposing the proposed changes and maintaining that Kinross-shire's historic county boundary should be retained. ***I am absolutely delighted at this outcome.***

The Commission in its fixation on reducing the number of PKC Councillors from 41 to 40 decided to reduce Perth City North Ward from four to three councillors. PKC remain unhappy with this outcome and recommend for the Full Council on 22 June 2016 that the 'status quo' of 41 members should be retained and that members give further consideration to proposed changes to ward boundaries by Almondbank and Perth before writing to Scottish Ministers by 7 July 2016.

PKC Capital Budget

PKC's capital budget 2016-2023 is to be debated on 22 June 2016. I note it includes £136,000 for King George V Hockey Pitch, £11,767,000 for Kinross Primary School Upgrade Project, £4,941,000 for Flood Prevention Works in Milnathort

& South Kinross, £19,000 for further Kinross Town Centre Improvements and £42,000 for further site servicing at the Western Edge of Kinross. Local members had again requested an Outline Business Case (OBC) be prepared for the A977 mitigation measures in January 2016 (see February edition) and I note this project is not ranked sufficiently by officers as a priority to make the current capital programme for 2020 to 2023. Cllr Cuthbert and I are extremely angered by this and have met with senior officers on the matter; at the time of writing I am trying to negotiate an amendment to the budget to include a phased element of the proposals for the A977, which in the context of a cumulative programme cost for OBC's of £238,841,000 is relatively insignificant.

[Note from Editor: Cllrs Barnacle and Cuthbert were successful with budget negotiations. See late-breaking news, page 5.]

Policy Protection of Lochleven Catchment

I am of the view that PKC, SEPA and SNH are failing in their statutory duty on the above. PKC's acquiescence to retrospective planning applications calls into question the signed protocol of these three organisations and the effectiveness of Policy EP7. This is particularly the case when dealing with Gypsy Traveller Sites under Policy RD5B, a policy that appears to outweigh environmental considerations. Last month's Newsletter summarised the outcome of the Enforcement Report (or lack of it) on alleged breaches of six planning conditions at the Crook Moss site and I shall be writing to the senior management of the three above organisations calling for a review of the policies and protocol designed to protect Lochleven.

Landscape designations

From initial correspondence and discussions with PKC officers I sense a reluctance to revisit the loss of landscape designations for the Cleish Hills and Devon Gorge and also my call for Regional Park status for the Ochil Hills. It will require strong objections to their stance when our proposed LDP2 is published this coming autumn, if we are to change that mindset.

Councillor Mike Barnacle
Independent Member for Kinross-shire

Consultation on new waste guidance

Perth and Kinross Council is consulting the public on draft supplementary guidance on Waste Management Infrastructure (Local Development Plan Policy EP9).

The draft explains what is meant by 'Zero Waste', why it is important, and provides further guidance on the development of waste management infrastructure. Once adopted, the supplementary guidance will be used in the assessment of planning applications.

The guidance can be downloaded from the council website at www.pkc.gov.uk/ldpsupplementaryguidance

Anyone may make comments on the guidance, preferably by email to developmentplan@pkc.gov.uk. The closing date for comments is Friday 15 July.

Community Website

For contact details of community groups, hall bookings, job vacancies, leisure and visitor information and much more, visit www.kinross.cc

Awards seek out 'Heritage Angels'

Volunteer groups and individuals in Perth and Kinross who contribute to Scotland's historic environment are being asked to step forward and make themselves known, as entries for the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards 2016 have now opened. The five Scottish Heritage Angel Awards categories are:

- Investigating and Recording
- Caring and Protecting
- Sharing and Celebrating
- Young Heritage Angel Award
- Lifetime Contribution to the Historic Environment

The awards are in their second year. The closing date for nominations is Friday 12 August. More information is available from: www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk

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