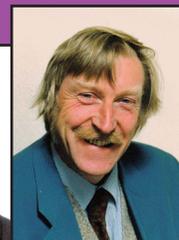


Kinross-shire Independent Councillors' Update - Autumn 2016



Dave Cuthbert



Mike Barnacle

Since Dave's election and Mike's re-election for a fourth term in May 2012, your Independent Councillors have been working hard together for the people of Kinross-shire.

Both believe in consensus rather than confrontation and work with other political parties to deliver community aspirations.

Support from other Councillors is also needed in order to get things done and one of the changes since the election is that the four Kinross-shire Councillors are working closely together.

This Update is to let you know some of what we are involved in locally as elected members.

It is in no way a complete list as that would fill a book, there is so much going on!

Kinross-shire's historic claim of right on its borders successful

The LGBCS began carrying out a review of Local Authority Ward Boundaries in February 2014.

This was an initiative started by the Scottish Government in order to balance the number of voters each Councillor had to represent due to population changes.

The Scottish Government decided that a focus would be put on increasing the number of Councillors in deprived areas at the expense of less deprived areas.

In January 2015, the LGBCS decided that Perth and Kinross Council should be reduced from 41 to 40 Councillors using a rather flawed model.

This was in spite of the fact that Perth and Kinross have one of the fastest growing populations in Scotland!

At the same time, the LGBCS came out with a proposal that Kinross-shire would be

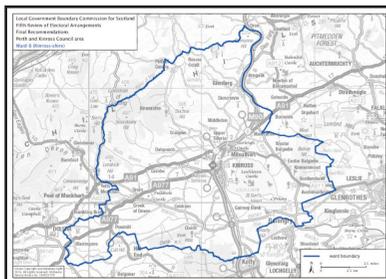
reduced in size and its Councillors reduced from 4 to 3.

Following a strong campaign from your local Independent Councillors and over 200 local people, the LGBCS changed their proposals for Perth and Kinross and in May 2016 recommended to Scottish Ministers that Kinross-shire should remain as it is, whilst recommending that the North Perth ward should be cut from 4 Councillors to 3. Scottish Ministers accepted this proposal on the 14th September.

So the good news is that Kinross-shire's historic claim of right has been heard, it has not been subdivided and remains with 4 Councillors representing you.

Our thanks go to all of you who took the time to object to the

original divisive proposal for Kinross-shire.



KINROSS-SHIRE



Blooming Marvellous

What a fantastic job our local Bloom Committees do.

Dave and Mike would like to thank all those involved. We respect the work you do. We have been and continue to be happy to support you in any way we can.

What you do makes our towns and villages look so much better. Two new Bloom Committees have been formed and are looking for helpers. These are **Powmill in Bloom** and **Crook & Drum Growing Together**. If you would like to help, give us a ring and we will put you in touch. (Our phone numbers are on the back.) **Thank you.**

Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership

Action Partnerships have been formed throughout Perth and Kinross. The aim of these is to identify inequalities in the area, with a view to prioritising these and getting all the local services to work together to tackle them.

Inequalities are not defined and can focus on almost anything.

Examples might be a drop kerb on a pavement, the 20 minute call out time for an ambulance in Kinross and Milnathort, a lack of employment opportunities for local people... You name it!

If you tell us what is not working in the Kinross-shire Ward, we will pass these on to the powers that be and will see if we can get some action on making them work.

Our contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

Kinross-shire Forum of Community Councils

Dave and Mike called for the formation of a Forum of all the Community Councils in the ward. This forum has now been established. The chair of the forum will sit on the local Action Partnership for the next twelve months and will act as a conduit to and from the Action Partnership to the Community Councils.

Roadworks, roadworks and yet more roadworks!

They can be pretty annoying when you are trying to get about and there have been a lot of them this year.

As local members, we have two views on these. On the one hand, like everyone else we get caught up in the queues and get frustrated by the delays. On the other hand, we are often the instigators of getting the works done and see it as a success when so many upgrades are going on.

Anyway, apologies if you have been delayed.



Footpaths - The Rural Access Committee of Kinross-shire (TRACKS)

Following the successful completion of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail in May 2014, TRACKS have completed new footpaths between **Easter and Wester Balgedie, Drum and Aldie Road and Vane Farm to Lochore Meadows**, they continue to work on many new footpaths. We would like to congratulate them on this.

The Heritage Trail now attracts large numbers of tourists to the area, with 250,000 visitors a year. Dave and Mike have suggested consideration of a visitor centre at **Kinross Pier area** to build on this success.

Council Footpaths

Meanwhile the Council budget for new footpaths no longer exists, which has been put down to financial pressures. Dave and Mike have serious concerns about this.

We succeeded in getting £300,000 allocated to Road Safety initiatives in the Capital Budget.

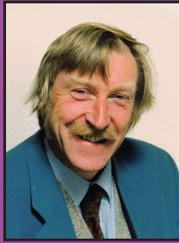
Our aim is to get funding in the Council's Revenue Budget for Road and Path upgrades.

As new developments continue to get planning permission within the area, pressure is growing on the existing infrastructure.

Our view is that the surrounding infrastructure has to be funded if these new developments are going to work properly.



Dave Cuthbert



Mike Barnacle

Planning

Talking about population growth, Kinross-shire has a lot of new development going on.

Over the last year there were 66 new house completions. This is set to increase quite dramatically over the next few years as two new large developments have been given consent and others are in the pipeline going through the planning process at the moment.

Former Kinross High School Site

The first of these is the former Kinross High School site.

Following the previous unanimous refusal for this site, a new application with a number of key changes that local members had sought was granted consent at the Council's Development Management meeting (DMC) on the 8th of June for 91 units. Dave asked for this to be deferred until a conservation officer's report was produced and a parking survey completed as it was his belief that parking would become a real problem for Kinross following the loss of the High School site.

This motion was supported by Willie Robertson, however the other Councillors present on the committee failed to support this.

Lathro Farm Development

At the DMC meeting of the 14th September, permission was granted for 300 units to be built at Lathro Farm (opposite the Community Campus) in Kinross.

Your Independent Councillors asked for a contribution from this development toward infrastructure in Kinross and this translated into the following condition: "No part of the development shall commence until a Section 69 Agreement (Local Government Act 1973) has been agreed between the applicant and the Council for a financial contribution towards a road improvement scheme that mitigates the impact of the proposed development on the local road network."

Pace Hill, Milnathort

This development is going through the planning process and is expected to come forward as an application soon. The local plan identifies this site for 50 units but it is expected that more will be applied for.

Balado - Beaufield Development

Permission was granted for 8 houses in Balado, South East of Beaufield. Questions from residents remain over the deliverability of this development.

West Balado (H51)

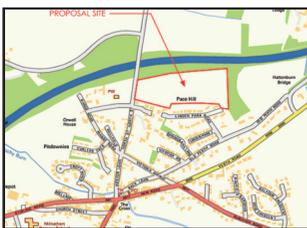
Part of this site has come forward recently for planning consent, with 3 applications for 26 houses. These extra houses in Balado might support the new 40 MPH limit extending from Turfhill to Balado Crossroads.

Kinnesswood - Lomond Country Inn

This is a current application for 5 new houses in a conservation area.

We won't comment here on these applications as we sit on the planning committee which may have to consider them.

Dave and Mike share concerns that housing development proposals often exceed the numbers specified in the Council's Local Development Plan, which officers assert are "indicative" only.



Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Local Development Plan (LDP) 2014 - 2024 (adopted February 2014)

All new building developments in Perth and Kinross are decided on the basis of whether they fit with the Council's first Authority wide LDP.

The Council meeting where this was discussed (January 2013) was dominated by debates on issues relating to Kinross-shire, as your four local members worked hard to introduce amendments which improved the plan for residents of the Ward.

These included: protecting the routes of former railway lines, with a view to bringing a rail link back to Kinross-shire, removing the housing development known as H46 which would have isolated the children's play park at Davies Park in **Kinross** and mitigation measures for the A977 between **Kinross and Blairingone**.

Landscape Designations

Part of the LDP is contained in guidance.

Areas of Great Landscape Value Supplementary Guidance was dropped between the previous Local Plan and the new LDP. When consultant proposals came out for Local Landscape Areas, they excluded from designation the former AGLV's of the Cleish Hills and the River Devon gorge, which Mike and the community had campaigned successfully for at the previous "Kinross Area Local Plan" enquiry in 2004. Mike subsequently twice moved in committee for their inclusion, but on both occasions lost the vote by a small margin. We see this as a major flaw and will continue to lobby for this decision to be reconsidered.

Mike has also made two calls for the Ochil Hills to be declared a Regional Park, with written support from **Glenfarg Community Council**.

Local Development Plan Two (from 2018)

The World doesn't stand still and therefore planning for the future also has to keep moving.

With this in mind, work on LDP2 started at the Council before the ink was dry on the first one.

Forward Planning at the Council are currently reviewing the many comments which were submitted during consultation on the Main Issues Report, identifying issues and potential sites for development. Local Members have been consulted on these.

The intention is to bring the draft proposed LDP2 to a Full Council meeting after the summer recess in 2017.

This was due to be autumn 2016, however a delay in the review of the strategic Tayplan is slowing the process down. This will provide opportunities for further consultation before publication, which will be especially useful in relation to potential development sites in **Crook of Devon** and **Blairingone**.

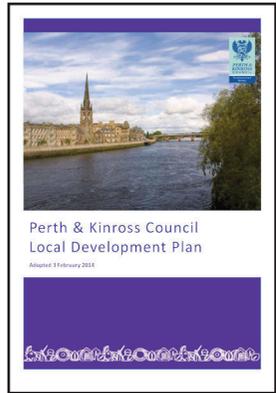
The current ambitious target is to get the new LPD in place in May 2018.

Infrastructure in Kinross-shire

Your four local members have secured a review of Kinross-shire Infrastructure Capacity. This will not be included in the Main Issues Report but will involve a report being prepared to accompany LDP2. This will focus on the existing infrastructure capacity within the Kinross-shire ward and its ability to support planned growth; issues being cemeteries, drainage, health service, parking, public transport, recreational demand, roads network and schools.

Vision Statements for larger Communities

Talking about the LDP, one of the issues being pursued by your local members is the concept of vision statements for Communities. All your local members are in favour of this. The idea being to define what the community should be like at the end of the plan's lifetime. In our view a Masterplan for **Kinross and Milnathort** is long overdue.



Case Work

Both Dave and Mike continuously assist local residents with issues they face. These range enormously and can include external services such as Scottish Water, Broadband, National Health Services, Policing, Fire and Rescue services as well as Council Services, such as benefit rights, council tax, planning, refuse collection, housing, parking tickets... You name it, the list is endless. If you have an issue you would like help with, please get in contact. Our details are on the back page of this leaflet.

Kinross Town Centre Regeneration

When the Council proposed regeneration works in Kinross Town Centre, Councillors were promised that any problems would be fixed and that tweaks to make the "shared space" work would be done.



The works were nearly completed by September 2015 and there was a street party organised by KLEO celebrating the works in October attended by roughly 15,000 people. Your four local members had a site visit in December 2015 and raised 23 suggestions for improvements. Of these, 3 were requests for remedial work - these were done. However, the other 20 suggestions have never been actioned, the rationale being that the works would change the area from being a "shared space". Your local members have continued to push for remedial work to make the space safe and have held another site visit which raised further concerns, including the need for a controlled crossing point near the Co-op at the top of the High Street.

Meanwhile **Kinross Community Council** and other local activists have been pursuing this issue and have sent an excellent letter to the Chief Executive of the Council, as well as organising over 200 letters on the subject - well done folks.

The result is that a paper is due to go to the Council's Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee in November outlining changes to be made to the Town Centre. We will keep you informed on the contents of this paper.

Road and Pavement Improvements requested

Following the 2012 election, Dave prepared a spreadsheet of requests made by local members for Road and Pavement Improvements.

This document has gone through a number of versions and continues to be used as the basis of discussion between officers and local members.

The current version has 55 outstanding items on it, so too many to list here.

Unfortunately, with the Council cutbacks, the Roads department has suffered severely and in the view of Dave and Mike, this has gone too far.

Your four Local Councillors have prioritised the road and pavement improvements by Community Council area. Listed below are some of the priorities.

A977 - From Blairingone to Kinross

Speed activated (smiley) signs and gateway features at the entrances to each of the villages, **Crook of Devon, Powmill and Blairingone**, plus a roundabout currently planned for the B9097/A977 junction.

B9097 - From Crook of Devon to Fife Boundary

Local members requested a Route Action Plan for the whole of the B9097 as this road suffers from speeding vehicles, hidden dips and blind summits. This action plan has now been produced and has been circulated to **Cleish, Fossoway and Portmoak Community Councils** for public consideration. It includes a recommendation for "prohibition of entry" for **Drum Main Street** and 14 other proposals.

Additional work on drainage and resurfacing on this road is also planned to augment this Action Plan.



Dave Cuthbert



Mike Barnacle

Capital Budget debate - June 2016

By working closely with all the political groups in Perth and Kinross Council, Dave and Mike were able to secure the following extra spending in the Council's Capital Budget:

Cemetery Extensions - £500,000 - this is important as many local cemeteries are reaching capacity.

Road Safety Initiatives - £300,000 - with the ever increasing levels of new housing, investment needs to be made into road and pavement improvements.

A977 Mitigation Measures - £600,000 - the A977 is recorded as carrying up to 5,613 vehicles per day, including 1,321 buses, goods vehicles and heavy goods vehicles.

This money is to be spent on vehicle activated signs, gateway features and a large roundabout between Blairingone and Kinross (shown in more detail below).

It has taken since 2004 to persuade PKC to finally fund some mitigation measures on the A977.

Following the meeting, Mike said: "I returned home from the budget debate with a rare sense of achievement".

Shared use footpaths (pedestrians and cyclists)

Dave and Mike are pleased to see new shared use footpaths being built in the area, these include: A922 (**Auld Mart Road, Milnathort to Lochleven Campus**), A911 (**Wester Balgedie**), A977 (**Powmill to Rumbling Bridge**) & B996 (**South Kinross to Old Cleish Road**).

A911 - Milnathort to Auchmuir Bridge

Milnathort - Speed activated sign (smiley) on Burleigh Road.

Wester Balgedie - An extension to the 40 MPH speed limit beyond Loch Leven Larder from **Wester Balgedie**.

Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell - Safety mitigation measures in the village centres plus a footpath solution from **Scotlandwell to the Portmoak church**.

Other Roads and Pavements

Glenfarg

Build-out at Ladeside / Main Street junction, Glenfarg.

Kinross

A safe crossing point on Kinross High Street just North of the Co-op.

Bollards on the High Street outside the Salutation Hotel and on the opposite side of the road.

Refuge traffic islands on Junction Road, to allow residents to walk from the town centre to Sainsbury's in safety.

A roundabout or change of road priorities between Junction Road and Station Road, along with route avoiding town centre signage.

Pavement widening on Springfield Road between Station Road & Sutherland Drive.

Pavement widening on the Muirs from the junction with Springfield Road going North.

Milnathort

Build out on Zebra crossing on New Road

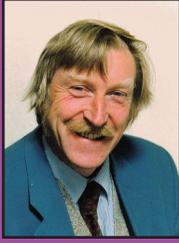
Apologies if these new Road Works cause you delays - Dave and Mike think they are necessary!



More Roadworks - Sorry!



Dave Cuthbert



Mike Barnacle

New Hydro Scheme for Rumbling Bridge

There is a new hydro system in Rumbling Bridge. This is about to start producing electricity.

Part of the deal is that a Community Fund will be set up for the Fossoway area, which will have up to £5,000 per annum available to assist local groups and projects.



Buses

There has been a run of problems with bus timetable changes. This started with Citylink making a decision to reduce servicing the Park and Ride at Kinross. This took away a well-used service which carried many commuters from Kinross to Edinburgh and back. Recently, changes to Route 23 between Stirling and St Andrews and the route and timetable of the 201 bus service have been causing problems throughout the area.

Mike has written to local MSP's about this suggesting that our Park and Ride should be fully serviced by intercity bus services. There is, of course, nothing to stop communities exploring initiatives to replace these reduced services. If anyone has any ideas on this, please let Dave or Mike know.

New Primary School for Kinross

The existing Kinross Primary School is one of the CLASP schools (Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme) built in the 1960's. It was recognised that, along with Tulloch Primary, the building had reached the end of its useful life. Originally there was only sufficient funding for one of these schools to be replaced. However, your local members and the Primary School Parent Council petitioned for Kinross to be included and with the help of officers additional funding was obtained. The building of the New Primary school is due to be completed at the end of 2017.



Cleish Primary School

The school has been designated as a Category B for Condition and a Category C for Suitability. Local members are supporting the Parent Councils request for improvements to the school.



Green Routes in PKC (Cycling, riding and walking Friendly Roads)

Mike pressed for consideration of these, first introduced in 2006 in Clackmannanshire. Through his involvement with TACTRAN, funding was secured for a 'pilot' project.

Of 16 routes proposed, 12 are in Kinross-shire, where implementation began in 2013/14.

Contact Dave and Mike

If you wish to **support Dave and Mike** in their local work and are prepared to deliver a few leaflets, please fill in and return this slip

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ **Email:** _____

Please return this to: **Dave Cuthbert, 8 Highfield Circle, Kinross, KY13 8RZ (tel: 07799 750289) (Email: dcuthbert@pkc.gov.uk)**
or **Mike Barnacle, Moorend, Waulkmill, Crook of Devon, KY13 0UZ (tel: 01577 840516) (Email: michaelabarnacle@gmail.com)**

Trees at the County Buildings in Kinross

In July of 2014, the trees at the side of the County Buildings in Kinross were removed by Council workers, as they incorrectly thought they were Council owned. At the time Dave apologised for this on behalf of the Council in the Kinross Community Council Newsletter. The trees have now been replaced, following intervention by Dave to get the work done.



Speeding Vehicles

An issue regularly raised with Dave and Mike is vehicles travelling at excessive speeds past residential properties.

This issue comes up from Blairingone in the West to Scotlandwell in the East and all parts of the ward in between.

Dave and Mike are currently pursuing 3 initiatives with other local members and the statutory bodies. These are:

Speedwatch - the local community is provided with speed guns and are empowered to monitor speeds on roads through their community. **Pop up Police** - full sized cut out models of Police with speed guns. **Vehicle Activated Signs** - the ones with smiley faces! In response to resident requests, new speed limits have been introduced to **Carnbo, Gairneybank, Glenlmond, Hatchbank Road and Maryburgh.**

Outside Bodies

Mike serves as Community Representative for Kinross-shire on PKC's Outdoor Access Forum and also as opposition Councillor on the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust and Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (TACTRAN).

Dave sits on Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (currently acting treasurer), is Chair of the Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation (KLEO) and is a Director of the Kinross Community Council Newsletter Ltd (charity and trading company).

Committee Membership:

Dave is leader of the Independent Group, Convener of the Audit Committee and serves on the following committees:

Appeals Sub	Regular Member
Attendance Sub	Regular Member
Development Management Committee	Member
Housing and Health Committee	Member
Kinross Common Good Fund Committee	Member
Local Review Body	Regular Member
Modernising Governance MOWG	Member
Property Sub-Committee	Member
Provost's Sub-Committee	Member
Public Transport MOWG	Member
Scrutiny Committee	Member
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	Member

Mike serves on the following committees:

Development Management Committee	Member
Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee	Member
Environment Committee	Member
Environment Executive Sub-Committee	Member
Kinross Common Good Fund Committee	Member
Local Review Body	Member
Planning MOWG	Member