

## Councillor Barnacle

### Blairingone Primary School

Copy of an email sent by Cllr Barnacle to Caroline Shiers, Convener of the PKC Lifelong Learning Committee.



Dear Caroline,

Lifelong Learning Committee Options Appraisal – Blairingone Primary School, 16 May 2018

I could not let the proceedings at the above committee on the decision to commence statutory consultation on the closure of the school pass without comment. It will be interesting to see what the Scottish Government's view may be going forward because I intend to contact them.

As you know, I addressed the committee and enclose my statement; being then subjected to an inordinate barrage of questions, in particular from Councillor Wilson, who seems to delight in such occasions when I am defending issues in Kinross-shire affecting my constituents. I remind you that I was simply calling for a deferral of the process until clarity on LDP2 and a proposed master plan for Blairingone was available.

It was clear from the outset that the committee members from the Liberal/Tory administration and their "clear majority position" had closed minds on the subject and were not really interested in what I had to say, otherwise some of their comments in the subsequent debate may have been different. As an exercise in thwarting community aspirations, it was "a classic". To deprive Blairingone of its only community facility, focus narrowly on the level of recent development in Blairingone and its catchment (rather than Fossoway), whilst accepting the planning service total negativity to expressed developer interest there was to do a great dis-service to that community.

I am wondering why Councillor Cuthbert and I bothered to hold an open day for consultation on proposed zoning in LDP2 in February 2017 and why I bothered to have a meeting with the land owners and developer representatives in relation to MU74 last week when your administration have so summarily dismissed the outcomes and the planners failed to give due cognisance to our development plan statements. Tayplan appears the driver here, a document so remote to Kinross-shire we scarcely get a mention and which neither I nor the community feel engaged with. Its approach to tiered settlement development means that small rural settlements are denied sustainable plans and adequate levels of affordable housing. The sum total of the administration's current approach is "rural deprivation" rather than "reinvigoration" and I am utterly opposed to its trajectory.

Yours, in disgust,

Cllr Mike Barnacle, Independent Councillor for Kinross-shire

### Independent and Scottish Labour Group at PKC

Slightly abridged copy of a letter by Cllrs Barnacle & Brock to Cllr Lyle, Leader of the Council, 27 April 2018

Dear Councillor Lyle,

Status of Independent Group and Labour Councillor

The Independent councillors hereby give notice, following our joint meeting on Thursday 26th April 2018, with Councillor Bailey, of our intention to withdraw immediately from the Partnership Administration of Perth and Kinross Council. Following Councillor McDade's withdrawal of his

confidence and supply agreement in January (for reasons we have some empathy with) and the meetings on Wednesday with Councillors Barnacle and Brock before full Council, given the outcome of that latter meeting in relation to the vote to replace Councillor McDade with a Conservative councillor, rather than an Independent one (a subject which was not discussed at the Partnership meeting on 23/4/18) we feel we have no option but to take this decision.

We the three Independent councillors and Labour councillor hereby state our intention to be regarded as a group on the Council, which has been the Independents' stated position since the election in May 2017, a position reaffirmed to the Chief Executive in June and September last year. We expect Democratic Services to regard us as such and that as a group of four we should be entitled to our proportional share of committee places as per the Councils Standing Orders i.e. as far as possible equating to 1/10th of committee places. Should this not be addressed, we shall be taking independent legal advice to secure it.

We do not regard ourselves as being in opposition to your administration and are not forming an alliance with the SNP group, but rather intend to sit as cross-benchers, considering issues on a case-by-case basis. We would hope to work constructively with your Conservative/Liberal Democrat administration and not make life difficult for you, unless you make life difficult for us.

In our view, it is unfortunate how the Partnership approach set out after the election by our late colleague Ian Campbell has not been sustained and that this letter is necessary. We are agreed that no other course of action is possible.

### Crook Moss Gypsy/Traveller site

Cllr Barnacle has written to Barbara Renton, PKC Environment Director, asking her to ensure that concerns regarding landscaping and general appearance of the Crook Moss gypsy/traveller site near Crook of Devon are acted upon. This follows a Planning & Development Management committee meeting on 9 May when councillors considered an enforcement report by planning officials.

The partly retrospective application for five permanent travellers pitches was approved in 2013, but some conditions attached to the planning consent have not been fully complied with. Councillors received updates relating to noise, drainage, water supply and landscaping. Cllr Barnacle proposed that a site visit take place, but was told this was not possible for legal reasons.

Cllr Barnacle said to Ms Renton: "I enclose what I had circulated to the members of the Planning & Development Management Committee today. Apologies for the strong criticism of the planning department but I assure you I am mirroring local opinion. I also enclose the update from Scottish Water on the drainage position which effectively deals with my concerns on that issue.

"The outstanding concern emphasised at committee related to the adequacy of the landscaping and the general site appearance (particularly the paddock area), given its location on the edge of our village.

"My reason for writing is to try and ensure this aspect is addressed by the Environment and Planning Service because that would go a long way to improving community relations. The status quo is not an option for me and the community I continue to try and represent."