

Councillor Barnacle

Council's Capital Budget Debate,
20 June 2018

I responded at the debate as follows:

I would like to indicate my strong support for the Independent & Scottish Labour Group amendment proposals.

We have concentrated on education proposals that are quite radical and do contain an element of blue-sky 'thinking' but I would ask other political groups to carefully consider the vision of what we are suggesting over a 10 year period since we are assured the additional investment required, subject to development of business cases, can be fully funded and is competent. I would particularly draw members' attention to the expansion of early learning and childcare, supported by Scottish Government incentives, that would enable the Education Committee to commit to £3m capital works to provide nursery accommodation at rural schools currently excluded from such provisions and that will help to safeguard the future of these schools from closure by potentially increasing intakes!

We have also proposed additional investment in the local footpath network, particularly for the Carse, Kinross-shire and Strathearn, with potential for match funding from other sources.

Finally, having introduced as a Council, a charge for garden waste uplifts, which have generated income in 2018 of £841,000 approx. to date, I think it is essential that we look at extending the service in rural locations that don't currently have it and are prepared to pay the charge; so we have allocated a capital element of £250,000 to cover extra roll-out costs for the rural areas from 2021/22, although we are aware of increased revenue costs implications to be the subject of a business case.

The Independent group budget proposals were not supported by the other political groups but remain our objectives going forward.

Local Action Partnerships

At the full Council meeting on 20 June 2018 in relation to a report on the Local Action Partnerships, I made this response: This report, presenting the findings of the What Works Scotland study bears little relationship to the 45 minute phone discussion I had with Linda Christie at the University of Glasgow. It majors purely on action partnerships rather than other possible alternatives for devolving power to communities.



It is my view the LAPs are an officer-led construction that cover areas open to question, moving beyond purely participatory budgeting to address perceived inequalities. There appears to me a distinct conflict with elected community councils and an undermining of their roles.

I believe Kinross-shire, as a former county in its own right, should have its own devolved area forum, comprising elected members and community council representatives. Partnership membership needs to be re-addressed for it is far from clear how such membership is decided and regulated. I since understand that LAPs are to continue but Kinross-shire will have a standalone one, but I would like this membership issue to be addressed.

Various Planning Issues in Kinross-shire

I emailed Nick Brian, Interim Head of Planning at PKC, on 28 June 2018 as follows:

The following outstanding issues in my ward of some importance have been raised with me recently and I seek your early response.

1. **Boreland Steading, Cleish and Braehead Development Rumbling Bridge:** I note there appears to be no progress in relation to the uncompleted steading and the uncompleted footpath on these Thomson Homes Developments and this situation has been dragging on far too long. When are the planning department going to expedite matters with the developer?
2. **Causeway Cottage Cattery and Equestrian Centre:** I attach the letter from the Scottish Gliding Centre and fully agree with their comments, so what could be done under our airfield safe-guarding policy to protect the interests of this important facility.
3. **Crook Moss Gypsy Travellers Site:** I note your response of 18 June 2018 to my letter of 9 May 2018 relating to this site. I appreciate your comments but we will have to differ on the outcome, since as far as I am concerned your committee's recommendation of approval for this site is the worst planning decision during my office as a Councillor! I understand that the two caravans in the so called paddock area are the subject of a police investigation, is this concluded and when could we see them removed?
4. **Lathro Farm (Meadows) development by Persimmon Homes:** I attach the letter I have received from my constituents and wholeheartedly agree with their comments. It would appear to me that the residential amenities of existing residents has been compromised by the lack of an adequate buffer strip, something that I have raised with you before and also observed from the residents of a neighbour to the site. What do planning propose to do in response?

LDP2 – Blairingone Settlement Plans

I wrote to Peter Marshall, PKC Forward Planning, on 28 June 2018 as follows:

I understand that we have a briefing in August from your team on the above, including Blairingone in advance of a meeting of the Kinross-shire forum of community councils to discuss same. You will be aware of the content of my email to Councillor Shiers on the 18 May 2018 expressing my disappointment at the outcome of the education committee in proposing the closure of Blairingone School and the negativity of your address to that committee.

This morning local ward Councillors and my independent colleague Councillor McDade met with the parents of Blairingone School to plan our campaign against the closure and representations to the Scottish Government. I feel it pertinent to point out that in our current LDP as regard to Blairingone it states "7.4.3 Infrastructure Considerations: The village primary school, which also provides community facilities, has capacity to support limited development. New proposals may be required to be phased to ensure sufficient space is available and a financial contribution may be required in line with Council guidance."

Furthermore in LDP2 re Blairingone it states "There is unlikely to be housing demand in this area for such a large site during the life of the Plan nor would it be desirable to see significant large scale development over a short span of time." As far as I am concerned, following consultations and meetings with the community, developers and land owners, this is an inaccurate statement so it will be necessary to address this at the briefing. I would also point out that Ballantynes and Holder Planning of Edinburgh have already incurred significant expenditure regarding the consultation in February 2017 and also in relation to commissioning further ground condition reports. It transpires that a pre-application process has now been commenced so I look forward to a more constructive dialogue on this matter.

Kinross High Street Shared Space scheme

I emailed Charles Haggart, PKC Roads, on 10 July 2018 to point out that I have not received a response to my email of 12 February 2018 suggesting a review of the operation of the Shared Space scheme in Kinross town centre.

I also reported the missing 20mph signs associated with the scheme and informed Mr Haggart that I have received requests for a 20mph limit on Station Road from the school to the main street.

I have asked Mr Haggart to clarify the position on a review of this scheme and where we are with the 20mph policy review. On 12 July I received a message to say that Mr Haggart "is going to arrange to get someone to go to Kinross to see if the signs have disappeared (this was checked in April following a previous enquiry)."

Councillor Mike Barnacle
Independent Councillor for Kinross-shire