

TH - Spoke to Mike Starkey - who installed the new spotlights, he is basically in agreement that the present arrangement does not work. He will look at moving the new LED strips back from their present position to see if it improves the situation, failing that looking at installing spotlights from the ceiling, which was originally his first choice, no further expenses will be incurred.

Biomass Boiler - 4 Halliday Terrace, McPhersons Engineering

TH - The CC had written to DGC planning department in answer to their letter which had advised that the DGC would not be taking any formal enforcement action which they regarded was not in the public interest. The CC had asked what criteria was employed by Council Officers when deciding 'what was in the public interest'. The response from the Council advised that 'there is no definition of public interest in planning legislation. With regard to the CC enquiry if the emissions from the Biomass Boiler contravened The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations, the CC was advised that this issue falls outside the remit of the Planning Service, and the CC's query had been forwarded onto the Environmental Health department.

Speeding Issues

No response from Ronnie Bell. TH to ask for new traffic counters to be laid down.

Concrete Planter

No response from Nicola Simpson re moving planter from Mossvale to the High Street.

Notice Board for bereavement notices

No response from Louise Matheson

Police Report

Meeting attended by PC David Irons

Crime Update

10/04 A 37 year old female charged with assault following incident in the town,
23/04 Vandalism reported at Lochmaben Primary School (bench and trees) and a caravan awning at Kirk Loch .

A number of empty alcohol bottles found near to school and seized for potential forensic analysis.

Significant Incidents

Operation Scandium

On 27./03/2017 Officers from across the division carried out road checks near to Salvage yards in relation to persons operating as metal dealers/itinerant metal dealers without a licence. 1 person was charged with an offence in Annandale and Eskdale.

Further checks were carried out on 28/04/2017 and all found to be working within the legislation.

Operation Monarda

Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide trades people.

Since 2013 Police Scotland's national doorstep crime initiative, Operation Monarda has achieved significant results with regard to the detection of crime. It has been driven by effective partnership working which has resulted in a greater awareness of the issue within the Force and amongst the wider public

To support the ongoing prevention, engagement and enforcement activity relevant to doorstep crime, a national multi-agency initiative will run between 22nd to 29th May 2017.

Community Issues

Several small fires have been reported to Police in the woodland behind Whitehills towards Halleaths. Police are aware and carrying out patrols as appropriate to discourage and educate those involved .

JD raised the issue of parking on Lochmaben High Street down at the Church end of the Town and related details of a recent near miss which could have had disastrous consequences for him i.e. being hit by a large vehicle travelling in the opposite direction, and enquired if anything could be done regarding the congestion caused by the parked cars? PC Irons to report details and advise.

Treasurers Report

Christmas Lights fund £2,325.65p + £155.00 to be banked

Community Council Fund

The balance of this account stands at £7,692,74p + £20.00 donation to be banked

DP advised that the Accounts had been certified with one small adjustment of transferring £220.00 from the Christmas Lights fund to the CC Fund

D&G Council Issues

- **ST** - has reported the issue of the lack of cleanliness of the public toilets to Nicola Simpson , who had carried out an inspection but did not regard them as being too bad, ST not of the same view and has asked Nicola to re-inspect and advise. PL had also inspected the toilets and reported they were filthy. TH advised that a CCES report had been lodged with the Council and acknowledged
- **MMck** - reported a pot hole in the road outside the shop in Bruce Street at the last CC meeting , it was fixed the next day! well done DGC
- **PL** - the bad pot hole at Townhead had been fixed but the staff undertaking the work ignored another pot hole a few yards away!
- **ST** - The King Bruce Statue - ST had contacted Nicola Simpson who advised that a quote for the work for £4,000 had been received from the Stonemason. Although a 'spot' had been cleaned to show how much the appearance would be improved it is suggested that the statue will quickly return to its current state in a short time , Nicola also advises that there is nothing at present in her budget to cover the cleaning of the statue. Could be that this could be a project when the new DGC is formed also involving Derek Chrichton , Communities Director who has shown interest in the pasts.
- **ST** - Damage to the pavement outside McCall's has been reported , awaiting action.
- **ST**- Police - raised the point of an identifiable number if the police were to ring , has contacted Chief Superintendent Ritchie , who is looking into the possibility but feels that it may run into technical difficulties .

- ST. - The street light at McCalls i.e. a wobbly light, no action taken so far, A McCall - resident attending, confirmed.
- ST - Rankine Heights, road patching, no action to-date.
- ST - Cemetery - visibility access to Lochmaben Cemetery. A cemetery employee has investigated but does not see a problem providing care is taken when entering and leaving the cemetery, accepts it may be more problematical when funerals are taking place. PL - Suggested that the wrong place is being investigated, ST to go back and investigate further.
- ST - Poles at the cemetery - Not a DGC issue, the Rights of Way team to investigate.
- ST - The Lochmaben 'Barra Man' Nicola Simpson advised that DGC removed £200,000 from the cleansing budget which has led to how street cleaning is currently dealt with. The Lochmaben Barra man had reached natural retirement age and his duties replaced by a mechanical sweeper, which has worked well with minimal complaints from the public, though some complaints have been received. PL disagreed with this stating that the Lochmaben sweeper was removed overnight to replace the one in Moffat and never replaced. It was also revealed that Moffat and Lockerbie had two street sweepers but this has now been reduced to one each. No additional funding has been received but Nicola Simpson to review the situation, to see if some compromise can be reached. PL - suggested Nicola may wish to join a local litter pick to see firsthand the problems of litter in the High Street. A further suggestion is to write to Derek Chrichton to invite him to a CC meeting to discuss.
- ST - The Portacabin, concern has been raised by local groups who use the Portacabin facility. ST has received a letter from the Schools Estate manager who advises that extra space will be required in the Lochmaben area to meet nursery capacity required by Government targets, Completed facilities will be required by 2020 with building commencing in 2019, it is therefore anticipated that the existing Portacabin will be demolished in the Summer of 2018, but no sooner. Which begs the question where do the existing groups using the Portacabin go? Possible alternative venues - the Church Hall and The Community Centre, both have issues regarding both cost and availability. Is there a need for another facility? could the groups work together i.e. A Common Action Plan? There is potentially funding available from 'wind farms' to use the services of an independent consultant as has happened in Lockerbie. ST further suggested that this could lead to a wider action plan to include The Royal Four Towns and Templand addressing such issues as joining

up core paths to make connection between local areas safer and more convenient. MMck - enquired if anyone had thought of making the Community Centre an annex of The School? Using an Architect to re-design the Community Centre to create a dual purpose unit? it was agreed that this should also be looked into.

- PL - Has been approached by a local resident who has advised that she has contacted David Mundell MP regarding opening up the access point that joins Ravenshill to Mill Road on a permanent basis (this access point was closed off when the Ravenshill building project was originally developed) the reason being that it would cause congestion at the junction with Mill Road and the B7020, a situation which still exists today. PL advised that she had been asked to raise this issue at the CC meeting.

Hospital Talk

Date for the talk by Jeff Ace , CEO of NHS Dumfries has been fixed for the 16th May 2017, in the Church Hall , 7.30pm

- Flyers have be posted at - The Pharmacy, Town Hall, Church Hall, Pettigrew's of Lochmaben and the Golf Club.
- Flyers have also been passed onto Jaybees for all parents, Lochmaben Primary School, where all parents have been emailed a copy. The CC Senior Citizens Christmas Party list has also been used and flyers distributed by CC members. The CC's of The Royal Four Towns and Templand have been contacted and Lochmaben Community Initiative has posted the flyer on their website, today with 125 hits, (1 response, can we change the date!)
- To-date 36 residents have advised they will be attending.

Local Development Plan

TH advised that a response had been forwarded to DGC which was required by 24th April, an email confirming receipt of the response has been received from DGC.

Objection made to the development of housing at Laverockhall based upon the objections made to the previous planning application , as follows:

- Access via Nethermill Road unacceptable on Highway safety grounds
- Traffic , parking and congestion
- Local Infrastructure issues - School full, Surgery at capacity
- Continued building development is changing Lochmaben's unique appeal and character.

Third Sector First

TH reported that the CC had become Associate Members of Third Sector First three years ago, the CC had been invited to the first AGM but had not heard anything from this group since. The CC has now received a copy of their Associate Membership certificate, which has been framed and will reside in the Chamber Room.

Lochmaben Community Initiative report

Funding - The Area committee has allocated the sum of £500.00, which means that the cost of the Initiative Autumn newsletter is now covered, with the grant from the George Hunter Trust covering the cost of 'Keep it Local'.

Proposed Victory Park project - Constructing a path through Victory Park to improve access to Castle Loch, which would have to be a tarmac construction, initial figures indicate £11,000 plus cost of a boardwalk at £9,000, plus ancillary works costs, to be discussed with DGC.

CLLCT report

- Tesco carrier bag tax funding, expect result mid May, to date Tesco's at Peel Centre have announced their result - Castle Loch 8,000, the other two entrants 4,000 each
- Lochfield Cottage - All windows have been replaced with double glazing with the windows at the roadside of the cottage - triple glazed. The wall on the right of the hall has been removed to enlarge the facility for a meeting room, which is now being decorated by volunteers. Now looking at building a porch at the entrance to keep the heat in.
- Next event - Rotary sponsored walk on 14th May and then a creative writing event at the end of May, also looking at a Children's 500 words competition.
- Loch walkers

February	1,214
March	1,499
April	1,788 up to 25th April
- Sadly - no news of the 'Dig'

Village of the Year Competition

The CC received via the office of David Mundell MP, details of a Village of the Year competition, which will become a Channel 4 television programme with Penelope Keith, there will also be a £10,000 prize for the winning village.

Entrants are asked to give details of:

- Why residents and visitors and other people love our village
- The Appearance
- History and Heritage
- Village events - Diary dates June/July
- Activities to do in the village
- Visitors experience
- Plus details of how the £10,000 would be spent.

The deadline for entering the competition is midnight 14th May, following a brief discussion the CC decided to forward an entry to the competition.

Community Assets

Information has now been issued by DGC relating to Lochmaben properties regarded as 'Community Assets' which fall into three categories as follows:

Community Assets	The Paddling Pool, Nethermill Road Garrel Burial Ground
Surplus	Recreation Hall, Blacklock Vennel
Owner Occupier - DGC	Public Gardens - Townhead Community Centre Caravan Park - Kirk Loch Burgh Yard - Eastgate Grummell Park Land - at the Barrass Land - The Barras Land, Barrashead Car Park - Princes Street Lochmaben Town Hall

Date of next CC meeting Wednesday 7th June 2017