GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
2025 AGM Minutes

Date: 2 June 2025
Time: 1930 hrs
Location: Gargunnock Community Centre Or Google Meet

GCC: Mike Buckley (MB), Christine Phillips (CP), Tom Jamieson (TJ), Martin Harrick (MH)

Councillors: Gerry McGarvie (GMc)

Minute Taker: Mark Dickson (MD)

AGM AGENDA

1. **Apologies (MB) –** Julie Cole, David Millar, Lovat MacGregor

2. **Adoption of previous AGM minutes (MB)**
   Proposed by TJ, seconded by CP

3. **Declarations of interest (MB)**
   NA

4. **Election of Office Bearers**

GMc stressed the importance of Community Councils in representing and furthering local interests, giving examples such as the restoration of the Fountain and launching of the Community Shop. GMc thanked members of the Community Council and public for their work and support to enable this.

Chair:	*Mike Buckley (nominated by CP, seconded by MH)*
Vice-Chair:	*Role remains vacant*
Secretary:	*Christine Phillips (nominated by TJ, seconded by MH)*
Treasurer:	*Tom Jamieson (nominated by CP, seconded by MH)*
Planning/Licensing:	*Julie Cole (nominated by MH, seconded by TJ)*
Roads & Transport:	*Lovat MacGregor*
Communications:	*Mike Buckley*
Wind Farm Rep 1:	*Mike Buckley*
Wind Farm Rep 2:	*Tom Jamieson*

5. **Chair's Annual Report (MB)**

Community Councillors have continued to support the residents of Gargunnock across a wide variety of activities and issues.
Meetings continue to be every second month at the Community Centre with online joining options for the convenience of residents. These meetings are well attended by our Ward Councillors and residents.

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The following is a summary of the main issues and activities of the GCC since the last AGM 3 June 2024. Inevitably, some duplication arises with the Secretary's report. This report incorporates the Planning and Roads reports to allow the Councillors concerned to focus on other activates at present. The Treasurers Report is also a stand-alone document.

5.1 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT

2024/5 has been slightly challenging as we lost our Vice chair, Carolyn Johnson, as she and Robert moved to Glasgow for family reasons, and David Miller stepped down as Chair for similar reasons. He remains on Council, but with "leave of absence". The remaining 4 active members of the team have been extremely busy dealing with the development of the Local Place Plan and we were delighted to have a co-opted member, Martin Harrick join us.

We hope to co-opt another member shortly, and are also active in seeking additional members from the community, to provide resilience and support succession planning. We are also encouraging broader engagement with the other organisations in the community, and hope to develop closer, mutually beneficially links between us all.

5.2 PLANNING

As part of our statutory responsibilities, GCC reviews planning applications for projects within the Community Council area, and where appropriate may meet with developers to understand the project and may provide comments to the planning authority. Planning applications that have raised community interest included:

- Briar Cottage: Objection logged to a proposed development in the grounds. We note it went to appeal and was refused.
- Shelloch Wind Farm: This was granted planning permission last year for five wind turbines on the Fintry Hills, to be located just West of the existing Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. GCC recorded our support for the project and continue to engage and monitor progress.
- Earlsburn windfarm extension - we note that the design has been altered and that the concerns about blade tip visibility have been addressed.

5.3 ROADS

a) **Station Road / A811 Junction**

We have continued to engage with Stirling Council (SC) about safety at the junction of Station Road and the A811.

The Community Council has been proactive in getting Stirling Council to upgrade the layout and visibility of the Station Road and A811 junction. The Council has redesigned the junction, in cooperation with the landowner, and we hope this work will be completed in 2025/26. We also requested that double white lines be added to this section of the A811, but Council road staff said the visibility was within the regulations and therefore white lines were not required. (See Appendix 1)

b) Speeding Within Village

Speeding continues to be perceived as a problem in the village by residents and visitors. Numerous attempts have been made with Police Scotland and SC to support the community in addressing these issues.

SC agreed to instal speed monitoring at all three access points to the village to provide comprehensive data to decide on additional measures such as Vehicle Speed Activate Signs. This data was included in the meeting minutes of 5 February 2025 and revealed average speeds for Main St to be just below 19mph, marginally over 20mph on Leckie Rd and Station Rd. We are advised that these readings do not constitute grounds for action. (See Appendix 2)

c) Bus Service

The CC has raised the reliability of the X10 bus service as an issue with Stirling Council. Vehicle quality and comfort is also an issue. We have also raised concerns about the overcrowding of the service bus from Balfron High at close of school, and the resulting behaviour concerns with both Stirling Council and the Scottish Government minister. This appears to be an unintended consequence of the free Under 22 bus pass, allowing pupils from other villages to get travel to Stirling after school, overcrowding the bus on occasion. Val Brand is very pro-active in keeping this issue to the fore and engages with the relevant parties on our behalf, as well as the other communities in the catchment.

d) Road Works and upkeep.

We receive comment from residents regarding the condition of the road surface in the area, with concerns about repairs to potholes, and also how long the road works and temporary traffic lights on Station Rd are likely to remain.

5.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

a) General environment

The CC raised concerns with Stirling Council and the local Councillor, about street cleaning, grass cutting in open area in the village, clearing of culverts, weeding of verges etc. Their response was that this was for 'environmental reasons', but the Councillor agreed to look into improving the service to the village.
A report of Giant Hogweed infestation was received and passed to SC. This is of concern as the areas is where the annual duck race starts. This is especially concerning as the hogweed leaves, stems and flowers are dangerous and can cause severe burns.
A new gate has been installed on Ladies Walk that may not provide the level of access expected and a resident has reported this to SC, as have we.

b) **Provost Park**

The CC asked Stirling Council to remove the old and dangerous metal seat posts from the edge of the football field in Provost Park. We were also proactive in having old play equipment removed, replaced or repaired. However more needs to be done in this area, including new equipment in the space where the old roundabout was located.

c) Damaged Fence

The CC has asked Stirling Council to reinstate the blown over fence at Stark Street, which they have agreed to, but have not yet repaired.

d) Flags

The CC purchased two new village flags and a new Ukraine flag to replace worn flags. We also purchased a flag and roundels to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings in World War 2.

e) Fountain Refurbishment

The historically important fountain in The Square has now been cleaned and repointed and is looking superb. A sample of stone has been taken for future analysis if it is decided to undertake a possible second stage and have the fountain recommissioned. Permission to repaint the gate has also been obtained from SC and we will consider how best to deal with that. We acknowledge the support from the Wind Farm Panel (WFP) and Community Trust in delivering this project.

5.5 PATHWAYS AND CYCLEWAYS

The Paths group is a subgroup of The Gargunnock Community Trust (GCT), and its main purpose is to maintain and where appropriate upgrade the existing Paths network and also to take forward new projects identified by the village community.
Application for funding for the Detailed Design element of the proposed pathway from the Village to Stirling was submitted but progress is slow as SC are citing the redevelopment of their SusTrans Strategy as the cause. We have suggested that the path design be revised to simplify construction and reduce costs.

5.6 COMMUNICATIONS

GCC has regularly submitted articles for The Bugle newsletter and posted information on the village notice board and Facebook providing information for residents and updating the community on our work, and also sharing information we think may be of interest from other sources. Information posters are also placed in the Community Centre and local Gargunnock Inn. The Village notice board and website has all GCC minutes and information posted.
GCC councillors can be contacted in person, by phone or email and the Membership List is updated as necessary across all our platforms.

a) Website

GCC and GCT are working together to upgrade the existing Gargunnock Website. This is to create a more engaging and content rich site that promotes our village, the ongoing events and improvement activities, local amenities and provide overall support to the community as a whole. The developer has been appointed and is in the process of developing the initial drafts. The bulk of the project is expected to be completed by late summer / early autumn. We acknowledge the support from the Wind Farm Panel (WFP) and Community Trust in delivering this project (See Appendix 3)

b) Police Reports

We receive regular Ward reports but these are not as informative as previously and less frequent.

5.7 VILLAGE SHOP

The Community Benefit Society established in 2023 successfully raised over £500,000 funding from Community Ownership Fund, Scottish Land Fund, Gargunnock Estates Trust and a Community Share issue. This enabled the purchase of the shop, all the necessary background work, and essential repair and fit out. We are especially grateful to John Scott for initially purchasing the shop to take it off the market, and we have repaid him in full. Windfarm Panel gave us funding for business case and questionnaires to research the business case.

We were able to engage a consultant to help deliver the project. We also had a highly successful Community Share Offer. The project was completed on schedule and on budget and the business opened in December 2024 under a tenancy agreement following a rigorous tendering process to attract the most suitable tenant. It is reported that the tenant is pleased with footfall and turnover and informal feedback from the community is very positive.

The management committee now oversees the CBS and is comprised of members from GCC, GCT and residents.

A dedicated webpage is available on the Gargunnock website and information will be regularly posted on the noticeboard, Facebook and via the Bugle as appropriate. We hope the tenant will develop a Facebook presence and promote offers via it.

5.8 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

GCC were successful in raising funds in 2024 to expand the lamp post displays and The Square display and this was well received by the community. For 2025 we intend to consolidate the display, replacing three failed units. We will decide whether to further expand the display next year. A number of funding options are being considered and we have booked a Pub Quiz as a community fund raising event in November. We acknowledge the support from the Wind Farm Panel (WFP) and Community Trust in delivering this project

5.9 DEFIBRILLATORS

It is noted that the defibrillator in the phone box by the shop is non-functional at present and we understand GCT are arranging for an electrician to investigate why the power supply appears not to be working. The Shop Committee agreed to provide power from the shop supply. GCT is repainting the box.

5.10 LOCAL PLACE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Local Place Plans (LPP) are community driven documents that recently became part of Scottish Planning Legislation meaning local authorities (Stirling City Council) must ensure their broader Local Development Plans take account of local communities' visions and improvement opportunities. The LPP therefore informs SC planning and in turn contributes directly to Scottish Government planning. Our LPP sets out our vision and improvement activities for the next 10 years - to make our Gargunnock Community an amazing place to live and visit.

- Set up of Local Place Plan Steering Group. First pass of survey and open session resulted in only 54 responses (some of which were duplicate)

- At GCC meeting in Feb 2024 approximately 20 residents attended. There was some concern expressed with the draft LPP as it pertained to housing plans. Their main point being that a less than 5% reply from the village was hardly representative. GCC agreed to revisit this, but also reiterated that a number of opportunities had been provided in the summer of 2024 to allow residents to express their views before the draft LPP was written.

Funding from WFP has been obtained allowing us to engage a consultant to assist with the project as comparisons with other LPPs demonstrated comprehensively that we have a lot to do and little time to do it in.

We recently issued the second survey to the community to gather input on likes, dislikes and improvement for the village that we should prioritise in the LPP. The outcomes of this survey will be analysed and shared with the community via the website, Facebook and Noticeboard. The next step is a series of public events to gather further information and priorities to inform the LPP, including attendance at Bite & Blether, canvassing opinion at the shop and an Open Day scheduled for early June. It is planned to issue Gargunnock LPP by the deadline of 31 October 2025.

6. Secretary Annual Report (CP)

Meeting updates

- Meeting continued to be held every 2 months on the First Monday (where possible)
- Format continues to be hybrid – in person or online
- Minutes and agendas shared with Stirling council officer (Stephen Bly)

Communications

Exchanges via Council email account - gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

GENERAL

- Complaints about speeding in the village and options for better enforcement
  - GCC will revisit the use of traffic calming signage later in 2025/26
- Potholes on Leckie Rd raised and forwarded to Stirling Council
- Footpaths: there is deterioration of some footpaths around the village. Resident
- concern raised, GCC will escalate to Stirling Council
- Fence at corner of Provost Park next to Main Street, was blown down. Following a complaint from a resident, the fence has been renewed by SC.

- Village shop:

  Public and virtual meetings set-up throughout the year to update residents on progress to reinstate the shop. Shop reopened on 2/12/24, opening ceremony by Mr Timothy Wright (Trustee of Gargunnock Estates trust). Advertised on noticeboard, Facebook, the Bugle and community website. Also articles in Daily record and The Herald
  - Funding achieved from Scottish Land Fund, Lottery Funds,
  - Gargunnock Estates Trust, Wind Farm Panel
  - Full renovation and construction completed Dec 2024

  - Development officer will work on the project for 18 months alongside the Shop committee
- Christmas lights project:
  - Crowdfunding page created with application to Wind Farm Panel and National Lottery (Awards for All) resulted in sufficient funds raised to add to lamppost lights for the festive season
- Objections to planning application for new dwelling next to Briar Cottage
  - Planning lead wrote a comprehensive letter of objection to Stirling Council. Last update was that planning permission was refused also at appeal
- Set up of Local Place Plan Steering Group. First pass of survey and open session resulted in only 54 responses (some of which were duplicate)
- AT GCC meeting in Feb 2024 approximately 20 residents attended unhappy with what was currently in the LPP as it pertained to housing plans. Main point being that a less than 5% reply from the village was hardly representative. GCC agreed to revisit this
  - New questionnaire has been developed and delivered through all the doors
  - Bite and Blether meeting will have GCC present to ask for individuals to fill in the questionnaire
  - Open session the following evening to enable residents to have their say about the LPP
  - Application made to the Wind farm Panel for funds to appoint a consultant-2/3 funds awarded so considerable reduction made to hours available
  - Consultant appointed to bring all the information together, assess and analyse and form into draft 4 of the LPP
  - As promised residents will have a further opportunity for input

- GGC to update current online platform (with Gargunnock Community Trust GCT)-to improve communications by updating website
- Village fountain: has been cleaned and restoration work completed
  - Result from a successful application to WFP
- Police Scotland – Regular Ward reports-not as informative as previous and less frequent

Promotion of meetings

Facebook and on Community Notice Board – same vehicles for Publication of approved minutes

Gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com regularly reviewed and emails circulated to councillors

7. Treasurer Annual Report (TJ)

Gargunnock Community Council Treasurer's Report 2024-25

The Community Council is a statutory body. Our only direct income is our administrative grant from Stirling Council. Last year, this was £477.58. Our accounts have been audited and will be submitted to Stirling Council after the AGM.

Our administrative costs this session were for hall hire, minute taking and insurance. In addition, we had some higher than normal costs to cover new village flags, D Day celebrations and Zoom to allow access online to our meetings. The admin costs amounted to £775.40, the difference coming from our reserves.

Our three key projects cost this year were:

- Renovation of the fountain- £1182.00
- Festive lighting and extension + New Year celebrations - £5399.97
- Initial Local Place Plan draft survey / Bugle Insert - £1060

We are extremely grateful to the Wind Farm Panel and the Trust for their support in financing these projects. Additional funding of £1500 was raised from the Lottery Fund and £209.00 from a Pub Quiz.

At the close of our financial year, our available account balance was £1797.02.

(See Appendix 4)

8. Matters arising (MB)

a. Christmas lights (MB)

b. Village shop (CP)
Item covered in normal meeting (reference minutes to JUN25)

c. Roads (LM)
A811 junction design has been agreed and funding (re)secured. The plans are for the junction to be widened to allow for better visibility for exiting vehicles.

Requests to get a solid white line has been rejected by the Council. Cllr GMc recommends revisiting this idea in light of the number of near misses and danger of a serious RTC at the junction.

d. Local Place Plan – Update (JC / CP)
Item covered in normal meeting (reference minutes to JUN25)

9. External reports
NTR

10. Residents forum

NTR

11. AOB

GMC praised the efforts of the Community Council over the past year and the attention to detail.

TJ raised a concern that issues to do with maintenance and other issues raised with Stirling Council often lead to a response which does not offer a timeline as to when repairs, such as potholes etc. will be carried out. Nor is their any indication provided as to who the lead officer is who is dealing with the concern raised. This leads to confusion and the need for repetition through follow up emails.

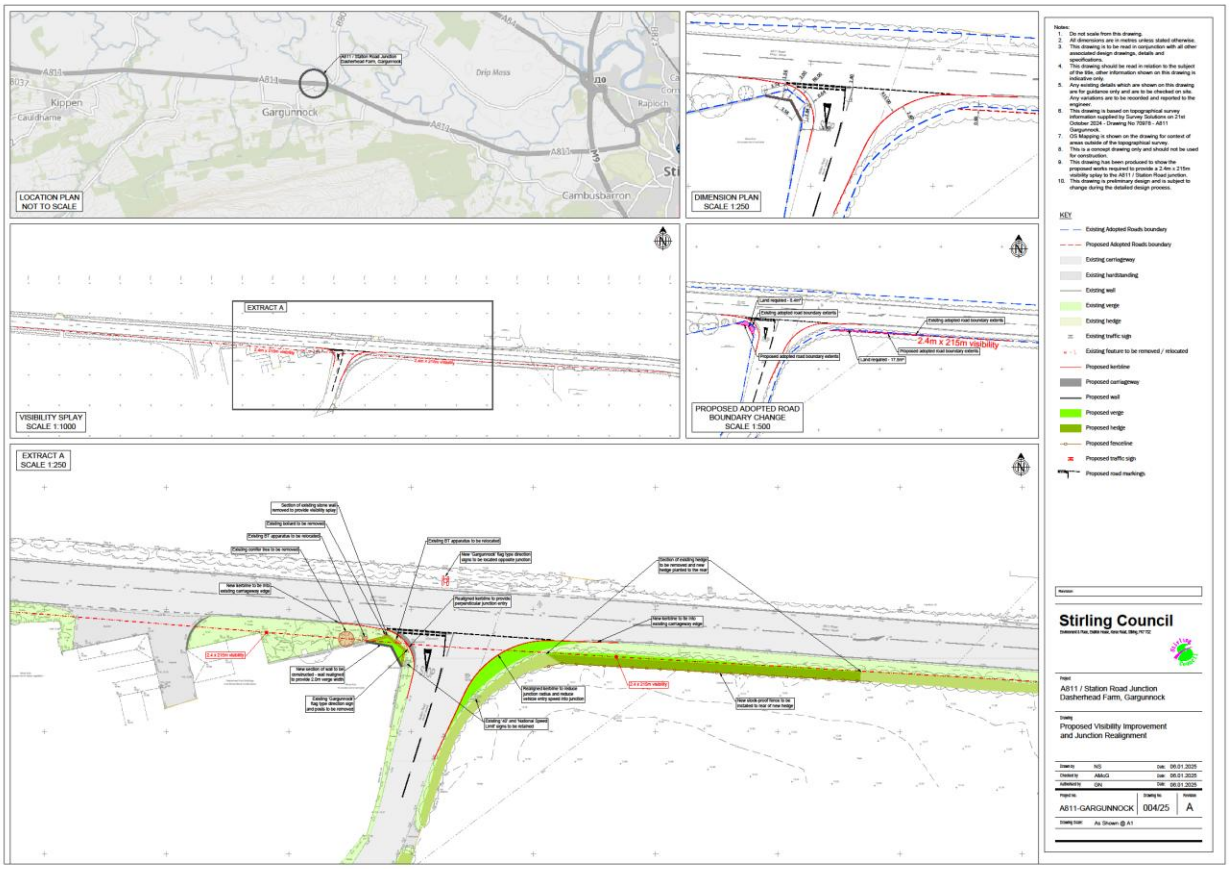
GMc requested that the CC contact him directly for any issues which are not getting a clear response from the Council.

Thanks extended to John More for his support in helping put up the Christmas lights.

12. Date of next meeting.

TBD

Appendix 1: Visibility splay for the Station Rd / A811 junction



Appendix 2: Speed data

	Main Street, Gargunnock (Approx 128m west of junction with Leckie Road)			
Directional Traffic Data	**Direction 1 Eastbound**		**Direction 2 Westbound**	
Traffic Volumes	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
24 Hour Day	317	290	325	297
Vehicle Speeds	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	23.4	23.4	23.3	23.2
Average Speed (mph)	18.7	18.7	18.8	18.7

Leckie Road, Gargunnock (Approx 150m northwest of junction with Main Street)

Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Eastbound		Direction 2 Westbound	
Traffic Volumes	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
24 Hour Day	245	219	203	182
Vehicle Speeds	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	25.9	25.5	25.0	24.6
Average Speed (mph)	20.8	20.6	20.2	19.9

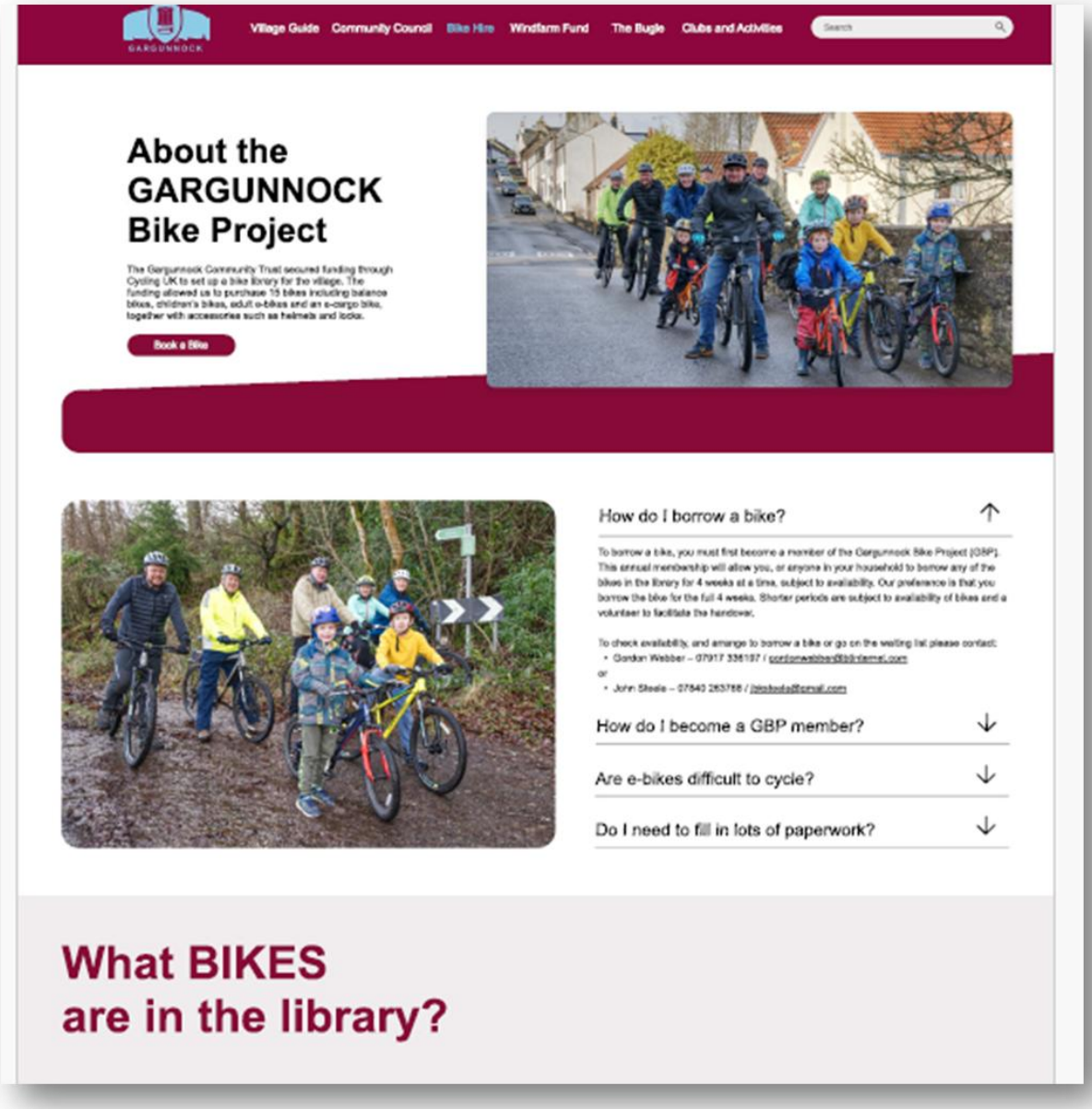
Station Road, Gargunnock (Approx 130m north of junction with Leckie Road)

Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Northbound		Direction 2 Southbound	
Traffic Volumes	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
24 Hour Day	148	140	416	292
Vehicle Speeds	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	25.5	24.8	23.0	23.0
Average Speed (mph)	20.5	20.4	18.8	18.8

Manse Brae, Gargunnock (East of The Glebe)

Directional Traffic Data	Direction 1 Eastbound		Direction 2 Westbound	
Traffic Volumes	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
24 Hour Day	370	340	121	121
Vehicle Speeds	Weekday Average	7 Day Average	Weekday Average	7 Day Average
85 Percentile Speed (mph)	22.7	22.6	23.3	23.0
Average Speed (mph)	18.1	18.0	18.3	18.0

Appendix 3: Early draft of what individual website pages will look like



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Appendix 4: GCC Budget 2024/25

Community Council Budget – Mid Year 2024/25. 31/3/25 **Current Balance: £3711.02** **Available £1797.02**

Income		Expenditure		
• Admin Grant (Stirling Council).	£477.58	• Google Meet (Now Cancelled)	£63.92	
		• Zoom Subscription (to 2/12/25)	£132.49	
		• Hall Hire	£302.00	
		• Minutes	£120.00	
		• Insurance	£24.97	
		• Flags (Gargunnock x2 + Ukraine x3)	£83.08	
		• D Day	£48.93	£775.41
• Windfarm Grant for Printing Draft LPP	£1064.40	Printing: Gargunnock Futures LPP Draft	£130.00	
		Gargunnock Futures (Bugle insert)	£936.00	
		Printing refund to Windfarm panel.	£128	
		Parish Online. (Mapping)	£60.00	£1254.00
• Windfarm grant for Fountain Renovation. (£1824 + £90 to cover additional costs)	£1914	No expenditure to date		
		• PAT testing.	£70.00	
		• New Street Lights (x4)	£1496.00	
• Christmas Lighting		• New Street Lights	£975.93	
Windfarm Grant. £4000		• Stirling Council (Installation costs).	£1887.70	
Lottery Grant. £1500		• Electrical Connectors	£185.82	
Pub Quiz. £ 209.00	£5709	• Festive Lights Connectors	£199.92	
• Festive Lights refund due to fault.	£197.92	• Connect + disconnect cost to follow).	£360.00	
		• Tree and Voucher to John More / C. Picker.	£118.50	
• Total Income: £9362.90		• Bubble Guns in lieu of fireworks.	£106.10	£5399.97
			Total expenditure. £7429.38	