

Maybole Community Council

Minute of meeting on 1st April 2025

Sederunt. Mark Fletcher, Senga Mason, Roy Birnie, Jim Paterson, Simon Glendenning (had to leave early), Helen Whitefield, Andrew Hastings, Richard Stephenson

Present. Alison Wales thriving Communities, Councillor Connolly, Kevin Braidwood from SAC, David Manson from ARA.

A further 60 people were present, representing local business and community.

Apologies. Councillors Campbell and Grant, Police (report submitted to review in May)

At a public meeting at Maybole Community Campus on Tuesday 25th March 2025, organised by Ayrshire Roads Alliance to discuss the feedback received and for residents to share their views on the recent street trial on Maybole High Street, David Manson (ARA) gave a presentation.

There was considerable frustration on the part of many present and a demand to get to speak to the Councillors who were not present.

Catrina Andrews, the Council LSO, advised that CC meetings are open to the public and Councillors would be there, so they should come to the CC meeting.

Maybole CC normally meet in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall which simply couldn't accommodate the numbers that we had heard were going to take over the meeting, on the advice of a council officer, so a decision was taken to move the meeting to the main hall, in the event that there was a big turnout.

The Chair had prepared a quick powerpoint covering two meetings:

- one that he had attended on the 25th Feb, predominantly with businesses
- the one on the 26th March.

He also explained the numerous consultations that had led to the decision to widen footpaths after the bypass had opened.

The feedback from the 1st meeting on Feb 25th is as follows and this was fed back to SAC and ARA:

- a. businesses hadn't been consulted or warned of the trial
- b. The trial caused a loss of income
- c. If the proposal is rolled out it will kill the businesses
- d. There isn't enough parking in Maybole
- e. Signage is required at bypass ends directing people to Maybole town centre
- f. Preference is for parking on High Street
- g. The trial is not representative of the design shown (MF delivered plans)
- h. How is it being monitored? (cameras)
- i. This is a done deal (denied in response from SAC the next day, it is a trial)

The feedback at the meeting on the 26th March, led by ARA

David Manson was asked if this is a done deal and his reply was that he had a mandate from SAC to deliver the project. When asked who had instructed him, he replied it was voted on by 30 elected members and it was passed to ARA to apply for funding and, if successful, to deliver the project. The feedback from the room was very similar to the first meeting with some additions more personal to individual businesses.

- A. No one had been warned of the trial
- B. Trial cost businesses money
- C. If rolled out it will kill businesses as 9 months of street closed is not sustainable
- D. Not enough parking so street parking is required
- E. Why were cameras only installed towards the end of the trial?
- F. Can business get compensation?
- G. Direction for priority is wrong way
- H. Loading bays in wrong places (employee at butcher sited health and safety at the distance required for unloading)
- I. Removing street crossing is considered very bad idea
- J. Remarks about Cllr Connolly's business not suffering

Meeting dissolved into people leaving early as soon as done deal was mentioned for some and many left throughout. Meeting was hostile with many shouting and speaking over each other

At the CC meeting on the 1st April there were some different faces, slightly less people and most businesses represented. Feelings were much the same and most view points and concerns were the same as before, with some variations:

- a. In the event of a bypass accident causing closure, would traffic be diverted through High Street and, if this is implemented, how would arctics come through in both directions?
- b. Feeling that things were being kept secret particularly contact details
- c. Feeling that this was designed to destroy the businesses.

A healthier debate took place, with as many people as possible given the opportunity to speak.

Some of the pros and cons were discussed but it would be fair to say it was mainly negative, so it was clear that the majority of people present were against any improvements. It was stated by a business owner that no one in the town wanted this, and if they did, where were they?

It was pointed out that this was not an advertised public meeting, so they would not have known to attend, and the plans had been based on previous consultations.

Cllr Connolly, whose business had been cited at the meeting as being unaffected by the trail, took a moment to explain that his business is equally affected and pointed out the removal of parking and the addition of a loading bay outside his shop.

It was agreed by all in the room that parking in Maybole has been and still is an issue and ARA agreed to carry out a review.

The Chair asked how many people present follow the CC on Facebook and only 3 did. He suggested that it might be good if more did so as it is a main channel of communication and one of the methods of informing people that there is going to be consultation.

Kevin Braidwood made a suggestion that we should postpone any further progression of the proposals whilst a full review of parking by ARA takes place and that during this time we should go back to the wider community and ask with a simple yes or no question as to whether the whole community still wanted this, or anything done to the High Street. The result of that will inform whether this be revisited next year.

The room agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8.40pm.

Given that there was now insufficient time remaining, the Chair took the decision to cancel the scheduled CC meeting and the agenda carried over to the May meeting.