**Riverside Community Council – Internal Report**

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| **Title** | 'On the River' sub-group meeting |
| **Summary of Purpose** | Small group meeting to discuss the new pontoon and use of river around Riverside. |
| **Date of Meeting** | Thursday 25th July 2019 |
| **Those involved** | Present: Fiona Berrow, Joan Murphy, Jonny Willet, Grant Cameron, Elena  Apologies: Sally Boa |
| **Points discussed** | Lots of people are unsure of the reason for building the pontoon and what its intended use is. We discussed whether its use is being monitored and, if so, we would be interested to know how much it is being used.  Are there plans for a pilot boat service to be trialled?  We discussed what we could imagine/would like to see the pontoon being used for. We talked about boat trips for sightseeing (Wallace monument, Cambuskenneth Abbey etc.) and (picnic?) stops for people coming up the river. There was a feeling that these kinds of uses would benefit tourists rather than the people who live in Riverside so we discussed how the local community could benefit from the pontoon. The most popular suggestion was a barge cafe/restaurant/pub moored on the pontoon.  Several people had safety concerns over speed and the tidal nature of the river at the pontoon. Are these made clear to potential users?  One person in the group had completed the booking form in an attempt to access the pontoon with a canoe but had not heard anything back from Council. Could there be an option on booking form to say that you are booking for a canoe/kayak?  We wondered if there has been any impact on current river users such as the rowing club and what their thoughts were about the pontoon.  There were questions about the park area around the pontoon and what that is being used for.  People observed that the new parking spaces are currently being used by contractors for Riverside Quay and wondered if there are plans to restrict usage in some way.  There are some concerns over antisocial behaviour along the river path between Forthside and Riverside  We discussed the Riverside Heritage Trail leaflet and wondered if we could acquire a supply of these and have them accessible near the pontoon? We wondered is someone like Historic Scotland would have information about the area/be interested in being involved? |
| **Funding required** | N/A |
| **Actions agreed** | **Fiona to contact:**  Stirling Council - what are the intentions of Council for pontoon? Is there an environmental impact assessment? Does the gate code change? Can there be an option in booking form to specify that boat is a canoe/kayak?  Stirling Rowing club - are they affected by pontoon? Do they have any thoughts/comments about it?  Stirling Canoe Club - are they affected by pontoon? Do they have any thoughts/comments about it? Do they plan to use it?  Historic Scotland - we would be interested to find out more and share information about the history of the harbour/river. |