

## Lochgelly Community Council

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

1. **Present:**, Brian Schulz (BS), George Kinnell (GK), Tam Durham (TD), David Hemseed (DH), Alan Gardiner (AG), Carol Mackie (CM), Jean McDonald (JMc), Jimmy Mann (JM) Jon Magee (JMa), Jim Haddow (JH) and Stevie Murray (SM).

\*Alex Dixon (AD) and Billy Baxter (BB) following item 4

**Apologies:** None

**Councillors Present:** Councillor Mark Hood (MH) and Councillor Linda Erskine (LE)

2. Presentation from John McComisky (Assistant Cycle Officer), Fife Council. John detailed plans for the new cycle loop circuit in Lochgelly. This is part of an ongoing consultation exercise and he has attended several group meetings with local people to talk about the project.

Fife Council have funded £1 million for the project and £300k being contributed by the Scottish Government and Sports Scotland each. This will see a circuit of over 1 kilometre and the development of a club house and car parking facility. It will entirely fenced in and will be lit throughout.

This is first of its kind in Scotland and will add to the work being done across Lochgelly. They hope to have regular cycling events as well as a range of other sporting activities (e.g. roller blading and running)

The planning process concludes in June and work should commence in October. John spoke through the design of the loop and outlined the area where this will cover.

JMc asked about costs associated with accessing the facility? John advised that at this stage this hadn't been discussed although there were indicative costings from other facilities in England. There would though be recognition on the pricing structure to ensure that it was accessible to all.

MH suggested that he look at promoting the loop at the next gala, which would allow people from the town to see what was happening and what was possible. SM to pass on contact details.

SM asked that John send details of the website in order that this can be added to our own website and facebook page.

BS thanked John for his informative talk about the project and suggested that he be invited to a future meeting after the consultation period had been completed. Agreed that John could attend the September meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting  
Proposed as accurate AG, Seconded JM

4. Matters Arising

- a. DH advised that the Town Clock was now working.
- b. Traffic Regulations consultation – SM confirmed that he had formally responded to Fife Council and had submitted a petition (received from Jose Celentano, shop owner) opposing the reintroduction of parking restrictions. We are awaiting formal response from Fife Council. JMc asked whether the area committee would receive this, however we would need to confirm whether there is a requirement for this to be passed onto them. SM to check process and confirm final decision



***By Industry we flourish***

c. Floral Grant 2016 – SM advised that the LCC had been successful in their grant application from the 4 winds trust. They had matched the Community Councils funding of £700. SM highlighted the good work being carried out by the Growing Lochgelly group and suggested that the Community Council consider financially supporting their work. We could then look at focussing on one specific area (e.g. Auchterderran Road Roundabout). This would also avoid duplication of effort and would allow us to maximise the benefit to the town.

Agreed that discussions could be arranged with the Chair of their group.

d. Lochgelly Cemetery Toilets – SM confirmed that he had contacted Liz Murphy (Bereavement Services Manager) regarding the toilets. Liz had advised that the toilets were the responsibility of Parks, Streets and Open Spaces, she had asked one of her managers to look into this further. This would include accessing the facilities when there was a funeral taking place. SM to liaise with the relevant manager.

e. Derelict Properties – Fab Tek Building – SM advised that following on from the good publicity raised about the building he had met with Hazel Cross (Town Centre Manager) to discuss possible options. As it is the land is marked for retail use only until 2018. As a result of the discussion Hazel had written to Fife Council about changing the use of the land. If it were changed we would be able to look at housing and retail, similar to the ones on Main Street.

JM asked about security of the premises? SM advised that he had discussed this with Hazel and the enforcement officers were going to looking into the area again.

f. Community Group definition advice - SM advised that Margaret King (community worker) had confirmed that a community group is defined as an unincorporated body who are governed by a constitution and who are managed by an elected committee. Who hold annual meetings which include the elections.

g. Casual Vacancy

Three nominations had been received:

Alex Dixon

Raymond Wilson

Billy Baxter

BS sought proposers and seconders for the three nominations who would become full members of the Council.

Proposed – GK, JM and DH, Seconded JH, DH and JM.

Alex and Billy were welcomed onto the Council. Raymond Wilson unfortunately was unable to attend.

## 5. Financial Matters

GK advised that there was no change from the previous month.

NB This resulted in the current financial balance being:

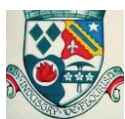
- General Account = £1620
- Special Projects = £3541.39 (Jubilee Park)

SM advised that he had received the paperwork for this years grant submission and would pass this onto GK.



Sender	Substance	Action needed
Lesley Craig - Fife Council	Traffic Regulation Proposals. Acknowledgement of LCC response and Shop owners Petition.	Publicised on Website and Facebook page
Fife Council	Weekly Planning Applications, 14, 21 & 28 March and 4 and 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Circulated as necessary, no plans submitted requiring formal consultation
Emma Pullar (Fife Council)	Community Resilience Bulletin	Available on request.
James Glen	Offer to replace Community Council Website	Noted, No Action necessary, LCC has a web site through Fife Direct. <a href="#">Lochgelly Community Council - Profile - Provided by fifedirect</a>
Fairer Scotland	Fairer Scotland update – Summary report on the discussion so far	Available on request
Stevie Murray (Forwarded from 'whatdotheyknow' website)	Information relating to Lochgelly Common Good fund FOI request.	Circulated for information
Elaine Walters (Fife Council)	Information regarding an EIR (Environmental Information (Scotland) request. This was requesting a copy of the LCC response to the consultation exercise on parking restrictions on Main Street (West).	Responded and circulated to Community Councillors. LCC response is on website
Margaret King (Fife Council)	Confirmation of definition of a community group.	As part of matters arising.
Stevie Murray	Copy of the findings from OSCR review following an anonymous complaint.	Available on request
Liz Murphy (Fife Council)	Advice that the toilets aren't within her remit and were passed across to Streets, Parks and Open Spaces. She has asked another Manager to look into this matter	Noted and monitor
Lynne Lees (Fife Council)	Notification of closure of Cartmore Road to allow road and path repairs to be carried out.	Publicised on Facebook and Website.
Ian Smith, Ian Jones & Robert Aimer (Fife Council)	Planned roadworks in Cartmore Road. Responses to LCC enquiries regarding schedule of work.	Publicised on Facebook and Website.

## 6. Communications



SM spoke through the aforementioned list. He advised that there a further three FOI requests outstanding about the CC relating to minutes of the meetings and communication with Democratic Services. Once responses have been provided they will be circulated.

BS asked if there were any questions/comments relating to communications received. There were no questions raised.

## 7. Groups which CC attend

### a. Health Centre

BS advised that members of the group had been out on Saturday getting petitions this had been warmly received. BS added that he had been disappointed at the comments made in the paper from someone outwith the town about the campaign. BS reiterated that all local politicians have been invited to attend our meetings, unfortunately Ian hasn't been able to attend any due to other priorities.

It would appear that the author of the letter was solely intending to undermine the campaign and politicise the issue. This is wholly unacceptable and we shouldn't be distracted from the objectives. People from across the town and immediate surrounding areas know that we need a better facility it would appear that the author agrees with this fact as well.

The groups focus is to get a new health as soon as possible. The Community shouldn't need to wait for two – three years for a business case to be developed, followed by a protracted planning process and then a decision on whether or not we need a new health centre. This could take five years or more which isn't acceptable.

DH asked that he had heard that £6 million had been set aside for a new health centre in Lochgelly. Was there any truth in this rumour? SM confirmed that Councillor Chisholm had advised that the Scottish Government had laid aside this amount in his communication last month. He was seeking to get confirmation that this was the case and at this stage we are still awaiting the formal response. SM advised that the NHS Fife Capital Plan papers from February did not include any capital funding planned for Lochgelly over the next three years. This had also stated that they were looking to possibly develop a project plan that was in the pipeline.

SM explained that the purpose of the campaign was to get a facility that offers a full range of services including GP, Social Work, Housing, Money advice etc. This would follow on from the work of the Health Round Table work across the town. The intention is to identify the source of the problem and not simply tackle treat the symptoms. If we get a new facility that houses the range of support services then patients could be redirected to the most appropriate area which would free up time for the GP to spend more time with patients and reduce waiting times.

GK said that the requirement for a new health centre had been mentioned in the Charrette in 2009. MH advised that this may have been the case, along with a number of other things raised as part of the charrette however it wasn't till after the Community Council pushed for the Health Round Table to be formed that any discussions took place about the replacement health centre.

AG highlighted that as a consequence of the new houses being built across the town will put more pressure on the health centre.

General discussion took place surrounding the need for the replacement centre. BS to arrange a further meeting of the sub-group to look at progressing the campaign.



**b. Public Park Improvement group**

SM advised that the MUGA court is due to officially open on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. Community Councillors are invited to attend.

The play park painting work was almost complete, this had been done by the community payback squad. The resurfacing work should commence next week. The benches and signs will be installed soon in the areas previously discussed. We will be looking to speak to residents opposite the Red Ash area about a bench being sited on the pathway. This is to see whether this would create a problem for them. The old tennis courts will be grassed over and changed into a sensory garden and childrens' play area. The next meeting of the group is dedicated to preparing this in more detail and hopefully getting information about match funding.

The group agreed to putting baskets on the lamp posts from Hall Street down to behind the changing rooms.

AG advised that the paths had been reinstated next to the MUGA court. SM highlighted that there were problems with the standards as there was no edging kerbs. GK suggested that the remainder of the paths should be covered by the maintenance of the park.

JMc asked about the wall at the avenue? SM advised that the contractors were to repair the area which they had damaged and that the group would be paying for the repairs for the main entrances at the south and north end of the park. Additionally we need to consider what can be done to improve the rest of the wall along the avenue side.

SM also advised that the planned work for the entrance at Auchterderran road was progressing.

**c. Mossmorran Safety Liaison Committee – No meeting**

**d. 4 Wind Development Trust**

BS advised that the next group meeting was Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April. BS spoke through the application process and reminded Community Councillors about publicising the funds.

BS confirmed that the group will always provide feedback to applicants if they are unsuccessful on what action they need to take.

SM advised that the group had finally received feedback from OSCR regarding their investigation into the anonymous complaint. SM spoke through the main elements which were about the minutes of the meetings not being full enough, the format and lay out of the accounts not being consistent with OSCR layout, Trustees not being conversant with section 66 of the Charity legislation and there only being four trustees last year and not five.

**e. Living Lomond Hills Trust -GK advised that there was no meeting**

**8. Councillors Report**

LE prepared a brief summary of the work which she had been involved in over the previous month

- In relation to the Town Hall, all Councillors had opposed any suggestion that the building should be closed. This was the forth time that Council Officers had presented this as an option and it had been rejected. She had outlined the need to review the pricing structure of the facility as it appeared to be higher than a lot of similar facilities. LE advised that all options to keep the hall open should be explored.



- The administration had committed to increasing youth employment by ensuring that for every million pound spent, they would create a new apprenticeship in Fife.
- Part of the Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership board.
- Raised concerns about the lack of progress regarding the new centre within Lochore Meadows Country Park. £1 Million had been allocated for the project sometime back and yet there has been no significant progress.
- All PFI/PPP built Fife Schools have been inspected for any defects. Confirmation has been provided that there are no residual structural defects with the buildings.
- The Council have recently reached agreement with the Trade Unions representing Home Carers on new contracts which were designed to meet the needs of Service Users.

MH summarised his activities over the previous month

- Continuation of work engaging on the major projects across the town. Including Rockgelly and the Cycle Loop,
- He had entered into discussions with CommScope following their unexpected announcement that up 50 jobs were to be made redundant. Along with Councillor Lesley Laird, they had met with the company and initiated a range of measures to support the employees affected by the closure of the section. This included arranging for Officers from the Council to focus on identifying employment opportunities and utilising PACE (Improvement Services Consultants packs) to help these people.
- The new house builds are on course to be completed in two phases, the Houses by the end of June and the Town House refurbishment by the end of August. Ore Valley housing in the 'stables' should be completed by the end of the year.

#### Questions and Comments

DH asked about the suggestion that £6 Million for the Lochgelly Health Centre (moved to that item on the minutes)

#### 9. AOCB

- No questions from members of the public.
- DH asked what was happening with the Post Office as it has been closed for some time. JM advised that it was currently being investigated and that until this was completed customers were forced to use the Lochore or Cowdenbeath offices.
- DH highlighted that it had been reported to him that the contractor working on the old police station had been pouring liquid concrete down the drains. MH to raise this with Fife Council.
- JMc asked about the illegal dump which had been reported, had all the rubbish been removed? This was being monitored by SEPA
- GK asked about the trees next to the golf course, had these been replanted? MH advised that the ruling was that the land owner had up to three years to replace them. DH asked about trees across the rest of the town for example in the Brucefield plots? This was to be investigated further.
- BS asked about the Facebook page, was this likely to continue or not. SM advised that in the immediate term it would continue, however it had been very difficult initially and CM had been fielding a lot of the issues raised by two individuals.

CM added that it was getting to the extent that no matter what response was given they weren't happy. Whether it was confirming how to access minutes or access the website. TD added that he had been asked to put the minutes into the library but had forgotten. This was now resolved though. SM advised that along with CM, JM and JMa had agreed to act as the admin for the page.

- Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 6.00 in the 385 Social Club**

