

At the April meeting of the Lochgelly Community Council, Tam Kirby from the Fife People's Assembly gave an impassioned presentation about their groups campaign to fight against austerity. Tam spoke about the effects that the welfare reforms have on the most vulnerable in our society. He explained that the Fife People's Assembly are a group of volunteers who regularly attend demonstrations to raise awareness of the effects of benefit sanctions. They lobby politicians from all parties and were pleased when the current Council administration supported the majority of their budget manifesto.

Amongst the general business discussed at the meeting, Irresponsible car parking in Knockhill close area of the town was highlighted during the discussions. Complaints have been received about the sheer stupidity of some who park their vehicles blocking the street and paths. Community Councillors discussed the need for increased monitoring of the area. The mess on the footpaths in Bank Street with discarded chewing gum and flooding outside the main co-op were also raised during the meeting.

Community Councillors were updated on the development of the Public Park. The Community Garden is almost nearing completion and discussions have started with Fife Council Officers planning for the new play park facilities. The installation of the skate park facility is due to commence over the next couple of months.

The Community Council agreed to establish our manifesto for the forthcoming local elections. Given the improvements across the town, Councillors felt that it was vital whoever is elected recognises the need to maintain support for our priorities which include a new health centre, improved recreational facilities, improving and increasing social housing and seeking to improve educational facilities.

The next meeting of the 4 Winds Trust is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the contributions these funds make to all types of social and community based groups helps maintain and achieve their project goals. Community Councillors encouraged interested groups to access the application form from our website [www.lochgellycc.org.uk](http://www.lochgellycc.org.uk).

Councillors Linda Erskine and Mark Hood provided updates on the areas they have been working on over the previous 4 weeks.

The next meeting of the Community Council is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm in the 385 Social Club. Lorraine Mullen (Community Worker, Fife Council) will be attending to give a brief presentation. Members of the public are welcome to attend.