

Lochgelly Community Council
Councillor report February 2018

Housing estate on the Avenue. – I have received a number of complaints in regard to planning and safety issues, with regard to the new housing estate. I have written to planning and transportation with regards to the concerns raised by constituents. An enforcement order was placed on the contractors

Car Parking Improvements which I requested last year are being delivered at Sharp Grove, Morris Ave with the removal of old lock ups. Grassed areas which were being used by local residents for parking vehicles are being replaced by parking bays.

Hugh Ave. – Buses and large vehicles were having difficulty passing through this street. I requested that the pavement be reduced to make parking bays in order to improve the safety in this street, work to commence 12th September.

Heritage Centre – Initial meeting of interested parties and council officers took place last Monday. Draft plans were presented by the architect and a discussion took place about how the project is to be taken forward. An invitation to the Secretary of the Lochgelly Community Council has been extended to be part of the project board which will help deliver the project.

Complaint re - access to free swimming lessons, some issues with paperwork held by education, under investigation. Approximately 87 children participating in free swimming lessons at the moment.

Phase two of Rockgelly, planning application processed for final stage. Meeting with Hazel Cross to receive update.

Ground to rear of Viewfield Terrace, - Old Lumphinnans Colliery, due to be sold of at Auction 28 February, potential for house build in future.

Fife Cycle track some issues with Scottish water but project still on budget and hopefully will not be too long to completion.

Budget Impact - Potential reduced access to recycling centre Lochgelly.
Increased cost, School Meals

Boundary Issue – In 1997, at local government reorganisation the Community Council Boundary between Lochgelly and GlenCraig was changed. This is now being challenged by members of Benarty Community Council. Legal opinion has been given.

Supporting 3 groups with advice on Community transfers.

Gary Street, in touch with transportation re road surface and need for substantial repairs.

Lochore Meadows Country Park Development Group – meeting with volunteers, officers and elected member to be set up by CLD in the next few weeks.

Submitted applications for funding to representatives of Lochgelly Polar Academy. Students travel to Greenland 2nd April.

Paxton Crescent play area. – requires safety check and upgrade.

Housing – tenant with children having issues with noisy neighbours

Tenant who needed assistance with welfare benefits.

Social Work – Intervention for elderly service user, required upgrade in Care package

Social work – Support for Carer, regarding the need for respite.

Allotments – Upgrade in Brucefield and Grace street almost complete. Full report sent to Com Council Secretary.

Strategic work

Opening of Meadows Visitor Centre and Golf & Football Pavilion. Both Centres have opened albeit the formal ceremonies will take place later. Given the amount of historical negativity around the build I am hopeful that members of the public will see these first class venues and utilise them well.

Attended and chaired dismissal appeals committees.

There have been many budget meetings with services and senior officers to discuss the management proposals. A number of areas presented by managers have already been rejected for example the music service savings, however there are still some very difficult decisions to be made for example there is a proposal to cut all school cleaning by 12.5%, I will not support this saving.

Charging will be reviewed as part of the budget proposals too. Any proposals to implement large increases in charges to older and vulnerable should be vigorously opposed. Fife Council will set budget on 22nd February.

NHS Fife Director of Public Health Annual Report 201de7

Full report available interesting and worrying information on Areas of Deprivation and Suicide.

Drug related deaths in fife have increased in the past 5 years Report forwarded to Com Council Secretary.

Cowdenbeath Area has the 2 highest level of poverty in Fife

Cowdenbeath Area

- 1st Local tourism meeting is being arranged next week. It is hoped that local businesses will get involved. I believe this area of Fife has been, unfortunately, missed of the tourism map and that to make this a successful venture that we should also involve local history and heritage

groups to ensure that the whole of central Fife is on the tourism map. I will, as the Area Convenor, encourage the involvement of all interested groups.

- Attended the Public meeting about the Westfield Development, numerous concerns re planning, process and outcomes were discussed, a number of Councillors who were on the planning committees were present. A list of actions were agreed which included agreement to ensure that the West Area planning committee were sited, included in decisions which border Ward 8 constituency. Concerns about the level of traffic, 500 lorries per day and the impact on the environment, roads etc., were discussed. Also the timing of notification of the proposed gas generators and their impact was a matter of concern. I do not have a date for a follow up meeting at this point.
- Coalfield regeneration has organised a regeneration school for local groups. This will consist of 6 sessions delivered over a 12 week period skills delivered will be

How to generate income

Skills development

Project planning

Marketing

Money management Dealing with risk.

On the successful completion of the school participants will receive a SVQ certificate. I hope that many of our local groups, voluntary sector providers and social enterprises participate. If you know of any groups who would be interested in this please get in touch. I have already been in contact with some of our local organisers.

- Also I would encourage all local groups and individuals to participate in the Coalfields Regeneration participatory meetings in Auchterderran Kirk and Corrie Centre 17th February and 17th March. This will give the Communities of the ABC&D villages an opportunity to determine what the next stage of local community development.
- Please note the Council is no longer pursuing the roll out of 4 weekly bin collections.

These are some of the issues I have dealt with in the last weeks. Happy to answer questions either at the meeting or by email if preferred.