

Council Report for Lochgelly Community Council February –March 2018

A networking breakfast has been organised to bring together Voluntary Youth Organisations and partners to share ideas and good practice. This event is a great opportunity for volunteers and staff from your organisation/group to network with other youth organisations, clubs and groups across Fife and promote your own service. The theme for this networking breakfast is Young People, Mental Health and Wellbeing. We are delighted to have Eugene Adams from the Fife CAHMS team and Louise Stean the Lead Champion for the Our Minds Matter framework co-facilitating this event. The event will involve various discussion topics around the above theme. More details to come!! There will also be many networking opportunities and of course be a hearty breakfast. The event will take place at the Gilvenbank Hotel, Glenrothes – 28th March, commencing at 9am.

There is a meeting planned for new Councillors on the 26th of March to Bilston Glen Police Contact Centre. The visit will cover an overview of Contact, by Command and Control Division Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging (Divisional Commander). A Service Centre Overview Journey of a call by Mrs Laura Henderson (PSSC Manager - East) and an Area Control Room Overview Journey of a call by CI Gordon McManus (Area Commander - East) We will finish the visit with a Questions opportunity by Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging (Divisional Commander). This visit is of vital importance as it gives some small but essential insight into the work which goes on at Bilston Glen on a daily basis.

A meeting was held on the 13th of February of the Benarty Heritage Group and it was agreed that they write to Kevin Sayer and ask that the Cowdenbeath Area Committee reinstate the Community Boundaries which were in place in 1973 concerning the village of Glenraig. The group feel that this village, which straddles a Parish Boundary, is very much a part of the Benarty area historically, physically and emotionally, and they feel that it was never part of Lochgelly Burgh, whose original northern boundary line was aligned close to Colquhally Road, the entrance to the present-day Cartmore Industrial Estate. Former Glenraig residents were very proud, whether they lived in North Glenraig (Ballingry Parish) or in South Glenraig (Auchterderran Parish). The group members have noted a Lochgelly Burgh boundary change, on 15 May 1948, resulting in an enlargement of Lochgelly Burgh unit, including a boundary change northwards to include the land now occupied by Lochgelly High School but not extending northwards of the east-west farm road leading to Easter Cartmore. Feelings are running very high within the group concerning the most recent revelations that further boundary changes have, in fact, taken place, in a northerly direction, to now include the lands of South Glenraig within the confines of Lochgelly. The group members are very concerned at the 'disappearance' of the historic village of Glenraig by such boundary changes, and, in particular, since members are not aware of any public consultations on these recent boundary changes having taken place. This matter was raised at the recent Area Committee where officers and all concerned were able to deal with details in greater depth. **Further comments in the report to be noted.**

The Cowdenbeath Area Committee was held on the 21st of February and the Local Community Plan for the Youth Work Summer Programme was presented by Head of Communities Neighbourhoods Gary Daniels. It was discussed in great detail and it was passed by committee. One detail which was agreed by all was that the Youth Programme did an outstanding job and I among others had the

opportunity to see that evidence at the YOSCARS Presentation Evening. However it was noted by all that perhaps more promotion of these facts is something with the group could do moving forward.

.Local Community Planning Budget Civic Events Funding was discussed in some detail by Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods(Kevin Sayer) The Committee:(a)agreed to set a fixed limit in the Cowdenbeath Area for the recurring grants which would reflect the size of the settlements and population and would be banded as laid out below:

Small Grants; 5,000 populations up to a maximum £1,000 (LumphinnansHill of Beath and Crossgates).

Medium Grants: 5,000 and 10,000 population up to a maximum £2000 (Cardenden, Lochgelly, Benarty and Kelty)

.Large Grants: 10,000 population up to a maximum of £3,000 (Cowdenbeath)These maximum limits would be per event .

A motion was presented by my myself . Which addressed the fact that here will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans by2050 unless people stop using single-use plastic items such as plastic bags, according to figures cited by the United Nations. The use of Compostable carrier bags has already shown in previous studies carried out by the Co-op that the introduction of Compostable bags reduced the sale of the number of single-use carrier bags by (64%) There are currently 600 out of the 3000 Co-op stores UK wide where these bags are used. Scotland uses 750 million Plastic bags per year which are destined for landfill almost as soon as they are created, and add to the 2.8 million tonne mound of plastic waste produced in the UK every year Therefore the motion being presented is that Cowdenbeath Area Committee agrees to request that the Executive Director (Enterprise & Environment) consider carrying out a feasibility study which would entail initiating a 3 month trial involving local retailers in Cardenden who would use compostable carrier bags after which time the results and opinions of those involved could be assessed together with the benefits to the environment. The motion was passed. Cllr Alex Campbell did express a wish that the trial take in the wider villages within the ward, however for the time being it is thought to be better focused on one village and the results examined from that study. It is hoped that this will be expanded throughout Fife at a later date.

Questions were submitted from Brian Menzies and Wullie Clarke on behalf of Benarty Community Council. They asked that Cowdenbeath Area Committee assist in resolving an on-going issue they have with Fife Council in relation to present and past Community Council boundaries between Lochgelly and Benarty In answer to the specific questions. A full investigation has already taken place. There is no evidence that this issue was raised with Fife Council in consultations on the Scheme reviews in 2004 and 2010.In terms of resolution of the issue, both community councils could, if they agree, seek a review of the current boundary. Otherwise it would be a matter for either community council to raise independently when the Scheme itself is next reviewed. So far as we are aware, the relevant boundaries are held in local libraries. They can be accessed on FifeDirect. It should be noted that the retention schedule for records of this kind is normally ten years, and previous District Council records are likely to have been destroyed.

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) School Attainment and Achievement across the secondary and associated primary schools served in the Cowdenbeath Area. The Rector of Beath High School and Depute Rector of Lochgelly High School together with Headteachers from St. Bride's Hill of Beath and Cowdenbeath detailed achievements and performance on their specific schools and answered questions on the contents of each of the reports. The Committee: thanked the Education staff for the updates on their specific schools; noted the details contained within the report in relation to the proposed new ways of analysing and reporting on secondary schools performance; agreed to note the information provided in the primary and secondary schools reports; agreed that future consideration of these School Attainment and Achievement report be considered in a workshop session to allow more detailed information to be provided which the press could be invited to attend and agreed that a report on Pupil Equity funds be submitted to a future meeting.

As you are all aware the entire area of Cowdenbeath and beyond has experienced a large rise in youth disturbance over the past month. This has involved gatherings of youth in Lochgelly, Cardenden and further afield. There has been a great deal of concern talked about and listened to from CCs, and resident groups. Kevin Sayer has informed Councillors that the Area Safer Communities (Officers) Group meet on Tuesday 6th March and this was on the agenda. Police and Safer Communities staffs are working on the issue and are looking to pull together a Problem Profile. I understand that, as well as local young people, others are coming into Cardenden, Lochgelly and Kelty from Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth. This suggests that any summit will likely need to be a multi-Area one.

FIFE MUSIC ACTIVITIES, including Youth Music Initiative (YMI) funded project work. The next few months are busy ones for children and young people involved in Fife Music and YMI activities rehearsing towards performances. You are warmly invited to attend any of the undernoted performances and events: Wednesday, 18 April 2018 Lochgelly Centre, 7.00 pm, FIFE YOUTH CONCERT BAND AND FIFE YOUTH SINFONIA will be playing.

Lochgelly Skatepark is almost complete, the main area of works outstanding is the Landscaping & Flood lighting (extended lead times). However the local skaters are making full use of the area, and it is proving very popular. The handover is at 2.30 pm on the 12th March (weather dependant) on site.

Active Schools Fife, 6, 7, 8 Dance Festival takes place on Friday 16th March, 6 – 9 pm at Lochgelly Centre. The Fife, 6, 7, 8 Dance programme provides training for school staff and young people across Fife to gain the knowledge and confidence to teach dance in school and community settings. The evening provides an opportunity for staff & pupils to celebrate and showcase dance by performing on stage to an audience of their peers, friends, family and guests.

I note from the previous minutes that your concerns regarding issues raised over flower beds, renewal of grass banks and other concerns of this nature have already been raised with Stephen Duffy. He is more than happy to consult with the CC. However one area of concern from residents of the New Farm Vale was passed to me in the writing of this report. Their concerns were in regard to the footpath along the B9149 and their hope for this to be cleaned. The moss is growing over the pavement, making it narrower and dangerous towards oncoming traffic.

The pavement stretches from the roundabout at the junction of Auchterderran Road right up to The Avenue. Part of the pavement running parallel with New Farm Vale boundary has no street lighting making it more dangerous. I have passed these concerns onto Stephen Duffy and his team are now dealing with this.

The last week or so has dealt most areas of Fife the most trying weather conditions they experienced for several years. All communities dealt with these conditions with incredible fortitude and resilience. Coming together to assist each other in the simplest of ways shows true friendship and community spirit. We four Councillors have each pulled together with each other over this time, keeping in contact and sharing the issues of concern as they arose, I commend my fellow councillors for this, . FB pages were kept up to date, communication from Fife Council was posted as it came in and updates were continually renewed. Social media is an important tool in times like this and it is not used for political means, as some would imagine, it is a vital link between villages, communities and people and will continue to be used as such. I urge every CC Council to take advantage of its use as I know my fellow Councillors would agree. I would like to praise the efforts of Fife Council Staff who worked tirelessly , our NHS who continued working way into the night to keep hospitals and clinics running, our Local Farmers who cleared streets and pavements and every man ,woman and child who swept and clears around us. We will slowly get back to normality and look forward to the spring.

Cllr Rosemary Liewald

Ward 8 .Lochgelly , Cardenden and Benarty