

## Lochgelly Community Council Report Jan 2018

In regard to the questions raised some time ago concerning wild flowers. I have spoken to Stephen Duffy regarding this. There are two areas on the Avenue where wild flowers were disturbed, the first being where the dig was made for building investigations for the Heritage Centre, this will be replaced, and also the grass area is being renewed. The other area in question is the new skate park next to the MUGA, there was banking in this location which will probably be grassed.

In regard to the railing in the properties on Fraser Drive and Johnstone Crescent. A work order was placed for inspection in October; this was carried out along with work which needed to be done. Some of the properties in question are privately owned therefore this will be the responsibility of the owners. However after speaking to Brian Kirk (Housing Officer) he has assured me that if some of the properties are part owned by Fife Council then work will still take place. Brian will feed back again in a few weeks if any continuing work and time frames need to be re-examined.

This event is, I believe of vital importance and I would urge all parents if they can, to attend. As you can see this is entitled:

### **Bringing parental involvement alive in Fife**

A "Bringing parental involvement alive in Fife" event is to be held at Rothes Hall, Glenrothes on Saturday 17 March 2018 from 10.00am – 12.30pm at Rothes Hall, Glenrothes.

This event aims to bring together parents from across the whole of Fife to share information relating to parental engagement, and to provide an opportunity to discuss:

- recent developments in education, nationally,
- the Parental Involvement Strategy for Fife,
- Ways that parents can be more involved.
- If you are interested in attending please email [donna.cessford@fife.gov.uk](mailto:donna.cessford@fife.gov.uk) by Friday 2 March 2018

This is sent on behalf of Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education & Children's Services

As you will know there are a team of children from Lochgelly High School heading to Greenland for an Arctic Expedition with The Polar Academy. They leave on Monday 2nd April, from the high school at 9 am. I and others will be joining them to wish them luck in their adventures. I know that everyone is hugely impressed with the amazing preparation and work they have achieved over the past months in getting ready for this once in a lifetime experience. We wish them a safe and wonderful trip.

The new visitor centre in Lochore Meadows opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January. It consists of: a café two educational rooms with a retractable wall for flexible use, an outdoor decking area, public toilets with disabled access and baby changing facilities, an interpretation area that displays information about the history of the park and interactive displays to help people navigate around the park and get the most from their visit. The cafe is open 7 days a week from 10.30am until 3pm. Ian Lang ,Manager has said that the official opening event will be later and either February or April. That decision will be made very soon.

People can now pick up food waste bags at our local library. They went on sale at Benarty, Cardenden, Cowdenbeath, Kelty and Lochgelly ONFife libraries from Monday and are available at various leisure centres too. Its part of a deal struck between Resource Efficient Solutions (RES), Fife Council's arm's length company that deals with waste, and Fife Cultural Trust. They're being sold for £1.30 per roll of 25 bags and are designed to go in the brown bin. Simon Jaynes, of RES, has informed us that food waste bags will now be available from ONFife libraries as well as Fife's leisure centres. This will continue to be looked at and examined in the hope to enable the best way to provide food waste bags to households in Fife.

On-going from this initiative. I will be instigating a 3 month trial of retail outlets in Cardenden involving the use of Compostable Carrier bags. Already I have had a huge amount of support for the venture from the Community Council, the environmental group, RWE, Purvis, the Co-op and Tesco (FRES) ALONG WITH Simon Jaynes and his team are very supportive of this trial and would urge other villages CC area to consider this step.

A great deal of road works is taking place around the Lochgelly area this month, more so than usual and everyone's patience and understanding is very much appreciated during this work. The areas affected during February are the following:

LOCHGELLY McKenzie Crescent to Melgund Lounge. THE AVENUE 31/01/2018 14/02/2018

LOCHGELLY whole length PLANTATION STREET 05/02/2018 16/03/2018

LOCHGELLY whole length RATTRAY TERRACE 12/02/2018 23/02/2018

CROSSHILL MAIN STREET 13/02/2018 15/02/2018

LOCHGELLY (LOCHGELLY) OUTSIDE NO 141 STATION ROAD STATION ROAD 13/02/2018 23/02/2018

LOCHGELLY north side HUGH AVENUE 12/02/2018 23/02/2018

### **Tourism in and around the Cowdenbeath Area**

I will be attending the following Workshop on Tourism and hospitality operators in Cowdenbeath Committee Area .The meeting is on 20th February, at Lochgelly Centre.

It is aiming to review and gather everyone's views on what we think needs to happen in tourism locally – what are the priorities and what barriers do we need to overcome?

Fife Tourism Partnership is working to maximise the potential of Heartlands of Fife tourism product. They will address the "In the Footsteps of Kings" initiative, the new Fife Cycle Park, Lochore Meadows and identify other opportunities for working together on marketing campaigns. **The event is free.**

Their aim is to attract more visitors to the area, encourage them to stay longer and spend more. Simple objectives, hard to achieve if we all work independently of each other. The workshop is our chance to find ways to collaborate. An update on the progress regarding the Allotment sight has been sent by Christina Reid, which looks very good and is much appreciated, Christina outlined the following.

Grace Street, Lochgelly – -The water supply is connected and further standpipes are being installed before the end of February - The spare area of land at the east of the site has now been turned into growing space . We have removed the rusty old shipping container form site along with 22 cubic metres of land fill waste that has been accumulated over years on the site. We have also started to remove barbed wire from the site .There is a toilet and green waste skip on site. The site now has 32 plots of various sizes that are full and there is 2 people on the waiting list. We will be moving forward to meet with the plot holders in March with a view to forming a constituted group.

Balbeddie Ave, Lochore – This site is being finished this week and will contain 9 plots. The plots will share a communal shed. A temporary water supply will be installed however funding will need to be sought for a mains connection. The plots are being allocated on Friday 16th February to the 7 people on the waiting list and I am sure that the other 2 will be taken very soon.

Brucefield Allotments - This site over the last few months has seen huge improvements with the removal of 16 cubic meters of land fill waste that has been accumulated over the years.- There is now a mixture of plot sizes from 100 sqm upwards .The new plots are supplied with a small shed with water collection systems. We have also been installing new fencing and removing the barbed wire .We have also been upgrading the water supply. The site now has an improved road and parking area. The site now has 36 plots of various sizes 6 of these remain empty as they await upgrading the remaining 30 are full and there is 6 people on the

waiting list. There is work taking place on site just now to bring more land into use to reduce the waiting list.

Growing in Lochgelly are pleased to pass on the news of the next stage in their application to acquire an additional strip of land for a long term project which they have been working on . Peter Duncan from Allotments in Fife has now assured the group that this land and lease is ready to be handed over. Shona Ferguson (Chairperson) is in the final stages of paper work and arrangements in regard to fencing. A further source of money for sheds and portacabins is being sought by the group. The proposed name for the site is The Violet Gardens, further updates will be passed on as and when ready.

Ms Annabelle Ewing MSP, Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Cowdenbeath constituency was delighted to host a meeting of local schoolchildren in her constituency office recently. The Rights Respecting Schools Committee of St. Patrick's PS in Lochgelly held their most recent regular meeting at Ms Ewing's Cowdenbeath constituency office on Friday 12th January 2018. Rights Respecting Schools are a UNICEF initiative which encourages schools to place the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of its ethos and curriculum .Ms Ewing said she was absolutely delighted to play host to St Patrick's Primary's Rights Respecting Schools Committee. The work of the Committee is concerned with the UNCRC and they are looking in particular at the position of refugee children. They had an interesting discussion about what kind of practical issues faced refugee children both those still in the camps and those who have come to Scotland and what could be done to help them. She was hugely impressed by the ideas of these young ambassadors whose compassion for children less fortunate than themselves was humbling as was their commitment to making a difference to the world in which they live.

She talked through a draft action plan and is looking forward to meeting again with the Committee before their summer holidays to see how they are getting on.

Finally I will be visiting the Police Contact Centre at Bilston Glen on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 between 1200 – 1400 hours. This invitation has been offered to all Councillor and we believe that it is extremely worthwhile to take this opportunity to see the on-going and valuable work our Police staff engage in every day. I will feedback some details to the CC after the visit.

All other committees and constituent work is being carried out by myself ,details of contact can be found through Fife Direct  
Regards

Cll Rosemary Liewald

