

Lochgelly Community Council report for June ,July and August 2017

At the beginning of June I attended an Event in The Lochgelly Business Centre highlighting the work of this outstanding organization. ..Fife Young Carers work extensively throughout the whole of the Kingdom and provides a variety of support to young carers from day trips and group activities to individual support. A superb presentation this lunchtime and a great opportunity for myself as a new Councillor to meet the team...

I attended the Lochgelly High School Senior award ceremony on the 16th of June at the Lochgelly Centre this was an excellent event and I was delighted to see many of the pupils from Lochgelly Cardenden and Benarty receive some outstanding awards. The news that Lochgelly High school is the choice for next year's Polar Academy Expedition is wonderful. The Team comprises of 20 pupils, with three pupils coming from this village. Everyone has been really impressed over the past few months with the genuine leadership of the school staff. In fact, the Head Teacher will be part of the expedition team. Over the coming months these student's lives will be transformed, not only for the benefit of themselves but to their families and the communities they call home. Sunday 24th September, The group are walking over the Forth Bridge in a Fundraiser Event . Angela Fleming one of the parents is organising sponsor sheets which she will get to everyone ASAP

Pop it in your diary 24/9/17. 12 noon

Meet at car park 11.30...Come and get involved and support our brilliant local kids on this amazing adventure. Myself and Cllr McLelland were invited over to the School to help celebrate the 30th anniversary events A lovely afternoon was spend in the company of the lovely Bailey-Lee Robb from this village who is the MSYP who gave a brilliant tour of the school to myself and fellow Councillor..Lea McLelland. We know that a terrific night was had by all at the Game-a-Thone .. I didn't do too badly with the Connect 4 One game lost one game won. The Charities being supported by the school, are **The Polar Academy, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Anthony Nolan Trust.**

I attended the Love Lochgelly exhibition in The Lochgelly Centre on Tuesday 4th of July and was delighted to see the great work being developed within the town. Hugh congratulations to Lochgelly which has been named Scotland's Most Improved Town 2016.

It beat off stiff competition from Linwood, Gourrock and Auchterarder to scoop the title at the **Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum** awards ceremony in Glasgow on Tuesday.

Hazel Cross, from Fife Council, who is part of the team, accepted the award on behalf of the town. Showed me round the various displays and explained the further plans for the wider site of the town centre.

Lochgelly has been on a journey of people and place and the collaborative working over a number of years has helped change the face of Lochgelly by improving the towns assets, creating new housing, leisure and business opportunities.

The Lochgelly community is strong and determined and have delivered a range of community led projects throughout the town over the years and I know Lochgelly will continue to be successful."

Let's hope that this is only the beginning of much wider and much needed development and regeneration within our wider community of Cowdenbeath and the out laying villages.

I attended a public meeting in Lochgelly Town Hall on the 5th of July which was held by the recently assembled Mossmorran Action group .this has been set up to look at the recent disturbances which the whole community have had due to flaring and noise from the Plant . Questions to the panel ranged from what the possible punishments following SEPA's investigation could be to what noise monitoring had taken place before and after the recent flaring.

Rob Morris from SEPA, said the organisation would be investigating Mossmorran and was in the process of creating a team to undertake the task, before adding.

He confirmed that as part of the investigation SEPA would be speaking to members of the public to get their opinions. He also said the possible enforcement measures ranged from providing advice, or issuing a final warning to handing out a fine. However, the public called for more community involvement, for permanent sound monitoring of the facility, and for it to be easier to register complaints with SEPA about the site. The meeting did have a productive outcome. The three MSPs in attendance – David Torrance, Alexander Stewart and Mark Ruskell – all agreed that a petition to the Scottish Parliament was the best way for the public to express their concerns to the government.

Open Day visit to Crannoch House in Lochgelly on the 4th of August

I was delighted to attend the Open Day at Crannoch Residential Child Care Resource in Lochgelly. Along with me was Bailey-Lee Robb, The Cowdenbeath representative for the Scottish Youth Parliament. The service is run by Margaret Durning Manager Director, who very kindly gave myself and Bailey-Lee and terrific tour and explanation of the work carried out . With an amazing team headed by Gavin Leitch, & Agnes Earl, they provide care and support for up to 6 vulnerable young people between the ages of 8 and 18 years with a range of needs which have resulted in them being unable to live at home. This includes children with disabilities. We can provide short or long term placements. The needs of the young people are paramount and are consulted in relation to all aspects of life in the house with their views being taken into account in all decisions that are taken about them. Their length of stay is determined by their individual needs and they endeavour to facilitate one of the following:

- 1)Return home
- 2) A placement with family or friends
- 3) Supported accommodation
- 4) Living independently in the community

Living with them they have created a warm and homely environment where there is an atmosphere of mutual respect and where young people can make informed choices about how they live. They are involved in deciding what they eat, what they wear and from the moment they arrive at Crannoch they are encouraged to take a large part in deciding how their room will be decorated as well as activities in which they will participate.

Young people are involved in attending weekly house meetings, allowing them to make an input in the running of the house and improving the service provided, as well as addressing any issues that might be around for them.

The aim of Crannoch Residential Child Care Resource is to provide the highest standard of

Care for young people within a homely, nurturing and safe environment where they will have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to improve their lives both physically and emotionally and allow them to meet their full potential in an atmosphere of mutual value and respect. This is an outstanding environment and it was a pleasure to see the work that goes on there many thanks again for making me feel so welcome.

There was an open consultation event held at the Benarty Centre on the 22nd of August to allow people to see the proposals for the location of a boatshed at Lochore Meadows by the University of St Andrews Boat Club. University staffs were on hand to answer questions. The event was fairly well attended with around 50 residents who dropped in over the course of the day.

I attended the John Thomson Tournament in the Cardenden on the 26th of August..as many of you know this event has ran for over 30 years and each year we see wonderful talent come to the fore from the surrounding villages ..This year I thoroughly enjoyed myself watching kids I have known from Nursery take part in a truly brilliant event..These kids of ours are just smashing and today each and every one of them conducted themselves in a manner to be so proud of..I did not hear one person annoyed, one raised voice in anger, one person in a strop ,no bad moods, the Referee was obeyed and respected the lines people the same .. Respect was given to each and every player from each and every player. Our kids are a credit to this community. Well done to Alex Burns for the tireless work he does each year , the helpers ,the parents and everyone involved .. A delight to see international player Tom Boyd he was a delight to the kids, photos and autographs signed and great words of encouragement to all . We were also delighted to have our local Westminster MP Peter Grant along to help give out awards alongside Councillors Linda Erskine and Alec Campbell .. I had a great day ,let's hope this event continues for many more years to come. The children were delighted to have present on the day to give out awards former Celtic and Scotland player Tommy Boyd.

A networking event 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 event will involve discussion topics and a chance to network and a great breakfast.
If there are any Youth Groups Locally around Ward 8 who would like to join this event come along to the Gilvenbank Hotel
Huntsman's Road
Glenrothes
Wed 25 October 2017

I and several other Councillors, Our MSP and MP attended The Lochgelly Gala on Sunday the 20th A terrific day and so well done to all the organizers ..The sun did shine and what a crowd.... Many thanks Lochgelly Gala!!!! and a huge Well Done !!!

Fife Cultural Trust will launch its 'New Vision for ONFife Libraries' public survey on Monday, 4th September. We want to know what we can change to ensure that the public library service remains important in people's lives. Fife's library service has gone through a period of significant change in recent years, although it remains one of the biggest networks in Scotland with 37 libraries. These libraries come in all shapes and sizes but we pride ourselves on delivering the same welcome in every one of them. We value our readers, our computer users, our reading group members and our Book bug babies. We appreciate that you want the bestselling books, the up-to-date software, a quiet space to work and exciting events to attend.

Over the last weekend of August sadly some of our young people from this area ended up in an awful situation with Gang fighting. Unfortunately, some youths attending our schools live in neighbourhoods where violence is all too familiar and physical fighting is frequently relied upon to settle disputes. However, any young person can find themselves in conflicts or disagreements that escalate to a level that they feel they need to fight physically to resolve the issue or to maintain their dignity and respect among their peers

Being in a gang can make you feel part of something or that you belong.

If a gang carries knives or other weapons, they might get them out to show off or intimidate people.

This can be very scary for other people, especially if they think the gang will use them.

If you're feeling pressured to be in a gang:

- remember no one has the right to pressure you
- spend more time with friends who aren't involved in the gang, or places where you know they won't be
- You can talk to a trusted adult or to our counsellors if you're being forced into a gang.

How can I leave a gang?

How you leave a gang can depend on what your position is within the gang. It's not always easy.

But it's possible to leave safely and without any problems.

You might worry that:

- other gangs might still see you as a rival and could try to harm you
- the people in your gang won't allow you to leave or will make it hard for you
- your family or friends could be targeted if you leave
- you won't have any friends or fit in any more
- you won't feel safe if you're not in the gang.

You may want to think about the positive things in your life and what you want your future

Some tips to help you leave a gang:

- try to spend less time with the gang and find friends who are not in gangs
- try to avoid places where you know the gang will be
- speak to someone you trust like a family member, teacher or youth worker
- you can call the police by dialling 999 for urgent help if you're in danger
- Focus on things that you enjoy like sports, music, and reading or find new hobbies.

- I know none of what is going on at the moment is easy, but please take a moment to think before you or someone you care about is hurt.

An outstanding presentation on Wednesday 6th of September given at our Parliament hosted by SMP [Jenny Gilruth](#) on behalf of the brilliant group Fife Gingerbread.. Thirty years of outstanding work assisting young single mothers and vulnerable families.. Huge congratulations to Rona and her team.. I would like to make further enquiries into what the uptake of support is within Lochgelly and the other villages in the ward is and Karen Mc Queen who is the Teen Mum worker has said that she will liaise with me on this information gathering .. Karen's Mobile contact is 07841032478

The University of St Andrews Boat Club held their first Regatta on the 9th of September Loch Ore Regatta 2017 I dropped by and saw , a great day out well attended by various teams from far and wide plus families including spectators, with food, entertainment and great racing! The organisers were happy to engage with myself and Councillor Allie Bain, explain the set up of the event and how the Regatta is run.

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