

Community Council says farewell to stalwart

At the January meeting of the Lochgelly Community Council, Community Councillors said their farewells to one of the longest serving members. Recognising his contribution Chairperson Brian Schulz said "Jon has been a stalwart within the community for a number of years. He has played a vital role in the Community Council's discussions and campaigns. In addition he has been an active member of the community through his work within the Baptist Church. Everyone should be grateful for the contribution that Jon has made to Lochgelly."

The first meeting back after the Festive break is usually quiet however Community Councillors were provided updates on a number of areas. In the Public Park, the Community Garden, planned for the top level tennis court, is on track to be completed for spring later this year. The designs will include installation of a footpath from Johnstone Crescent to allow greater access. Discussions had taken place with Council Officers about options to reduce the gradient of the existing path, however this wouldn't have been feasible. Plans were also submitted for a new skate park, which will be considered in due course.

The Public Park group will be meeting on 30th January, 6pm in the 385 Social Club. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Although there were no meetings of the 4 Winds Development Trust, the next meeting is scheduled for 20th February. Community Councillors encouraged local groups to submit applications for grants from the Trust.

The two Fife Councillors present gave detailed reports of the areas they have been involved in over the last four weeks. Councillor Erskine highlighted the problems faced by tenants falling into arrears, she has been working with Officers to look at ways to help those individuals.

The campaign for a new Health Centre for Lochgelly goes on, Councillor Hood reported that following the pressure from the Community Council there appeared to be greater acceptance from the NHS. The Community Council have been invited to meet with NHS officials at the end the month, where they will reinforce our campaign.

They discussed the correlation between increased waiting times and the poor facilities in the existing premises. Highlighting local MSP support for the campaign Council Secretary Stevie Murray added "There is a shortage of GP applicants for Lochgelly and those who are there are overworked! When the local MSP Annabelle Ewing spoke at one of the public meetings, she had highlighted that there is an increased number of applicants where there are suitable facilities. Our campaign is aimed at tackling wider social problems through targeting the causes of people's problems and providing focussed help. To do this needs larger facilities than we currently have and a new health centre could attract more GP's."

The next meeting of the Community Council is Wednesday February 8th, 6.30pm in the 385 Social Club. Members of the public are welcome to attend.