

Progress recognised by Lochgelly Community Council But...

The September meeting of the Lochgelly Community Council discussed a range of topics around the redevelopment of the town. Hazel Cross, Fife Council, provided an update on the rockgelly project and advised that it remained on track to be fully opened early 2018. This refurbishment will see the old St.Andrews church become one of a few centres for rock climbing and bouldering in Scotland.

Community Council Secretary Stevie Murray said “It will undoubtedly bring significant visitor numbers to the town and hopefully increase levels of spending across the town. However, the Council need to ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place to support car parking in the area. Parking is already a massive issue in the town centre area and additional visitors will put pressure on this problem. It can in turn have a negative effect on visitor numbers. I am pleased that the Council will be looking for resolutions including a shuttle service when competitions take place.”

The Community Council were also provided with an update on the redevelopment of the old Fabtek site. This is an area which the Community Council have campaigned to have investment and refurbishment carried out. Hazel Cross explained that they remain in dialogue with the owners of the site about the state of the site and what actions are necessary to bring it back into a useable state.

The Community Council remain committed to ensuring that this blight in an area which has been transformed in recent years needs to be addressed. Social Housing is clearly the preferred solution for the site which has been derelict for close on 10 years and is a not only an eye sore but is also a health and safety risk.

Improvements to the Public Park were again highlighted, however Community Councillors expressed concerns about the length of time that some of the projects are taking. The community garden was scheduled to be finished in May, however for a range of reasons remains incomplete some five months later. The Skate Park development is slowly progressing after delays in planning and tenders for the work have been sought. The development of the older children’s play area are currently being designed and will include discussions with the local school children led by Fife Council Officers.

Yet again though the problem with anti-social behaviour at the weekends were highlighted, Community Councillors urged Fife Council to take action to address this problem and urged members of the public to continue and report illegal behaviour.

Progress with the new cycle track was commended by the Community Councillors. This will be another addition to support regeneration of not only Lochgelly but also the surrounding communities.

The commitment of the NHS to support the call for a new health centre was welcomed by the Community Council. Community Councillor James Mann said, “We have said all along that Lochgelly needed a new Health Centre. We have said all along that we needed a larger facility which was fit for purpose. We have said all along that Francis Street area is the prime location for this building and it is pleasing that the NHS now acknowledge this. We need the Scottish Government to commit to support the people of the town and provide the necessary funds to do so. We will be contacting all of our local MSPs seeking them to pressure the Health Minister for a quick decision and ask that local residents do the same.”

The next meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for Wednesday 11th October 2017, 6.30pm in the 385 Social Club. Members of the Public are welcome to attend.