

Lochgelly Community Council Secretaries Report 2016

This report is prepared for the Annual General Meeting to cover some of the areas of work which the Community Council have been involved in over the previous 12 months. It doesn't cover all of the work and discussions we have, however it helps understand the areas which, where we can make a difference we will.

ROCKGELLY

The Community Council have actively supported the development of the old St. Andrews Church which will see it be turned into one of the major attractions of the town. The Rockgelly Climbing Centre will house not only Rock and Boulder climbing facilities for professional climbers it will also enable access for all ages. Work commenced in October and is planned for completion later in 2017.

CYCLE LOOP

We welcomed the plans to create a brand new cycle loop for the area. This will see over £1 million invested in the creation of outdoor cycling facilities, along with a centre which will allow access throughout the year.

Whilst we were supportive of these plans, this wasn't merely a nod of approval. We challenged the planners to ensure that the facilities are accessible to all, specifically ensuring affordability was taken into consideration. We called for a pricing structure which allows all families to get involved regardless of their income.

TOWN HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

Although there was some objections to the plan to change the use of the building, the Community Council supported the plans to bring the building back into use. This year has seen the work completed and the buildings transformed into flatted accommodation. At the same time the surrounding land has been completely changed with the building of the new affordable housing.

FABTEK

We commenced with a call for the old industrial units to be demolished. These buildings are not only an eyesore, they are a serious health and safety risk to people. With all of the work being done around the town to bring improvements this was an area desperately needing sorted out. The Council have taken on board our calls for actions and are actively working to develop options for the area.

PUBLIC PARK

Our Park hasn't seen any real investment for over twenty years at least. However, as a result of our participation we secured funding from the Council Administration to make up for the lost section 75 funds. We have used these funds to make significant improvements to the park. The biggest achievement to date is the creation of the MUGA court, which opened earlier this year. The aim of the Public Park Improvement Group, a sub group of the Community Council is to increase the usage of the park and enhance the visual image. Since we commenced on the project there have been

- Willow tree planting to help drainage,
- Wild Flower areas developed to enhance not only the visual look but also encourage wildlife,
- Daffodil bulb planting at plantation street entrance
- A wide variety of Tree Planting across all of the park,
- Beech hedging planted along the westerly side,
- Swing park refurbishment including safer surfacing,



- Hedge size reduction around play area.
- Picnic Benches and seating installed at various locations,
- New fencing installed behind the football goals at Muir park north,
- Soak away at moor park behind goals south,
- Improved lighting within the park
- Football pitch red blae removal grass installation.
- Thinning of trees at pavilion entrance.
- Park Signage, which will be enhanced as new facilities are introduced.
- Replanting at south entrance.
- Bin store painting.

These are some of the tasks and work undertaken in the previous 12 months or so. Work can be slow at times and there are particular projects which we would have wanted completed sooner however, the sub group have remained focussed on the work needed.

It would wrong not to recognise the professional input from Fife Council Officers on this project, Stephen Duffy, Colin Davidson & Alex Lamond have actively contributed and advised at every stage of the Parks redevelopment.

COMMUNITY GROUP SUPPORT

Although the Community Councils do not receive significant grant for funding, we do attempt to support local groups where we can. The Old Folks group, Remembrance Day teas and Coffees, Christmas Lights and Gala Day events have all been supported by the Community Council. We also offered financial support to help with the floral decorations across the town, although the offer was declined by the particular group involved in that project the monies will still go toward planting over the next year.

WEBSITES

Transparency and Accountability are a cornerstone of any democratic body and those receiving public funding. Whilst communication is always an area to improve we now have two well established websites where all information relating to the Community Council activities can be accessed.

The Fife Direct website is a Council run site for all Community Councils and we use this site predominantly for publications and some news articles.

In addition though we created www.lochgellycc.org.uk through Digital Fife which has publications and much more facilities for Lochgelly people to use.

FACEBOOK

Recognising that Social Media is the new way of getting information out to members of the town fast, we created our very own facebook page. It isn't a chat site or social forum and isn't intended to be, it does though allow us to promote public events and get Community Council news out to people of the town.

These online facilities have enabled the people of the town to access all types of information relating to the Community Council from the time when I took over in this particular role.

Stevie Murray
Secretary

