

Cowdenbeath Community Council

Minutes for 16th January 2020

1. PRESENT : I Burt, L Rae, A Stott, C Gourlay, I Cuthbertson, A Dziennik, A McGillivray, S McGillivray, A Haddow, D McLean (TEN COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS)

Co-opted Members	J Young
Elected Members	Cllrs A Campbell, G Guichan
Police	
Members of the public	J Robertson, A Robertson, B Kay, T Anderson
Guests	J Walker – SDS K Hughes/J Hyde – Virgin Media

2. APOLOGIES

Community Councillors	A Lockhart, W Aitchison
Co-opted Members	
Elected Members	Cllr D Watt
Police	L Wallace

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Proposed: Cllr Campbell Seconded: D McLean

4. GUEST SPEAKER – Julia from SDS (Self Directed Support)

Very informative presentation. SDS is about improving the quality of life for people who need support. It allows them to take control and arrange some or all of their support. It is a new way of arranging support in a tailor made way so that people can live more independently. SDS provide independent information, advice and support to assist in identifying the most suitable option (s) for people's needs. SDS work closely with providers, including Fife's Health & Social Care Partnership to feedback experiences/concerns and challenges, in order to help develop delivery of SDS in Fife.

Check out the Website for more information: www.sdsoptionsfife.org.uk

5. GUEST SPEAKER – Kevin & Jonathan – Virgin Media

Another informative presentation. FAST broadband is being installed in Cowdenbeath to thousands of homes and businesses and this presentation was about what was involved. The Project is called Project Lightning Cowdenbeath. There are expected to be significant economic and social benefits from this project. The project started in Sept 2019 and is due to continue till Autumn 2020. A number of footpaths have already been excavated and pre bundled micro ducts laid to allow connection of street cabinets which will make the connections made to each house. It was confirmed that in light of all the work done in the High Street recently, the high street will not be part of this project. Kevin Hughes is the Community Liaison Officer and he is available to speak to anyone who has any questions or concerns about any of the excavations. As a courtesy, Virgin Media are issuing letters to residents and businesses about the work to be done in their street. Legally they don't have to do this. You can contact The Expansion Helpdesk is on 0333 000 5925 Option 1, or email them at ExpansionWorks@virginmedia.co.uk. Details have been posted on our Facebook page

6. MATTERS ARISING - Actions from previous meetings which are still outstanding

- Accessibility to Train Station – Is there anything that can be done to get Network Rail to adapt the loading bay at Union Street to allow better accessibility to train station. CG to write to Network Rail.
- How long are the contractors going to be in Morrisons car park – CG to write to AW at Fife Council to ask.
- Brunton Square – one of the CCs advised that 7 council vans were parked in the public parking bays. Can they not use the staff car park? Cllr Campbell said he would pick this up.
- VE Day activities – Need to know if any CC is interested in setting up a group to do something in May 2020 to commemorate VE day

7. POLICE UPDATE - Report sent in by PC Wallace

Calls to the Police

During the past month, Police Scotland have received 428 calls to the Cowdenbeath area.

This led to 53 crime records being created for investigation, 21 of the crime records reported have resulted in detected offences against offenders. The detection rate for all reported offences is 40 %.

Of the 428 calls received 12 % have resulted in crimes being reported.

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7. POLICE UPDATE - (continued)

The following is a snapshot of the reported crime within the area and the various operations being used to target crime of these types, this is in line with the current policing plan for the whole of Fife.

Operation Prospect: Drug Crime -

During this period there has not been proactive drugs warrants executed. However as intelligence is received Drugs warrant will be applied for and executed should there be sufficient ground.

Operation Paramount: Road Safety

We have responded to 54 Road traffic matters, 17 of these calls related to road crashes. 9 Road Traffic offences have been reported.

Operation Prevail: Anti-Social Behaviour

8 crimes of vandalism and 9 crimes of threatening behaviour have been recorded, of which 4 are domestic related and 1 of which is a hate crime.

Investigations so far have led to all domestic and hate related incidents being detected.

Operation Path: Violent Crime

7 Assault charges have been recorded on Police systems since 01/12/2019.

This has resulted in 4 of which being detected charges against offenders.

Operation Principle: Acquisitive Crime

There has been 1 reported thefts from our local shops since 01/12/2019.

12 acquisitive crimes have been reported in relation to theft, fraud and house breaking.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Traffic Lights at North End** – Site visit held 20th December.

See attached appendix for answers to the questions raised.

A Safety Audit would be submitted three months prior to the prospective adoption date (25th September 2020), with any alterations required being the responsibility of the developer. In light of the issues being raised it was suggested that rather than submitting the SA at the end of June 2020 it would be preferred if it was submitted by February/March 2020, 1 month after the opening of Lidl store. Awaiting response from developer.

- **Civic Week Update – AH**

The Christmas programme went well. There were a few issues which had to be dealt with but on the whole the majority of people in attendance at the Switch On, Christmas Fayre/Kids Party and the Christmas Concert enjoyed themselves. The Civic Week Committee took a well earned rest after the Christmas Concert. At the start of each year, the Committee compile their programme of events throughout the year based on the feedback from attendees at their events the previous year. Their first meeting of 2020 is in a week or so and each volunteer will be assessing/reviewing their level of commitment and what that means for the programme of events they can put on. Cllr Campbell said that Cllrs Watt, Guichan and himself had attended the Christmas Fayre and they thought it was well attended. Lots of people milling about. He praised Civic Week committee for all their hard work and efforts throughout the year. The Committee does an amazing job for Cowdenbeath. The Community Councillors also agreed that Civic Week Committee do great work in the community.

- **Stenhouse Street Underpass – AM**

Quite a few of the Community Councillors attended a presentation (in Nov 19) by the youth group working with AM on the Underpass project. The project has evolved and there are more people interested in the progress. EG Creative Scotland. A full page update has been sent to all community councillors giving an update of progress. It has also been agreed with CRT (P Grandison) that money allocated to the Mens Shed project will be redirected to the Underpass project. Unfortunately CG has been unable to progress the Mens Shed project during the last year and since the money was to be used by 31/3, an approach was made to CRT to re-direct the funding to the Underpass project. This request was agreed by CRT. Request made for additional community councillors to be involved in the underpass project. **Post Meeting Note:** LR, IB, WA all willing to be involved in the project.

Details passed to AM. **Post Meeting Note:** Friends of Lochore Meadows (FOLM) are looking to create a Mens Shed in the area. It was suggested that Cowdenbeath CC could work with FOLM on the Mens Shed. Email received 17/1 about meeting at Lochore Meadows on 31st January to discuss Mens Shed. LR/WA/IB volunteered to attend the meeting and feedback to the Community Council

- **Dalgety Players Panto** – Email sent to CCs prior to meeting asking if they knew any more people who would like to go to the Panto on 22/1 in Dalgety Bay. We have 10 tickets and CG has managed to distribute 6. No other takers.

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8. CORRESPONDENCE

• Wooden Sculptures – AM

3 sculptures have been installed. Unfortunately the sculptor has emigrated to Australia. Our sculptures were the last ones he carved. To move forward AM now requires more people to be involved. Names of other sculptors have been acquired and we also need to agree where the additional sculptures will be placed.

Post Meeting Note: LR, IB, WA, DMcL, CG have all volunteered to meet with AM. Doodle poll issued so we can agree a meeting date

• Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Communities and Safety Committee

IB/CG met with N Kerr from Fife Council on 14th January 2020 to discuss the review. See appendix for background information. NK will submit report to Fife Council around March 2020

• Compensation related to flaring at Mossmorran – Meeting on 30/1

Meeting has been organised by Cllr D Ross Co-Leader of Fife Council to discuss the issue of compensation both to communities collectively and whether or not it would be possible to address individual compensation claims with a view to putting a proposition to Exxon Mobil. IB/LR agreed to attend the meeting on Thursday 30th January at 7pm in Maxwell Centre. General discussion was held and there are concerns about the perceptions about any compensation payments being accepted. However it was felt that it would be a reasonable approach to attend and hear what is being said. What was also discussed at the CC meeting was if compensation was agreed to be paid, it would better for it to be administered by an independent body (such as Foundation Scotland) and not Community Councils. IB/LR will take this information to the meeting.

• Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils

Last year, we (CC) were advised that Fife Council were going to review the current Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. A general discussion was held back then and we actually fed back some comments that we hoped would be considered when the review was conducted. The review began on 6th January. The first aspect is if we have any comments on the boundaries of our community council. No comments made at the meeting. IB raised the fact that this review is extremely important and community councillors should read over the current scheme and be prepared to share their views. IB asked that the timescales for the review are communicated

Post Meeting Note: The following details were issued to CCs via email on 19th January.

6 th Jan – 28 th Feb	Consultation on current boundaries
12 th March	Report on Outcomes of Boundary Consultation and Proposed amended Scheme submitted to Council for approval
23 rd Mar – 22 nd May	Consultation on Proposed Amended Scheme
25 th June	Revised Scheme, incorporating changes from consultation, submitted to Council for approval
1 st Jul – 28 th Aug	Consultation for final representations to be made on draft amended Scheme, together with associated documentation, including boundaries
10 th September	Report considering final representations and agreeing final amendments to existing scheme
September 2020	Final publication of amended scheme

- BHS ECO TEAM** – Payment of £200 handed over to the teacher working with the ECO team. They are delighted with the funding. CG had general discussion with the teacher and it sounds like the team have some very good ideas. It was asked that they keep us up to date on their progress.
- Town House consultation** – A meeting to discuss a technical report between Fife Council and the person(s) conducting the review was being held on 17th January. It is hoped that community councillors will be involved after that to 'add to' the consultation. The involvement of the community should be integral to this consultation. (LR/IB/AM/WA/PM have volunteered to be involved in discussions.)

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8. CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

- **School Colours Awards** – LR advised she has been contacted by BHS to ask if any CC would like to participate in determining who wins the school colours awards. Last year it was 2 community councillors who participated. LR said she would like to be considered again. Next meeting will be on 23/1. IB volunteered. LR will organise with the school.
- **4 Winds Trust** – AH advised that Kennedy Renewables have sold the wind farm. New owners will honour same level of commitment re the Trust. AGM will be held on 24th Feb at 6pm in North Church. Community Councillors are invited to attend. LR volunteered to attend.
- **Review of publication of Representations and Consultee Responses to Planning applications as of 6th January 2020**

Following customer feedback, Fife Council have reviewed the way in which we publish internal consultation responses from within the Planning Service, which include Transportation, Built Heritage, Trees, Urban Design, Archaeology, etc. Currently these responses are not published, and this has led to several requests for information under Freedom of Information. These internal consultation responses will often significantly affect the overall assessment of the application and we appreciate that their omission from the online file makes it difficult for agents to address issues raised and for members of the public to understand how a decision has been reached. Internal consultations from within the Planning Service will therefore now be published online. The publication of this information will be aligned with the end of the period for submitting comments.

I hope that you understand our rationale for implementing these changes and look forward to working with you in 2020.

There was not enough time to discuss this topic at our January meeting. All community councillors were emailed with this information prior to the meeting with a request that all comments be advised to CG. Once the comments received it could be determined if a response was to be made. (AL passed details of the post from another CC concerned about this topic and this was also sent to Cowdenbeaths' cc's for comment)

- **Scottish Government Planning Performance and Fees Consultation - 18 December 2019 to 14 February 2020**

The Scottish Government published a consultation on updating the planning performance and fee regimes which will run until 14th February 2020. This was a key action identified in our work programme which was published in September 2019. The consultation reflects Scottish Ministers commitment to the principle that any increases to planning fees must be linked to improved performance.

The consultation seeks to move planning fees towards covering the costs of determining applications for planning permission as well as seeking views on what additional services which planning authorities provide should be subject to a fee, the circumstances whereby an authority may reduce or waive a planning fee and the introduction of charges for appealing planning decisions.

<https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/planning-performance-and-fees>

- **Second Strategic Transport Projects Review**

Transport Scotland is conducting an online survey for the Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2), the Scotland-wide review of the strategic transport network across all transport modes and are actively seeking input from Community Councils and your local networks. The survey is being publicised widely and targeted at both the wider public and organisations.

We are trying to ensure that everyone is able to alert their key contacts to encourage participation in the survey. STPR2 will inform transport investment in Scotland for the next twenty years and you and/or your Community's input will help to deliver the vision, priorities and outcomes for transport set out in the draft National Transport Strategy (NTS2). Further information and a link to the survey can be found at www.transport.gov.scot/stpr2 We will also be promoting the survey on Transport Scotland social media feeds and it would be appreciated if you could help spread the word by sharing this content on your own channels if it is appropriate to do so. Our main accounts can be accessed below.

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8. CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

• Proposed removal of public payphones

A consultation period is now in place between BT plc and local planning authorities regarding the removal of public payphones. You may be aware that a previous consultation exercise took place earlier this year. Consultation Notices have already been placed on 56 payphones identified for removal in Fife and I have attached a list for your information. As a Planning Authority Fife Council will collate responses from the communities affected by the proposals and respond to BT.

Responses from your community should be sent directly to myself and should be received no later than 31 January 2020. This will allow time for all responses to be collated and sent on by the consultation closing date of 19 February 2020. We have been advised by BT that any responses received after this date will not be accepted.

National Planning Framework 4 – NPF4 will be a long term plan for Scotland setting out where development and infrastructure is needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth. Forming part of the development plan, it will be key in day to day decisions at all levels of planning in Scotland. Email sent to community councillors with all the details (jan 13) New web resource will be updated with any new material.
@ScotGovPlanning#scotplan.

9. COUNCILLORS REPORT - Cllrs A Campbell & G Guichan

- Crown Hotel – FC are keen to speak to the owner of the Hotel. Planning application was submitted a few years back but in light of the new retail park being opened, the councillors and FC are keen to see progress on the development of the building/land.
- Compensation Meeting – Cllr Campbell was pleased that meeting had been organised and that community councillors were going to attend. Cllrs will be in attendance as well
- Smith Avenue – the lighting at Smith Avenue area is not very good. It is very dark in the area. Cllr Campbell agreed to pick up.
- Questions asked about the Town Centre Development. Is it completed? The pavement outside the P O /Christies has not been completed. Will someone be coming back to finish it. Cllr A Campbell will find out.

10. OTHER REPORTS

Treasurers Report (spreadsheet distributed before meeting). Update on monies paid out/into account advised and discussed. Balance in CC's account as at **16th January 2020 : £20,463.45**

Projects	£ 996.42	ringfenced for CRT underpass project (£3000recd /£1047.63 pd Aug/955.95 pd Dec)
	£ 2,200.00	ringfenced for CRT sculptures project (£3000recd Mar 2019/£800 pd out Aug)
	£ 3,270.00	ringfenced for underpass. (Previously for Mens Shed. Agreed with CRT (P Grandison) to transfer)
	£ 5,505.00	ringfenced for CRT communications (£5665 recd/£160 pd to Beath Bulletin in Nov, agreed with CRT)
	£ 30.36	ringfenced for Mural at Grn Sq (£3000 recd from 4 winds trust. Chq £2970.50 pd 8/11)
	£ 1000.00	ringfenced for Mural at Grn Sq – received from Foundation Scotland
(Sub Total	£ 13001.78)	
Grants	£ 4,000.00	ringfenced for Micro Grant Scheme
BB	£ 258.49	ringfenced for Beath Bulletin (payments received since Nov 19)
	£ 17,260.27	

Balance £ 3,203.18 Amount available to CC

TOTAL £ 20,463.45

9. AOB

Meeting was running late. Didn't have chance to discuss AOB

10 Next meeting is Thursday 20th February at 18.30 in the Maxwell Centre.

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Appendix

Note of Site Visit re Traffic Lights at North End. Meeting Held on 20th December. Present were Cllrs Campbell & Bain, P Clarke & M Barrett (FC) and IC, PM and WA from Community Council. The undernoted was contained in an email to the developer. Written by M Barrett.

It was noted that the repair to the Primrose Lane detection loop had been completed and the stage was not being called every cycle. During the site visit it was noted that in general all 4 arms were clearing with no long queues observed on any arm.

The Community Council provided the following list of concerns, with Phil and my responses in red. I would expect these concerns to be noted within the required Stage 3/4a Safety Audit with recommended solutions.

1. Drivers misunderstanding the right turn into Retail Park. Some drivers seem to think the 'right hand' turn is for Lochgelly. A. The provision of a "Get in Lane" sign on the northbound approach to the junction would address lane discipline. The sign would show a straight-on/left-turn arrow with "Local Traffic" and a right-turn arrow with "Retail Park" or similar.
2. Going towards Lochgelly, Once a car is in the 'right turn lane' to turn into Retail Park, they can't see any lights so cannot determine if they still have time to make the turn before drivers from Foulford Rd /Retail park come out. A... This relates to poor driver understanding of the Highway Code. Once a driver passes the stop-line on a green signal they have to complete the manoeuvre, in this case giving way to southbound traffic.

It was noted that on the green signal some northbound traffic slow to allow vehicles to exit from the petrol filling station. When this occurs the signal detectors are misreading this as the queue being cleared and reducing the green-time. This could be addressed by amending the gap acceptance.

3. The cars exit Foulford Road and Retail park at the same time which is causing difficulty because drivers don't know who has right of way (For example, a car turning right from Retail Park and a car turning right from Foulford Road 'meet' in the middle and don't have much room to manoeuvre). A.....The right of way is no different from a simple cross-roads junction or the High Street and Perth Road arms that operate together, however, the angle of approach of the two arms to the junction particularly the retail park arm appears to be confusing some drivers (although there was no problem noted during the site visit). This may become more of a concern when the Lidl opens. It may be possible to operate the Foulford Road and retail park arms on separate stages, with the retail park arm receiving minimum green time, but this may require the addition of right-turn green arrows to the signals. The Stage 3/4a Safety Audit shall consider this.
4. There are two set of Traffic Signals exiting Foulford Road. The one on the burn side of the road is very dim (all colours.) I think the problem is they are at the wrong angle, if they were turned slightly towards the road they may appear brighter. The ones on the other side of Foulford Road are partially hidden by the overgrown trees. A. The signal head was not realigned correctly after it had been struck by a bus/HGV door mirror last month. This is an issue for my Roads and Transportation colleagues to address. The primary signal on Foulford Road is not particularly obstructed by trees at present, but it could become a problem in the future. Again this would be an issue for my Roads and Transportation colleagues to address.
5. Check the trees at the traffic lights for traffic coming from Lochgelly. Overgrown. A... The primary signal on the Perth Road arm is not obscured by trees. The pedestrian push button on the west side of Perth Road is not obstructed by trees, but the kerbside detector (which detects pedestrians waiting to cross) and on-crossing detector (which detects pedestrians crossing on the green man) could be obscured by trees in the future. Again this would be an issue for my Roads and Transportation colleagues to address.
6. At the site visit a vehicle crossing the Foulford Road stop line on a green light stopped before clearing the junction. Two further cars got stuck behind it. On the subsequent High Street green signal if a bus had been turning right into Primrose Lane it would not have been able to complete the manoeuvre. Again, this relates to poor driver understanding of the Highway Code. Once a driver passes the stop-line on a green signal they have to complete the manoeuvre, but in this case the driver would appear to have been confused by the red signal on Primrose Lane. Please provide louvres on the Primrose Lane primary signal head so that the lights can only be seen by drivers on Primrose Lane.

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7. Filter area for turning right to go up Foulford Rd is too small, meaning that vehicles wanting to go down High St get stuck behind those waiting to turn right causing excessive tailbacks towards Kelty junction. Could you look at altering the road markings to encourage drivers waiting to turn up Foulford Rd to sit nearer the centre line? A The carriageway width at the Perth Road stop line is some 9 metres. If the northbound lane is reduced to 3.65 metres wide it would provide 2 narrow and relatively short south bound lanes to encourage better lane discipline. The lining within the junction would have to be amended slightly. The Stage 3/4a Safety Audit shall consider this.

Condition 3 of Construction Consent R48254 requires the Stage3/4a Safety Audit to be submitted three months prior to the prospective adoption date of 25th September 2020, with any alterations required being the responsibility of the developer. Rather than submitting the SA at the end of June 2020 I would prefer it to be submitted by February/March 2020, 1 month after the opening of Lidl store. If you are agreeable to this I would bring forward the prospective adoption date.

As noted in my email of 15th November 2019, the Local Members raised concerns on behalf of constituents regarding alleged damage to the private access to the housing association flats during the construction works. Muir carried out a pre-start dilapidation survey of the private access. Has a post-completion survey carried out to establish what, if any, remedial works are required? If no works are required please provide the justification.

The residents of the housing association flats have raised concerns about pedestrians using the private access fronting the flats as a short cut between the High Street and the retail unit. The residents have unsuccessfully attempted to stop this by placing their bins across the end of the private access. On behalf of the residents Cllr Bain has requested you consider erecting a fence to stop the use of the private access as a short cut. This is not a Construction Consent matter, but the approved planting plan shows the provision of a hedge on the northern boundary between the private access and retail park – could this be extended to include the eastern boundary?

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Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Communities and Safety Committee

Nigel Kerr from Fife Council has been asked to review the above safety committee. Following on from discussions, meetings and feedback from the community and existing liaison committees it was highlighted that review of the above group would be welcomed.

A meeting was held with Nigel and reps from Cowdenbeath CC (ie IB/CG). On 14th January 2020. Outcome of this meeting and all other meetings with local CCs will be passed to FC sometime in March 2020

Background from NK

In terms of the legal basis for carrying out the review it was first necessary to locate the original planning documents relating to this development. The applications for both ExxonMobil and Shell UK were submitted in 1976/77. These were called in by the Secretary of State for Scotland as they were considered of national significance. The SoS asked for local authorities' views on these and the LAs recommended approval.

A public enquiry was called – which was very complex and lengthy – the Reporter approved outline planning permission in 1979. As part of the original conditions it was a requirement that both companies set up a liaison committee. Whilst the secretary of state agreed with this suggestion, **he concluded that the setting up of such committees should rest with the local authorities not the developers.**

The Independent Air Quality Group was set up a few years later following a flaring event and concerns about air quality were raised.

A report was submitted to Fife Council Environment & Protective Services Committee on 5th September 2019 requesting approval to carry out a review of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee – this was approved and gave remit to the Interim Chief Officer – Protective Services to carry out a full review of this working group and to bring back recommendations on any required changes to a future committee.

It is proposed that the following process is followed to ensure that the review is as robust as possible, identifies any issues with current support and seeks to improve communication with local communities.

- Engage directly with chairs and members of both Committees.
- Carry out a review of the constitution and Terms of Reference and include noise, vibration and light pollution under the remit of one of the Committees.
- Discuss the current membership and identify whether there are any gaps, for example, specialist officer support to cover noise, vibration and light, community councils not represented etc.
- Identify any additional support required to ensure that the groups can function effectively and provide maximum benefits to the community.
- Following engagement and consultation a further report will be brought back to Environment, Protective Services Committee for approval of the proposed changes.

The operation and remit of both Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay community committees play a critical role in ensuring that operations from ExxonMobil and Shell UK can be monitored and that information can be disseminated to the wider community. This proposed review can identify any potential gaps in remit / support and provide an opportunity to bring added benefits.