

Cowdenbeath Community Council – Minutes for 18th August 2016

1. **PRESENT**

Community Council Members - A Haddow, C Gourlay, A Stott, D McLean, A Lockhart, J Allan, T Crawford
(SEVEN community councillors)

Co-opted Members

Elected Members

Police

Members of the public

- A Dunlop (Civic Week), W Aitchison (CLOCK)
- Not in attendance
- PC C McDougall
- None in attendance

2. **APOLOGIES**

Community Councillors - A Dziennik, A Munro, C Kirk

Elected Councillors - P Lockhart, G Guichan

Police - F Menzies

3. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** -

Proposed : D McLean

Seconded: A Lockhart

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - None

5. **POLICE UPDATE.**

- **Stenhouse Street Underpass** – very disappointing to hear that the hard work by BHS pupils has been affected by a deliberate fire at the underpass. CCTV has helped to identify those responsible and it was advised that a 17year old person has been charged. The hope is that the work which was affected by the fire can be repaired. It was pointed out at this time that the underpass had been part of the route which was shown to the judges in the Beautiful Fife campaign and they were suitably impressed.
- **Road Traffic Initiative** – update given on the initiative at the school. Presence at the school to discourage drivers from speeding.
- **Woodend Industrial Estate** – Problems have been experienced. Community Police will work with owners to try and resolve. Few of the businesses have CCTV which is a bonus.
- **Broomfield Road** – Youths jumping over cars. Was reported by resident of the street. Police weren't aware of this.
- **Johnston Park** – Ongoing investigation. Suggestions have been made about street lighting in the area but as yet this has not come about.
- **Trinity Church** – advised that there were acts of vandalism in and around Trinity Church. PC McDougall took a note of this.
- **Feel good Fridays** – new initiative which is underway. Police will be in attendance and give out advice on Safety in the Community. Initiative will run at Lochgelly High School on Fridays between 3-5pm. Please share with folks and encourage them to go along.
- **Your view counts** – Police Scotlands new online public survey which will help shape policing priorities. Community Councillors completed the questionnaire at the meeting
- **Thanks** – were given from the Chairman of Civic Week Committee for the help and hard work from our local community police team. It was much appreciated.
- **CACA** – question asked if local community officers would continue to be involved with CACA. Currently under discussion.

PC McDougall distributed his email address and repeated that matters must be reported to allow the Police to investigate.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** –

Young Citizen of the Year – it's that time of year again to look for our Young Citizen of the Year. CG will begin campaign and contact Fife Times and update on our Facebook page.

Chairperson – A Haddow, 16 Arthur Place, Cowdenbeath . (Email address:cowdenbeath.comm.council@googlemail.com)

Secretary – C Gourlay, 1 Elgin Road, Cowdenbeath (Email address: cowdenbeathcc@gmail.com)

Facebook Page – Cowdenbeath Community Council

Website - www.cowdenbeathcc.org.uk

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Planning application for the old Dunfermline Building Society Shop – application has been submitted to Fife Council asking to change use of premises to a takeaway and restaurant. Hours of opening would be 9am – 11pm. General discussion held at the meeting. Feedback from discussions with residents in the Town reflects mixed feelings. Whilst people welcome a restaurant for night time, there is doubt regarding yet another take away in the town especially when it would be in close proximity to other takeaways. General consensus was that we write to Fife Council explaining this matter. At this point, it was mentioned that there was to be another restaurant opening at the Goth pub on the corner of Station Road.

4 Wind Trust – There has been considerable articles in the Press regarding the 4 Winds Trust. This matter was put on the agenda to discuss the recent articles and agree what we as a Community Council are intending doing. AL and AH are our reps on the trust (from Feb 16) and they gave updates on the matter. AH was in attendance at the AGM which OSCAR attended. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed with all community councillors in attendance that we support AL and AH on the 4 winds Trust. We have agreed that any minutes and decisions of meetings taken by 4 winds will be read and distributed to community councillors to keep them well aware of matters. If anyone has any future concerns, they should raise at community council meeting.

Mossmorran WindFarm Ltd Community Fund. Community Council has applied for funding to assist with future publications of the Beath Bulletin. D McLean & C Gourlay (Community councillors) and I Burt (resident) are panel members representing Cowdenbeath. Deadline for applications to the fund has been extended to 31st Aug.

Participatory Budgeting – Remember there's still time to suggest ideas to improve 'oorbit'. There is money available (ie £250,000) to be spent on places and spaces within the Cowdenbeath area. (ie covers Benarty, Cardenden, Cowdenbeath, Crossgates & Mossgreen, Lochgelly, Lumphinnans, Kelty and Kingseat). The initiative is to encourage residents to suggest ideas on what they think the money should be spent on. Check out www.oorbit

Non Attendance at Community Council Meetings - a question was asked regarding non attendance at meetings. According to 8.3.d of our constitution – if a community councillor has unreasonable non attendance at meetings for a period of six months, then a casual vacancy will be deemed to have arisen. It was proposed and agreed at this meeting that with immediate effect – if someone is unable to attend a particular meeting, then they should submit their apologies. No notification means that 8.3.d would apply

ExxonMobil Chemical Limited would like to apologise to the local communities for any inconvenience or concern it may have caused as a result of a flaring from the Fife Ethylene Plant, Mossmorran on 10th August. The flaring was the result of a process upset on the plant. The flare is an essential part of the plant's safety systems and there was no danger to local communities or employees. We would like to assure you it was our aim to keep flaring to a minimum.

Fife Access Forum and Fife Council's Outdoor Access team are holding their annual Seminar event on Tuesday 27th September, from 9am – 1pm, at Christ's Kirk Church, Pitcoudie, Glenrothes.

Fife residents and interested parties are invited to come along to this free event, registration and refreshment will commence at 8.45am.

This seminar will focus on the positive aspect of dog ownership as well as the responsibilities which dog owners have when they take their dogs into the outdoors for walks. Dogs are good for us but they can cause problems to farmers, conservationists and other members of the public. The seminar aims to increase awareness of responsible dog access and how Fife Access Forum can spread the word, we need your input!

Fife Centre for Equality – e bulletin available from CG **Fife Voluntary Action** - latest update available from CG **Fife Forum** - Spring/Summer Newsletter 2016 available from CG

Fife Councils Latest Development Plan Scheme – details available from CG

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust newsletter available from CG

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Petition on the go

Shortage of GPs is not a problem which affects communities in Fife equally; some barely suffer at all, while others with the poorest health outcomes are hit so hard that people often give up even trying to see their GP when they need to. Central Fife residents have as much right to expect to see a GP or nurse in a timely manner as residents from more affluent areas in Fife.

Research shows that targeted local policies can quickly improve primary care provision, which in turn helps to redress ever-widening health inequalities.

A petition was started calling **on NHS Fife, Fife Council and the Scottish Government to form an emergency taskforce to address the lack of GP and associated services in Central Fife's deprived communities by lifting the NHS Scotland Health and Care Experience measures for practices in these areas to the Fife/Tayside average within 6 months.** The obvious way to do this is to send in locum GPs and other health personnel, using temporary accommodation if necessary, until permanent and sustainable primary care at an acceptable level has been introduced.

The petition can be viewed and signed at: <https://www.change.org/p/fife-s-most-deprived-communities-need-more-gps-now>

Edinburgh Airport Watch, under the auspices of the Green Party, have tabled a Parliamentary Motion to ask EAL to pause the consultation. This is a link to the motion (also laid out at the end of this e-mail). <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00849&ResultsPerPage=10>

Community Councils are being urged to ask your MSPs to support this motion. We believe this is necessary for a number of reasons:

1. New guidance on the application of airspace change processes (CAP725) are being prepared by the Civil Aviation Authority and due to be published in 2017 (see page 84 of the EAL consultation document). EAL should wait until these are published.
2. There is no need for initiating the airspace change before the guidance is published because the number of aircraft movements is similar to that in 2007 and Edinburgh Airport is only at about 70% capacity.
3. The 'morning rush' of flights could be managed by sensible timetabling. As an example on the 12th October 2015 there were 9 aircraft scheduled to depart at 7.00 am. However if aircraft were timetabled sensibly at 4 minute intervals there would never be more than 3 aircraft scheduled to take off in any 10 minute interval between 06.20 and 08:30. On that particular day the rush would be dealt with by 07:30 am. The current timetabling means that passengers are being misled about the real take-off times. This problem is not solved by airspace change but by proper airport management. The consultation is unnecessary.
4. The current airspace use has changed since early 2015 and the change got mixed up in the TUTUR trial. The current airspace use should not be regarded as the baseline and the consultation should therefore not be using it as such.
5. Community Councils have not been resourced to carry out their role in this consultation partnership.
6. Community Councils have been in recess over the summer holidays so have little time to consult with their communities and gather and collate their communities' opinions and fulfil their statutory roles described by the Scottish Government as:
They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. The airport's role in our economy as portrayed in the consultation document is misleading. EAL write that ... "activity generated by the airport is worth almost £1b every year and provides 23,000 jobs". This claim is unreferenced. However the tourist deficit in Scotland is about £1.7 billion according to the National Accounts and every Scottish resident who gets on an aircraft and leaves Scotland spends over £400 out of Scotland as a direct drain on the economy. The number of overseas tourists to Scotland dropped by 4% in 2015 compared to 2014 and 80% of tourists in Scotland came from the UK and 60% came by car. The airport is not the answer to Scotland's tourist needs or problems.
8. An APD cut has been proposed but Airlines pay neither fuel duty, nor VAT on ticket sales while at the same time EAL paid £142M to its shareholders largely through its holding companies based in the Cayman Islands and Luxembourg. Until MSPs have control over the way the airport behaves it should not be proposing tax cuts for the rich to increase air travel.
9. EAL is an arm of an Extractive Multinational Investment Company and is purely intent on making a profit. Our feeling is that this exercise is to increase landing and take-off slots not because of capacity needs but to enhance its investment value - and this is all at the expense of local communities.
10. Increasing airport use would mean that Scotland and the UK could not meet its climate change targets.

7. COUNCILLORS REPORT - No councillors available for this meeting

8. OTHER REPORTS

- **Treasurers Report** - Balance in CC's account as at 18th August is **£76,798.05**

C/Fwd from April meeting	£76,835.62		
		EXPENDITURE 10/06 -18/08/2016	INCOME 10/06 – 18/08/2016
Newsletter			
Citizen of the Year reception	£	£	
Admin..	£	£	
Town Centre Funding from Scottish Government	£	£	
Totals	£	£	

*(£74,803.22 ring fenced for TCCCF Wifi and Winter Lighting)
(£ 125.09 ring fenced for the Beath Bulletin.)

Next event to be organised will be the Young Citizen of the Year in Nov 2016 – Estimate for this event = £250

- **Civic Week Report** -
 - ⇒ Successful Civic Week. Weather was good on the day of the Parade and there was a good turnout both in the High Street and up the Park. There was a good lot of volunteers helping and a big thank you must go to them.
 - ⇒ And it all starts again in the coming weeks. Christmas Programme being worked on – Scottish Night, Switch On, Santa Comes to Town and the Choir.

- **Environmental Group**

Beautiful Fife campaign – Judges for the campaign were taken through the town. They were impressed with the recycling centre, the allotments, the Golf Club, Bowling Clubs, Underpass, Dalbeath Marsh. The hope is that it's enough for a good result. Will know in September

- **Four winds trust** Next meeting is in September.
- **Mossmorran** - no update available
- **CACA** concern expressed about the future of CACA. More at next meeting
- **Broad St Centre** no update available
- **Foodbank** Well used.

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- **Street Pastors** Celebrating their 2nd birthday. Have completed over 50 patrols. Working alongside British Transport Police with a view to helping on Fife Trains. Can do with a lot more volunteers.
- **TCCCF** more information to be made available at next meeting

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Town House is now 'uninhabited' – what will happen to all the stuff in the vaults. Suggestion was that a meeting be held with those responsible for clearing out the Town House

10. NEXT MEETING WILL BE – Thursday 15th September @ 18.30