

Cowdenbeath Community Council – Minutes for 17th August 2017

1. PRESENT

Community Council Members - A Haddow, C Gourlay, A Stott, T Crawford, L Rae, I Burt, D McLean, I Cuthbertson, A Gibson, K Turner, A Dziennik (ELEVEN COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS)

Co-opted Members

- A Dunlop (Civic Week)

Elected Members

- Cllrs A Campbell, G Guichan, D Watt & A Bain

Police

- **PC** C McDougall

Members of the public

- Capt & Mrs Robertson

Guest Speaker

F Crowe (Fife Forum)

2. APOLOGIES

Community Councillors

- A McGillivray, A Lockhart, P Lockhart

Co-opted members

- W Aitchison (Street Pastors)

Elected Councillors

-

Police

- PC F Menzies

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - Proposed : I Cuthbertson Seconded: K Turner

4. POLICE UPDATE – PC C McDougall

- Cowdenbeath Primary – Lots of damage at the Primary School. Through information received from locals, charges have been made.
- Hearts of Beath Portacabin – Positive enquiry from information received via Social Media. Charges have been made.
- Crossgates Bus – a fire was set alight on one of the buses to Crossgates. Through CCTV, charges have been made.
- Ongoing concerns about youths at the WW1 memorial. Although patrols have been out and about, more damage has occurred. Intention is for Police and Fife Council to discuss ways to try and resolve (eg could lighting be installed, trees cut back to make area more visible, education at the school)
- Other Youth disorder – play parks being vandalised.
- Alcohol abuse amongst the young. There is big concern about the exploitation of the young when they are intoxicated. Police are liaising with Street Pastors, Taxi Drivers, Road Traffic Officers and building relationships with local businesses
- BHS are involved in the Hate Crime Awareness project. At the Odeon next week.
- Kick Start Project. Went well. About building confidence/team building with kids. Looking to start another project in the future

Concern was expressed during the meeting that there feels like a spate of vandalism, anti social behaviour, disorder. How can the CC and residents help to try and get resolution. Although it is frustrating, it is very helpful to report anything that doesn't look right to the police. A number of the above mentioned incidents resulted in charges being made because of information received from residents.

Question was asked about a budget being made available for detached youth workers. AH advised that there were detached youth workers operating out of Broad Street Centre. Could these youth workers be utilised to help.

5. **LOCAL AREA CO-ORDINATION** Guest Speaker: Fiona Crowe

Local Area Co-Ordination is supported by the Fife Forum to work with individuals, their families, carers and other services to identify community groups and services which help people to maintain their independence, connect with and be part of their community for as long as is possible (EG: day services, local clubs or interest groups). It responds to expressed wants and needs and it values the contributions people do and can continue to make towards society in general,

There are 10 Local Co-ordinators who work with local people across West Fife. Through discussions, Fiona advised that elderly people within Cowdenbeath are struggling for activities to do. There's the Happy Days club at Broad Street Centre and various 'meet and eat' places but not much more. Fiona was looking for volunteers to help create activities for the elderly in the Town. IB and LR are interested in this type of project and volunteered to meet with Fiona to discuss what could be done. They will feed back to the CC at a future meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING - Barriers at the Fountain. G Guichan had contacted Fife Council and received the following response: "The railing which was damaged is a bespoke design and would require a relatively large spend to get a blacksmith to replace and repair the guardrail. The guardrail was installed a long time ago at a point where it was the norm to restrict pedestrian movement and increase segregation between pedestrians and vehicles. Thinking around guardrail has changed and less guardrail is now provided to allow pedestrians free movement around the network and encourage sustainable travel. As part of the improvements for the High Street there will be a review of the street furniture, including the railings around the Fountain Roundabout. It is likely that much of the guardrail is no longer needed and can be removed; helping improve the appearance of the area. It should be made clear that the guardrail only seeks to prevent pedestrians entering the road and does not protect pedestrians where vehicles leave the carriageway. Your concerns will be taken into consideration when a decision on guardrails future is being made. A visit during school times can be arranged to get a clear picture of any potential consequence of removing the guardrail".

Action for Community Councillors: to continue to canvass residents opinion. It may be that "thinking around guardrails has changed" but we need to make sure that residents who regularly use the footpath at the Fountain are canvassed for their opinion.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE – Local Matters**

- **Young Citizen of the Year campaign.** Agreement reached with community councillors that the Young CoY campaign will run till 6th October. Article will be put in Fife Times and on Social Media. Agreed to continue with voting process used to elect this years CoY.
- **Bridge at North End.** The bridge at the bottom of the hill at the North End Park is unsafe. It has wood planks missing. The bridge is not owned by Fife Council and they cannot locate the owner. In the interest of Health and Safety, FC propose to block the bridge off with that herras fencing and close the 'gap' at the top which a similar black type barrier. Community Councillors canvassed some residents who use the bridge. The general consensus was that the preferred option would be to repair but since no one knows who owns the bridge, It does make sense to 'block it off'. The hope is that the developers who have put plans in for the North End could be persuaded to repair the bridge in the future.

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7. CORRESPONDENCE – Local Matters (continued)

Mossmorran Issues. We had a lively discussion on the subject of the Mossmorran plant. An update from the meeting on 5th July was supplied by the 2 community councillors who were in attendance (Liz and Alan). Our locally elected councillors also relayed discussions they have had (eg: with residents) about noise, air pollution....etc.. From the general discussion, it is apparent there are differing thoughts and opinions from residents on the subject of Mossmorran. One key point which came through was that communication could be much better. Not just a 'cut and paste' apology but an explanation of what is happening

- Cllr Bain is now chair of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Safety Committee and his aim to pass on minutes and any other relevant information about the plant. **Action:** Cllr Bain to supply link to minutes to CG
- Cllrs Campbell and Watt will be pushing for an independent safety review of the plant.
- Confirmed by councillors that there is a cross party consensus to get answers for residents.
- Another aspect which was discussed was hospitality. Going forward it was agreed that if any hospitality is offered to a community councillor (irrespective of who is offering the hospitality), then it should be brought to the attention of all community councillors in order that a 'collective' decision can be made as to whether the hospitality should be accepted.
- There is lots of information out there on social media and in the local press. If residents are concerned it would make sense to contact and unite with locally elected councillors in their quest to get answers. There is also the Mossmorran action group who have a Facebook page and a website

Other correspondence not discussed but highlighted to community councillors for information is detailed on the appendix to these minutes.

8. COUNCILLORS REPORT - No time available at the meeting for reports.

9. OTHER REPORTS...Spreadsheet issued to all CC's prior to the meeting

Treasurers Report - Balance in CC's account as at 17th August 2017 is £48,532.76

C/Fwd from 16 th June	£48,431.76		
		EXPENDITURE 16/06 – 17/08/2017	INCOME 16/06 – 17/08/2017
Beath Bulletin		£	£ 176.00
Donation to Eats Project		£ 75.00	£
Totals		£ 75.00	£ 176.00

Amount of £45,000.00 **ringfenced** for FET – Heritage Garden at Brunton Square
£ 278.44 **ringfenced** for community newsletter – Beath Bulletin
£ 200.00 **ringfenced** till 31/10/2017 for Community Theatre Event

➤ Balance of £ 3054.32 available to the Community Council .

Community Council currently bank with the Royal Bank of Scotland in the High Street. In light of this branch being closed around October, the treasurer is investigating opening an account in one of the other banks in the Town.

9. OTHER REPORTS : No time available for the following groups reports

Civic Week Report; Four Winds Trust; CACA; Street Pastors; Town Centre Development; Mossmorran; Broad Street Centre; Foodbank

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Invitation received from Cowdenbeath Horticultural Society inviting community councillors to their special Sponsors and Friends night on 9th September at 18.30 in Trinity Church. Community Councillors agreed to advise CG who would like to attend.

11. NEXT MEETING Thursday 21st September 2017 @ 18.30.

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

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

- **Minutes (29th June) of the Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liason Committee Meeting** issued to community councillors. Hard Copies available from CG
- **Boatshed at Lochore Meadows.** There is an open consultation event to allow people to see the proposals for the location of a boatshed at Lochore Meadows by the University of St Andrews Boat Club. University staff will be on hand to answer questions. The consultation will run between 2pm and 7pm on Tuesday 22nd August in Benarty Centre. Members of the public can attend. CG has a question and answer exchange between Benarty Community Council, the University and Fife Council if you are interested.
- **Fife Access Forum Drop in Event.** Outdoor access, what is happening in Fife? Paths, your local stories, positives, issues? Invitation for Community Councillors. See CG for details
- **Fife Centre for Equalities** E-bulletin emailed to community councillors – hard copy available from CG
- **Adult Protection** newsletter (june) emailed to community councillors – hard copy available from CG
- **New Climate Change Bill** consultation has now been fixed and this can be accessed via: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/> The consultation is open to all and the Scottish Government encourages all interested parties to take part via the consultation platform, Citizen Space, at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/> The consultation will last for 12 weeks, and responses are invited by 22nd September
- **FIFE Plan Local Development Plan** Fife Council has now received a direction letter giving clearance to adopt FIFEplan Local Development Plan, subject to satisfying Scottish Ministers that modifications will be made to the Plan to conform to the direction. The direction is that Fife Council should modify the proposed Fife Local Development Plan in respect of proposals at Rosyth and Cupar North respectively. The Scottish Ministers also request additional evidence on the Councils commitment to delivering housing. Committee approval of the modifications will clear the way for the Council to adopt FIFEplan
- **SESplan Proposed Strategic Development Plan** Following approval at SESplan's Joint Committee the Proposed Strategic Development Plan was submitted unmodified to Scottish Ministers for examination on 26 June 2017. A Reporter will be appointed to examine the Proposed Plan and consider outstanding issues raised during consultation in October and November 2016. The Proposed Plan and details of the outstanding issues are available on our Proposed SDP page. The Proposed Plan (September 2016) is also available to view in Public Libraries and Local Authority Planning Offices in the region. Further details on the examination will be made available by email, on the SESplan website www.sesplan.gov.uk and the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division website www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk over the course of the examination.
- **Airspace Change Programme.** In January the second consultation of our Airspace Change Programme was launched. Feedback received during the initial consultation was used to help determine the preferred route options and encouraged people to engage and respond to presented route options. During the second consultation a total of 3,963 responses was received; 18 from elected members, 61 from organisations and 3,884 from members of the public. You can read a copy of the Second Consultation Finding Report on the following website <http://www.edinburghairport.com/pages/airspace-change-programme>. The responses and information gathered will help determine the final proposal on the route options before submitting them to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) later in the summer. An

executive summary of the submission will be produced and shared stakeholders and those with an interest in the project.

- **Paths for all** looking for Community Path Volunteers

Community Path Volunteer of the Year is for the person who is determined to improve paths in their local area. They may have improved the quality of paths with regular maintenance activities or developed signage and way-markers.

Community Path Group of the Year is for a group of volunteers who work together to organise work days maintaining or building local paths. They raise funds, organise community events or promote their local paths with signage and leaflets.

NEW Community Path Youth Volunteer of the Year Do you know a young person who has helped maintain or build your local paths? Have they shown enthusiasm by attending training courses or reliably attended work days?

Winning projects will receive £250. Entries should be sent in by **midnight on Sunday 20th August 2017.**