



## The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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### Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Chair: S. Noble

**1. Attendees:** E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, M. Walker, G. Hilditch, C. Rodgers, J. Guthrie, S. Ferris, H. Shaw  
**Also Present :** Cllr Alexander, Cllr Creswell, Cllr McLean, Cllr Skene G. McCartney (Forres Gazette); S. Maclennan (Minute Taker), & 8 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence came from S. Ferris, C. Rodgers and Police Scotland.

(FCC – Forres Community Council : TMC - The Moray Council FAF – Forres Area Forum )

Topic	Discussion	Action
2.	<p><b>Police Scotland Update:</b> J. Guthrie read out the report submitted by Sgt. Scott Brander. 31 crimes have been detected between 16 July and 17<sup>th</sup> August. Thefts: several incidents when men were arrested and charged - Male,32, Royal Hotel; male,31, North Road; male 32, Invererne and Bogton Roads and male,43, Robertson Place and Romach Road. Anti social behaviour: Male 37, charged with threatening and aggressive behaviour, appeared in court and granted bail; male,17, arrested for vandalism and assaulting a police officer, released on bail; male,39, arrested for possession of knife, granted bail. Response to issues raised at previous FCC meeting: contact is to be made with organisers of charity discos planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October to address complaints about under age drinking and anti-social behaviour. Support is being sought from Op Avon to provide a targeted high visibility response to deal with issues. Operation Cedar – <i>Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce</i> - focuses on addressing poor driving standards by means of education and enforcement. Directed patrols using speed detection equipment are being carried out at A96 bypass and around schools. Forcewide Activities: Hate Crime Prevention, Scotland – <i>No Place for Prejudice</i>, campaign has been running throughout August. The weekly themes are: Disability; Sexual Orientation; Race and Religion. Anyone who feels a victim of such crime is encouraged to make a report to Police Scotland.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Presentation by Stacey Lynch, Community Liaison Officer, Network Rail:</b> Enhancements planned for Inverness Aberdeen line include a new two platform Station at Forres on straight alignment, a longer loop and demolition of present station and signal box. Signalling enhancement by removal of token exchanges. Peak services between Inverness and Elgin will be increased. The level crossing will be replaced by a road bridge. Foot and cycle paths are planned. The new station will be of a modular design. Forres in Bloom will continue with the Adopt a Station initiative. There will be increased parking spaces for 57 vehicles, 7 blue badge and 7 oversize spaces and 3 electric charge points. Work is due to begin in March 2017 and will be completed by March 2019. There will be <b>public display</b> in the</p>	

	<p><b>Community Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> October from 3pm to 7pm.</b> The designs are not in the public domain meantime. Stacey will take back questions raised by those present: Increased width of parking spaces; safety at Market Street junction; use of land around station, later trains on Saturday nights; CCTV in the Car Park; creation of jobs and operational plans. S. Noble thanked Stacey for her informative presentation.</p>					
4.	<p><b>Public Session:</b> MOTP sought help from FCC to address the problem of large numbers of <b>flies</b> in homes and businesses in the vicinity of Castlehill Church. Although Environmental Health has been contacted no action has been taken. Birds are roosting overnight in the empty building and the smell is overpowering. Cllr Alexander responded that Roger Allardyce and the owner had inspected the building and there is no evidence of dead birds or flies breeding. The weather has been unusual this summer and the problem may not arise in future years. The source of the infestation has not been found. The problem is not the responsibility of TMC. The building is listed and S. Noble asked if it is possible to delist a building. E. Hayward will contact Historic Scotland for information. Cllr Alexander said that if a building is a potential physical danger then TMC can seek a demolition order. S. Noble advised that MOTPs are able to access a complaint form from TMC and that this should be completed to register a formal complaint. Cllrs were asked if they have received complaints and Cllr McLean said that he has received 2 complaints. M. Walker suggested that G. McCartney and E. Hayward make a visit in the evening to assess the problem. It was suggested that the Forres Gazette raise the issue and residents be asked to contact FCC to report any incidents. MOTP asked how she will find out what is happening. E. Hayward will report at next meeting. <b>Public Toilets:</b> Following the agreement with Grant Wilson at the July meeting that keys for the Leys Road toilets be given to Craig Barron of Forres Co op to close the leys Road toilets, S. Noble has sent 2 emails to Grant Wilson to report that this has not happened and three weeks have elapsed. S. Noble asked that Cllrs take this forward with TMC staff. MOTP reported that the tree at the Leys Road site has been removed and one side of the lane has been tidied. MOTP asked about the former Victoria Wine Shop which is unoccupied and what powers TMC Has to remedy the situation. Cllr Alexander replied that TMC cannot force the issue but a letter from the community would carry more weight.. E. Hayward will write to TMC to ask who owns the building. Cllr Skene said that this information may be confidential</p>	<p>EH</p> <p>Cllrs</p> <p>EH</p>				
5.	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b> The Minutes were proposed by J. Guthrie, seconded by M. Walker and ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.</p>					
6.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>3b</td> <td> <p><b>Playpark Equipment:</b> E. Hayward; J. Guthrie and G. Murdoch met with Ken Kennedy. The proposals at a cost of around £12 000 are: Forbeshill - A double set of swings to be installed around October. Randolph Lane – Swings to be refurbished and a climbing frame replacement. Bogton: Swings to be installed in October with the possibility of a couple extra for younger children and hopefully a climbing frame. Grant Park: E.Hayward has asked if the two rocker animals may be replaced if funding allows.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td> <p><b>Forres 2020 Vision (PFR - Planning for Real):</b> S. Noble, Cllr Creswell, C. Rodgers, S. Fraser and S. Maclennan attended a meeting in Dufftown on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to hear about their</p> </td> </tr> </table>	3b	<p><b>Playpark Equipment:</b> E. Hayward; J. Guthrie and G. Murdoch met with Ken Kennedy. The proposals at a cost of around £12 000 are: Forbeshill - A double set of swings to be installed around October. Randolph Lane – Swings to be refurbished and a climbing frame replacement. Bogton: Swings to be installed in October with the possibility of a couple extra for younger children and hopefully a climbing frame. Grant Park: E.Hayward has asked if the two rocker animals may be replaced if funding allows.</p>	4	<p><b>Forres 2020 Vision (PFR - Planning for Real):</b> S. Noble, Cllr Creswell, C. Rodgers, S. Fraser and S. Maclennan attended a meeting in Dufftown on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to hear about their</p>	
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	<p>experience of PFR. G. Murdoch reported that at a follow up meeting the size of the model was agreed and will cover the area from the Enterprise Park to Mundole, and the by-pass to Murie Woods. The maps will arrive in 3 to 4 weeks and work will begin to create the model which should be completed by January. Helpers will be needed to create the model and groups will be asked when availability dates for the venue are confirmed. When completed the model will be taken to venues around town to try to reach as wide a range of ages as possible.</p>	
	<p><b>10a</b> <b>Mannachie Tall Trees:</b> Ongoing. Carried forward to Sept Agenda. E. Hayward reported that a question has arisen about responsibility for <b>trees at Knockomie Rise</b>. She has contacted Altyre Estate for information but has had no response.</p>	EH/SN
	<p><b>10d</b> <b>Lochyhill Water Issues:</b> Feedback from Scottish Water is awaited. Carry forward to Sept Agenda.</p>	EH/SN
7.	<p><b>Moray Councillors' Reports:</b></p> <p><b>Cllr McLean: Planning Visits</b> continue. There will be a <b>By Election</b> in Heldon and Laich in October. The consultant's report about the <b>Redco Milne plans for Bogton</b> will be brought to the full TMC meeting on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. S. Noble said that the report has taken 2 years to be brought forward and asked if TMC will insist that this happens in Sept. Cllr Skene replied that TMC cannot do so. S. Noble said that the people of Forres are losing trust in the process. Cllr McLean will ask Rhona Gunn the new Corporate Director for information. Cllr Mclean urged the public to be aware of possible <b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b> and to report any concerns to Police Scotland or the Social Work Department.</p> <p><b>Cllr Skene:</b> The draft paper about <b>Schools for the Future</b> has caused concerns for parents that there may be school closures. <b>Forres ASG Schools</b> will be the first to be reviewed using 6 criteria and 33 indicators. S. Ferris commented that in four years time the scenario will be very different when new housing areas are completed. Cllr Skene replied that this is one of the criteria to be assessed. <b>Moravia Museum Open Day</b> showcased a moving and exciting project. <b>Johnston's of Elgin</b> has begun a new project involving eight S5 pupils from each Moray Secondary School which is a sector leading initiative to develop the young workforce.</p> <p><b>Cllr Alexander: Schools for the Future:</b> Moray residents need to take a long look for the future sustainability of education. At present, of the 45 Primary Schools, 23 have less than 75% occupancy, 15 have 50 to 70% and 7 have less than 50%. This is not sustainable. Moray has 51 teaching vacancies and the Scottish Government will fine councils which have shortages.</p> <p><b>Cllr Creswell:</b> The <b>Over 50s Directory</b> has been launched and circulated in August. There are some omissions and errors which will be addressed. It is hoped to employ a worker to carry forward the project. The Osprey bus is now located in the garage behind the Community Centre. Applications to the Auchernack Trust are sought by the end of November. Youth Market Place: A showcase of youth activities in the Community Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 3pm. Premises are being sought for the Learning Disability Project. The Moray Gig team is preparing for their entry in the Atlantic Gig event next year. Nominations are being sought by tsiMoray by 31<sup>st</sup> August for the annual Community Awards. Ray's Opportunities Community Cafe has plans to create an outdoor space for dining. Ken Brown has advised that there is a fire hazard because there is only one access door at present.</p>	

	<p>Forres Area Forum is hoping to link Community Centre User Groups to encourage more linking. S. Ferris asked about increases in charges for hire of TMC premises. Cllr Alexander said the venues are expensive to run and there have been no increases for several years. S. Ferris suggested that if the costs were reduced this will result in increased use. S. Noble reported that some groups have decided not to hire TMC venues and asked that the press inform the public to contact J. Guthrie with any concerns. E. Hayward pointed out that efforts are being made to provide activities for older people to counter loneliness. She asked if charges could be frozen for elderly groups.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Planning Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Springfield Properties has been invited to make a presentation at the September meeting about their Ferryhill proposals prior to the public consultation event.</li> <li>b) S. Ferris asked about changes to the plans for Drumduan Upper School. E. Hayward will make enquiries.</li> </ul>	EH
9.	<p><b>Chair's Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Rural Parliament:</b> A joint proposal has been prepared which puts forward issues about the roles of Community Councils, Trusts and Area Forums.</li> <li>b) <b>FCC Promotion and Publicity:</b> The presentation will be checked for accuracy by Tracey Rae. The HUB will provide a projector. Notes to accompany the slides will be provided.</li> <li>c) <b>Contact Sheets:</b> S. Fraser of FACT has been collating the information submitted by FCC members. J. Guthrie reported that some groups do not want to give information and others say that FACT is doing the same thing.</li> <li>d) <b>Moray Council Website:</b> Tracey Rae is moving to another post within the council. The Chair thanked her for the support she has given to the new FCC. Details about FCC have to be changed. E. Hayward will provide information to Tracey.</li> <li>e) <b>Vacancies:</b> There are two vacancies on FCC. E. Hayward will be responsible for Health matters and H. Shaw for Education.</li> </ul>	<p>SN</p> <p>EH</p> <p>EH/HS</p>
10.	<p><b>Secretary's Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Moray Five Year Plan has been adopted.</li> <li>b) Market Street junction with A96 has not been designated an accident blackspot. E. Hayward will contact to inform that the number of accidents recorded is inaccurate.</li> <li>c) MOTP is aggrieved about Appointments system and other issues at Forres Health Centre. E. Hayward will arrange to meet a member of the senior staff . She has sent a copy of the Patients Charter and a copy of Patient Rights and Responsibilities which highlights the responsibility of patients about appointments and cancellation of the same.</li> </ul>	EH
11.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The account stands at £ 1557.35. Bank Statements are still not being received by the Treasurer. It was confirmed that the Financial Year runs from September to August.</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Group and Representatives' Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) H. Shaw reported that there is a new Photographic Exhibition in the Tolbooth.</li> <li>b) G. Murdoch indicated that Forres Business Association will meet at Logie Steading on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.</li> </ul>	

	c) J. Guthrie has continued to meet with groups on his contact list.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Any other Competent Business:</b> a) S. Noble will attend the next meeting of Forres Area Forum. b) The <i>Affa Sair</i> website has asked that the Chronic Pain Clinic be reinstated in Elgin. c) G. Murdoch brought forward a suggestion from a previous JCC meeting that there be some joint meetings with Kinloss and Findhorn and Dyke Landward CCs. Carried forward to Sept Agenda.	<b>SN</b>  <b>EH/SN</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Forthcoming Events</b> a) <b>Findhorn Bay Arts Culture Day: 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> b) <b>Army Cadets</b> will clear the overgrown garden at <b>War Veterans' Cottages on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September</b> . Volunteers welcome.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Date of next Meeting:</b> Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 in The Tolbooth at 7.15pm. Cllr Skene gave apologies.	

**Meeting ended: 9.45 pm**

DRAFT