

MEETING NOTES

Meeting of Monday 28th November, 1900hrs at Rafford Village Hall

FCC members present:

Brian Higgs (BH) - Chair

Chris Piper (CP) - Vice Chair

Anna Gatward (AG) - Treasurer

Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary

Carlo Miele (CM) - Member

Jerry Akehurst (JA) - Co-opted Member

Tony Pinner (AP) - Associate Member

Also present: Cllr George Alexander, Stephen Cooper (SC), H Davenport, Anne Garrow, Chris Gill, J James, Jim McKay, Cllr Aaron McLean, Mr & Mrs F & J Munro, Cllr Anne Skene

Apologies - Bob Laughton (RL), Nikki Howard (NH)

1. Welcome

BH welcomed all those present, with a particular thank you to Stephen Cooper - Head of Direct Services, TMC - for attending.

2. Police update

None available due to operational commitments this evening.

3. Notes and actions of 17 October 2016 meeting

Accepted.

4. Community open session with Stephen Cooper

BH led the question and answer session, with primary emphasis on process and other aspects related to TMC's actions and position on the A96 dualling project.

SC stated that TMC is a consultee in the project, owned by Transport Scotland, and although has a status similar to other consultees (such as community councils), TMC obviously has flood scheme and traffic modelling data which it will supply to the process. TMC has the expectation that more detailed information on route options will be forthcoming from the project next Summer.

BH stated that he and AP attended the recent Sweco-led plenary meeting for the 'Moray west' group of community councils; public comments regarding the continued inclusion of Route N by project manager John McIntyre of Transport Scotland (and others in the media) are of note in that if the route is least favourable, why is it still in the assessment project?

BH then questioned as to why there is no economic impact assessment being conducted by TMC to a) assist and b) test against the results of the route assessment/selection project, especially as the A96 has a fundamental effect on TMC's Local Development Plan. CM highlighted how the whole process between now, route selection and actual construction will bring about years of stagnation and uncertainty for private individuals and businesses affected

On the aspect of economic assessment, SC stated that it was not TMC's place to conduct such as Transport Scotland have the requirement placed upon them as part of the project; for TMC to do such, significant resource and expense would be incurred. Related to this is the fact that TMC will not announce a preferred route from their perspective, as the project is firmly that of Transport Scotland as directed by the Scottish Ministers. Economic as well as environmental and other considerations are all within the project's remit, and TMC will only critique the detailed route options once specified next summer. Such critique would look to supply positives and negatives to the routes, and set against development and other plans and strategies owned by TMC.

MC expressed concern that no clear and robust process is seen to exist that aligns knowledge and feedback within community councils with the TMC, in order to present some form of unity when it comes to engaging with the dualling project. SC said he was happy to receive comments and concerns on appropriate aspects as they arise over the coming months, and expanded to say he would undertake the commitment communicate the concerns raised this evening to Transport Scotland.

BH once again thanked SC for attending.

a. A940/Mundole road visibility issues & road icing hazard near Dallas Dhu distillery

MC reported that an e-mail had finally been received from TMC's Kevin Price, the body of which reproduced below:

I have discussed the issues that you have raised with my Senior Engineer, Dave Malpas, and while the Community Council can take credit for their proactive approach with the local landowner, this does not alter the fact that the recorded accident history does not justify

expending limited funds on the remodelling of that junction. Any activity that reduces the ground level of the inside of the bend will obviously increase the forward visibility for vehicles approaching from Forres, thereby potentially increasing speeds, which is not something that we would not like to see from a Road Safety perspective. I appreciate that this is something that Community Council Members do not want to hear, but this was Dave's considered view upon hearing the background to the site.

With respect to the Ice Warning Signs on the Dallas Dhu Road there are a number of locations that are sheltered from the sun by trees for large parts of the day and any frost will tend to linger.

As you will appreciate I could list a number of other sites in Moray that could be described as above and to erect signs at similar locations might place an expectation on the travelling public, for all similar sites to be signed accordingly. There is no formal policy for signing such sites and limited funding means that we cannot progress such a request.

With respect to the Speed Signs we do have a programme of sites and we will look to programme Upper/Lower Rafford ASAP although this will be limited to locations where there is suitable street furniture.

After a brief discussion regarding the circumstances surrounding the A940/Mundole junction, in particular FCC's non-acceptance of the statement regarding the speed increase with a change to the sightline; prior to his departure from the meeting SC would take back a fuller understanding to see if any progress could be made. **ACTION Stephen Cooper/ITEM CARRIED FORWARD** Secretary's note - meeting arranged with TMC/Dave Malpas on 9/12/16

b. Appointment of youth representation

No update. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

c. High speed broadband

No update. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

d. Blervie estate access

BH apprised the meeting on the position so far, including the formal complaint lodged by FCC to TMC regarding the failure of processes as determined by the Land Reform Act and Outdoor Access Code.

The FCC has conducted much discussion intra-council during recent weeks with regards to referring the matter to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman), and although it was likely they would find in favour of the complaint, the subsequent time and legal expense which

would be incurred by TMC as a result is seen as very much a negative in these austere times. BH undertook to make available the large amount of correspondence on the matter, via the FCC website, for the information of constituents.

Jim Mackay thanked FCC for their actions and conduct in the matter, and enquired as to whether a referral to the SPSO by an individual or group would received FCC backing, to which BH replied in the negative although once again iterated the publically available documentation amounted thus far. **ITEM CLOSED**

e. FCC logo

BH announced that the logo had been finalised and unveiled at Logie Primary School the previous week, and press releases made. BH recorded the thanks to Johnnie Piper for the generation and finalisation of the graphic design. **ITEM CLOSED**

f. Hill of Glaschyle Windfarm community fund scoping

CP stated that he and BH will meet with Muirden Energy and Logie Estate on 6/12/16. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

g. Telephone box adoption

AP reported that the red box adjacent to Logie Primary School will be adopted by them, under the current scheme to sell off such boxes for £1 by BT. **ITEM CLOSED**

h. FCC noticeboards

AP had looked into costings for FCC boards to be erected, with around £450 being the cheapest external, weather proof version. MC stated that the proposed one for Edinkillie Hall could be a simple corkboard for internal mounting only. FCC members would review the requirement for size and proposed content before committing funds. **ACTION FCC (AP et al)**

5. New Matters Arising

a. FCC Membership

JA has decided to resign as a Co-opted Member, but will remain as an Associate Member. In his place, AP was proposed by BH as a Co-opted Member, seconded by CM.

6. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

7. Treasurer's report

Nothing to report.

8. Upcoming events

St Andrews ceilidh, RVH, Saturday 3 December

Rafford Village Hall festive fair & coffee morning, Saturday 10 December 10-1200hrs

Logie Steading Christmas Market, Saturday 10/Sunday 11 December

9. AOB

Nil

10. Date, time & venue of next meeting

Monday 9 January 2017, 1900hrs in the Rafford Village Hall.

prepared by: Mike Crutch, Secretary, FCC