



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 20th April 2017, 19:15

Chair: G. Hilditch

Attendees: J. Guthrie, E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, S. Fraser (minutes)

Also Present: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), 5 members of public

Apologies: K. Shand, M. Walker, C. Rodger, Cllr. A Skene, Cllr A. McLean

FCC - Forres Community Council JCC – Joint Community Council MC - Moray Council FAF - Forres Area Forum

	Discussion	Action																								
1.	<p>Welcome: G. Hilditch opened the meeting and welcomed those present. As newly elected Chair, G. Hilditch addressed the meeting and thanked J. Guthrie for stepping in to Chair Forres Community Council over the past few months and thanked previous Chair Stewart Noble for his notable work in progressing FCC.</p>																									
2.	<p>Presentation: Transport planners Andrew Robb and Ian Hamilton of Aecom Civil Engineering Consultants were in attendance. The company is currently working on behalf of Moray Council to remodel the road layout at the junction which joins Orchard Road, Sanquhar Road, St Leonard's Road, South Street, and Tolbooth Street. The work is being undertaken primarily with a view to improve the junction for ease of use and safety for pedestrian and cyclist users. The five-prong junction is used heavily by vehicles and connects to two Primary Schools and the Secondary School so has been highlighted as an area of concern with improvements sought under MC's Active Travel Strategy. Three high level options are currently being looked at; signalling the junction, creating a Dutch style roundabout, and creating raised ramps into junction area creating a shared surface area. Comments raised about the junction by FCC members included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor visibility creates uncertainty between vehicle drivers - Vehicles travelling too quickly, especially up South Street - Poor visibility for drivers turning onto South Street from Leys Road - Narrow footpaths for pedestrians - Vehicles parked on South Street create restrictions and narrowing of the road <p>In relation to safe use of paths and roads for cyclists, G. Murdoch highlighted the possible risk placed on cyclists near to Sueno's Stone. Mr Robb and Mr Hamilton noted this remark for possible action. E. Hayward also noted the dangers presented at the roundabout by Victoria Hotel as there is a blind corner when coming off of St Catherine's Road.</p>																									
3.	<p>Police & Community Warden Report: David Haytack, Community Warden for the Forres area praised the work undertaken by groups and individuals who help to collect litter. Mr Haytack highlighted in his written report that littering, dog fouling, and discarding of cigarette butts are all acts that carry a £80 fine. During the reporting period for the April 2017 Moray Community Safety Partnership Report, 25 incidents were investigated by the Community Warden in the Forres area (including Alves and Upper Speyside):</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8">Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Abandoned Vehicles</th> <th>Neighbours</th> <th>Dog Fouling</th> <th>Noise</th> <th>Fly Tipping/Littering</th> <th>Rowdy Behaviour</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Incidents noted in the Police Report included:</p> <p>Theft & Vandalism: 1st March a 28 year old male from the Glasgow area was charged with theft of alcohol from a licensed retail premises on Forres High Street. On the same day in a separate incident a 17 year old local man assaulted and robbed another local man of a</p>	Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents								Abandoned Vehicles	Neighbours	Dog Fouling	Noise	Fly Tipping/Littering	Rowdy Behaviour	Other	Total	4	6	4	6	2	2	1	25	
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	<p>small bag and its contents, he was arrested and charged. 9th March a 21 year old local man smashed the display window of a commercial premises in Tolbooth Street, has was subsequently charged. Assault & Abusive Behaviour: 4th March a 56 year old local man acted in a threatening/abusive manner in a licensed premises in Forres, he has been charged. On the same day in a separate incident a 21 year old local man assaulted 2 patrons within a licensed premises in Forres, he has been charged. 5th March a 50 year old man of no fixed abode behaved in a threatening manner towards staff at Tesco, he was arrested and charged. Drugs: 7th March a drugs search warrant was executed at an address in Forres, a small amount of a Class B drug was recovered and two local individuals were charged. Road Traffic Offenses: 18th March a 38 year old local man drove his car in Forres without valid insurance and without having paid road tax, he was charged and his vehicle was seized. 19th March a 27 year old man, normally resident in Wales, drove a car in Forres whilst over the drink-drive limit, he was arrested and charged.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Session: No business was discussed.</p>	
5.	<p>Ratification of Minutes: Following the circulation of the draft March minute, a minor spelling amendment was made and the inclusion of a note under point 7 regarding to the Health Centre being invited to the Stagecoach meeting under matters arising was added. The minute from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 16th March was proposed by E. Hayward seconded by J. Guthrie and ratified by Chair G. Hilditch.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Dallas Dhu Development: G. Hilditch obtained copies of maps and documentation of the Dallas Dhu Development Plan following the public consultation on March 8th which were viewed by some of those in attendance. E. Hayward read aloud a letter from a concerned member of the public which highlighted a variety of concerns including points regarding to the intrusion of Sanquhar Woodland and natural habitats, increased traffic generation on already narrow roads, the risk to amphibians and other wildlife, and the view that the full plan proposed would over develop the area. The concerned member of the public stated that they would like to see the plan restricted to the first phase (zone R3) only with the plans for zones R10 and Long 2 removed. Further discussion points included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear discord between the Dallas Dhu Development Plan with the Open Space Strategy and draft Woodlands Strategy - No developer contribution towards the upgrade/maintenance of roads within the area - Concerns over the provision of public transport to service the area given that current services are being reduced - Concerns regarding to the destruction of nature and wildlife - Questions of infrastructure and the ability for the sewage system in the area to cope - The construction of a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) and the impact upon wildlife, in particular, amphibians - The impact upon the Dava Way route and usage <p>Emma Gordon from MC Planning Department had, via email, requested feedback from FCC relating to the plans. G. Hilditch suggested that E. Hayward respond with the comments and concerns raised at the meeting, this was proposed by J. Guthrie and seconded by S. Fraser.</p> <p>Bus Shelters: E. Hayward read aloud a letter from a member of the public concerned about the lack of provision of a bus stop shelter for the stops at the East end of Forres on Victoria Road and Drumduan Road. E. Hayward informed the meeting that upon receiving the letter she had contacted Kevin Price and Donald MacRae at MC. In a response from Mr MacRae, he stated that there would be no benefit to exploring the possibility of installing bus shelters in the area with the Stagecoach No. 36 service provision being withdraw from servicing stops at Forbeshill and Drumduan Road. During the meeting, it was noted that the Victoria Road stop would continue to be used on other service routes and it was agreed</p>	E.Hayward

	<p>E. Hayward would respond to Mr MacRae asking for a shelter to be installed at this stop.</p> <p>Open Space Strategy: The draft Open Space Strategy is currently open for public comment. J. Guthrie explained that the strategy lists 175 open space sites in Forres that are classified as <i>good</i> or <i>very good</i> and 51 classified as <i>poor</i> based on an assessment of access, signage, provisions etc. with recommendations for improvement suggested. After some discussion amongst those present, it was agreed E. Hayward would respond on behalf of FCC accepting the advice to turn poor areas into good/very good areas.</p> <p>Draft Moray Woodland & Forest Strategy: G. Hilditch informed the meeting that the draft Moray Woodlands & Forests strategy focuses upon three main strands; harnessing the potential of woodlands, connecting people and community with woodlands, and protecting and enhancing woodlands. The consultation period for public comment on the strategy is open until May 19th. This matter will be discussed again at the May FCC meeting.</p> <p>A96 Safe Crossing: E. Hayward updated the meeting that she had again contacted Ken Aitken of Transport Scotland requesting a copy of the survey report conducted at the A96 site by the railway station and was told that the document was drafted and waiting for approval before it could be circulated. This piece of work by Transport Scotland has been ongoing since November 2016. On behalf of FCC, E. Hayward intends to contact the local MSPs to inform them of the delay in an attempt to hasten Transport Scotland sending the review document. E. Hayward informed the meeting that the petition gathered was passed onto Douglas Ross to be taken to the Scottish Parliament.</p>	E.Hayward
7.	<p>Moray Councillor Reports:</p> <p>Cllr G. Alexander: Leading up to the Local Council Election, Cllr G. Alexander noted a quieter period of work on Council matters with Purdah being observed. Cllr G. Alexander noted attendance at an appeals committee and a shift of opinion amongst other Councillors with regards to the School Estate and the need for restructuring.</p> <p>Cllr L. Creswell: Cllr L. Creswell noted activity including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance at the Sports Hub AGM where Ann Rossiter continues as Chair - Being part of a Corporate Parenting Group - Attending a North East Partnership meeting - Taking a walk at Sanquhar Loch and using the path created for wheelchair and pushchair accessibility - Planning for the next Forres Area Wellbeing Network (FAWN) meeting on Monday 24th April 09:30 at Varis Court - An update that the Older Person's Directory reprint is progressing with Kirsty Williams at FACT checking contact details etc. - An update that the next round of Auchernack Trust funding applications would be received until the end of May - Investigating the possibility of Community Council's in Moray being able to give grants to community groups. This suggestion comes in the knowledge that an Aberdeen Community Council had recently distributed funds <p>Hustings: A Hustings has been planned by Forres Area Forum to take place on Thursday 27th April in Forres Town Hall. Cllr G. Alexander and Cllr. L. Creswell confirmed that they would not be able to attend as they have prior commitments to attend the Kinloss & Findhorn Community Council meeting.</p>	L.Creswell
9.	<p>Chair's Report: G. Hilditch informed the meeting that S. Moat has resigned from FCC citing time constraints and family commitments. With the resignation of S. Moat, the Treasurer position became available. G. Murdoch offered to take on the role of Treasurer, this was proposed by J. Guthrie and seconded by G. Hilditch.</p>	
10.	<p>Secretary's Report: Leancoil Hospital: E. Hayward received correspondence on behalf of Pam Gowans regarding to Leancoil Hospital. A public meeting to be held to discuss the possible future of the site is planned for the end of May. This will be confirmed or otherwise</p>	

	in due course. Friends of the Falconer: E. Hayward will attend the upcoming Friends of the Falconer Museum AGM on behalf of FCC. Promotional Leaflets: Community Council Liaison Officer Jane Martin is going to print flyers to circulate ahead of Community Council elections in September to publicise and encourage members of the community to stand for election.	
11.	Treasurer's Report: No report was presented due to the sitting Treasurer standing down from the position.	
12.	Group and Representative Reports: S. Fraser: S. Fraser had looked into the possibility of purchasing an advert package with the Forres Gazette. For twelve 12.7cm x 6.5cm black and white entries, the quoted price was £467.71. J. Guthrie proposed FCC purchase the offer, this was seconded by G. Hilditch. S. Fraser will confirm the package and submit the first advert ahead of the May meeting. S. Fraser encouraged attendance at the Forres 2020 Vision Planning for Real Prioritisation Events taking place on Wednesday 10 th May and Wednesday 17 th May from 6pm in Forres Town Hall. The main theme areas to be discussed will be Environment & Sustainability, Leisure & Tourism, Traffic Transport & Access and, Facilities & Services. J. Guthrie: J. Guthrie reported regular attendance at coffee mornings and social events, attendance at the Clash Gour Windfarm Consultation, and several other meetings of interest. J. Guthrie apologised for his comment made at the March FCC about KEIR Hardie being a member of SNP which was subsequently printed in the Forres Gazette. This comment was not factual and J. Guthrie has apologised to Mr Hardie for the error.	S.Fraser
13.	AOCB: Grant Park: E. Hayward and Cllr G. Alexander had received an email from Paul Niven at MC regarding to Grant Park. The email confirmed the status of Grant Park as being a Trust, haven been established in 1923. The Council Wood: G. Hilditch asked Cllr G. Alexander if the Council Wood next to Forres Golf Course was Common Good land. Cllr G. Alexander will investigate to find out. Skate Ramp: The pop up Skate Ramp used by the Forres Skate Park Initiative has recently been used at an event in Lossiemouth. It will be stored in Lossiemouth for the next few months until a storage space in Forres can be found. Forres in Bloom: The presentation by Forres in Bloom has been rescheduled to take place at the May FCC meeting. Vote of Thanks: Cllr G. Alexander thanked FCC for the hospitality received over the past five years and credited Stewart Noble for bringing together a more cohesive and representative FCC.	G.Alexander
14.	Upcoming Events: Forres Business Association Meeting, Tuesday 25th April 6pm, FACT Office Friends of the Falconer Museum AGM, Wednesday 26th 7pm Falconer Museum Historic Photo Exhibition, Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th April 10-4pm, Tolbooth Culture Café Exchange, Friday 28th April 10-3pm, Williamson Hall, Elgin Forres Vintage Vehicle Day, Sunday 30th April, Grant Park German Bingo Night, Saturday 6th May from 5pm, Forres Town Hall Forres 2020 Vision Prioritisation Event, Wednesday 10th May 6-9pm, Town Hall Joint Community Council, Thursday 11th May, 7pm, Elgin Council Chambers Forres 2020 Vision Prioritisation Event, Wednesday 17th May 6-9pm, Town Hall	
15.	Date of next Meeting: Thursday 18 th May, 7:15pm	

Meeting ended: 21:15