

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 23th July 2018 in

Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Brian Higgs (BH) – Chair

Howard Davenport (HD), Carlo Miele (CM), Tony Pinner (TP), Nikki Howard (NH)

Also present:

Councillor George Alexander (GA), Anne Garrow, Lorna Creswell (LC)

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Chris Piper, Anna Gatward, Bob Loughton and Clare Feaver.

2. Notes and actions from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

3. Police update

No police report for this meeting.

4. Actions arising not covered by standing items

Post meeting note: HD to send George Alexander a copy of the “Timber Transport in Moray” presentation given at the previous meeting. (**action HD**)

5. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposal

FCC is currently waiting on the proposed route to be published in late October before taking any further action.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

BH updated the meeting and reported that the Finderne Development Trust was now fully constituted with 30 members (29 ordinary members and 1 associate member) including directors. Further members welcome and application to join is free and can be completed via the web site www.findernedevelopmenttrust.com. All Ordinary FDT members can vote at the AGM and stand for nomination as directors etc..

FDT has commissioned Athena Solutions to carry out, on FDT’s behalf, a community engagement and strategic planning exercise. This is likely to commence in August and will run for some 4-5 months culminating in the preparation of the FDT’s 5 year Strategic Plan.

FDT are currently looking for some temporary office facilities

BH stated that FCC’s role would be as a consultee, and to encourage membership of the FDT.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

It was reported that police had been seen monitoring traffic at some key junctions in Rafford.

CJP to make a further application to the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund for the purchase of speed warning signs for Rafford. **Action: CJP to make a further application.**

d. *Loch of Blairs Project*

Since the last FCC meeting, CJP had issued a draft Project Proposal, which was discussed at an FCC Loch of Blairs Project Meeting. At that meeting FCC agreed to proceed with a phase 1 project focussed on getting the fishery up and running, doing some building maintenance to prevent any further deterioration, and to open up some additional paths.

CJP to update the Project Proposal accordingly. **Action: CP**

FCC has approved a quotation of £1800 to commence work on clearing a channel to allow boat access onto the loch.

BH reported that a timeline for the channel clearance work had been requested from the proposed contractor, and that contractors had been asked for quotations for the building repair work.

e. *Clashgour Wind Farm*

NH and HD reported that they had reviewed the MoU proposed by the developers. Having signed the MoU the obligations would appear to as follows:

- EDF would be obliged to include FCC in the offer of an investment opportunity if it goes ahead.
- FCC would be obliged to consult with EDF before any communication or press releases are issued

Concern was voiced on whether this obligation might impact FCC's ability to raise any planning concerns on behalf of the community. It was decided not to sign at this time, but to explore the option of FDT signing up to the MoU, leaving FCC free to represent community interests.

Action: BH to discuss in the next FDT meeting.

BH asked the councillors present, what would be the Moray Councils process for handing the Planning application when it was issued by the developer.

Post Meeting Note. GA has consulted and received the following response:

Because the council is a statutory consultee, if the council objects it would trigger a public inquiry. Public Inquiries are costly and expenses can be awarded against the council so officers would only recommend objecting in cases where there is a clear departure from Policy.

Any other decisions are at the reporter's discretion.

The developers have not submitted an application to the energy consents unit yet. It is thought they will do this by autumn at the earliest meaning the council would be consulted and (Planning Officers) report to (Planning) committee at the end of the year.

A letter had been received from the developer looking for input into proposed pathways in the wind farm area. It was suggested to consult with the Long Distance Walking Group (LDWG)

Action: HD to respond, having consulted with LDWG.

Public exhibitions had been held recently but CJP suggested that the FCC may need to undertake further community consultation, in order to provide balanced feedback to the developer.

Action: All to discussion best options for collecting Finderne community feedback.

6. New Business

a. Core Paths Consultation

Following a meeting with Ian Douglas on 18th June FCC forwarded a revised proposal that met the concerns raised by local residents. It was reported that Ian Douglas had also met individually with some of those residents who had raised objections to the original proposal.

b. Community Shop/Cafe:

Following the on-line survey, launched by a Rafford resident, a core group had been formed. Based on an article in the Rafford Review, the FCC understands that the initial focus will be to run a Village Café, in the Rafford Village Hall on Saturday mornings during August and September. FCC agreed to continue publicise the Village Café through the FCC Facebook page.

7. Planning Report

CM reported that no planning applications in the Finderne area had been lodged since the last meeting.

8. Secretaries Report

A GDPR training session for members of the FCC had been held following the last FCC meeting. No email or postal correspondence of note had been received, apart from items covered elsewhere in the meeting.

9. Treasurers Report

AG had earlier sent an email update:

- a. Bank balance £4,823.03 (to come: £240 refundable costs due from FDT re website).
- b. £4,100 restricted to Loch of Blairs development (£4k from Money for Moray, £100 from CHARITIES TRUST - consolation money for Aviva application)
- c. £723.03 unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance)

10. AOCB

A96 Footpaths: TP had asked if anyone had an email contact for an appropriate contact regarding footpath developments around A96. (held over from previous meeting).

Post meeting note: BH suggested Dave Gowans (local contact) dave.gowans@sweco.co.uk and copies in the main project office A96dualling@transport.gov.scot

CJP had indicated that a representative for Glasgow School of Art may attend next meeting to update on Altyre Centre – to be confirmed. (held over from previous meeting)

11. Date and location of next meeting

Next meeting: **Monday 27th August at 7:00 pm**, in Edinkillie Hall.