

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 27th August 2018 in

Edinkillie Hall

FCC members present

Brian Higgs (BH) – Chair

Howard Davenport (HD), Carlo Miele (CM), Tony Pinner (TP), Nikki Howard (NH), Chris Piper (CP), Anna Gatward (AG)

Also present:

Councillor Claire Feaver, Anne Garrow, K Morrison(KM), Eleanor Garty, Fiona Chalmers (FC), Joanna Taylor (JT), Betsy Van der Lee (BVdL), Marianne McInnes

1. Apologies:

None.

2. Notes and actions from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

3. Presentation from Glasgow School of Art

Marianne McInnes gave a very informative presentation on the activities of the Highland and Islands Campus of the Glasgow School of Art, based at Blairs Steading on the Altyre Estate. To quote the GSA Website:

GSA Highlands & Islands is a research and post-graduate teaching centre for international excellence in creativity and innovation. We deliver Masters and PhD programmes, and the campus location enables us to research in geographically distributed contexts as well as innovate and teach in different ways. We teach digitally, remotely and residentially as well as through short winter and summer schools. Through our vibrant research and teaching programmes, we address complex issues facing the region and beyond, such as youth migration and innovating the use of digital technologies.

GSA is having an “open doors day” on 22nd September, and all were welcome to drop in. It became obvious that there were opportunities for mutual support, so contact should be maintained.

4. Police update

KM had nothing specific to report, but the following road traffic issues were discussed:

- Speeding in Rafford, mainly during the early morning and late afternoon travel to/from work periods
- Lack of awareness at the junction between the B9010 and the Dallas Dhu road at Lower Rafford
- Increased traffic on the Dallas Dhu road
- An expected increase of timber traffic on the Dallas Dhu road, due to extraction plans in Newtyle.

5. Actions arising not covered by standing items

HD had sent George Alexander a copy of the “Timber Transport in Moray” presentation given at a previous meeting.

6. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposal

i. Path alongside proposed Dual Carriageway

Rather than press for a specific cycle/walking path alongside the new road, it was agreed to include a paragraph requesting that the issue of non-motorised traffic (on or off the route) be given consideration as plans are developed.

ii. East of Forres Junction

BH had sent a letter to Transport Scotland, voicing concerns of the owners of Hillhead Farm about the ongoing viability of their farming business due to the impact of the large amount of land earmarked for the junction. Transport Scotland’s response was that they had discussed the issue with the owners of the farm, and that the size of the junction was within guidelines. FCC will continue to raise the issue of the size of junctions in future responses.

iii. August 2018 Design update

FCC had communicated the information on the design update to the community, through Facebook page, website, and email contacts list as soon as it had been released. The main impact in the Forres area is the deletion of the northern blue route, leaving just the central orange route, and the southern red route (which runs through FINDERNE) under consideration. Transport Scotland has invited comments and feedback by 14th September.

FCC will attend a Community Council Forum with Sweco and Transport Scotland on Friday 31st August. **(Action CM and HD).**

FC, BVdL, and JT raised a number of points which they asked to be considered in any response by the FCC, including:

- Transport Scotland had made a statement in a letter to FAADAG that the northern purple route had been rejected due to a tourism development at Macbeth’s Hillock. A similar development at Marcassie has also received funding recently.
- The red route would destroy valuable woodland environment.
- The red route was planned to be elevated on an embankment with adverse visual impacts

FC agreed to provide background information on these points, for potential inclusion in the FCC response. **(Action FC)**

It was agreed to hold a drop-in session at Rafford Village Hall on Saturday 8th September, in order to:

- Increase awareness of the potential impact of the routes
- get community feedback to support our response to Transport Scotland
- encourage community member to provide direct feedback to Transport Scotland

(Action - check availability of RVH and liaise with Village Café HD/CP)

A poster advertising the event to be created and posted on FCC Facebook Page, FCC website and to be included in community email message (Action – volunteers required)

Display material for the Drop-in session to be sourced at the Joint Community Council meeting on Friday 31st August (Action – CM/HD)

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

A community survey has been issued by post, to be used as a basis for the FDT strategic plan.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

No discussion, to be carried forward.

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

CP stated that an updated Draft Project Proposal would be issued later in the week for consideration by FCC members.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

BH reported that the FDT had signed the shared ownership MoU.

Post meeting note:

After consultation with a member of the Long Distance Walking Group HD had provided input to the developer on proposed pathways in the wind farm area.

Item carried over:

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.

7. New Business

a. Core Paths Consultation

FCC is awaiting feedback from Moray Councils Access Officer, Iain Douglas

b. Community Shop/Cafe:

IT was noted that FCC will respond to any requests from the Village Café group.

Item now closed.

c, Preparation for AGM

BH suggested that reports from the Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer should be compiled for the AGM, to be held on 1st October.

7. Planning Report

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

8. Secretaries Report

No email or postal correspondence of note had been received, apart from items covered elsewhere in the meeting.

9. Treasurers Report

AG stated that the position was the same as last month:

- 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)

BH stated that now FDT has some funds the loan for setting up the website would now be re-paid.

10. AOCB

Note

11. Date and location of next meeting

Next meeting: **AGM Monday 1st October at 7:00 pm**, in Rafford Church Hall