

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 01st October 2018 in

Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Nikki Howard (NH) – Chair

Carlo Miele (CM), Tony Pinner (TP), Brian Higgs (BH), Chris Piper (CJP), Anna Gatward (AG), Bob Laughton (BL)

Also present:

Anne Garrow (AG), Peter Mitchell (PM), John Pullen (JP)

Nikki Howard (NH) welcomed committee members and local residents and thanked Brian Higgs (BH) for his time and commitment to chairing the FCC since its formation in Oct 2017.

1. Apologies:

Howard Davenport.

2. Notes and actions from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

3. Police update

None

4. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposal

A drop-in session was held at Rafford Village Hall on Saturday 8th September, over 50 residents attended and 35 submissions were completed. These were collated by HD and provided the basis for an FCC submission to Transport Scotland.

BH and CM attended a community forum on the A96 and although no definite date was proposed it seems likely that a decision on the preferred route will be announced towards the end of 2018.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

A community survey developed with Athena and issued to all residents (No = 497) within Finderne. 165 of these have been returned via post or online which was considered an excellent response rate. In addition drop in sessions were organised for the 29th September and were also well attended. The responses and comments received will be collated and form the basis of strategic plan for the FDT. A plan will be formulated and the circulated to residents for comment.

Funding from Glaschyle has been received. FDT currently looking for a suitable office space and recruitment of staff will be initiated shortly.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

CJP indicated that two applications to the Berry Burn WF community fund for speed warning signs had been unsuccessful. A third submission had been placed on hold meantime.

BH suggested an alternative and possibly cheaper approach would be to use warning signs indicating drivers to "Reduce Speed", "Thank you for driving safely" for installation at each end of upper and lower Rafford. Glasdon produce such signs and BH agreed to find out cost.

Action: BH to determine costs for road warning signage

d. *Loch of Blairs Project*

Discussion deferred to separate meeting.

e. *Clashgour Wind Farm*

BH reported that the FDT had signed the shared ownership MoU. The developers "Force 9" were progressing with their planning application and a further public meeting was anticipated in shortly.

7. New Business

a. *Core Paths Consultation*

No further updates.

7. Planning Report

Califer Hill Forestry: CM reported that a forestry operation was imminent at Califer Hill and would check details and deadline for a response.

Cathay Housing: CM/TP had attended meeting with Woodland Trust and the developer to discuss issues surrounding proposed Cathay housing development. Various issues were raised including, sewage discharge, the actual number of houses planned, loss of trees and no suitable strategy for replacing this loss locally, picnic area location unsuitable, among others. Response to application by 7th October. **Action: CJP/CM/TP to prepare response.**

8. Secretaries Report

Submitted to AGM.

9. Treasurers Report

AG indicated that, Bank balance £5463.03, of this £4,500 was restricted to Loch of Blairs development (£4k from Money for Moray, £500 donation) leaving £963.03 unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance). Summary was presented to AGM and will be available on FCC website. FCC agreed to continue to receive operating/admin fund from Moray Council.

CM suggested a proportion of FCC funds be used to purchase projector and screens for village halls. The equipment would remain in FCC ownership but made available for community groups to use. After discussion it was agreed to look into this further.

Action: CM to source costs for projector/screen(s), NH to discuss with village hall committees whether this would be useful.

10. AOCB

Timber Traffic Newtyle Forest: CJP indicated that some residents had raised concern over timber lorries from Newtyle forestry turning left at the Dava way bridge and using the road to Dallas Dhu. CJP indicated this would be an unlikely permitted route for lorry traffic and would check whether this is a permitted route with Claire Glaister (Moray Timber Traffic Officer). Additional concerns on timber lorry traffic were also raised.

Action: CJP to discuss timber traffic routes with Claire Glaister

Disused Bus Shelter: BH reported that Mike MacDonald had raised the issue of ownership of the disused wooden bus shelter in lower Rafford. Mike was keen to remove shelter to repair fence around his field but had not been able to determine who was responsible for the shelter. Committee indicated that they were also unsure who would own it and it may have been built by parents many years ago. The shelter was now in a poor state of repair and FCC agreed that there was no objections to its removal

Action: BH to inform Mike MacDonald.

Stones on Road – Upper Rafford: Number of complaints raised about stones being washed out from field gate in upper Rafford. The problem is caused by tractor traffic and rain washout. This was leading to drivers and cyclists swerving into the middle of the road increasing the potential for a collision with oncoming traffic. After discussion committee agreed to discuss matter with farmer.

Action: NH to check ownership of field and discuss with farmer.

Dava Way-Logie Steading Link: Peter Mitchell enquired if there was any progress on plans to connect the Dava Way with Logie Steading by Logie Estate. Although the Steading can be accessed from the Dava Way via a few routes a safer designate route would be desirable and had been suggested for development by Logie Estate.

Action: BH to contact Alec Laing (Logie Estate) to discuss further.

Date and location of next meeting

Next meeting: 12th November 2018, Edinkillie Hall 19:00.