

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 24th May by tele/video-conference

FCC members present

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG),
Howard Davenport (HD), Brian Higgs (BH), Tim Slack (TS)

Also present:

George Alexander(GA), Lorna Cresswell (LC), Claire Feaver(CF),
Andy Munro (AM), Suzanne Quinney (SQ), Lisa Wolff

Apologies:

Anne Garrow, Ruth Whitfield, Shirley Munn, Stewart McCracken

1) Litter Picking Report

Lisa Wolff gave a report on the Litter Picking initiative that she had organised in late April/early May, with others.

- Over 50 people participated (plus 9 pupils from Logie Primary School)
- 100 bags of rubbish collected plus larger items
- Concurrent Litter pick in Findhorn
- Reported in Forres Gazette
- Supported by Moray Council (Jim Derkin) and FDT (Karen Astill)
- Survey being issued to litter pickers for feedback and ideas for improvement
- Some ideas generated already have included additional re-cycling, reporting fly tipping.

Lisa would like to investigate if the FCC could provide some structure around this initiative to help manage further litter picking events in the future.

It was suggested that this could be included in sustainability which should be a focus of the FCC
FCC support with publicity was offered. Lisa suggested she could be a link between FCC and a working group on waste management and recycling.

Other contact that were offered included Donna Jamieson (Moray Council Community Warden), and Catherine Gemel (Marine Conservation Officer)

Lisa also identified that additional types of plastic waste could now be re-cycled by Moray Council.

2) Police update

No report, see link to Community Safety Report on FCC website.

3) Matters Arising

a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

TS reported no specific incidents, but noted he had read the pig farming industry was being affected by reduced demand from Europe due to Brexit. No response from Karro on site map or pig movement plans.

HD noted that a community member had pointed out that asking people not walk in fields of pigs was not in contravention of Scottish land access rights. AM pointed out that pigs were managed on a high health basis and steps were needed to avoid contamination.

Action: TS to follow up on provision of map.

b. Welcome Pack

HD reported that the welcome pack would be distributed by post together with a flyer from the FDT on Energy Efficient Living. Costs would be shared. **(Action HD and BH to organise)**

The finalised welcome pack was at the printers, and should be sent out to households later in the week.

c. Wildflower planting

HD reported that we had made applications to Moray Council for wild flower planting on the bank at Church Terrace Lower Rafford, at the triangle in Upper Rafford where the roads to Dallas split, and on the verge at Logie Primary School. Enthusiastic support was received from community members in Lower Rafford, some of whom offered to manage the planting.

4) Current Standing Items

a) A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report. GA opined that this was not a government priority.

b) Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- New Development Manager

Jan McPherson appointed and will be joining in mid June.

- Community Broadband

BH reported that FDT would recommend that community members check the Digital Scotland website on a weekly basis to check if they are in or out of the R100 scope. This has been changing weekly, however the advice is not to take up any offers of vouchers until it is confirmed that the R100 plans have been finalised, as premature acceptance of the Main Voucher scheme may render households ineligible for the R100 fibre rollout.

- Community Housing

Community consultation process will start with some drop-in sessions from late June.

- Energy Efficient Living

Findlay McCulloch is planning a community drop-in session to meet community members and to spread information on Energy Efficient Living.

- Dava Way

FDT have sponsored a new website for the Dava Way Association which should be live in a few weeks.

- Community Hub

No further update.

c) **Windfarm Developments**

i) **Clashgour**

- BH received a response from department of energy to the effect that accepting late information from the developers in relation to the Public Inquiry was within the public inquiry guidelines.
- No decision on the Public Inquiry has yet been announced.

ii) **Berryburn 2 Wind Farm**

BH noted reported that the Moray Council did not formally object to the scheme, but suggested a number of conditions.

iii) **Ourack Wind Farm**

Helen Skimming from the developers has been looking for a meeting. **(Action HD to arrange.)**

iv) **Cairn Duhie Wind Farm**

Section 36 planning application was submitted 25th March.

HD reported that we had missed to due date to send in a representation.

v) **Lethen Wind Farm**

20 turbines 185m tall located just to the west of the Ferness to Carrbridge road opposite Lochindorb. BH attended inaugural Community Liaison Group meeting. 18 people were on the call, but most attendees were only interested in community benefit, with only 2 raising any concerns.

d) **Loch of Blairs Development**

BH had reported that construction work on the Classroom development is progressing slowly due to material supply problems.

e) **Core Paths Consultation**

No date yet set for public inquiry.

f) **Wild Fires**

We are waiting for the Scottish Government report on improvements to current practices.

g) **Traffic in Rafford**

SM has drafted a letter responding to a request from Jane Martin to highlight concerns from the FCC. Action HD to circulate for comment.

The JCC are planning to form 2 focus groups (East and West Moray) to address traffic issues. Each group would have 4 representatives from community councils. SM expressed concern on how FCC would be represented. GA did not believe the groups would be set up until after community council elections in September. **(Action BH to discuss with Jane Martin and Anne Skene)**

Post meeting notes: the topic has now been titled as Community Road Safety. The next group meeting was open to attendees from all community councils. SM will attend and report back.

5) Planning Report (TP)

- a) TP reported an application for a new workshop for the basket weaving business at Marcassie. TS noted that 2 previous applications (albeit for personnel accommodation) had been turned down. It was suggested that FCC support any subsequent planning applications.

Post meeting note: TP subsequently raised the point that explicit support for particular planning applications may lead to the community council acting as arbiter for any future applications.

- b) Proposed Distillery Project at Wester Greens, Dunphail

BH had seen the Hydro-Geologists report, and if everything mentioned was implemented then the project could be deemed acceptable.

6) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported that:

- Moray West windfarm were holding virtual community meeting to publicise their progress.
- An email had been received from a member of the Rafford Church concerned about flooding in the Glebe Field below the church, which they use for parking. It was noted that there has been water lying in this area for many years. It was suggested that they contact Moray Council Roads department. **(Action HD to respond)**

7) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balances: £1,405.35

Breakdown:

- £1125.35 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

8) AOCB

- HD reported that some households had received a leaflet from the Rafford Parish Church indicating that the church was in danger of being closed, and seeking support from the community.

It was agreed that the FCC respond with a letter of support for the church. **(Action SQ to draft a letter)**

- LC asked if FCC were interested in taking advantage of the Queens Green Canopy initiative that would lead to the planning of 3million trees to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Jane Martin has details if required.

Next meeting

Monday 5th July 2021 at 7:00p.m. location to be agreed.

(Action HD/BH to review if we could meet face to face.)