

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 16th August 2021 at Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Howard Davenport (HD), Tony Pinner (TP), Stewart McCracken (SMcC)
Tim Slack (TS), Anna Gatward (AG), Shirley Munn (SM)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Mark Abbs (MA), Jennifer Allan, Anne Garrow,
Suzanne Quinney, Howard Stoller, George Alexander, Pat Hern

Apologies:

Brian Higgs, Ruth Whitfield, Joanna Taylor, Clare Feaver, Lorna Cresswell, Hilary Rolton

1) Police update

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

2) Matters Arising

a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

TS had written to Cameron at Karro regarding mud on the road and to follow up on provision of map showing current and planned locations for the pig units. No response received yet.

b. Wildflower planting

RW has a number of volunteers who would be happy to help with wild flower planting. HD had sent a note to Jane Martin, asking for the Church Terrace bank to be included in this years planting if possible, which she had forwarded to James Hunter of the Moray Council Land and Parks Team.

(Post meeting note: James Hunter has responded asking for a phone call to discuss further.)

c. Community Council Elections

HD reported that a publicity campaign would be starting, with posters that would be available later this week, advertisements in the press, and a mail drop to all households in mind September. Applications for membership of community councils for the new term open 23rd August and close 30th September. Any current members wishing to remain on the community councils must re-apply.

3) Current Standing Items

a) A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b) **Finderne Development Trust (FDT)**

- Community Broadband

No further update. Frustration with current broadband speeds were expressed at the meeting. MA remarked that Tom Hardie from Lower Rafford had some proposals which may help part of the area.

(Action: HD to follow up)

- Community Housing

Community consultation process had started with a drop-in information session last Saturday

- Energy Efficient Living

No further update

- Dava Way

No further update.

- Community Hub

No further update.

c) **Windfarm Developments**

i) **Clashgour**

ECU have replied to a query from HD, and estimate that the report will be send to ministers in Sep/Oct this year. Then ministers consideration will take some time after that.

ii) **Berryburn 2 Wind Farm**

No further information

iii) **Ourack Wind Farm**

Helen Skimming from the developers has been looking for a meeting. It was agreed that we had no appetite for a meeting, as previous meetings with developers had proved fruitless. However it was agreed that we should send a letter, outlining our position, and stressing the importance of minimising impact. **(Action HD)**

iv) **Cairn Duhie Wind Farm**

No further information

v) **Lethen Wind Farm**

BH attended the Lethen CLG meeting on 12th July. (Post meeting note: CLG meeting notes have been issued)

vi) **FCC Windfarm Strategy**

BH had previously noted that the FCC Strategy on opposing windfarm developments may need to be reviewed. This strategy has been based on feedback from a community consultation from early in 2019. It may be that an alternative strategy of maximising benefits could be adopted. It was proposed that a new community consultation should be launched, to refresh the FCC policy, after the start of the new community council term. SQ pointed out that increased awareness of the need to address climate change may affect the community attitude to wind farms.

d) **Loch of Blairs Development**

BH had reported that construction work on the Classroom development continues to progress 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**

A number of attendees expressed their frustration that actions had been taken to reduce traffic speeds or too improve the safety of non-motorised road users.

HD had drafted a letter to be sent to Graham Leadbitter, leader of Moray Council, to highlight the situation in Rafford, and ask why traffic calming measures such as were in place in other councils, could not be implemented here. Depending on the response, we would plan to write to councillors asking for action, and would ask the JCC to do the same. It was also pointed out that we should ensure this issue is in front of candidates before the Moray Council elections next May.

(Action: All FCC members to review the letter)

GA advised that the funding of any improvements would be an issue, and that we should develop a list of priorities for action.

A further meeting of the JCC working group, Safer Travel Moray, is scheduled for Thursday 19th August.

(Action: SM and HD to attend and report back)

SMcC suggested we needed data on traffic speeds. Speeds had been measured with rubber strips a few years ago, with average speed being less than 40m.p.h. It was pointed out that average speeds were not the issue. It was agreed we should ask for this exercise to be repeated, with full data being made available.

HD suggested we arrange a specific meeting with Nicola Ross, of Moray Council Roads department, to discuss the situation in Rafford, potential solutions, and a further speed measure effort.

(Action: SM & HD to arrange meeting)

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported that:

- Planning permission for chalets at Marcassie had been approved
- An application for a small house in Rafford has been submitted. No issues with that.
- A notice of 2000 tonnes of timber extraction at Todholes Wood on the Dallas Road had been received. Concern was expressed about potential road damage and visibility.
(Action: TP to discuss concerns with MC Planning)

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported the following correspondence:

- An email reporting on the poor condition of the un-adopted road at Lyneside (heading south alongside the Dava Way from the old railway bridge over the Dallas Dhu road). It was suggested that we contact Grant Nicholson, who has operations in the area, and the Forestry Commission, to try to get some repairs undertaken. (Action: TP)
- An email from Moray Council offering assistance with the collection of materials from litter picking activities, forwarded to Lisa Wolf.
- A link from GA to Moray Councils capital road works, showing planned roadworks.
- Cycle Awareness session at Village Hall now re-scheduled to Thursday 19th August.

6) Treasurers Report (AG) – to be updated

Updated balances: £984.86

Breakdown:

- £704,86 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

FCC have paid an invoice from FDT for a share of Welcome Pack printing and distribution costs.

BH asked if SSEN fund had a deadline for spending the money. **(Action: AG to check)**

7) AOCB

- GA noted that Wester Greens Distillery planning application had been passed. (Post meeting note: email on the subject has been received from some Dunphail residents)
- GA also noted that a planning appeal for a new house at Sourbank was being considered on 26th August. FCC were not aware of this.
- GA further noted that a new splay had been included at the new fencing of the house on the corner of the Damhead Road in Upper Rafford. It was pointed out that this still may be insufficient to allow satisfactory sightlines if further houses along the Damhead road were proposed.

Next meeting

Monday 27th September 2021 at 7:00p.m. Edinkillie Hall. (t.b.c.)