

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 27th September 2021 by Zoom

### FCC members present

Brian Higgs (BH), Howard Davenport (HD), Tony Pinner (TP), Stewart McCracken (SMcC),  
Anna Gatward (AG), Shirley Munn (SM)

### Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Clare Feaver(CF), Ruth Whitfield(RW), Ruaridh Milne (RM)

### Apologies:

Tim Slack, George Alexander, Anne Garrow, Suzanne Quinney

### 1) Police update

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

### 2) Matters Arising

#### a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

No further update

#### b. Wildflower planting

HD has been in contact with James Hunter of Moray Council Parks Dept, who is supportive of FCC leading a wildflower planting project at Church Terrace Lower Rafford. He would like a more detailed plan. **Action HD/RM.**

RM recommended starting by sowing with Yellow Rattle seeds this autumn, but none were available from the website that James Hunter recommended. However seeds are available from Ebay. RM will calculate area and quantity of seeds required.

RW will canvas for volunteers at the Village Hall AGM. Strimmers, scarifying and raking required, rather than rotovating on the slope close to the road.

Post meeting note: Work party scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> October. **Action RM/HD to organise.**

#### c. Community Council Elections

BH noted that applications to join the new community council close on 30th September, and urged anyone planning to stand to get their applications in immediately.

#### d. Unadopted road at Lyneside

TP had no success finding out who is responsible for upkeep of the road. RW reported that the road is still in very poor condition, and had contacted Douglas Ross for some support. AG reported that some potholes had been filled by one of the residents, using scalplings left by Forestry Commission for that purpose.

CF said that one of the planning conditions for the Springfield development nearby had been ensuring that this road was kept in good condition, as it was used by them for transport of topsoil. She had received a positive response from them previously, but would follow up with Springfield to ensure action is taken by them. **Action: CF to contact Springfield.**

CF pointed out that the longer term problem is to understand who is responsible for upkeep of the road in the longer term. RW said the road is at least partially owned by Altyre Estate. **Action: CF to follow up on long term maintenance.**

### 3) Current Standing Items

#### a) A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

#### b) Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

- Community Broadband

BH reported that the R100 rollout plan had been completed, with some changes to which properties were included. It was recommended that residents contact [www.ScotlandSuperfast.com](http://www.ScotlandSuperfast.com) to find out the status of their property.

FDT has requested a listing of the status of all properties in Finderne, so plans could be made for addressing the needs of properties not included, with no success as yet. R Lochhead and Duncan Nesbitt of HIE had been contacted for support.

HD reported that Richard Allan of External Reality, has made a proposal to residents in the west side of Lower Rafford, for the extension of the Altyre Fibre network to their properties. This presumably would mean pooling their £5000 main vouchers, but would tie users to a single service provider. **Action: HD to follow up for more information**

- Community Housing

BH reported that based on an agreement in principle with Dallas Estate, an application for a grant to buy the field had been made to Scottish Land Fund.

Also a grant from CARES had been secured, for a feasibility study on the community heating element of the proposal.

- Energy Efficient Living

BH reported that Findlay had been successful in helping some residents access funding, and requested that FCC help spread the message that help is available from FDT.

- Dava Way

New website still in beta testing

- Community Hub

BH reported that there is a meeting next Monday to discuss next steps, inkling the potential for co-location with Logie Primary School

- Rural Apprenticeships  
FDT still have funding available for further applications
- COVID recovery fund  
Funding available for assistance with local transport

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.

BH pointed out that if the Clashgour application is successful, it is important that FCC get engaged with the Community Benefit Scheme.

ii) **Berryburn 2 Wind Farm**

No further information

iii) **Ourack Wind Farm**

HD sent a letter, outlining our position, and stressing the importance of minimising impact.

iv) **Cairn Duhie Wind Farm**

No further information

v) **Lethen Wind Farm**

No update

vi) **FCC Windfarm Strategy**

BH had previously noted that the FCC Strategy on opposing windfarm developments may need to be reviewed.

HD suggested that the new Community Council should include this topic on a future community consultation. **(Action: New CC to take forward)**

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**

SM reported that a police speed check had taken place, however this had been in Lower Rafford. Also she has been in contact with Nicola Ross of Moray Council roads department, who has arranged a virtual meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, to discuss potential solutions to control the speed of traffic in Rafford. **Action SM&HD to attend and report back.**

Members agreed to the letter drafted by HD 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. **Action: HD to send letter**

BH reported that he had consulted with FDT, who were willing to consider buying Vehicle Activated Signs, for use in Rafford and possibly elsewhere in Finnerne. Following the meeting with Road Department, FCC should decide what type of VAS would be preferred. **(Action SM & HD to make proposal)**

HD had received information on Evolis speed warning signs. **(Action HD to distribute)**

CF recommended that FCC put together a petition to Moray Council using the guidance and petition form available on the council website. If 50 or more signatures are gathered, the Council is obliged to discuss the issue. **Action: SM and HD to propose petition wording and rollout.**

A further meeting of the JCC working group, Safer Travel Moray, is yet to be scheduled. No minutes of last meeting have been issued.

**4) Planning Report (TP)**

TP had reported that no further application of concern had been raised.

HD noted that FCC had received a note of thanks from Dereck Stansfield of Dunphail, for our letter to the planning department clarifying our position on the Wester Greens Distillery application. i.e. we are still concerned about impacts of traffic, and that although water extraction rates are just within the limits, changes to this may not be monitored.

**5) Secretary's Report (HD)**

HD reported that FCC had received confirmation from Information Commissioners Office that our registration certificate had been renewed.

**6) Treasurers Report (AG) – to be updated**

Updated balances: £949.86

Breakdown:

- £669.86 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

AG confirmed that there is no deadline for spending the SSEN grant money.

7) AOCB

- Finderne Calendar

RW spoke about her idea for a Finderne Calendar. She had been in contact with a Parish Council in England who had put together a calendar, which had proved a great success. She also has had contact with a professional photographer who is planning to move the area, and is willing to offer photography courses, and would help to organise a photography competition, to choose photos from community members for inclusion in the calendar. The idea is to have photographs representing each month of the year, culminating in October 2022, so that the calendar would be available for sale before Christmas 2022.

- Rafford Burn path

SM identified that the path along the Rafford Burn from Granary Farm to Sourbank is becoming overgrown. She suggested the we could contact the Community Payback Scheme for help doing this. However the first action, is to contact the landowner and farmer on whose land the path runs. **Action: HD/SM contact farmer.**

- Edinkillie Hall Events

AM mentioned that there would be a café at Edinkillie Hall this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Details on Facebook. Also regular Cake and a Cuppa on the first Tuesday of each month.

**Next meeting**

Inaugural Meeting - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7:00p.m. by Zoom. (details t.b.c.)