

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 8th November 2021 by Zoom

### FCC members present

Howard Davenport (HD), Tony Pinner (TP), Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Anna Gatward (AG), John Finch (JF)

### Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Pat Hern, Clare Feaver(CF), Ruth Whitfield (RW), George Alexander (GA)

### Apologies:

Shirley Munn, Brian Higgs, Anne Garrow, Lorna Cresswell

### 1) Minutes of previous meeting

Item 2d - CF raised a clarified that she took an action to contact Moray Council, not Springfield.  
(Action - To be corrected – HD)

### 2) Matters Arising

#### a. Wildflower planting

HD reported that a success work parties had been organised on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October on the bank below Church Terrace. The area had been strimmed, raked, scarified, raked again, and Yellow Rattle seeds had been planted. Many thanks to all participants.

Moray Council had subsequently provided a couple of green signs to indicate that this was an area being managed for wildlife, which would be erected.

HD reported an email from a community member from Marcassie. Although supportive of the wild flower planting initiative, she was concerned that the yellow rattle may spread and impact her grass meadows.

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

#### b. Unadopted road at Lyneside

CF reported that she now understood that there was not in fact a planning condition, obliging Springfield to repair the road after spoil had been tipped, but that it was a private agreement between Springfield and the landowner. She said she would continue to chase up on the issue of who was responsible for maintenance of this road. **Action: CF to follow up.**

#### c. Rafford Burn Path

HD reported that since the last meeting, the footpath between Granary Farm and Sourbank had be cleared of overgrowing whins.

### 3) Current Standing Items

#### a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

HD reported that he and Shirley Munn had met with Elaine Penny (EP), Moray Councils Road Engineer, to persue 6 items which we felt would improve road safety.

- Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford

EP said that a pavement to separate foot traffic and vehicles would make the biggest impact on road safety in the village. She suggest a pavement on the west side of the road between Mary Croft and the Brochloch field opposite the Village Hall. She offered to write to the households that would need to loose a strip of garden land, and has drafted a letter to be approved by FCC.

- Village Entrance Signage

EP said that it would be possible to enhance signage at the entrances to the village, both at Lower and Upper Rafford. This should make it clearer to drivers that they were entering a residential area. She would provide some possible designs for FCC to consider.

- Vehicle Activated Signs

EP told us that research has shown that the impact of VAS drops off withing a month or so of initial installation. This was the reason why the council had just a few signs which are deloyed for just a few weeks in any location. However she accepted that communities like to have these signs, and that the council would support installation of VAS, given that the community find some funding. We discussed possible locations in Upper Rafford.

- Traffic Calming Measures

EP was of the opinion that the volume of traffic in Rafford was insufficient to get much benefit from road narrowing measures, as mostly cars would not need to wait for oncoming traffic.

- Twenty's Plenty

EP reported that Moray Council was waiting for the outcome of a trial in the Borders Region, and for the subsequent allocation of funding from Scottish Government, before implement 20 m.p.h. limits throughout the area.

- Police Speed Checks

We would need to contact the Police for more regular speed checks in the village.

The meeting agreed to ask EP to send out the footpath letter, and to make it clear that we would like to press ahead with Village Signage and VAS. **(Action – HD)**

It was also agreed that we would do some further research on the type, and quantity, of VAS we would need. Then we could contact FDT with a view to their acquiring some signs.

HD reported that we had received a response to our letter to Graham Leadbitter, Leader of Moray Council, but it did not address policy issues. **(Action - HD to send follow up)**

CF had previously suggested a petition to Moray Council requesting action on traffic issues, but in the light of the positive response we have had from Roads Dept, it was agreed not to do this at the current time.

**b) Community Broadband**

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. He had also intimated plans for further expansion of this to other areas which would not benefit from R100.

The FDT have now received some data from OpenReach on which properties would be getting benefit from R100, and when. This showed approximately 75% of properties would get R100. The challenge for FDT was now to determine the best way for the remaining 25% to get faster broadband.

John Finch agreed to follow up on Broadband status and report back (Action JF)

**c) Brochloch Field Development**

No further developments. FDT are awaiting outcome of their application to Scottish Land Fund for funding to purchase the field.

**d) Windfarm Developments**

HD reported that no further information had been received from developers. However we should be aware of the Energising Moray initiative, designed to take advantage of the Shared Ownership and Community Benefit being offered by some developers.

**(Action: HD to forward Energising Moray information)**

**e) Pending Items**

**i) A96 Dualling**

SMcC reported that communities in Nairn were concerned about delays to the A96 bypass at Nairn. He would send an email to D.Ross and R.Lochhead asking for an update, (Action SMcC)

**ii) Core Paths Consultation**

No update on public inquiry.

**iii) Wild Fires**

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

**iv) Loch of Blairs**

The Stable Classroom was opened last weekend. Some Councillors attended. GA was very impressed by what had been achieved. SMcC congratulated Brian Higgs and his team.

#### 4) Planning Report (TP)

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

GA reported that he had been contacted in regard to a planning application for a house along the Damhead Road that had been rejected, but would be considered by the Local Review Body sometime in November. This was due to issues with the Damhead Road entrance to the B9010. GA asked for FCC opinion on the application. TP had not seen it, but asked GS to forward details. **(Action: GA)**

HD pointed out that this area was not designated as a Rural Development, and it was confirmed that this could be a reason for objection to an application.

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

Nothing further to add

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

Updated balances: £765.98

Breakdown:

- £485.98 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

AG pointed out that there was £220 for the Yellow Rattle seeds that would reduce the Admin Grant balance

#### 7) AOCB

- Litter Picking

JF mentioned that there was another Litter Picking event being scheduled in November. For details contact Lisa Wolff.

- Rafford Village Hall Christmas Craft Fair

This would take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. FCC agreed to take a table, in order to meet community members.

- Edinkillie Hall Events

AM mentioned that there would be Cake and a Cuppa event on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

- Co-option of new member

It was agreed that John Finch be co-opted as a new member of FCC.

#### **Next meeting**

Post meeting note:

Next meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, by Zoom.