

Forres Community Council

Thursday 21st August 2025 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre

Secretary: Fiona Dunsmuir | **Email:** info.forrescc@gmail.com

Attendees - FCC		Attendees - Other
CC Steve Ferris (SF)	Chair	Cllr Paul McBain
CC David Parker (DP)	Vice Chair	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	Cllr Scott Lawrence
CC Graham Murdoch	Treasurer	
CC John Innes (JI)		Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC Derek Hallas (DH)		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
CC Christina MacFarquhar (CM)		
		Henrietta Grant-Peterkin
Apologies		Sandra McLennan (Forres in Bloom)
CC Michael Walker (MW)		Yvonne Findlay (New Forres Academy Forum)
Cllr Draeyk Van Der Horn		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, and apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received as above. SF mentioned the wildfires that raged around Forres and wanted to thank all members of the Emergency Services, Estate Workers and Volunteers who helped to fight the fires. SF also thanked those who helped by providing refreshments. There were fire crews and engines from Elgin, Inverness, Fort William, Oldmeldrum and Stirling.</p> <p>SF announced that under medical advisement Kenny Shand has stepped down from his role within the Community Council. Both Steve and our CCLO Debra Duke thanked him for his work and contribution to the Community Council.</p>	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report:</p> <p>The CSR for June and July was received. SF read out the areas that mentioned Forres Area, although a lot of the statistics noted were for the Grampian area and are not specific to Forres.</p> <p>In the CSR there was an article about protecting vulnerable people and the Northeast Crime Reduction Unit. It states that Officer Russell from the NCRU would be happy to attend one of our meetings. A request is being sent out to ask if he could come along to our meeting in November.</p> <p>Please click here to read the full report.</p>	

3.	<p>Public Session</p> <p>Forres Academy – Yvonne Findlay advised that although she represents the New Forres Academy Forum she was attending tonight on behalf of Si Crawford. She stated she was looking to see if there was any response / update from his queries regarding the issues surrounding the Veterans and their housing next to where the New Academy is to be build. SF advised that after the public session there is to be a discussion on the questions she submitted to FCC on the concerns from the New Forres Academy Forum, Regarding the Veterans and their issues are being handled by Veterans Scotland</p>	
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 19th June 2024.</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: Derek Hallas Seconded: John Innes</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Joint Community Council meeting</u> – SF advised he could not attend, asked if there was anything to report back. He then asked what CM thought about the meeting as this was her first time attending it. CM stated the presentation on the 20mph scheme test was interesting. SF queried if there was anything mentioned about the Community Council Election. GM stated that it was mentioned but there was more focus on the magazine, SF was hoping to be able to get posters so that we can get them put up around the town.</p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF asked if he could drop off the radios that have been purchased to JI to be stored with all the other equipment. KSk advised that while the wildfires were raging that within seconds KSk and JI were contacted, and request was made to use our safe place (Forres Town Hall), and it was all set to go within minutes and there were also scouts lined up to help. Ideally, we would have volunteers lined up, so that we do not have to rely on the Scouts. KSk also stated that the council contacted us who we intern contacted the Town Hall worked well. At the Town Hall FACT staff and volunteers were available to help.</p> <p><u>Forres Culture and Heritage Scheme</u> – SF advised that the Glasgow based marketing firm (Ice Cream) have been researching and pulling a lot of data for the interpretation part of the process and that is moving forward. The FCHS has their launch event set for Friday 5th September from 3pm to 6pm and will be held in the Town Hall and invites will be sent out. SF said he will ensure some FCC members get one.</p> <p><u>Forres Common Good</u> – SF advised that after the last meeting regarding Clovenside, questions were sent to the Council officers to respond. SF read out the</p>	

	<p>questions and the replies from the Council. SF and GM expanded on some of the responses, (Please click here to see the questions and answers). No costs were incurred to the Common Good Fund as the questions were sent to the Moray Council Councillors. SF asked what FCC want to see from this, change to the process, how we are informed? PM asked what does FCC want from our Moray Council Councillors? Discussion was had on what or when FCC should find out about and do we want to have longer to review and respond to planning applications?</p>	
6.	<p>Planning/Licences</p> <p>There were 10 Planning applications submitted between June and August meetings, of which there were none that required a response from FCC.</p>	
7.	<p>Action Plan Updates</p> <p><u>Forres Academy</u> – SF advised that our previous meeting we received 9 questions from the New Forres Academy Forum and has not had a chance to go through the questions. We then discussed the questions and what our views/thoughts are.</p> <p>The questions are as follows –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As the public and pupils have repeatedly voted against building the new academy on the Applegrove playing fields and also objected to the closure of the community centre and library in Forres, what is the CC (Community Council) prepared to do to represent the views of the Forres community and ensure a fully transparent, honest and fair consultation process?" 2. What is the Community Council's position, given that the majority of people who responded to the CGL Consultation, are not in favour of giving up the Common Good Land that is Roysvale Park? 3. In light of the public opposition, common good protections, and long-term impact on Applegrove Primary pupils and the wider community, do you support Moray Council's (MC) decision to drop Lochyhill as a site and build the new Forres Academy on the Roysvale/Applegrove (R/A) playing fields — and if so, on what basis? If not, how will you actively represent the community's concerns to ensure they are heard before any irreversible decisions are made? 4. Why are MC continuing to spend money on R/A site before they know if they can take the common good land, against majority opinion, which also does not want Applegrove Primary school to lose their very necessary grass playing field. Do the CC realise that MC are proposing that after building a bus park on Roysvale Park, the remainder will be returned to the community as common good land, when it will clearly not, as is shown in all the diagrams. Roysvale has been incorporated into the school campus as the required grass school playing fields. Therefore, MC need ALL Roysvale for the required academy grass pitch. The community have voiced their opinion 80% against taking common good land. MC have also claimed that the schools and the public can continue to play football on Roysvale Park and take their children to the swings during the construction phase. How can this possibly be safe? 5. What's the CC position on the recent MC decision to drop Lochyhill ahead of court when the public had been assured that both sites were being considered 	

	<p>simultaneously? Does it concern you that from the outset MC 'consultation' process was flawed, inadequate & even now the public hasn't fully appreciated how a Hub academy is going to detrimentally affect other local services and existing local Hub's such as the Community Centre? Why are MC so resistant to considering a phased re-build of the academy at the current site when many local experts consider this to be possible?</p> <p>6. If court approval of CGL and planning permission is not obtained what's to happen as- if Lochyhill is not running in tandem how can it be accelerated later and thus avoid losing Government Funding?</p> <p>7. What guarantees can be made against damage to properties resulting from pile driving and flooding during and post construction? R/A is designated as highest risk flood plain by SEPA water table 2 feet down in the lowest part of the town. This area will need to be de-watered prior to construction and MC proposes this water will go into the Mossett Burn, the water in the Burn was at street level over the festive period of 2024. Post construction surface water will be stored in attenuation tanks and released into the Mossett Burn-where are these tanks to go?? The drains in this area are combined Victorian drains and often raw sewage escapes in periods of heavy rainfall-this is likely to mix with the surface water which will be directed to the Mossett Burn. Homes already flood there!! An elevated site is to be fashioned for the large building, of 3 /4 storeys of the new academy, to protect it from flooding, <i>but that will place the surrounding homes and businesses at a greater risk.</i></p> <p>The Veterans' Cottages are among those to be most seriously affected. Indeed, they have had flooding to their front doors on Sunday night of this week. They were awoken during the night as the flooding was affecting gas pipes, and their homes have had their gas supply cut off. Since then, they have suffered the noise and chaos of the road being dug up to repair damage to pipes.</p> <p>8. How can the businesses, such as the Funeral director directly opposite the construction site, not be adversely affected?</p> <p>9. Very importantly How can the safety of all the children attending the 3 schools in the location, and the residents, and wider community, be guaranteed during the years of construction, demolition, noise & pollution & traffic congestion??</p> <p>Don't worry-I shall send a transcription of all these points to be recorded formally in the Minutes.</p> <p>We at Forres Community Council do not have a consensus of opinion as there are positives and negatives for both side of the argument. There are further meetings to follow and we are not experts, and don't fully understand so we don't have all the answers. There are a lot of concerns, but there is also a need for the new building, and every solution will have a problem.</p>	
8.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>SF advised that a letter has been received from Forres in Bloom, seeking us to assist in their planning application to install solar panels in their garden area next to Grant Park as they have been advised the costs would be cheaper if they go through the Community Council, but they will cover all costs and complete the paperwork. We all agreed to help them out.</p>	

	We have received information that the top portion of the car park at Orchard Road is going to be changing. The council are going to create one disabled parking spot, and the remaining spot will be enlarged, due vehicles becoming larger.	
9.	Treasurers Report There is a balance of £5,404.14 in the bank.	
10.	Moray councillor reports Cllr Robertson – KR stated the same as PM and advised that next corporate meeting is coming up as well as a full Council meeting. New website ‘Moray Engage’ Cllr Paul McBain – PM advised that they have been getting back into all relevant meetings after their summer recess. Cllr Scott Lawrence – SL advised that it has been busy since summer recess.	
11.	Forthcoming Events Film Forres are showing Flow for the children on 5 th September 2025 Film Forres are showing Mr Burton for adults on 6 th September 2025 Forres Academy Community Spaces Information Evening, at 6.30-7.30pm 10 th September 2025 International Day of Peace is on the 21 st September 2025	
112	AOCB There was no other business tonight.	
13.	Date of next meeting: The date of our next Forres Community Council meeting is on Thursday 18 th September 2025. It is going to be in The Green Room, Forres House Community Cen centre, High Street, Forres.	