



**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Thursday 18th July 2013
Cullen Community and Residential Centre**



MINUTES

Present: Ashley Mowat (Chair)
Malcolm Watt (Vice-Chair)
Zillah Jamieson (Secretary/Acting Treasurer)
John Aitken
John Robertson

In Attendance: Tom Gunn
Nancy Steele (from Agenda Item 3.2)
Andrew Mackie
PC Debbie Price

Apologies: Cllr Stewart Cree
Cllr Ron Shepherd
Cllr Gary Coull

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to our 41st meeting of the new term.
Apologies were noted as above

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (20th June 2013)

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Reports

3.1 Police

The Local Policing Report is attached as Appendix 1; there were no further comments to add. See also Agenda Item 6.5.

Lighting and safety issues at the harbour: A further meeting is to be held after 28th July - date not yet fixed.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

3.2 Community Warden

The Community Warden Report is attached as Appendix 2.

The Secretary confirmed having written to Andrew Mackie (25/06/13) asking for clarification on whether he had made any progress on the suggestions made at the May meeting, namely:-

- Resite the dog poo bin currently next to the recycling point to the top right hand side of the playing fields
- Investigate, source and hopefully display Bag It and Bin It signs at relevant points.

These points are covered in the Appendix 2 report.



In her capacity as Chair of the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative, the Secretary raised three points which had been raised at the most recent Initiative Committee meeting, namely:-

- Is it possible to have a list of where all the dog bins currently are in Cullen, and possibly re-site some of them? This ties in with the first bullet point above
- Also, we understand that dog poo bags are available from Cullen Library; are they available from anywhere else?
- In addition, Binview Road in Cullen is a major black spot for dog poo, with 2 known offenders; is it possible to patrol here?

All these points are covered in the Appendix 2 report. The Secretary requested that a supply of poo bags be delivered to the Tourist Office (open until the end of August).

3.3 Local Councillors

There were no Local Councillors present.

3.4 Treasurer

The Secretary confirmed that the last bank statement (18th June 2013) indicated a balance of £3,905.26. Taking into account expenditure and income since that date, the bank balance currently stands at £2,276.76.

The Chair estimated that circa 80 calendars have been sold to date; sales monies banked thus far equal £25, and sponsorship payments £800.

The bank balance includes £250 ring-fenced for Neighbourhood Watch.

The Chair confirmed that all winners had received a free copy of the calendar; the Vice-Chair is arranging for a free copy of the calendar for each sponsor.

ACTION: Malcolm Watt

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Moray Council Budget Proposals

Library: The Chair confirmed having received (21/06/13) a copy letter from the Dufftown and District Community Association to the Chief Executive of the Moray Council, dated 13/06/13; this is attached as Appendix 3.

The Chair also confirmed having received (11/07/13) a copy letter from Joan Megson (Save Burghead Library) to Richard Lochhead, MSP, and his response - attached as Appendices 4 and 5.

The P & J reported (29/06/13) that a final decision on the fate of the 7 libraries is expected at a meeting of the Council on 7th August 2013.

The Chair commented that the Minimum Requirements outcome will be critical to the final decision, even although it will not be a statutory requirement. There are also plans to challenge the decision on 7th August should be it prove to be unfavourable.



Toilets: The Secretary confirmed having written (25/06/13) to Stephen Cooper of Environmental Services, Moray Council, in response to his letter dated 4th June 2013 - according to the content agreed at the June meeting. This was initially acknowledged on 25/06/13, and a further response received on 28/06/13 indicating that our communication had been passed on to Steve Williamson who will be in touch to discuss our proposals.

In response to information from the Cullen Golf Club, the Chair sent the following communication to the 3 locally elected councillors (27/06/13) - in his capacity as both Chair of the Community Council and Secretary of the Cullen Harbour Association:- "This e-mail is written with an increasing sense of frustration which I hope you will understand. Yesterday I was informed by the Captain of Cullen Golf Club that the Club has decided, with regret, to withdraw from its stated interest in a CAT involving the toilet block at Cullen Beach, one of two seasonal toilets in Cullen.

I was informed that when discussions began with Moray Council the Club had been under the strong impression that the CAT would be on the basis of an ownership transfer with terms that would be very attractive to the Club. What was offered, I am informed, was in fact a long-term lease with the Club having to pay Moray Council £1,784-00 annually, with other onerous conditions attached!! I am sure you will understand that in these days with golf clubs everywhere struggling to survive this was an offer this private Club had little difficulty in turning down. I find it hard to believe that anyone in Moray Council should consider it likely that in the current financial crisis any private organisation would assume responsibility for providing public toilets on the basis of the offer made by Moray Council.

The Cullen Harbour Association has, as you know, intimated a CAT interest in the seasonal harbour toilet block, as well as the remainder of that building which is now apparently surplus to requirements. Whereas the Golf Club interest has been processed quickly, nothing further has happened in terms of the Harbour block, apart from an e-mail from Moray Council enquiring what our intentions for the toilet block might be. The reply indicated we were awaiting discussions with the CAT group, in keeping with Moray Council's transfer policy. Having taken the matter as far as we can without further discussion with Moray Council, we now await developments. Your support in expediting this process would be much appreciated.

As you were all aware from our well-attended public meeting a unanimous wish was expressed that Moray Council and the community should work together to find realistic ways of keeping three toilet facilities open during the summer period. The summer period provides the potential life-line to many of our struggling local businesses and current information suggests that this boost to our fragile local economy is already reduced this year. Closure of the seasonal toilets is going to add to that difficulty. We look to our elected councillors to support our community during these very difficult times.

In recognition of the difficulties in progressing CAT requests, it is our understanding that the Moray Council may have restructured the CAT group, and we hope we can look forward to more transparency, urgency and pragmatism in its activities.

In these difficult financial times our Community needs urgent and visible support from our elected councillors in its pursuit of sensible workable solutions. I write in hope of an early response, hopefully with constructive suggestions."

Cllr Cree's response (28/06/13) indicated: "I was advised separately of this issue which I have not yet fully understood. The clear intention of a transfer is that the organisation accepting the ownership will do so at little or no cost to



them. They would however be responsible for the ongoing costs of maintaining the facility. I am unsure whether, in this particular instance, the costs mentioned are the annual costs of maintenance or what indeed they are meant to reflect. I have asked for information in this from the appropriate officer(s) and await their reply which I will advise you of in due course." A full response is awaited.

Subsequently, the Chair was advised (03/07/13) via a press release that a decision on the closure of public toilets had been deferred - in order to allow more time to consider options for retaining at least some of the dozen toilets earmarked for closure. The EIA had confirmed that a very wide range of users, many with special needs, would be affected by the toilet closures and that it would be very difficult for the council to mitigate the needs of these groups in an economic manner. The press release also indicated that, following the Council's decision to focus its energies and resources on the economic development of Moray, the importance of public toilets in supporting the tourist industry had assumed new significance. Among the options the Council will look at in greater detail are the formation of an arms-length body to operate the toilets and the transfer of the toilets to a private operator. Interest expressed by some community groups in taking over their local toilets will also be pursued. Councillors agreed that no decision on toilet closures would be taken during the current financial year.

Cllr Shepherd is quoted in the Banffshire Advertiser (09/07/13) saying: "the cost for communities to take over toilets is prohibitive and unrealistic. I'm confident that we as a Council will be able to retain them long term. When we were doing the budget, we were told by officers that closing the toilets would save £60,000. Later, after the decision was made at the budget to close the toilets, we were then told that it would only be £30,000. This is a paltry figure and it's not worth all the trouble and hassle of closing the toilets if that's all we're going to save...."

In her capacity as Chair of the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative, the Secretary confirmed - with disappointment and concern - that she had had to write (11/07/13) to Steve Williamson, copied to the 3 locally elected councillors and Stephen Cooper, as follows: "Like everyone else, the Initiative is delighted to hear of the Council's decision to keep open the public toilets in Cullen, recognising their importance for tourism in our town.

It is therefore very concerning for me to have to write to you regarding a number of complaints we have received in the Cullen Tourist Office (which has only been open since the beginning of June) regarding the state of the public toilets in Cullen Square, including: not clean; smell so overpowering that one visitor did not dare to enter; locks on ladies toilet doors broken (and have been for some time). In addition, we understand the disabled key facility may not be working. In addition, a guest here at Norwood Guest House completed a Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership visitor feedback form, and her suggestion to improve her visitor experience the next time round was to clean the Cullen public toilets.

I am sure that I do not need to say any more in relation to these complaints as they speak for themselves. I would be very grateful if urgent action could be taken to ensure that the standard of cleaning and the fabric of the toilets are improved as soon as possible."



A response from Steve Williamson (11/07/13) indicated: "With regard to the door locks, I'll have this matter dealt with by the Council's Property section as soon as practicable. It is unfortunate that there have been complaints regarding the Cullen Square toilets but all public toilets are cleaned on a once per day frequency only and therefore there will be the possibility that the cleanliness deteriorates over the course of the day. Unlike most of our other public toilets, the structure of the building is such that the 'ambience' is quite poor and Property have looked at airflow in the past but it is difficult to improve. I'll ask them to investigate further. I'll pass your comments to our operations to see if any improvements are possible."

A response from Cllr Shepherd (11/07/13) indicated: "This was reported to me on Monday by your secretary Graham through my wife and I reported it on the Monday."

5. Planning

5.1 Aultmore Wind Farm

John Robertson reported that he had John Aitken had met with Vattenfall representatives; Vattenfall are awaiting planning permission from Moray Council (anticipated by end 2013), with build to be complete by end 2014. There are still ongoing debates on the height of the turbines. The Deskford Community Association have mixed views on the project. The community fund could be substantial; the Deskford proposal is for geographic proportional sharing, although other areas are trying to "squeeze in".

ACTION: John Robertson/John Aitken

6. A.O.C.B.

6.1 2013 Community Council Elections: The Secretary confirmed having advised Tracey Rae (25/06/13) that we would not require any copies of the leaflets/ posters produced by the JCC.

The Secretary confirmed having circulated a copy of the draft election leaflet (11/07/13) which it is proposed to deliver to every household in Cullen and Deskford. It was noted that Tracey Rae has requested a copy for information.

The printing costs (from MMS Almac) are:-

Quantity	Cost
950	£102
1000	£103
1250	£112
1500	£121.

Following discussion, it was agreed to proceed with a print run of 1250 at a cost of £112, with distribution to take place during the first week of September; arrangements are to be discussed at the August meeting.

Other promotional activities are to include: full details in the Discover Cullen e-Newsletter; circulation of details to all the database e-mail lists; comments on the website; and hopefully an article in the Banffshire Advertiser, Northern Scot and Banffshire Journal.

ACTION: All

6.2 Certificates of Achievement: Following discussion, it was agreed to leave this until the next session of the Community Council commencing in October.



6.3 Cullen Common Good Fund: Cllr Coull had advised via e-mail (18/07/13) that the response from Margaret Wilson (Finance Department) was as follows:- "No it is not planned to revisit this policy in the near future (not at the moment anyway). This policy was set up in order to safeguard the balance of the individual Common Good funds for future generations. We made the policy to allow flexibility over 3 financial years ie to allow c/f from 2 yrs to give some flexibility for larger projects but I think I would have a concern in increasing this time limit. It does not mean that we cannot distribute from the "balance" or capital element of any fund. We would, on local Members recommendation, just have to submit a report to P & R for approval. I have explained this to Zillah Jamieson before but we have never received a request for such an action".

6.4 Cullen Beach - Awards: The Secretary confirmed having been approached by a Cullen resident in relation to the recent omission of Cullen Beach from the Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Awards; he had approached Keep Scotland Beautiful to establish why the beach which has never failed the EU bathing quality tests was omitted; the response indicated that Local Authorities put forward beaches each year to be judged by a panel for the Seaside Awards; there is a cost involved, so the assumption was made that that is why Moray Council do not put any forward. He also made suggestions on a competition to reduce the amount of litter on beaches, in particular plastic bottles.

A further response from Keep Scotland Beautiful in relation to beach awards read as follows: "With regards to your query about recognising the Moray beaches, I have been in dialogue with Moray Council a number of times about promoting their excellent beaches. So far I have not had much success, however, this year I believe that there has been a report to committee recommending that the beaches are promoted in the future. We have carried out pre assessment visits in the past at a number of excellent beaches including Lossiemouth, Findhorn and Cullen, all of which would absolutely be eligible for awards in the future with a bit of work.

We have a couple of community groups / councils in Scotland who currently make applications for Seaside Award at their local beaches, and work in partnership with the local authority to ensure that risk assessments and facilities are in place, but who take the ownership of litter picking and information provision. One such group is based in East Lothian – at Dunbar East beach, and all the Shetland Isles beaches are applied for and paid for by the Community Councils. If you wish to find out how they operate, I could put you in touch.

The most challenging part of the award is the water sampling cost and the risk assessment process. However, there are a number of excellent bathing waters in Moray, sampled by SEPA, which would mean that we could use the results they collect. A full list is available at www.sepa.org.uk

The cost to make an application for a Rural Seaside Award is £300 per year (this covers some of the costs to KSB of running the scheme, purchasing promotional material and flags for the beaches, and covering the costs of sending assessors to each of the beaches once during the summer season). A Resort Seaside Award is £400 and a Blue Flag is £700."



The Cullen resident indicated also that he had asked the locally elected councillors to back the report when it comes before the Council. He also wrote to the Secretary requesting that the Community Council should push for this. A 15-page document is available on what requires to be done to meet the criteria, including notice boards and bins; the water quality criteria should not be an issue given the historical track record in this area.

Following discussion, it was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of Moray Council, supporting the application for an appropriate Seaside Award, asking Moray Council to recognise the value of Moray beaches (Cullen in particular) to the tourism industry, and also requesting details of the outcome of the Committee report referred to above. It is recognised that the stipulations required for Blue Flag status would be extremely onerous and an application unlikely to succeed; however, either the Rural or Resort Seaside Award would be possible.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

6.5. Review of Traffic Warden Provision and Public Service and Opening Hours at Police Offices

The Secretary confirmed having received a letter from Police Scotland (01/07/13) - attached as Appendix 6. Following discussion, it was agreed to make a response to this letter asking for clarification on where the boundaries come between police and traffic warden responsibilities in relation to parking. In this regard, the question was asked as to why police do not enforce parking regulations; particular areas raised were illegal parking at the pier at the harbour primarily in holiday and weekend periods (which could block emergency vehicle access in the event of an incident at the harbour) and the double yellow lines at the C-operative in Grant Street. PC Price undertook to raise both matters with Buckie police colleagues and traffic wardens.

7. ITEMS FOR NOTING/DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION

7.1 Cullen Medical Centre: The Chair confirmed having written to the Chief Executive of NHS Grampian; a response is awaited.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

7.2 Cullen Community and Residential Centre - potential Asset Transfer: Work is in hand to obtain funding for the feasibility study/ community consultation/business plan.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.3 Cullen Harbour Association Report: The Vice-Chair reported positive news on gaining funding for the sailing school at Cullen Harbour, with significant funds yet to be raised.

7.4 ITEMS AWAITING ACTION/CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN

AWAITING ACTION:

7.4.1 Lawtie Trust: The Trust is to be reviewed in 2014.

7.4.2 Community Website: Investigation on traffic statistics from Google Analytics has now been completed for the first six months of 2013; the results for each quarter had been circulated to all. The same report will now be produced monthly on the first of each month. There are just over 900 Facebook likes and 57 followers on Twitter.

There are currently 109 subscribers to the Newsletter; newsletters are sent out regularly, with the prime objective of driving traffic to the website.



A discussion was held on a potential design review/refresh of the website - after 3 years of operation. Neil Hedley had provided 2 quotes (£360 and £880 respectively - to be split 50/50 between the Community Council and the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative). Following discussion, it was agreed that further clarification should be sought before making a decision, and Neil Hedley invited to the August meeting (if required). This proposal would require to be approved by both the Community Council and the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.4.3 Logie Head Path: confirmation is required that work has been completed.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.4.4 Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund: The Chair confirmed having submitted an application form; an outcome is awaited.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

7.4.5 Review of the Moray Council Community Council Scheme - Final Consultation on the revised proposed scheme: The Secretary confirmed having responded to this consultation (25/06/13) as per the details in the Minutes of the last meeting (Item 7.6). This was acknowledged on 26/06/13.

7.4.6 Cullen Town Hall Clock: The work has been completed, and press coverage appeared in the Banffshire Advertiser on 2nd July 2013.

7.5 Planning - Weekly List

There have been no relevant applications since the last meeting.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as 15th August 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Cullen Community and Residential Centre (TV Lounge).



**LOCAL POLICING REPORT
18 July 2013**

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

CULLEN and DESKFORD

Between 4 June and 19 June 2013, a life raft valued at £500, was stolen from a plastic case attached to a fishing boat at Cullen Harbour and set alight on the beach.

Between 18 June and 1 July 2013, lead flashings to the value of £150, were stolen from the roof of Seafield Estates Office, York Street, Cullen.

Overnight on 9 July 2013, a car parked outside 78 Seatown, Cullen was vandalised by unknown persons who scratched the nearside wing and bonnet with a sharp object.

On 17 July 2013, a male was seen urinating in full view of members of the public, including children, on Logie Drive, Cullen. The male has been identified and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL PRIORITIES

From 0700 hours on Friday 5 July to 0700 hours on Friday 12 July 2013, Police Scotland undertook a week long initiative specifically focusing on vulnerable road users. Vulnerable road users include pedestrians, pedal cyclists, horse riders and motorcyclists, accounted for 83 of the 176 deaths on Scotland's roads in 2011. A further 3608 vulnerable road users were injured in the same period. It concentrated on:

- Speeding and the inappropriate use of speed
- Careless or dangerous driving
- Using a mobile phone or hand held device whilst driving
- Pedal cycle offences

4. ONGOING LOCAL/ FORCEWIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

CRIMESTOPPERS

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing, please call the Police Scotland on 101. Alternatively, contact can be made with Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers allow information to be passed in relation to any crime or criminal activity anonymously. They can also be contacted via the website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org



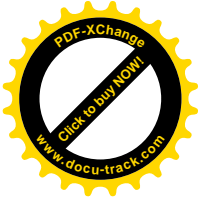
PARENTLINE SCOTLAND

ParentLine Scotland is a free helpline (08000 28 22 33) and email service parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk for anyone with concern about a child. www.parentlinescotland.org.uk

POLICE SCOTLAND

The Police Scotland are keen to highlight their use of social media and advise the public that our latest news can be found at www.scotland.police.uk and using the <http://www.twitter.com/policescotland> or <http://www.facebook.com/policescotland>





MORAY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

The information included on this document covers the period from last community council meeting on Thursday 20th June 2013 to Thursday 18th July 2013 for the Cullen and Deskford area only.

Local Interest Information

- There have been 0 anti-social behaviour incidents reported for the attention of the community warden.

Dog Fouling

- There have been 0 incidents created for persons reporting dog fouling to Moray Council.
- There have been 0 complaints made directly to the community warden reporting dog fouling.
- The community warden has issued 0 FPN
- Hotspot areas targeted for patrols to deter dog fouling are
Seatown
Seafield Place
Playing Fields
Mercat Cross
Beach
Binview Road

Litter/Fly Tipping

- There have been 0 incidents created related to litter.

Abandoned vehicles

- The community warden has dealt with 1 abandoned vehicle incident in Cullen and vehicle has been removed.

Initiatives

- The junior warden scheme organised for the Keith area and ran from 8th – 11th July 2013. The scheme was very successful with 10, P7 children attending for the full 4 days. A full report will be compiled and used to promote future events.

Other

- The community warden has been tasked with updating the notice board on Cullen beach weekly and will carry out regular checks of the beach area for litter and dog fouling.

Feedback to issues raised from previous CC meetings

- Posters and signs are now available and will be delivered to the meeting.
- The community warden has arranged a meeting with Duncan Falconer, Trainee Monitoring Assistant for Friday 19/07/2013 to look at the dog bins within Cullen.
- Dog bags are available from Cullen Library and these can be made available from other outlets if identified/required.
- Binview Road has been added to patrols for dog fouling.

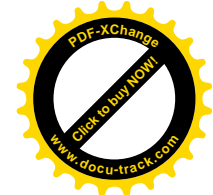
The community warden continues to work alongside a number of partner agencies to tackle a number of anti-social issues within the Cullen and Deskford area.

Contact details

Andrew Mackie 07800 670 662 .Email Andrew.mackie@moray.gov.uk

Antisocial Behaviour Office 01343 563322 . Email antisocialbehaviour@moray.gov.uk

Moray Council Call Centre 0300 123 4566 Or Online Antisocial Behaviour Reporting Form accessed through The Moray Council website.



Letter from Dufftown and District Community Association to the Chief Executive of the Moray Council, dated 13th June 2013

COMPLAINT – INTENTION TO CLOSE DUFFTOWN LIBRARY

There remains a high level of anger from a broad spectrum of the residents of Dufftown regarding the Moray Council's intention to close our library. At the Dufftown and District Community Association (DDCA) meeting in March 2013, with the support of the Committee, I, as the Chairman, asked Alistair Jeffs to make complaint on behalf of Dufftown and District residents about the library closure and the decision-making process.

He has subsequently reported back to the DDCA the correspondence he has had with your staff. Much of the information provided by your staff does not clearly answer our serious concerns nor relate specifically to Dufftown Library. To this end we are considering making formal complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman. However, we wish to offer a final opportunity to the Moray Council to provide some clear answers to the following complaints with regards to Dufftown Library:

1. Before the Budget Proposal was put before Councillors at the 13 February 2013 Meeting, we believe no advice was sought from the SLIC on the closure of Dufftown Library. If advice was provided could you provide the documentation surrounding this please.
2. It seems there was no impact assessment completed before the 13 February 2013 Meeting. If there was an impact assessment for the closure of Dufftown Library could you provide that document please.
3. There was no cost / benefit analysis for the closure of Dufftown Library completed before the 13 February 2013 Meeting. If there was such an analysis could you provide it please.
4. The DDCA is the local body that represents all persons in the Dufftown and District Community. It was not included in the list of consultees despite our specific request and tacit agreement from Mr Riddell. Not all individuals in the protected groups are members of a group and therefore could be excluded from any impact assessment which would seem to go against Council Policy of including as wide a range of people as possible.
5. Given the vast amount of information gathered and the weight that the Council has put on this information, the public consultation information was only given to Councillors two weeks before the key 13 February 2013 Budget Meeting, thereby not giving sufficient time for examination of the data for decision-making regards the closure of Dufftown Library.
6. The Administrative Group's Report for the Budget was only presented to elected representatives 5 days prior to the meeting not allowing sufficient time for democratic scrutiny.
7. The key facts regarding the running costs and user levels of Dufftown Library were not presented to the elected representatives or included in the Budget Report. i.e. Annual running cost £14k, 684 active borrowers including 200 under 18s and an estimated 200 over 60s plus disabled and housebound local members, 13000 book issues per year, 3000 hours of PC usage etc.



8. The recent capital outlay for the refurbishment of Dufftown Library of £77k for disabled access, ICT facilities, building refurbishment and provision of disabled toilet was not included in the Budget Report for consideration of elected representatives.
9. The Public Consultation Meeting at Aberlour was attended by two representatives of the DDCA who (along with many others) stated that capital spending should be curbed or stopped in order to allow essential services, such as the library, to remain open. There is no record of these statements in the Public Consultation results.

The Dufftown and District Community Association looks forward to your reply. Could you please make your final response as detailed as possible as we hope that there will be sufficient information to bring our concerns to a close to avoid our making complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman.

APPENDIX 4

Letter from Joan Megson, Save Burghead Library, to Richard Lochhead June 2013

Many thanks for your letters of 29th May and 19th June 2013. In the second, you invited feedback on Moira Methven of SLIC's response stating that the work on defining adequate library provision will only provide best practice guidelines rather than changing statute.

We feel, as you also must do, that it is unfortunate that it will add no statutory definition. It means that in the future any Scottish Council that does not value libraries will be able to make severe cuts. Is there any precedent for transforming best practice guidelines into statute? This would help ensure that Scotland participates in the knowledge economy in the future. Perhaps after the two pieces of work that SLIC are undertaking (on Return on Investment and the definition of adequate library provision) are completed there will be such a strong argument for the economic benefits of libraries in addition to social benefits that this will provide the basis for changing statute? Or is there any way of linking provision of other funding to Councils to following the newly defined best practice?

It is also a shame that the Return on Investment study will not be ready before the Council meeting in August, especially as the focus of the library strategy at that meeting will be the EIA results and the costs of mitigating measures. Economic benefits are the other side of the coin of the cost of mitigating measures if the libraries should close, and should be part of the discussion.

Given the above, perhaps the sensible action for the Council to take would be to delay any library decisions for a year in order to utilise the results of these studies. Having said that, we would need to think of good arguments to persuade enough councillors to delay or overturn the closure decision – which might be difficult! We will try to come up with ideas and would then like to run them past you. Thank you again for your continued interest and help.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dr Joan Megson
39 Granary Street
Burghead
Moray
IV30 5UA

09 July 201

Dear Dr Megson,

Re: Moray Libraries

Thank you for your letter of 25 June regarding the response from the Scottish Library and Information Council in relation to the study being carried out by Robert Gordon University.

Following your letter I have now written to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, seeking more information in order to respond to your questions in full. I've asked that she provide me with details on the best practice guidelines and statute. I've also asked for any advice that she can offer, which may be helpful for the library groups.

I will write to you again shortly when I receive a response. Should I be of any further assistance in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get back in touch.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lochhead

Richard Lochhead
SNP Member of the Scottish Parliament for Moray

9 Wards Road, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1NL
richard.lochhead.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
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NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

POLICE
SCOTLAND

01 July 2013

Your Ref:

Our Ref: S/AO/71/MM

Mrs Zillah Jamieson
Community Council
Norwood
11 Seafield Place
Cullen
AB56 4TE

Aberdeenshire & Moray Division
Inverurie Police Office
Blackhall Road
INVERURIE
AB51 3QD

Tel. 101

AberdeenServiceCentre@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Madam

**REVIEW OF TRAFFIC WARDEN PROVISION AND PUBLIC SERVICE AND
OPENING HOURS AT POLICE OFFICES**

A single policing service for Scotland has delivered new opportunities for improving access to specialist policing resources across the country and supporting local policing in our communities. To ensure the new service is designed to meet our priorities and in light of the challenging budget set, Chief Constable, Sir Stephen House, is working to ensure that Police Scotland remains structured as efficiently as possible to meet the needs of communities and deliver the best possible quality of service.

With the transition to Police Scotland, it is imperative that we critically examine all our processes to ensure that we are making the best use of our resources to focus on keeping people safe.

With this in mind, the Chief Constable has commissioned a review of the Traffic Warden service provision throughout Scotland.

Enforcement of parking in Scotland has historically been delivered by traffic wardens employed by local forces across Scotland. The Road Traffic Act 1991 introduced provisions enabling the decriminalisation of most non-endorsable parking and the relevant provisions of the 1991 Act were commenced in Scotland in June 1997. This allowed for significant change to be made to parking enforcement in a number of council areas, and a change to the service provision by, the then, local forces.

This service has been carried out differently by the legacy police forces and local authorities and we are taking this opportunity to review, in partnership with local authorities, how this service is best delivered in the future.

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The Chief Constable has also commissioned a review of the level of public service that occurs at police offices and to determine the most efficient opening times to the public and the services provided.

This will ensure that we provide a service to match the demand from the public and may give opportunities to work more often in partnership to achieve a suitable public contact point. Please be reassured that this will not impact on the current operational police resources deployed.

Recent experience has shown that there is a decrease in the volume of visitors who actually attend at the public counters at police offices throughout Scotland. Taken in the context of an increasingly challenging financial climate and the need to make best use of all our staff, it is now prudent to examine this aspect of service delivery to the public and I am keen to work with you and your colleagues to best understand the demands within your community and to design the best fit for your area.

Policing continues to face unprecedented financial challenges over the coming months and years with a requirement to find savings and provide best value for public services. I will, of course, keep you updated as the review progresses and as part of this we will fully engage with our key partners and Elected Members.

Yours sincerely

Divisional Commander

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