



## The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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### Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Chair: S. Noble**

**1. Attendees:** S. Ferris, E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, J. Guthrie, G. Hilditch, H. Shaw, G. McRobie, M.Walker, J. Duncan,

**Also Present :** Moray Cllrs L Creswell, A. Skene; T. McLaren (Forres Gazette), S. MacIennan (Minute Taker) & 3 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.) Gordon Sutherland (TMC) and Andrew Anderson (HIE)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence came from J. McDowell, C.Rodger, Cllrs G. Alexander and A.McLean, D Haytack (Community Warden).

(FCC – Forres Community Council : TMC - The Moray Council FAF – Forres Area Forum )

Topic	Discussion	Action
2.	<p><b>Police Scotland Update:</b></p> <p>Theft: 5 males aged 17 to 26 have been charged with housebreaking and incidents at residential and retail premises; Male,32, charged for attempting to pass counterfeit currency and behaving in a disorderly manner; A male and female,26,arrested and appeared in court for theft of a handbag at a rural retail outlet. <b>Motoring:</b> Male,32, and male,38,reported for using motor vehicles without proper registration or insurance. Male, 29, charged with speeding for travelling at 74 miles per hour on A96 between Forres and Alves. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal. Male,59, caught over three times the legal drink drive limit ( 79 micrograms of alcohol per 100ml of breath). Male,46, reported to the Procurator Fiscal for not wearing a seatbelt whilst driving on Forres bypass. <b>Contravention of bail conditions:</b> Male, 23, charged with a telecommunication offence and breach of bail conditions imposed by the court. <b>Disturbance:</b> Male,21,and male,22, charged and appeared in court for causing a disturbance by brandishing a knife, making threats and smashing a bottle.</p> <p><b>Multi Member Ward Plans:</b> The plan is currently under review. Any ward member having any input on Local Policing priorities, Inspector Paul McCrudden would welcome their input. Contact by telephone on 101 or by email at <a href="mailto:ForresCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk">ForresCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk</a> or via Forres Community Council.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Public Session:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Sanquhar Woods:</b> MOTP raised issues about proposed tree felling in Sanquhar Woods by Forres Community Woodland Trust (FCWT): There had been no consultation with residents; a wildlife survey has to be carried out; the trees are healthy and some residents do not wish them to be felled; it is illegal to fell trees unless the proper procedures have been followed and legal action will be taken if need be. G.Hilditch, Chair of FCWT, responded: he had personally delivered letters to all residents and asked for a response within 6 weeks; he</p>	

	had met with residents who wished to do so; FCWT has a licence from the Forestry Commission to fell the trees; the plans were included in the Sanquhar Woods Development Plan; felling individual trees when they become unsafe is very costly; replacement native species trees will be planted. G. Hilditch is preparing a full reply which will be printed in the Forres Gazette.	<b>GH</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guest Speaker:</b> Mr Andrew Anderson Head of Partnerships Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) gave a short talk on The Moray Spaceport Project. Bases being considered include: RAF Leuchars; former RAF Macrihanish; Kinloss Barracks and RAF Lossiemouth. Moray has the best case in relation to favourable weather, uncongested airspace, suitable infrastructure and availability of skilled workforce.	
	<b>Ratification of Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b> The Minutes were proposed by J.Guthrie, seconded by M.Walker and ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b>	<b>MW</b>
	<b>7-5/9d</b> M. Walker has not had a response from Craig Barron but will continue to try to make contact. Carried forward to next meeting.	
	<b>12</b> Common Good Fund: No response has been received to questions asked about the Common Good Fund. It was suggested that John Ferguson be invited to speak about The Community Empowerment Bill but it was felt that it is too early in the process to be of value. The final accounts should be available by the end of March.	<b>SN/EH</b>
	Lochyhills Development: Response from Cllr Alexander to be carried forward to next meeting.	<b>Cllr GA SN/EH</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Moray Councillors' Reports:</b> <b>Cllr Skene: Teaching Staffing in Schools:</b> There is a serious shortage of supply teaching staff and few applicants when posts are advertised. TMC is looking at ways to attract more teachers to Moray. Maureen Maloney, from South Lanarkshire, has been appointed Head Teacher at Anderson's Primary School. Consultation is about to begin in Elgin about rezoning catchment areas for schools because there are not enough places available in some schools. Forres rezoning will be considered next. Changes in <b>Management Structures</b> in Schools will also be considered. An <b>Early Years Conference</b> was held in the Horizon Building looking at Early Intervention partnership working strategies. The <b>Council Budget</b> for 2015 / 16 will be a light touch this year but £15 million savings have to be found in the next 2 years. <b>Developer Obligations:</b> The council is working on draft guidelines which will provide more specific criteria for projects to be carried out when new building developments take place. <b>Rural Groupings of Houses:</b> A policy is to be prepared to ensure that new housing development is centred and not widely spread as at present. <b>Cllr Creswell: Health and Social Care:</b> A shadow year is planned for the new structures to evaluate effectiveness. <b>User Led Organisations:</b> Meetings are being held in Forres Community Centre to plan activities which will be self directed.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Chair's Report:</b> a) <b>Cluny Hill Woods:</b> Ken Kennedy, TMC, Sandy Hogg and a representative from Tilhill Forestry met with FCC councillors to assess work needed. It is proposed to produce a 10 year management plan. S Noble proposed that a public consultation meeting be held to find	

	<p>out the views of residents. It was decided to ask Sylvia Jamieson, Forres Community Support, to organise a <i>Planning for Real</i> exercise in the Town Hall at the end of May. G. Murdoch reported that The Rotary Club of Forres has drawn up a four year programme to regenerate Helge's Hole. Help with the clearing would be appreciated. He will organise a meeting of a group to look at his proposal for a Cluny Woods Lights event. The woods are not in a good enough condition for an event of this nature at present.</p> <p>b) <b>FCC Promotion:</b> S Noble will have meetings with FACT and Mark Hindley of Canary Dwarf to produce a data base of groups and a Community Calendar.</p> <p>c) <b>FCC Presentation:</b> S.Ferris, S.Noble and E.Hayward are preparing a Power Point presentation about the Community Council which may be used by councillors when they are asked to give presentations to groups. S. Ferris will demonstrate at next meeting if the presentation is ready.</p> <p>d) <b>Pop Up Banner:</b> It was agreed to purchase at a cost of £45.00</p> <p>e) <b>Peace Pole:</b> MOTP has asked FCC if a sculpture could be installed in Forres. J.Guthrie was asked to approach local churches for funding.</p> <p>f) <b>Seagulls at The Hainings:</b> Residents have asked for action to be taken to address the problem of the disturbance caused throughout the day and night. E. Hayward said that a gel coating on buildings has proved effective and the Environmental Health Department may be able to help.</p>	<p><b>SN</b></p> <p><b>GM</b></p> <p><b>SN/EH/ SF</b></p> <p><b>SN/GH</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>EH</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Secretary's Report:</b></p> <p>a) Glasgow School of Art has invited a speaker from FCC to an information day for students.</p> <p>b) Moray Development Plan: E Hayward attended a JCC meeting and circulated copies of the document which covered Developer Contributions eg for each property sold a small percentage would be put back to the community for desired projects, for example Village Hall repairs, community sports facilities etc. Under the heading Planning Policy Contact is set out a commitment to prepare Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations.</p> <p>c) Training for Community Councillors : Date is awaited.</p> <p>d) Scottish Rural Parliament: Forres Community Council has not joined.</p> <p>e) Grant: A request from local student for help to fund exchange visit – E.Hayward will write to explain FCC is no longer able to give grants.</p> <p>f) A letter has been received from Dufftown CC about funding for non elected bodies. FCC members to make own response if so desired.</p>	<p><b>SN/GM</b></p> <p><b>EH/T Rae</b></p> <p><b>EH</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <p>a) The account stands at £1298.92. Efforts to have signatories amended are still in progress.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Visit to Forres Health Centre:</b> Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 10am</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Hydrotherapy Pool:</b> Cllr Skene advised that TMC had agreed to support for 3 years and after that period the venture must run as a sustainable business. She has met with Trustees and she will investigate the administration fee of £21 000 charged by TMC. NHS contributions will also be addressed. FCC members cited the beneficial effects of using the pool. Some difficulties in making appointments were reported. S.Ferris said that the appointment of a dedicated fund raiser would be an advantage. G.McRobie felt that the resource could be better marketed.</p>	

13	<p><b>Group and Representatives' Reports:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Community Gardens:</b> S.Ferris reported that there are 2 to 4 plots available at the moment.</p> <p>b) <b>Mount Dora:</b> The Forres exchange students for this year have been selected. The Mt Dora students will be in Forres from 17<sup>th</sup> June. G.Guthrie proposed that the FCC meeting be held on 26<sup>th</sup> June to allow the students some time to settle before giving their presentation to FCC.</p> <p><b>Vienenburg:</b> The group has decided to invite a football team to visit and take part in the Soccer Sevens event in May. They will also sponsor a student exchange.</p> <p><b>Group contact:</b> J. Guthrie has contacted 14 groups to date.</p> <p>c) <b>Town Centre Working Group:</b> The Parking Survey is ready and will be displayed online for responses to be made. It will be publicised in the Forres Gazette.</p> <p>d) <b>Forres Heritage Trust:</b> The group is investigating the purchase of a stair lift to provide access. It is planned to have the building open for visitors 3 days a week during the summer. There has been a good response from volunteers and more are needed.</p> <p>e) <b>Berry Burn Trust:</b> The second round of applications is being considered. Some applicants have not completed the forms as specified. Help is available to do so.</p> <p>f) <b>Forres in Bloom:</b> Plans are progressing for summer displays and plants have been ordered. J.Duncan praised all volunteers for their efforts to maintain the displays.</p> <p>g) <b>Contact with Schools:</b> G.McRobie asked for headed notepaper so that she can contact Head Teachers to arrange meetings. She hopes to speak to Forres Academy students and encourage representatives to join FCC.</p>	SN/EH
14	<p><b>Any other Competent Business:</b></p> <p>a) E. Hayward asked when the Bogton Consultation Report will be available and was informed that is due in March or April.</p>	
15	<p><b>Forthcoming Events</b></p> <p>a) <b>Forres CARS:</b> A meeting to consider the conservation report: 10<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in FACT office</p> <p>b) <b>tsi Moray – Join the Dots:</b> 10<sup>th</sup> March Elgin Town Hall 10am to 4pm</p> <p>c) <b>JCC – 14<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p>d) <b>Flood Alleviation Opening – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b></p>	
16	<p><b>Date of next Meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in The Tolbooth (Ground Floor Meeting Room) at 7.15pm. Please note change of Start Time.</b></p>	