

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in

Edinkillie Village Hall

### FCC members present

Chris Piper (CJP) – Vice Chair

Howard Davenport (HD), Carlo Miele (CM), Anna Gatward (AG), Tony Pinner (TP), Nikki Howard (NH) Bob Laughton (BL)

### Also present:

Councillor George Alexander (GA), Anne Garrow, Andy Grant. PC Cathy Morrison, Claire Glaister (Project Officer Grampian Timber Transport Group)

### 1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Brian Higgs (Chair) and in his absence Chris Piper agreed to chair the meeting.

CJP introduced and welcomed Claire Glaister FICFor (Project Officer Grampian Timber Transport Group) who provided a highly informative talk outline the current state of forestry production in the Moray and Funderne area and the issues surrounding transport and traffic management required to extract and move the timber to sawmills. The committee enjoyed a question and answer session afterwards and a copy of Claire's presentation will be made available shortly. GA asked if this could also be made available to the Moray Council via himself. **Action: HD**

### 2. Notes and actions from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

### 3. Police update

PC Cathy Morrison updated the meeting and reported that four speeding tickets had been issued to offenders within Rafford. No other incidents were reported.

Community Safety Partnership Report No18 has been issued and posted on FCC website. This report contains a summary of activities by community wardens and local policing teams over the previous period.

CJP and council thanked PC Morrison and the traffic unit for their efforts. PC Morrison indicated she would pass the thanks on to the traffic unit and left the meeting.

### 4. Actions arising not covered by standing items

#### *Data Protection*

HD had posted an updated data privacy statement on the FCC website. A training session on GDPR will be held for all FCC members after current meeting.

**Action: HD to lead GDPR training session and maintain regular review of data protection and handling policy.**

## 5. Current Standing Items

### a. A96 dualling proposal

Deferred to next meeting.

### b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

CJP updated the meeting and reported that the Finderne Development Trust was now fully constituted with 20 members including directors. Further members welcome and application to join is free and can be completed via the web site [www.findernedevelopmenttrust.com](http://www.findernedevelopmenttrust.com).

All full FDT members can vote at the AGM and stand for nomination as directors etc.. FDT is currently preparing to commission consultants to carry out, on FDT's behalf, a community engagement and strategic planning exercise. This is likely to commence in August and will run for some 4-5 months culminating in the preparation of the FDT's Strategic Plan. Once the Plan is in place FDT will then be advertising and appointing a funded Development Officer to take forward implementation of the Plan. See FDT web site for further details and updates.

### c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

CJP indicated a further application will be made to the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund for the purchase of speed warning signs for Rafford. **Action: CJP to make a further application.**

### d. Loch of Blairs Project

CJP updated on progress with the Loch of Blairs project. Discussions on the best group to take forward the project had been undertaken and while FCC had been an appropriate vehicle for hosting the initial stages of the development and would continue to support the initiative it was felt that a fully worked up proposal along with costs, liabilities and longer term management of the site was necessary. This should also identify which organisation would be best placed to take the project forward, FDT, Loch of Blairs Association or other etc.. Some initial ground and survey works has already been carried out, aided by the volunteers brought together under the banner of "Friends of Loch of Blairs" (FoLB). A draft Project Proposal would be available shortly for discussion by all the immediate Project partners (FCC / FDT and Altyre Estate).

£4k funding had been confirmed from Money for Money bid and BH was looking into how best to utilise this funds. TP enquired about the potential for FCC to provide funding support for a planning application. While this may be possible it was felt that until a fully costed proposal was developed this should be delayed.

Considerably more funds will be required to fully overhaul the loch and boathouse and a more detailed outline on the funds required and how they would be utilised will be developed in the draft plan. When the draft plan is ready a specific meeting focussing on Blairs Loch should be held to discuss the matter. All agreed.

Meantime CJP and the FCC thanked BH and all the FoLB volunteers for their efforts so far and was encouraged that such good progress had been made on groundworks around the boathouse.

**Action: CJP to develop draft proposals for Blairs Loch. FCC meeting to review Blairs Loch proposals to be arranged.**

e. *Clashgour Wind Farm*

Summary of the recent public meeting was provided and indicated that a review of the site design had been completed with less turbines installed but they would be higher (175m) than existing wind farms in the area. Studies on visual impact were still ongoing and further remodelling of the site may well take place. Turbines greater than 150m in height require permanent lighting and changes to type of lights installed is likely with infra red / uplighters being used which would reduce visual impacts.

The potential for community ownership of the development was being developed and a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) had been received from the developers (EDF / Force 9 Energy). NH and HD agreed to look over the lengthy document and provided this did not obligate the FCC in any way, it was agreed to sign the MoA and return to the developers.

**Action: NH and HD to follow up on the MoA**

Public exhibitions had been held recently but CJP suggested that the FCC may need to undertake further community consultation, in order to provide balanced feedback to the developer.

**Action: All to discussion best options for collecting FINDERNE community feedback.**

## 6. New Business

a. *Giant Hogweed Control*

RL updated the committee on the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) control of Giant Hogweed and other non-native invasive plants (Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan etc.). Scottish Natural Heritage has received a grant of £1.59 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative project (SISI). The partnership project aims to establish community-based approaches to deal with non-native species within northern Scotland, working with 10 Fisheries Trusts/District Salmon Fisheries Boards and Aberdeen University.

To combat the impacts of invasive non-native species, the project team will work with communities to establish local management of specific priority species such as giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and American mink. The target species will be managed in selected locations within a 29,500 km<sup>2</sup> area of northern Scotland.

The Findhorn Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust is part of the SISI project and very welcome funding means existing control programmes in the area can continue for the next four years. In the FINDERNE area this will support the control of Giant Hogweed along the Rafford/Mosset burn and the Findhorn down to the A96 bridge. The project also supports work on the rivers Lossie and Nairn.

RL indicated that spraying hogweed along both sections had already taken place this year and while there was still significant areas of hogweed on the Findhorn, progress on the Rafford and Mosset Burns has been very good with hogweed reduced to individual plants. However, a second walk over the burns are planned for July to deal with any remaining plants and any volunteer helpers would be welcomed.

The SISI project also includes mink control and anyone who notices one should contact Bob 07887 535986 or James Symonds (SISI Project Officer) 07493272898. For more information see the following links,

<https://www.facebook.com/Scottish-Invasive-Species-Initiative-1989761561277851/>

<https://www.snhpresscentre.com/news/ambitious-project-launches-to-halt-alien-invasion>

<http://www.fnift.org.uk/projects/prevention-and-control/>

*b. Core Paths Consultation*

The consultation is now closed. Ian Douglas requested a meeting with FCC representatives on 18<sup>th</sup> June to discuss an objection lodged by FCC on reflecting concerns raised by local residents. Meeting will be at 10:00 at hosted by BH; HD, AG and CM will also attend.

*c. Community Shop:*

A Rafford resident had informed the FCC that they had set up a survey to research the support and demand for a local community co-op/shop to serve Rafford, Dallas and Pluscarden area. FCC was supportive of the idea and agreed to help to publicise the survey.

## **7. Planning Report**

CM reported that no further planning applications of note had been lodged since the last meeting.

## **8. Correspondence Report**

HD nothing to report.

## **9. Treasurers Report**

AG reported FCC current balance was £4,838.

- £4,100 restricted for Loch of Blairs boat purchase (complete purchase by Dec 2018)
- £738 for FCC (no date limit for use)

## **10. AOCB**

A96 Footpaths: TP asked if any one had an email contact for an appropriate contact regarding footpath developments around A96.

CJP indicated that a representative for Glasgow School of Art may attend next meeting to update on Altyre Centre – to be confirmed.

## **11. Date and location of next meeting**

Next meeting: **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 7:00 pm**, in Church Hall Rafford.