

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 25th November 2019 in

Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Treasurer - Anna Gatward (AG)

Howard Davenport (HD), Brian Higgs (BH), Tony Pinner (TP),

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Anne Garrow (AG), Lorna Creswell (LC), Ruth Whitfield (RW)

1. Apologies:

Bob Laughton (BL), Hilary Rolton (HR)), John Pullen (JP), George Alexander (GA)

2. Notes from previous meeting

Approved.

3. Police update

No report.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Forest Fires – FCC have not heard back from Richard Lochhead and Douglas Ross following a request from Nikki Howard for an update and how they were taking the matter forward.

BH to contact Nikki to confirm status.

AM reported that a draft report from the Fire Service had been circulated

Forres Gazette – It was agreed that FCC should subscribe on an online copy. **HD to set up.**

5. Current Standing Items

- a. A96 dualling proposals

Transport Scotland has recently held public exhibitions on detail design update, which has rationalised some junctions, lowering road height in places, and has addressed connectivity for Non Motorised Users. A Community Council forum on the subject was attended by HB and HD.

The potential timeline discussed was

- Completion of detail design and issue draft orders – end 2020
- Public Enquiry (18 months) - complete mid 2022
- Procurement (12 months) - complete mid 2023
- Construction start (earliest) - late 2023

BH raised concerns that the maps shown previously indicated the areas of noise impact were misleading, due to the 500metre cut off for impacts which is not realistic. BH asked for feedback if anyone heard the noise chart being used inappropriately.

b. Finnerne Development Trust (FDT)

BH reported that following the FDT AGM work was progressing on priority projects. Updates are available on FDT Facebook page.

The FDT office at Logie Steading will open every Tuesday morning for the community to "drop-in" for an update.

c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

BH reported no response from Kevin Price at Moray Council Roads Department, on the subject of road signage, and no communication on the results of speed monitoring or the placement of flashing speed signs. **LC to follow up at Moray Council.**

Douglas Ross' communication on speeding had not alleviated concerns about speeding, demonstrated by concerns expressed to the FCC from members of the community and the Rafford Village Hall committee.

The meeting decided to take the matter forward in the following way:

- Follow-up with Moray Council requesting better communication and consultation on this issue.
- Relocating the flashing speed signs,
- Additional village signage
- Monitor results
- Campaign for permanent flashing speed warning signs
- Traffic calming/pavement at a later date

A leaflet drop/letter was also discussed to raise awareness.

d. Loch of Blairs Development

BH reported further progress:

- Stage 1, making the boathouse & bothy weathertight was nearing completion, with work on the inside to be complete by early January. It would then be available for use by local groups.
- Stage 2- Services: getting quotes for groundworks for electricity. Funding of £9K out of £13K required already promised.
- Stage 3- Stables: an Elgin Architects firm have offered some pro-bono work to prepare for Planning Application, expected early 2020.

The first part of the Ecological Survey, being organised by Wild Things, would start on Wednesday.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

HD reported that the deadline for comments to the Energy Consents Unit on the SI information had been extended to 9th December. A response from FCC had been agreed. **HD to send to ECU.**

It was agreed to send out a community email reminder on this new deadline (**Action HD**)

Both HD and JP had attended meeting of the Energising Communities subgroup of the JCC, which has been set up to manage the first stages of the proposed Shared Ownership scheme. However, although neither was able to attend the most recent meeting. There are concerns that this group are tending to promote the Clash Gour wind farm, which the FCC does not subscribe to as its position is to oppose the development.

It was noted that in the minutes of the last Energising Communities meeting, the developer, Force 9, has asked that a member of the team give a presentation at the possible Public Enquiry, identifying the benefits to the community of the scheme. It was agreed that this was not acceptable to the FCC, and we should send a response. **BH to draft and circulate a response.**

f. Core Paths Consultation

No update received from Moray Council. **LC to follow up with Ian Douglas, Access Officer.**

g. Berryburn Extension

It is agreed that FCC will make a representation after the Planning Application is lodged.

AM reported that he and his neighbour are encountering problems with the access roads to the existing Berry Burn wind farm. Recent rains have caused cattle grids and dykes to fill in. This results in his sheep being able to roam, so he cannot use parts of his farm for sheep. AM was not getting a response from Statkraft as their site manager had resigned.

It was agreed that the FCC should raise this issue with Statcraft. **HD to follow up.**

Post meeting note: FCC should find out when the next CLG will be held.

h. Moray Local Development Plan

No action required.

i. Community Broadband

HD reported that he had contacted Rob Cowan from WiFi Scotland.

It was agreed that as this is a priority project for the FINDERNE Development Trust, the FCC would take a back seat and rely on the FDT taking this forward. The FDT's current strategy is to wait for further details of the Scottish Government's R100 programme for fast broadband rollout in early 2020, in order to better assess the scope required for any community initiative.

6. New Business

- a. **Participatory Budgeting:** no update.

7. Planning Report

Nothing of significance reported by TP.

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

Nothing additional to report

9. Treasurers Report

AG reported current status: Bank Account Total - £1,357, of this £592 is ring-fenced for Loch of Blairs, and £765 available for FCC administration

10. AOCB

- LC advised that Moray Councils Corporate Plan consultation was starting.
- LC also advised the Moray Council contact for anything to do with grass cutting was Ken Kennedy
- AM raised a query on provision of salt on the side road up to the Edinkillie Viaduct. **LC to follow up.**
- RW was reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday 27th November at Edinkillie Hall to discuss the future of the hall, which is currently underused.
- It was noted that Bob Laughton had resigned from the FCC, due to work commitments. New members are urgently needed to replace both Bob and Nikki. Actions agreed were:
 - BH to send advert to RW for inclusion in Rafford Review
 - HD to include request in a community email
 - All members to make use of personal contacts

Next meeting

6^h January at Edinkillie Hall