

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 by tele-conference

### FCC members present

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG), Hilary Rolton (HR)  
Howard Davenport (HD), Stewart McCracken (SM)

### Also present:

Lorna Creswell, Ruth Whitfield, Claire Feaver

### Apologies:

Brian Higgs, George Alexander

### 1. Police update

No report.

### 2. Matters Arising

- i. Forest Fires – BM has requested Richard Lochhead to forward a copy of the new Scottish Fire Danger Rating System report (which will include a section on brash management) when it is issued. Item closed.

### 3. Current Standing Items

#### a. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

#### b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

FDT initiatives below currently moving slowly as the team continue to focus on community support for the Covid19 pandemic.

- Rural Based Apprenticeships
- Health and Wellbeing Event
- Community Hub at Edinkillie Hall
- Community Broadband (a community communication has been issued)

#### c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

It was reported by RW that a member of the community had contacted the Rafford Village Hall committee complaining about lorries speeding through Rafford. The meeting concluded that it was difficult to take action without knowing the details of the perpetrators.

It was noted that the police had been present in Rafford with speed guns on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> June. It was decided that the FCC should write to thank them and ask them to continue with periodic speed checks. **(Action SM)**

**d. Loch of Blairs Development**

BH had reported by email that we are expecting the approval of the planning application for Loch of Blairs (Bat survey has been completed and submitted) in the next week or so.

**e. Clashgour Wind Farm**

- Inquiry postponed to early September
- There is a high level of email traffic on the subject of the Inquiry, mainly from legal representatives of the various parties.
- BM and HD held a online meeting with Mark Houldsworth of the Save Wild Moray group, resulting in a an agreement to keep each other informed of any actions or deadlines. Houldsworth is also in contact with Speyside Community Council and other interested parties.
- The Energising Moray group has received a grant of £24K from CARES, and are proceeding to look for a project manager to run the project and to procure legal and financial advice.
- CF suggested that it may be worth contacting Moray and Speyside Tourism, as she believed they may have feedback from tourism businesses on wind farm development in general.

**f. Berryburn 2 Wind Farm**

Statkraft team have offered a further remote meeting with FCC, but the offer is to be declined.

**g. Ourack Wind Farm**

Planned public meeting has been postponed. FCC has asked to be on the distribution of any further project updates,

**h. Cairn Duhie Wind Farm**

HD submitted comments on the On-line public exhibition on behalf of FCC.

It had been suggested that we contact the Grantown and South Nairnshire Community councils, to ascertain their positions on these developments. **(Action SM)**

**i. Core Paths Consultation**

No further movement: it still appears that the Moray Council are prepared to go to a Public Inquiry to support their original proposal.

#### **j. Participatory Budgeting**

We had feedback from Jane Martin that this was on hold awaiting further guidance from Scottish Government.

#### **7. Planning Report (TP)**

As previously agreed, FCC had objected to 3 planning applications had been made for new properties in the Templestones area, outside the proposed rural grouping. TP reported that of these, one had been rejected, and two were still pending.

TP reported that 4 applications for houses in the Tulloch Woods area had been withdrawn.

The Moray Development Plan 2020 has been reviewed by Scottish Government and issued. It is now in effect.

- HD noted that the some of the earlier omissions in respect of the development of the field named Brochloch in Upper Rafford had been re-instated.
- CF explained that the rather vague designation of areas suitable for renewable energy developments in Moray, had been insisted upon by Scottish Government, replacing a much more specific map that had been generated by Moray Council.

#### **8. Secretary's Report (HD)**

HD reported that a note about the FCC, and an offer to community members to be included on the community email list had been, had been included in the recent Rafford Review, published by Rafford Village Hall committee, and in the postal Covid19 flyer sent out by the FINDERNE Development Trust.

#### **9. Treasurers Report**

Current status: £2,179 (£899 Moray Council Admin Grant balance, £272 Loch of Blairs balance, and £1000 from SSEN for Coronavirus pandemic support)

AG to contact Pery from FINDERNE Development Trust to discuss how the SSEN grant could be disbursed.

#### **AOCB**

- It was noted that John Pullen had resigned from FCC, due to family commitments and clash of interests on Wind Farm developments. HD had thanked John for his input to FCC.

#### **Next meeting**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 at 7:00p.m., scheduled for Rafford Church Hall but maybe by tele-conference.