

## The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00 pm via MS Teams

**Secretary:** Community Councillor Jo Lenihan | **Email:** info@forrescc.co.uk

Attendees		Apologies	
CC Shaun Moat (SM)	Chair		
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	CC Kenny Shand (KS)	
CC Frank Byrne (FB)		CC Michael Walker (MW)	
CC Lesley Edwards (LE)		MC Cllr George Alexander	
CC Steve Ferris (SF)			
CC Fiona Graham (FG)			
CC John Innes (JI)			
CC David Parker (DP)			
CC Alan Tissiman (AT)			
CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	Secretary		
MC Cllr Lorna Creswell			
MC Cllr Claire Feaver			
Garry McCartney	Forres Gazette		
Jane Martin	MC CCLO		
<b>Members of Public</b>	None		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies:</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded. A special welcome to Douglas Ross and Sgt Harris	
2.	<p><b>Community Safety Report:</b> Sgt Chris Harris. Forres area – 3 counts of vandalism, 6 domestic incidents - all perpetrators arrested and reported. 1 incident of person in possession of a knife, 1 youth assault, 1 Assault on public street and 1 of threatening behaviour in Findhorn – all at various stages of investigation. 3 people being threatened for comms devices. 6 breaching covid restrictions and cannabis cultivation at property in Forres town centre – enquiries ongoing. 2 incidents of theft of money from private residents, 2 shoplifters, 1 online fraud. Road safety – dangerous driving, careless driving, driving with no insurance and 8 charges of speeding.</p> <p>SF – Discussion with Drumduan School re vandalism. Any news on this? Sgt Harris said that police were aware of incidence in February, but school closed so could not contact anyone. Obtained CCTV but not good enough to identify people. Damage also reported at Helge’s Hole so might be linked. JL described the issues that school’s experiencing with regards to vandalism and right of way through school. Sgt Harris confirmed that police would be keen to be involved in meeting. Thanks to Sgt Harris</p>	
3.	<p><b>Douglas Ross MP</b> Met with CI Stevenson recently and all 4 inspectors in Moray are new in post. He gave an update on issues sent to him. Last year it was mostly Covid related such as regulations, business asking for support and employees. More recently it is about travel restrictions for oil and gas workers, sea farers and how quarantine affects them. Queries about the</p>	

vaccination programme – this has been extremely successful across UK, Scotland, and Moray but a few people have fallen through the gaps so have helped sort this. Helped at Mosset Park and hope that when vaccine supply increases a centre will open in Forres again. Local issue of flooding at cemetery - MC agreed to work on long term solution to this. National issues - encouraging to see tariffs suspended on whisky and cashmere which has been ongoing for 16 years due to Airbus disagreement. Tariffs suspended for next 4 months and hope this will move from temporary to permanent suspension. Working on excessive delivery charges to the area – debated in Westminster and feel making some progress. Every complaint taken to the minister responsible and Advertising Standards Authority. If companies advertise free delivery to mainland UK and then charge for delivery to Moray or Highlands an enforcement notice can be issued and there has been an increase in number of these served on businesses. Hope to highlight unfair practice through meetings with UK Gov, Scot Gov and companies.

### Questions

**SM** – what challenges ahead as we come out of lockdown and if 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown will there be support for hospitality industry.

*Challenges – Focus has been on health emergency but now need to address economic emergency as all support will have to be paid back. Need to build confidence to get people and businesses back to normality. There will be job losses so must work to minimise these and support people back to work. Projected it will be 2024 before Scottish economy gets back to pre-covid levels.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown – hope this is unlikely especially with vaccination programme. Hospitality needs support as hardest hit and current support such as furlough will continue to Sept to support this sector.*

**SF**– Moray education 31<sup>st</sup> out of 32 which is appalling. What can we do as CC and local council to help get our attainment levels up?

*OECD figures show Scotland dropping down international rankings. Looking at affect on young people in last 12 months – online learning good but doesn't replace face to face. Need to increase number of teachers across Moray and Scotland as impacts number of subjects offered at secondary school which impacts on choices for further and higher education. Need to invest in schools and teachers to reduce attainment gap*

**GM** – Delivery charges –charges from couriers are both north and southbound. Add 10% fuel charge on account as well as putting price up. Have tried to contact companies but get no response. Needs addressing as local businesses must pass charges on to local customers.

Bottles of propane gas – essential for many rural properties for heating and cooking. Large bottle is £35 with energy charge of £2.85 last October which has seen a huge increase to £11.97 this month. Energy charge set by Argus LPG index but where does this come from? *Douglas not aware of this so will raise with energy minister and feed back. Re delivery charge next day delivery for perishable goods attracts premium charge but if lost or damaged there is no compensation either.*

**Alan** – A96 route premised on being built by 2030 and now seems this may never happen? *Douglas outlined that Scottish Gov committed to dual Perth to Inverness and then Inverness to Aberdeen. They have suggested delay is due to pandemic however dates were always extremely ambitious. Scottish Gov no longer willing to commit to 2030. Moray does need commitment for upgraded infrastructure for local industry and travel and it's very disappointing this is being pushed back*

**FG** – major issue is public transport especially trains which only run once every 2 hours. Why has train line not been doubled to allow more trains?



	<p>town and best placed to approach SEPA. Transition Town Forres - CAT is inalienable land so query what CAT is for.</p> <p><b>LE</b> – FACT putting some of old folks’ groups on Zoom.</p> <p><b>FG</b> – steep learning curve with primary and secondary children going back. Health centre still seeing people. Asked who’s responsible for Nursery Lane (path next to Pilmuir Primary). Cllr Creswell to check - FG to send email describing problem.</p> <p><b>AT</b> – thanked SM for service as Chairman. No meeting coming up at Findhorn imminently.</p>	FG
13.	<p><b>Moray Councillor’s Reports</b></p> <p>a) Cllr Creswell – Car sharing/bike sharing contact is Gordon McAlpine. Consultation out for Transitions Town Forres. Mostly working on adaptations to housing and housing list which is at 3000. Council housing dept used to have mediators and checking if service still there, would like to know if police have such a mediation support service. Day of reflection on Tuesday. Adult protection – if concern about an adult report this as for child protection. Happy to be part of Drumduan debate.</p> <p>Re Transition Town Forres and CAT. Inalienable aspect will have been checked prior to consultation and group will have had legal advice. Lorna will try and get clarification on whether CAT is for building or ground.</p> <p>b) Cllr Feaver – Vaccine role out. If 55-59 or 60-64 should have had invitation this week but bit of hiccup. If in these age groups and haven’t had invitation ring 0800 030 8013. Housing – new system for housing applications so people must reapply to get on housing list. Concerned about this as all online so not sure how people with no IT will manage. 3000 on list but actual homeless is a couple of hundred. Biggest complaints received are about health centre. Some having to wait 3 weeks for telephone appointment or 25 mins to get through to reception. Greenspaces Group - James Hunter, MC, getting up to speed with this.</p> <p>Education – a group of councillors are looking at this very seriously. Need to raise attainment across all not just attainment gap and look at creative ways to support schools. Happy to join Drumduan meeting and to help with any other issues raised.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p><b>SM</b> – any good news stories from last budget talks.</p> <p><b>Lorna</b> received thank you for argument to support adults with learning/literacy difficulties.</p> <p><b>Claire</b> – Budget is balanced, received a lot of money last year as one-off but some didn’t come into budget. Feel we should look at MH and wellbeing and disappointed that consideration wasn’t given to athletics track for Moray but feel progress can be made if keep going.</p> <p>SM - re 4g (all weather) pitch understand there is a developer contribution toward this. Claire confirmed there probably would be but unlikely to be given to the group.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Public Session</b></p> <p>No public present.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Forthcoming Events</b></p> <p>April: Laurie Piper, CE Moray Speyside Tourism</p> <p>May: AT has emailed Roy Dennis and waiting for response.</p>	
16.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <p>Confirmed dog poo story had been done.</p> <p>Cllr Creswell – attended zoom International women’s day. Linda Bauld spoke well and acknowledged all pioneering work over the last year by females in covid situation. She had nominated a couple of Forres folk to showcase work done over the last year.</p> <p>SM – link to survey on Skatepark as keen for feedback from as many as possible.</p>	
17.	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.00 pm via MS Teams</p>	