

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 12th April 2021 by tele/video-conference

FCC members present

Hilary Rolton (HR), Tony Pinner (TP),
Howard Davenport (HD), Brian Higgs (BH), Stewart McCracken (SMcC)
Tim Slack (TS), Shirly Munn (SM)

Also present:

George Alexander(GA), Andy Munro (AM), Ruth Whitfield,
Lorna Cresswell, Claire Feaver, June Rickards (part time), Jenny Allan.

Apologies:

Anna Gatward (AG), Anne Garrow, Mark Harris, Suzanne Quinney

1) Police update

No report, see link to Community Safety Report on FCC website.

2) Matters Arising

a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

TS reported that strong smell and noise continue, as the pigs are within 20feetof his house. TP had tried to contact Karro manager, to chase up previus promise of a map showing current and planned areas for the pigs. Roads have continued to be a mess, but improving. TS also reported that a community member had been asked not to walk round one of the fields, in contravention of Scottish land access rights.

Action: TS to follow up on provision of map.

b. Welcome Pack

Draft had been issued and comments received. Photos to be added to back page. **(Action HD)**

Various ideas for distribution were discussed. (Website, Facebook, Estate Agents, Hand Delivery, Mail Shot)

It was agreed to include a Rafford Village Hall leaflet in the Rafford Area if practical. Printing options for leaflets and address labels to be investigated **(Action HD)**. Then distribution plans to be finalised later.

c. Gritting

Topic now closed.

3) Current Standing Items

a) A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b) FINDERNE Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- Community Broadband

BH reported that a meeting had taken place with Paul Wheelhouse, (Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands), but no movement on the Scottish Government voucher scheme. Some properties are now eligible for a £400 interim voucher, but others will have to wait until summer(?) to know if they will be included in R100 scheme. Some properties may be eligible for the Main Voucher scheme, but this may render them ineligible for the R100 fibre rollout.

- Community Housing

Pre-planning advice received from Moray Council. Plans to be updated by Community Housing Trust, then the communication and consultation process will start..

- Community Apprenticeship Scheme

1st apprentice now started with a local building company. 2 further applications being processed. If anyone knows of other companies who may be interested, please let them know.

- Energy Efficient Living

Findlay McCulloch has started and will be putting together a survey and questionnaire. Any ideas on how to get community members involved would be appreciated. A leaflet in the welcome pack could be considered. It was suggested that some analysis of what could be grant funded would be useful. It was also suggested that the Rural Environmental Action Project could help.

- Dava Way

No further update

- Community Hub

No further update.

- Scottish Community Landfill Trust

No further update

c) **Windfarm Developments**

i) **Clashgour**

- BH met with Force 9, in a virtual meeting. They assured that although they have been in discussions regarding Community Benefit and Community Ownership, no decisions have been taken ahead of planning permission being granted.
- It is expected that the decision on the Public Inquiry will be made after the new Scottish Government is in place.

ii) **Berryburn 2 Wind Farm**

- No update since our representation to the Section 36 Planning Application
- CF reported that the Moray Council did not formally object to the scheme, but suggested a number of conditions. GA suggested that Moray Council did not have the resources to engage in multiple public inquiries, but others did not agree that this should be a consideration
- Item outstanding: It is unclear who has responsibility for maintain the roads leading into the wind farm. **Action GA to investigate.**

iii) **Ourack Wind Farm**

No update

iv) **Cairn Duhie Wind Farm**

Section 36 planning application was submitted 25th March.

Post meeting note: Due date for representation 8th May 2021. We need to draft and agree our representation before then. **Action BH/HD.**

v) **Lethen Wind Farm**

An inaugural Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting is scheduled for 27th April.

Post Meeting Note: Interactive Consultation events scheduled for 26th and 29th April

d) **Loch of Blairs Development**

BH had reported that:

- Construction work on the Classroom development is progressing well.
- Wheelchair access path to bird hide is under construction

e) **Core Paths Consultation**

No update

f) **Wild Fires**

We are waiting for the Scottish Government report on improvements to current practices.

g) **Traffic in Rafford**

SM had participated in the JCC "Speeding in Communities" meeting and reported that:

- JCC are planning to form a 4 person Focus group to address traffic issues across Moray.
- Each CC to submit a report to Jane Martin on issues in their own area for consideration by the Focus Group
- There are no plans to purchase Speed Awareness devices, but community councils can purchase speed awareness devices from other sources than just the Moray Council, but will be subject to Council Approval
- "Twenty's Plenty" may be instigated, but not in the near future
- Stats from the roads department speed measuring devices (rubber tubes across the road) are only deemed valid for 6 months.
- Each CC should contact the Police with their concerns. (Following Report above?)

SM and JA highlighted the danger to pedestrians from the speed of traffic in Upper Rafford, and expressed frustration that the issue of the speed of cars, lorries and farm vehicles had not been resolved over many years. It was noted that this had been discussed many times since the formation of the community council, who were also frustrated that they had not been able to find a solution thus far.

It was noted that traffic calming measures such as road narrowing, chicanes and large speed bumps seem to be successful in some villages, such as Auldearn.

SMcC re-iterated that evidence of speeding would be required for police to take further action. Also that we should identify clearly what action we would like to be taken.

GA emphasised the need to respect non-motorised road users.

It was agreed that a Draft report on actions we think should be taken be compiled and circulated for review and approval. **(Action SM to issue initial draft.)**

4) Planning Report (TP)

- a) TP reported no new planning application of any concern
- b) Proposed Distillery Project at Wester Greens, Dunphail

BH reported that a Moray Council had asked for a Hydro-Geologists report, but this had not yet been submitted, and that there are still major gaps in the application.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported that:

- Nicky Hesketh from Moray Transition Town was looking to interview someone in relation to a survey.
- HD asked if all FCC members have access to FCC email account.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balances: £1,217

Breakdown:

- £937 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

BH noted we have funds available for mail drop to the community if required

7) AOCB

- Speyside Stages Rally 2022. SM asked if the FCC were happy to engage with Elgin Car Club on this. Consensus was that we agree in principle, but would like to see further details in order to assess the impact on residents. CF identified there had already been a route change in Darnaway at the request of RSPB in relation to disturbing an SSSI.
- Re-fresh Finderne - Litter Picking on Earth Day . SMcC highlighted a Litter Picking initiative, focussed on 22nd April Earth Day, but anytime in the month would be appropriate. Please contact Lisa Wolfe lisamiriamwolff@gmail.com for details. Equipment, H-Vis vests etc will be available. To be mentioned in Community Newsletter. **(Action HD)**
- Wild Flowers in Moray. HD noted an initiative from Moray Council asking for suggestions where wild flowers could be planted on council owned land. The verges in Lower Rafford and the triangle where the Dallas roads fork were suggested. **(Action HD to respond)**

Next meeting

Monday 24th May 2021 at 7:00p.m. by tele/video conference.