

Forres Community Council

Thursday 18th November 2021 at 7.00 pm Tolbooth, Forres

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

Attendees - FCC		Attendees - Other
CC Kathleen Robertson	Chair	MC Cllr George Alexander
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	MC Cllr Lorna Creswell
CC Steve Ferris (SF)		Insp Tony McCullie (TM)
CC Bob Hellyer (BH)		Garry McCartney
CC John Innes (JI)		
CC David Parker (DP)		
CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	Secretary	
Apologies		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
CC Fiona Graham (FG)	Vice Chair	Ten
CC Lesley Edwards (LE)		
CC Colin Lipscomb (CL)		
CC Kenny Shand (KS)		
MC Cllr Claire Feaver		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies: Chair welcomed everyone.	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report: Insp McCullie summarised CSP 55 commenting that it had been a reasonable month.</p> <p>Michelle MacDonald continues to support events with partners engaging with youngsters eg football sessions every 3 weeks on Friday afternoon. It appears the change in weather and dark nights has brought an increase in nuisance calls. There is information on the After Dark campaign on Police Scotland website. There is also an active recruitment drive in the north east so please spread the word.</p> <p>Questions: BH – are there any employment opportunities for people with disabilities? <i>TM commented this is more likely to be through partners and will speak to Michelle about it.</i></p> <p>Frank Byrne commented that the report only mentions one report of egging but there seems to be a lot more reported on Facebook. Would it give more accurate picture if number of calls was reported? <i>TM stated that not all calls are logged as a crime therefore would not appear in the report and is aware of more incidents recently, but the report covers October. Everyone has a part to play in helping to counter youth annoyance, including the parents.</i></p> <p>MOP raised the issue of speed monitoring and how often this is done and whether areas reported as an issue are revisited.</p>	

	<p><i>TM – Patrols are carried out on a frequent and regular basis outside of calls. Road policing in Elgin also have a role in this. They actively patrol Grantown Road. Rafford, St Leonards Road, A96 which are done daily.</i></p> <p>The issue of pavement parking on St Leonards Road was raised by MOP <i>TM advised that inconsiderate parking should be reported to police as they can check owners through registration plates. If a constant problem patrols can be done.</i></p> <p>MOP - What level of speeding on lower reaches of St Leonards Road would be safe? Moray Council figures suggest 45% of vehicles exceed the limit Moray Council. <i>TM – Nothing above the speed limit would be considered safe.</i></p> <p>KR - the speeding group which was mothballed prior to elections was discussed at the recent JCC. Chief Insp Stevenson is keen to re-establish this and for community engagement on speeding. As a community Forres need to identify hotspots and then meet with Nicola Moss, Moray Council. Community groups could purchase speed monitoring devices but they must be approved by MC and location agreed. KR proposed creating a speeding sub-group to bring all those raising the issue together for Forres as a whole.</p> <p>Garry asked about the frequency of cars parking illegally in Tolbooth Street and what can be done. <i>TM – Police are empowered to issue tickets but is dependent on being reported. He will reinforce the issue with officers and will work with shop owners to help address this.</i></p>	
3.	<p>Public Session Forres Community Woodlands Trust (FCWT) Chair raised the issue of ASB (drinking, partying, noise, debris) by youths particularly in Sanquhar Woods hut. There has also been a second hut erected with open fire in a heavily wooded area which has been dismantled and removed. Residents are campaigning to have the hut removed but FCWT are not in agreement with this and want to keep the hut as it was built with public money. Removing the hut wouldn't necessarily solve the problem. As an organisation they want to educate young people to respect the structure. The community policing officer has been involved.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the issue. KR stated that FCC are aware of youth activities and looking to address concerns and agreed education was key. Historically, young people have found places to go all over Forres. If moved on they will find somewhere else to go.</p> <p>Sandra MacLennan (FAF) stated that they are looking forward to having closer relationship with FCC. Money 4 Moray has received an extension from Scottish Govt and the closing date is end of January 2022. All information is on the Money for Moray website.</p>	
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 19th August 2021 and 4th November 2021 The minutes of the previous meetings were reviewed and accepted as a true record. 19th August 2021: Proposed: Bob Hellyer Seconded: John Innes All agreed 4th November 2021: Proposed: David Parker Second: Bob Hellyer All agreed</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising Website: data indicates there doesn't appear to be huge footfall and Forres Local have offered to put minutes and agenda on their website FOC.</p> <p>Proposal: stop paying current hosting and switch to Forres Local. All in agreement. GM to thank Moray Digital and stop payments.</p>	GM

6.	<p>Chair's Report Remembrance Service it was a joy to see the Town parade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on youth project – a grant application to the developer fund for an outdoor gym in collaboration with the Sports hub has been submitted. KR and Ann Rossiter to meet with Laura Cameron (MC) to progress this and determine who will be responsible for public liability insurance and assistance on planning application. • Consultation on Mannachie Park – this will start in the new year and MOP's are invited to comment on what they want. Laura Cameron (MC) will guide through the process and advise on where to get special equipment for accessibility. Meeting in next few weeks. • Youth pods – may be suitable for Mannachie Park. An anonymous MOP has offered to pay for one of the pods. We need to progress where they could be located. 	KR
7.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanquhar Woodlands ASB (see above) • Queen's Jubilee – 5th June 2022 Make a note of the date – it would be good to have a community event and collaboration with groups in town to progress this. There is also the Queen's Green Canopy programme - Woodland Trust provides free trees for community planting. Need to identify please in Forres for planting. KR has ordered 30 copse and 105 bird attracting trees. Sandra MacLennan highlighted that this has been discussed at the Green Spaces group and invited KR along to the next meeting. • CAT of 1 Bogton Road (TTF) Discussion took place on the recent submission of a CAT by TTF. There was also discussion about the consultation process and FCC's role in this. Committee members expressed their views, and whilst fully supportive of the good work that TTF do, there were concerns about the long term sustainability of the project and whether the land could end up in the hands of developers if TTF folded. The consensus of the committee is that whilst all fully support the work that TTF do, there was not support for the CAT. A paragraph for submission on behalf of FCC will be circulated and agreed. Note: Agreed paragraph at Appendix 1 Proposal: FCC doesn't support the CAT Proposed: GM Seconded: DP MOPs also expressed their views. Cllr Alexander explained that when TTF first occupied the site the building was not in good condition so it was agreed to charge a rent of £40,000 over 10 years and during this time TTF would upgrade the building. It was also agreed that after 10 years they would pay commercial rent. The commercial rent is now assessed as £18,000. TTF did not pay rent last year and this year the rent has been offset by £8,000 from the common good which equates to £25,000 in unpaid rent to the common good. The CAT consultation period started on 10th November and will close on 5th January. There are issues with the links to the consultation and Cllr Alexander will raise this with Moray Council and see if there can be an extension to the 	

	<p>consultation period. All residents of the Royal Burgh should be encouraged to complete the consultation as individuals and FCC would submit a response as a group. Details of how to submit a response copied below from MC website:</p> <p>http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_109940.html</p> <p>Background Copies of asset transfer requests and any documents/information accompanying said request will be made available here until the request process is complete. Any representation made about the request will also be made available.</p> <p>To comply with data protection requirements, any personal information will be redacted from these documents before they are published.</p> <p>Asset transfer request processes that are complete will be archived and made available online. This will assist community transfer bodies in knowing if previous requests have been made, and refused, for the same property.</p> <p>The asset transfer request listed below show the date of submission and the asset it relates to. Each request will also show the dates of the representation consultation period (20 working days). All representation received will be copied to the community transfer body for their comments and will then be published.</p> <p>To comply with data protection requirements, any personal information will be redacted from this information before being sent to the community transfer body and publication.</p> <p>You can make a representation during the consultation period by completing the online form, sending us an email or by letter to the address below.</p> <p>Link to online form: https://online.moray.gov.uk/form/auto/cat_request_ext</p> <p>Community Asset Transfer Team Moray Council High Street Elgin IV30 1BX 01343 543451</p> <p>CAT@moray.gov.uk</p> <p>Please note if you submit representation during a consultation period you may be contacted at a future date if an asset transfer request appeal/review is submitted by the CTB. By submitting representation, you are agreeing to this.</p> <p>FCC will promote through Facebook.</p>	
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report Payments: £20 for website and wreath for remembrance parade. Currently pay ICO for data protection but query whether we need to. JL will ask CCLO Deb Duke. We also need to find out if we get a refund for election leaflets which weren't distributed in Forres despite paying c£600. To be taken up with JCC.</p>	JL

9.	<p>Community Councillor Group and Representatives Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP asked why the amount of common good money was higher this year. Cllr Alexander reported that there is still money available for disbursement • DP - on Saturday FACT and Men's Shed are being awarded a cheque from the Coop local community fund at 11 am. • Child poverty consultation at St Johns Tuesday 23rd November at 4.30pm 	
10.	<p>Moray Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Cllr Alexander – Tour of Moycroft waste processing plant. Volume taken up by unsquashed tins and bottles reduces efficiency so residents should be encouraged to do this and not to put out bins if they are less than half full. There is an issue with waste lorry drivers being lost to other organisations such as Tesco who are paying a bonus to attract drivers.</p> <p>The next few weeks will be setting of budget and savings of £1.5million need to be found.</p> <p>Issue of broken CCTV cameras across Moray. These need investment; it is a MC responsibility to install and provide equipment. Considering putting up temporary CCTV for the Christmas tree due to recent issues in the town.</p> <p>Jl – 2 flood lights on top of Tolbooth not working. Cllr Alexander has reported this.</p>	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>27th November Christmas lights switch on 5.00 pm</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>2 years ago, FCC agreed to organise Hogmanay event and pay £20 for road closure permit. Cllr Alexander said that FCAA will supply people and put-up barriers for the event. FCC agreed to pay for the permit and complete necessary paperwork.</p> <p>SF wanted to note that we should recognise the many youngsters who were involved in the Remembrance Day parade and that not all young people cause issues. We should recognise the good that many do.</p>	KR
13.	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th December 2021. Venue Tolbooth</p>	

Appendix 1. TTF CAT Consultation Response on behalf of the FCC

Forres Community Council voted not to support the Community Asset Transfer application of 1 Bogton Road by Transition Town Forres (TTF) on the following grounds: -

- We don't think the business plan is sustainable. This has been evidenced to us by the very large number (50) of Director/ Officer resignations over the last ten years and the failure to ensure a surplus to cover basic operating costs in their sole enterprise without the requirement to seek alternative funding.
- Common Good land is a potentially appreciative asset compared to buildings e.g., the Town Hall and Tolbooth which were becoming burdensome and potentially depreciative under the control of Moray Council
- No explanation of what would happen to the land should the TTF venture fail
- TTF have had ten years to provide an adequate income to cover the originally agreed condition of lease and failed (i.e. after ten years of subsidised rent, a commercial rent would be applied)
- We consider that the long-term income generated whether from a nominal rent charged to TTF or another commercial rent is exercised will benefit the people living in the Royal Burgh of Forres longer. The rents paid are returned to the Common Good which in turn provides small grants to support local organisations such as FACT, Forres and District Pipe Band, The Mosset Park Forres Mechanics Football Club, Forres in Bloom, The Christmas Lights etc
- The number of people directly benefitting from Common Good disbursements far outweigh the number of people benefitting from the current TTF set up.
- A single one-off purchase payment will not generate potential long-term income in the current market