

Forres Community Council

Thursday 17th August 2023 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre
Secretary: Community Councillor Jo Lenihan | **Email:** info@forrescc.co.uk

Attendees - FCC		Attendees - Other
CC Steve Ferris (SF)	Chair	Garry McCartney (GM)
CC David Parker (DP)	Vice	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Cllr Paul McBain
CC Fiona Graham (FG)		Cllr Scott Lawrence
CC John Innes (JI)		
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
CC Ben Stewart (BS)		Henrietta Grant-Peterkin
Apologies		Sandra MacLennan (FAF)
CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	Secretary	Michelle Gillibrand (FACT)
CC Kenny Shand (KS)		Sue Lloyd
		George Wilson

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it would be recorded for minutes as JL was away. Apologies recorded as above.</p>	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report: SF commented that Sgt Peter Campbell hoped to attend but due to operational reasons it appears he is unavailable. An email from Insp Meikleham confirmed details about 2 recent incidents in Forres. One relating to a man brandishing a knife and the other an assault on the High Street. The incidents were unrelated and both men had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The Chair summarised the CSP report for west Moray for July 2023 which had been circulated to all. There were no questions.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Session Stevie Robertson (Moray Council) briefed the meeting on the mConnect Project. Key points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 10-year life cycle with £4.3 million investment from Moray Growth Deal (MGD) b. Key aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport, increase connectivity, yield an additional 30,000 passengers through the life of project • Decarbonise carbon footprint by investing in EVs • Remove barriers faced by the population to access work, education, leisure. c. Delivery of mConnect service began 2 May 2023. 4 out of 6 vehicles have been delivered and the initial 3 priority services are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buckie, Keith and Speyside link to train services • Aberlour, Knockando, Archiestown link to Elgin • Improve Dial M for Moray (now mConnect) service and extend hours of operation d. End state is a comprehensive on demand service that operates 0400-midnight 6 days a week and 0900-1800 on Sundays. e. 314 timetable service and information available. f. The project does not challenge Stagecoach provision but is working with them. 	

<p>g. Need feedback from the community to ensure resources deployed to meet demand.</p> <p>h. Headlines since launch in March: schedule vehicles more effectively, ownership of journey management by passenger, yielding extra 30% in passenger uplift, over a third are using the app, telephone line being maintained for residents who don't use technology.</p> <p>i. Next stage of project is to focus on Elgin, coast and Forres.</p> <p>Questions: FG – Bus driver picks up in Forbeshill to High Street and the next journey is a duplicate journey so how is this efficient? SR - As it's an on-demand real-time service it depends on available resources but Forres only has one on demand bus at present with journeys allocated on first come first served basis as such the service won't be fully efficient until further resources added in future (2024).</p> <p>Michelle Gillibrand – raised the issue that with Dial a Bus FACT could phone up and book the bus to bring residents to activities but this is no longer available. SR - Because it's a real-time system group pre-booking cannot currently be managed. However, developers are aware of this and are working on a group booking function which is currently under test. System Developer and MC constantly review the system and work on updates as they occur. Information on any changes will be distributed.</p> <p>FG – Intermittent glitch FG to email details to SR about this.</p> <p>SF – If trying to reduce carbon footprint could a small vehicle not be deployed as often see 19-seater bus with only one passenger SR - Currently smaller vehicles are being used in priority areas and will improve when Forres gets further uplift of vehicles. There is also a need to balance accessibility which is not possible with some of the smaller vehicles.</p> <p>KSk – There are a lot of vehicle stops in a very short distance on the timetable but other areas have few. SR – Stops are timing points, but passengers will be picked up at other points if demanded.</p> <p>Question about price list – All buses take cash, card and national entitlement cards. SF thanked Stevie for the briefing.</p> <p>A member of public briefed the meeting on a person in the community who has been causing serious issues for many years. Two attendees gave details of how they had been victims of the person's behaviour over several years and asked if FCC were aware of the situation and whether there was any help that could be provided. SF responded that all were aware of recent incidents, but it is primarily a matter for the police and Moray Council housing/social care departments. The person is subject to an ongoing police investigation and has been reported to the procurator fiscal. Unfortunately, it falls outside the remit of the FCC and signposting is the best that FCC can offer. KSk offered some advice. The victims could offer up an impact statement to be heard in court. Be persistent and continue to report incidents to the police on 111 and provide evidence where possible such as time of day, details, witnesses etc. If the situation is causing mental anguish, go to your GP who can support your case. Victim support scheme should have been offered – if this has not been done you can access it direct. Attendee details to be shared with Michelle who has contact details for victim support. Ensure MC Housing are aware of the severity of the issues. SF requested that the attendees get back in touch with him through JL if needed. Cllr Robertson supplied cards giving details of raising complaints with MC housing.</p>	<p>FG</p> <p>SF</p>
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4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 20th July 2023 These were accepted as a true record Proposed: Fiona Graham Seconded: John Innes</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a. Forres Outdoor gym letter has been signed off and plans progressing to purchase and install equipment during October/November.</p> <p>b. Area of grassland. Letter sent to Cllrs and Cllr McBain's response was read out (see attached note). Discussion took place on the issues reported last month. SF to email comments to Cllr McBain and he will take this up with Officers. There is money available for wild flowering this area. JI highlighted the green belt at railway station which is also in a shocking state and not a good advertisement for the town. SF to progress with Cllr McBain</p> <p>c. Sandra MacLennan thanked Cllr McBain and SF for supporting judging day on 10th August. Note that Just Transition Participatory Budget information is available on the website as well as from Money for Moray.</p> <p>d. Scottish Water (SW) – JI had emailed but received no reply. A company contracted by SW had been carrying out surveys of the drains and will report back findings to SW. It appears that the size of the drains is not capable of managing the volumes of water that come into the area and routing it to the Mosset so problems likely to be ongoing.</p> <p>e. Water fountain. This hadn't been vandalised but was out of use due to an issue connecting to the water mains. The work is being delayed until after the gas works is complete due to the disturbance so will probably be done late October.</p> <p>f. KSk had informed Rhona that the Town Hall is confirmed as the resilience plan safe space. He had emailed Ops Manager to ask if there is anything FCC need to do in relation to this. The annual resilience planning meeting is in Llanbryde in September for all CC's. Discussion about radios and whether they can be used by other organisations for a small donation. SF asked if the resilience plan can be published now the Town Hall location is confirmed.</p> <p>g. BS and SF started on website. BS requested photos and a short bio from each CC. He would also like some photos of the Town.</p> <p>h. Moray Growth Deal (MGD). A question about investment for Forres was put to the JCC and SF had received a paper on how MGD will affect West Moray. SF provided a summary of this report (attached to the minute) and it seems more investment is coming to Forres than thought. The Councillors were asked to update as and when possible.</p> <p>i. Stagecoach is recruiting and training to overcome issues of cancelled buses and will hopefully be in a better position by mid-October.</p>	SF
6.	<p>Planning/Licences</p> <p>a. <u>Planning</u> Nothing major in planning of concern.</p>	
7.	<p>Action Plan Updates Covered in matter arising.</p>	
8.	<p>Correspondence Nothing to note.</p>	
9.	<p>Treasurer's Report Balance of account is £8220.30. £649.76 received from MC for admin grant. SSGN money still ringfenced. All CC's requested to submit expenses as if we don't then we could lose our admin grant.</p>	
10.	<p>Moray councillor reports Cllr Lawrence – Planning committee. The pre-application for Dallas Dhu (DD) had been submitted. He had raised the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mannachie Road traffic - asked for monitoring and use to assess potential impact. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road to connect to Grantown Road - what effect will the development have on this. • Impact on Dava Way as development is on both sides so there will have to be access somewhere. • There is a low point in the land – potential flood issues. <p>Public consultation was held before summer holidays and the next will be in October, so he encouraged all to attend. There will be 18 self-build plots and social housing. This is a futuristic development and hopefully will set a building standard for other developers to aspire to. He'd also visited Moray College digital health centre and seen how a personal data app will help people's health management. Discussion took place on the 20-minute town principle and how DD will satisfy this. Active travel options should be a priority especially for social housing residents and need to ensure the infrastructure is there to support residents. Cllr Lawrence noted this and will raise this for discussion.</p> <p>Cllr Robertson – Biggest piece of work is budget preparations leading up to 6th March 2024. £20 million budget gap to be bridged so there will be tough decisions and consultation to address this. Issue of Forres Academy and RAAC concrete was raised. Still awaiting the outcome of Leap funding from Scot Gov. It was asked if school funding and RAAC issues will change the timeline for the new academy. It was thought not. Three or four sites had been identified for the new school and public consultation will begin in the next few months. Year 4 exam results were very good. Attended a Public Health Scotland meeting in Aberdeen which said average life expectancy is now down to 44 in Scotland and infant mortality is increasing. Moray Council has attained Armed Forces Covenant Gold Award which is a great achievement.</p> <p>Cllr McBain – MGD – much of the planning for the projects is commercially sensitive so information can't always be shared, and Cllrs don't get sight of information unless they sit on that committee. There is a change of emphasis for health where there is less reliance on going to the GPs and this will be supported through digital health (DH). People need to look after their own health better and DH will support this. Cllrs will keep CCs up to date when get information.</p>	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events 18th August – Film Show 9th September Fabio Macmillan 31 August – 2nd September 10-4pm Photo exhibition at Town Hall. 2nd September – Moray Pride event in Grant Park.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB FG - 22nd August – National Care service meeting and will report back. Asked if there was any update on the banking service but it was noted none has been advised. KSk – Active Travel Forres are holding a special general meeting in FHCC on 2nd September 11-12 to make changes to constitution and show proposals. JI – incident at Applegrove and Legion buildings with youngsters drinking, kicking Legion doors, and throwing cans at cars. Dispersed after about 45 minutes. Hoping it's a one off incident. KSk – Pre-loved group are up and running on the old Pedigree site and doing well. Working with social work to provide temporary support for people. He questioned why roadworks on St Catherines Road started the day before end of school holidays as increase in traffic is causing additional issues. SF - congratulated BS on doing very well in his exams and taking a place at Stirling university in September. He invited BS to remain as a CC if he so wished and attend meetings when back in Forres as well as continue work on the website.</p>	
14.	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st September 2023, 7.00pm. Venue: Forres House Community Centre.</p>	