

NOTE OF JCC MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 7PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Kim Morrison	Dyke Landward Community Council
George McKenzie	Dyke Landward Community Council
Alastair Kennedy (Chair)	Elgin Community Council
Les Morgan (Vice-Chair)	Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council
Derek Morton	Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council
Colin Lipscomb	Forres Community Council
Bob Hellyer	Forres Community Council
John Third	Innes Community Council
David Mackay	Innes Community Council
James Mackie	Innes Community Council
Charles Lawson	Keith Community Council
Donald Cameron	Lennox Community Council
Ian White	Lossiemouth Community Council
Terry Egglestone	Lossiemouth Community Council

In Attendance

Elaine Brown, Programme Manager, Modernisation Directorate, NHS Grampian
Councillor Wright

Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer (taking Minute)

Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Bush, Innes Community Council; Lynn Duncan, Lennox Community Council; Jane Martin, Keith Community Council, Keith Comrie and Ian Ross, Strathisla Community Council and Councillor Tuke

Ian Todd, Community Support Manager submitted apologies to JCC. He had proposed to attend JCC to advise on the changes to the CAT process being planned, however, more changes are planned and this may well supersede what he planned to talk about at JCC. Ian proposed attending a future JCC when the process has been finalised.

Elaine Brown provided a very informative presentation – a copy of the information is attached and Elaine invited questions and comments.

David commented that his area (Innes CC) had a largely elderly population and the timescale to see a Doctor is quite lengthy. Elaine responded that communication has to be opened and information gathered. Community Councils are well placed to advise about their community and work together to establish a preferred option to access healthcare.

Terry expressed a concern regarding lack of education for various conditions, i.e. Diabetes. Elaine agreed that consideration how support is delivered (accredited

information) should be considered, who delivers the support? You Tube Video clips delivered by own Medical Professional. Consideration should be given to using appropriate language etc. It was commented that Community Nurses are very experienced and may be utilised to deliver more information and advice to communities.

Charlie enquired about levels of Superbugs in Moray Hospitals and encouraged staff to go 'back to basics' Elaine advised that Superbugs are taken extremely seriously and handwash audits are carried out on a regular basis.

Les spoke highly of the NHS 24 service and, despite the advice not to use this service as a GP replacement, he felt this service had the potential to deliver more services / advice.

Elaine agreed that the NHS24 is an excellent resource and support should be given to people so they do not need medical appointments just to obtain advice on conditions. Elaine also stated that Pharmacists are a valuable resource and have extremely well trained staff available.

Elaine stated a large problem is with a large number of people failing to turn up for missed appointments and asked Community Councillors for consideration how this can be cut . Alastair stated that the text message reminder he receives from his Medical Practice is extremely useful and encouraged further use of this system.

Action: All CCs to consider

Elaine was asked if she (or her colleagues) would be willing to speak to Community Councils / Community groups in their own areas. Elaine explained they were definitely willing and interested in doing this but would depend largely on availability of staff. Whilst any visit must be relevant to an area's own community it is important to consider common factors, e.g. Aberdeen Hospital. Elaine confirmed that where there is enough population to make a service viable and where it is possible and safe to take a service nearer your home this will be done e.g via telephone/ mobile app / internet.

Elaine thanked Community Councils for their input and encouraged communication to continue.

Councillor Wright – Budget information

Councillor Wright advised JCC that the NHS budget, as well as being protected, has been increased by 4% which may add further pressure to Local Government budgets. The continuing and growing gap between demand for services and income continues to put pressure on all Public Services. He explained that whilst, in general, the public would accept an increase in Council Tax to protect services the Scottish Government have said that if Local Authorities increase Council Tax they will withdraw the subsidy provided to prevent them doing so.

The increased demand is largely due to a growing elderly population and this will continue to increase. The Authority will try as best as possible to keep people at home as long as possible.

Councillor Wright advised there is a cost to the Local Authority of £1.5 million to accommodate children out of area.

There is an increasing number of children with additional support needs and, with decreasing school rolls, the Authority receive a reduced allocation.

Alastair asked if the care package for elderly at home is paid for by the Local Authority. Councillor Wright confirmed it currently is but this will change upon Integration of Health and Social Care. A single responsible Officer will take the pooled budget and decide how it is spent – Councillor Wright stated he is keen that this Officer will be accountable to the Moray Community Planning Partnership. Councillor Wright has requested clarity on the structure from John Swinney.

Comment was made on fractious split in the Chambers during the previous day's Budget meeting. Councillor Wright stated it was uncharted territory where the Opposition proposed a direct negative to the budget paper. Community Councillors agreed they expected all Elected Members to work as a Council on such important issues.

Councillor Wright advised that upon completion of the Integration of Health and Social Care Home carers will be better trained and equipped to advise people in their own home.

David requested further information on the proposal for a reduction in transport and sought clarification whether it was fact or myth. Councillor Wright confirmed it is a fact – he stated that 2 years ago there was reduced funding for subsidised bus services and, now, rather than go into individual routes the budget was removed in its entirety. He stated that £70K would be allocated to Dial-a-bus services. Bob commented that the 11A and 10 bus follow each other through Forres so this timetable should be reviewed.

James commented that the cost of outside Consultants was a waste of money. Councillor Wright stated that every service provided by the Local Authority would be looked at as part of the future budget proposals.

There was general surprise at the cost of 'out of area' children and Community Councillors requested an Officer's name they could contact regarding this, Councillor Wright confirmed the relevant Officer would be John Carney (01343 563534).

The Joint Community Councils commended the Local Authority on the recent budget consultation which, although was disappointing at the lack of numbers attending, provided informative information which has attracted positive press nationally.

Councillor Wright confirmed that following the budget meeting yesterday (13th February) a total of £7 million of savings were achieved. This is made up of £4 million + of proposed savings, £1.7 million of previously agreed efficiencies and £1.1 million reduced loan charges. He stated that by the Summer recess a budget for the future will be presented. This will contain some radical proposals and will contain proposals for closing schools and such.

The Joint Community Councils of Moray thanked Councillor Wright for his attendance and the frank, honest discussion

2. **Minute of previous Meeting – 8th November 2012**

A correction at page 7, paragraph 2 – should read ‘Community Councillor’. With this amendment, the Minute was approved as a true record of proceedings and was proposed by Les Morgan and seconded by Colin Lipscomb.

3. **Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill and Short Life Working Group Report and Recommendations**

Alastair attended a meeting in Edinburgh in December regarding this and one of the main outcomes was that Local Authorities should promote the benefits of Community Council Forums and Partnership working. This is borne in mind for discussions under item 5.

Tracey provided a copy of the Easy-read Summary to members. Tracey advised that she had spoke to Anna Gilbert requesting information on timescales for implementation of this document. Anna advised it should be around early Summer and a CCLO conference is proposed for March / April to advise and update CCLOs.

4. **Matters Arising**

M.I.R. Event: Thanks to Community Councils for attending this event. There was a good turnout and Mark Cross was pleased with the arrangements and support from Community Councillors.

Contact Details: Alastair to pass contact details for Richard Carey to Peter Bush (Innes)

Review of Community Council Scheme – Secretaries advised they had not seen the consultation and requested that Tracey send it out again.

Following the meeting Tracey checked with Democratic Services – the letter sent in early December was a Pre-Canvass letter and comments are invited by end February. Documents will be issued to Community Councils in Spring.

5. **Future promotion of Community Councils – End of Term of Office**

Alastair informed the meeting that he felt the JCC has evolved since its original creation. He was keen that the JCC consider how representative they are and how 'fit for purpose' they are. It is anticipated that the JCC become more involved with Agencies at a strategic level but it is essential that, in order to do this, they are considered by themselves and their communities to be completely representative of their Community Council area.

Alastair also stated that, following the recent comments by Councillor Murdoch during Committee, it is important that individual Community Councils look at how representative they are of their own area and encourage more people to come forward for the forthcoming new term of office.

Discussion took place regarding the new term of office and The Scottish Government pilot of 2009 and, whilst the timescale was unrealistic to achieve good results, the concept of all Community Councils pooling resources and expertise to increase membership was wholeheartedly supported.

To this end, Alastair suggested the creation of a short-life working group to consider the forthcoming elections, promotion of Community Councils, the role of Community Councils and training of members. All those in attendance supported this suggestion. Alastair will canvass members and arrange a meeting in early course. **Action: AK**

Those in attendance agreed to propose to their Community Councils to fund the promotional work with £75 per Community Council. The Joint Community Councils of Moray agreed to contribute £200 - £300 as required. Community Councils not in attendance are also invited to contribute to this Moray wide project which will benefit ALL Community Councils. **Action: All**

6. **War Memorials – Funding from Scottish Government**

A press release was issued with JCC papers and further press coverage was provided at the meeting. All Community Councils should consider War Memorials in their area for this funding. **Action: All**

7. **Moray Orienteering Event 2013**

Alastair advised that Elgin CC have arranged a 'Welcome to Moray' banner to be in place for this event. He encouraged discussion within individual Community Councils to ensure as warm a welcome as possible to an event that will attract in the region of 3,000 visitors to Moray. **Action: All**

8. **Reports**

Community Planning update : No update to report, Alastair advised that the Convener, Councillor Stewart Cree, has requested a meeting with him

regarding the Community Engagement Group. No date has been set but Alastair will update members when this has taken place. **Action: AK**

Treasurers Report: Colin advised there is £876.28 in the account. The 2013/14 grant was received in October.

CCLO Report: Tracey issued a summary of the recent CCLO Evaluation. She extended her thanks to 14 of the 16 Community Councils who responded to this. She advised this will be used to shape her work plan for the future and will feed into the Team Plan and Audit process.

Tracey advised there have been 4 co-options and 1 resignation since the previous JCC meeting.

Tracey continues to receive information from tellmesotland.gov.uk and encouraged Community Councils to look at this website and give consideration if this is a method of communication that may benefit them.

Action: All

A lot of work had been carried out by Tracey and colleagues for the proposed HMIE Inspection at Lossiemouth High School. Tracey extended her thanks to Lossiemouth Community Council and Burghead and Cummington Community Council for their willingness to co-operate in this inspection.

Tracey has covered Minute taking for the November and February meetings of JCC but is optimistic a new Minute taker can be found.

Donald advised that he had attended Keith CC to observe and felt the presence of the CCLO added to the direction of the meeting. Donald requested clarification on when the CCLO attends meetings and for what purpose. Tracey advised she was invited to that particular Keith CC meeting because of a potential issue. Tracey is happy to attend any Community Council upon request but would ask that Community Councils are sensitive to the hours she works as any evening work would mean hours out of the office.

9. **Information Sharing**

Dyke: Dyke was represented by 2 newly co-opted members. Their initial thoughts towards Community Councils was the need for more public awareness.

Elgin: *Fair Trade Initiative* – Moray as a Fair Trade area was knocked back due to lack of engagement. An event is taking place at Elgin Youth Café on Wednesday 27th February – there will be 2 ladies from Thailand explaining how Fairtrade affects their lives and their area. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to register at morayfairtradeevening2013.eventbrite.com; *Roads and Transportation* have been involved in looking at bus routes at Dr Grays and a

crossing in that area; *Planning* have looked at an application to change the use of the pavement outside Starbucks to seating with tables; *Flower Beds* – members were concerned about a rumour that the flower beds that the CC had paid to have opened and have since been planted and looked after by them were to be grassed over due to budget cuts, however, they have been assured by Ken Kennedy that as long as they are being looked after by the CC then they will be left as they are. Alastair advised that the gentleman from Cove Bay Nurseries, who attends the Saturday Market at Elgin Mart, has been a great help. He has donated most of the plants and actually planted out one of the beds before the summer; *Morrison Track* – the problem with the Morrision running track was brought before the CC. Following that presentation members all searched for suitable funding streams and Councillor Divers was instrumental in having Community Justice funding accessed so it looks as if the track will be refurbished in time for the season. There was a very tight time-scale for the funding to be used.

Alastair advised they regularly have a police update, a Stagecoach update and the Community Warden's update at every meeting.

Elgin CC members are also involved with SPICE, set up by the CC, BID and Police which has been noticed and lauded by some in Scottish Government as a great example of partnership working.

Findhorn & Kinloss : European Pipe Band Champs being held in Forres weekend of 29 Jun 2013. Large number of visitors requiring accommodation and services. The Community Council are developing their own Emergency Resilience Plan; Current 15 mph speed limit at Southside Estate Kinloss being removed. Signage was incorrectly retained after transfer from MOD to private ownership. Community Council debate in the Northern Scot: two letters from Findhorn & Kinloss Community Councillors published; Code of Conduct consultation - requested no changes. Once again all 4 Forres Ward Moray Councillors attended our CC meeting.

Cumming Hall is new venue for Kinloss CC meetings.

Pothole near Kinloss railway crossing repaired three days after being reported

Forres: Ongoing discussions regarding Common Good Fund, announcement of super-fast Broadband for the town and European Pipe Band Championships.

Innes: David reported good progress with the Kingston Beach situation. Money has been allocated to reinstate the footpath and marked off area affected by tidal water. A sub-group has been set up to look at the Brown Muir application.

Keith: Charlie pledged full support to the promotion of Community Councils. He advised the JCC that the December Extravaganza was a very successful event. Charlie was delighted to report that the public opinion of Keith Community Council was turning and they were keen to build on this.

Lennox : Donald reported that Fochabers is to become a Development Trust and was happy to report that the Village Association has enlarged its membership. The Community Warden is taking a strict line on dog fouling and will issue on the spot fines to anyone caught. Donald reported a good turn out to the recent ceremony to commemorate Womans' Land Army. Donald advised that the planning application for an Occasional Market in Fochabers has been refused.

Lossiemouth: Ian reported recent news that 2 pubs in the Esplanade area may be closing in the near future. He advised that Police and Community Warden support Lossiemouth CC meetings well. Ian also praised Moray Council staff for the speed they reacted to the recent 'Perfect Storm' where there was extensive damage to the sea wall in Lossiemouth.

Ian concluded by advising that the new Chair at Lossiemouth CC was settling in.

10. **AOCB**

Cycle Path – There was discussion around the lack of cycle path from Forres to Brodie. Dyke Landward and Forres CCs are to liaise and discuss

Action: Dyke / Forres

Neighbourhood Watch: David requested the opportunity to do a presentation to a future JCC meeting on the new information service provided by Neighbourhood Watch. This was agreed for the May meeting.

Disabled Parking, Elgin: James reported a significant lack of disabled parking in Elgin. Alastair to liaise with James.

Action: AK / JM

Press Attendance: It was suggested that JCC write to The Northern Scot to suggest a Reporter attend future meetings. Alastair is to make this request.

Action: AK

11. **Date of Next Meeting – 9th May 2013**

Presentation by David Mackay re Neighbourhood Watch