

CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS, AND PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING

7.30 PM 28th May 2024, QUEENS HALL

1. Attendance

Geoff Cartwright, Mandy Littlewood, Sue Hamilton, Paul Byford, Peter Hutchings, Moira Adams, Lesley Scott, Mike Coughlan, Tom Leatherland, Cllr Jackson, Beryl Leatherland, Elizabeth Hutchings, Craig Lindsay, Abbie and Victoria Wilson

2. Apologies

David Blyth, Jane Kilgour, Peter Wilson, Cllr Goodall, Cllr Verrecchia,

3. Minutes of meeting of April 30th 2024

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record, with the proviso that in the Planning item relating to Pattiesmuir, 'Traffic Scotland' be amended to 'Transport Scotland'.

4. Matters Arising from minutes of April 30th 2024:

- Footpath work at West Harbour has been completed under the auspices of West Fife woodlands.
- Kilns site upkeep. Tess Gibson reported that grass cutting and general upkeep would be carried out by the Estate.
- Speeding in Charlestown. Secretary had spoken to Lesley Craig who explained that there had been a delay in installing the speed measurement kit. It is very disappointing that there has been no response from the Inn at Charlestown to the Secretary's earlier letter.

5. Broomhall Estate

Tess reported that there are no planned Core Path closures through the Estate this year

- There was some contention as to whether the two boats reported as having entered the Harbour had stayed there, or moved on.
- Residents noted that there were notices at the landward side restricting entry, but no notice at the seaward entrance. Tess would investigate how an appropriate sign can be erected.
- Cycle Path on the A985. The halt to the works seems to have been because Bear didn't seek permission from the Estate for use of Estate land.
- Laurel Bushes at the Queens Hall. Please can they be cut down.

6. Interim Secretary's Report.

- A Charlestown resident had, on advice from Hilton Hounds, contacted the Secretary re an out-of-control dog and its owner. Secretary discovered that the dog warden service comes under Safer Communities and advised accordingly.
- Premier Homes (Scotland) Ltd (PHS) had requested copies of the CLPCC Minutes for February, March, and April. Secretary had emailed same.
- PHS also wrote to CLPCC on 22 May asserting: a) that the draft minutes are incorrect, (although there is no indication of how they are incorrect); b) that PHS had been informed by Fife Planning that condition 16 had been complied with and was no longer an impediment to occupation; and c) that there remain no outstanding planning conditions relating to the development at Pattiesmuir. PHS further requested that the minutes of the 30 April meeting be amended to reflect these assertions. Secretary would draft a response to PHS explaining that the minutes were a correct record (as agreed by all who were present), and that the discussion had concerned the ongoing maintenance of the visibility splays and the further condition relating to the widening of the road end.
- Secretary read a letter received from Shona Campbell (of Keller Williams, Estate Agents). She apparently wishes to ask existing residents if Pattiesmuir is a safe and friendly place to live. We will respond by suggesting she speaks to the residents herself. At this point in the meeting, Abbie Wilson, who attended with her daughter, introduced herself as a potential purchaser of one of the

Pattiesmuir new-build houses. She asked about Community Council views on the background to the development and ongoing interactions with potential neighbours. She was seeking assurance that, if she bought a house in Pattiesmuir, she would be welcomed as part of the community. Community Council members advised they were not in a position provide reassurance regarding future relations with neighbours.

7. Treasurer Report.

Nothing further to report beyond the AGM presentation.

8. Police Report.

Monthly report received. We should query the somewhat unhelpful assertion that they had made saying they do not deal with dogs.

9. Playpark Group.

The Playpark Group continues to raise awareness of the Renewal Project, and to submit funding applications. We will receive Display Boards and Posters in the next few days to help with the ongoing consultation. The display boards will allow local people to consider which of the equipment options (different items have different costs) they prefer.

The start of this process will coincide with the Scarecrow Festival this weekend, when we will widen awareness of the project as well as having a lot of fun, in the sunshine (we hope).

We have 35 entries across Charlestown, Crombie, Pitliver, Pattiesmuir and Limekilns. Cash collection points will be at each scarecrow and there will be QR codes for those who wish to pay online. There will be a printed scarecrow map, and an online version - [attached](#)

Please help us share and promote.

10. Planning Group.

Kingswood; The Planning group met with Ray Kirk and Neil Beswick on May 2nd to follow up on the various concerns raised when they spoke at the Community Council in March. They were then invited to repeat their presentation to a public meeting in the Church on May 23rd. The concerns of those attending – such as Education, Health, Sewage disposal are outside the remit of Stirling as developers of the site. Their job is to get houses built, not so much to solve the housing crisis, but to build houses Pattiesmuir. Drainage, kerbstones and some street lights have been installed. The two built houses remain unsold. The whole site has now gone quiet, with the contractors and their vehicles absent.

11. Nature Group

In Jo's absence, Tom gave a brief report about the Community Garden, Beach Cleans and the Fresh Water Monitoring project. Secretary will again contact Lee Haywood of Scottish Water concerning a public meeting now that he is back from annual leave.

12. Councillor Reports

Despite being on holiday, Cllr Goodall had submitted his comprehensive monthly report, which is appended to this minute.

13. AOCB:

- Craig Lindsay asked whether the Community Council knew of a plan for some sort of plaque to be installed alongside the War Memorial wall with access to information about the history of the memorial and the men whose sacrifice it commemorates. Current members had no knowledge of any plans. Craig would follow up with the Lime Centre, the possibility of having a limestone plaque attached to the wall.
- Fly past. Some people had been impressed with a disturbingly low fly-past of two Typhoon aircraft on 8th May.

Date of next meeting: 25th June 2024

Councillor's Report - Brian Goodall

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this month's Community Council meeting. I'm on holiday, camping on Tiree. I'll be back on Friday in time to participate in the Scarecrow Festival, where our Pop-up Polis, PC Denise will be making an appearance that will hopefully scare away speeding drivers as well as crows.

Tree Planting

At last month's meeting of the Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Community Council we heard the hopes from the local Floral Display Group to look at some more tree planting projects around the area. So, after the meeting, as requested, I was able to pass on contacted email addresses and phone numbers to David Blyth for Mark Blackman, Area Parks Manager, for info on planting on any Council maintained land, and for Rebecca Logsdon, Fife Tree Planting Officer with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust. Rebecca can provide help and support on all kinds of tree planting initiatives. She's also a great source of information of tree supplies and funding options.

Fife Sports and Leisure Trust New Corporate Wellness Programme

Fife Sports and Leisure Trust recently launched a dynamic membership to reshape how individuals approach their health and wellness goals. The Trust is also inviting local businesses to join its mission to promote healthy living by taking advantage of its corporate wellness programme. Through collaboration with the Trust, companies can enhance the health and wellbeing of their staff, while supporting the community. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the region's fitness landscape, prioritising accessibility and community engagement. The new membership structure offers a range of options that are tailored to meet diverse preferences and needs. Gone are the days of restrictive contracts and limited access. The comprehensive Club membership, priced at just £30 a month, provides access to all facilities and activities. Other options include the Lite membership, Club Play, family packages, and concessions, ensuring everyone can benefit from the Trust's offerings, regardless of age or fitness level.

Brankholm Brae Potholes

I've been contacted again about the deterioration of the road surface at Brankholm Brae in Rosyth. The whole road is scheduled to be resurfaced in the next financial year, 2025/26 and I'm trying to get that brought forward. I reported the potholes in the meantime and I've been able to get agreement for the road to be inspected and reaccessed.

Forth Green Freeport

There's a lot of mis-information out there about the Forth Green Freeport and Rosyth Dockyard's role within it. You can keep up with what is really being proposed at the Forth Green Freeport website.

<https://forthgreenfreeport.com>

New Inverkeithing High School Headteacher

I'm pleased to be able to confirm that the successful candidate was Graham Belford who is currently Headteacher at Glenwood High School in Glenrothes. Mr Belford is a former Deputy Head at Dunfermline High and was acting Headteacher at Inverkeithing in the past. He will take on the role of Headteacher from the 19th of August.

Local Community Planning Budget Grant Applications

I was delighted to be able to support grant applications for Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Gala Day, The Village Link Newsletter and Rosyth Gala Day. In each case I backed the applicants receiving the full amount they had applied for and this has been agreed. An additional application has been received for electrical works at the Queens Hall in Charlestown. This application will now go to the next meeting of South & West Fife Area Committee and it's my intention to support this funding request at that time.

Two Year Anniversary

The 5th of May marked the two year anniversary of the election day when the good people of Rosyth, Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown, Pitliver, Waulkmill and Crombie voted for me to become one of their local representatives on Fife Council. It's been a real privilege to represent my local area and the SNP over the last two years and once again I'm happy to commit myself to continuing to work full time on behalf of the communities within the Rosyth Ward.

Limekilns Scarecrow Festival

I've signed up to take part in the Limekilns Scarecrow Festival on the first weekend in June. If you live in Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown, Pitliver, Waulkmill or Crombie why don't you do the same. It's gonna be a fun weekend and a great way to help raise funds for the new Limekilns Play Park. To register your interest send an email to limekilnsscarecrows@btinternet.com

Councillors Facebook Page

The best way to keep up to date with my activity as your local Councillor is to add me as a Friend, or follow my page, on Facebook. I currently have around 4,950 Facebook Friends and 325 Facebook Followers, so I also like to use my Page to help promote good causes and local events. In the last few months I've been able to help promote Restoration Forth's Seagrass and Oyster Projects, local beach clean events, EATS Rosyth's Community Hub, Crombie Residents Association's AGM, my Alzheimer's Research fundraiser, the new Camdean Play Park, the Ready Communities Drop in Event, the Castlandhill Development Consultation Event, Cafe Inc. Easter Holiday lunch provision in Rosyth, Brucehaven Tennis Club's Open Day, The Villages Tree Sparrow Project, SEPAs Flooding Consultation, Fife Council Flooding Grants, Forth Hedgehog Hospital's Fundraiser, Kings Road Parent Council's Race Night and the Limekilns Scarecrow Festival. My Facebook page details are below.

Broomhall Cricket Club

On the 6th of May I was contacted by Broomhall Cricket Club who are looking for help with some of their plans for their grounds at The Cairns in Charlestown. Including some picnic benches for use on match days but also for the wider

community to use at other times. They are also developing a “play garden” next to their clubhouse. I was able to point them in the direction of some funding opportunities from Fife Council, Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and the West Fife Sports Council.

Question Time at Fife Council

On the 7th of May I submitted 3 questions relating to Fife Council Housing for the Question Time section of the next meeting of the full Fife Council, which was on the 16th of May. One of my questions, on Dampness and Mould in Council homes was rejected by officers on a technicality (in my view), but I followed this up with the Head of Housing, and he has agreed to provide a briefing on Dampness and Mould to all Councillors over the next week or so. Persistence pays off, there’s always more than one way to skin a potato (leave the cats alone).

Charlestown Green Edge

On the 7th of May I had a meeting with Fife Council’s Area Parks Manager. Once again I raised the issue of the ongoing damage from vehicles to the edges of Charlestown Village Green on both the North Row and South Row sides. He has agreed to look at working up a project to address this but the details and how it will be funded will still need to be devised.

Fife Council Appointments Committee

On the 8th of May I attended a meeting of the Fife Council Appointments Committee at Fife House where we went through the process of short listing candidates to interview for the post of Executive Director for Education. Three candidates will now be interviewed on the 14th of May. This is the second time we’ve had to go through this process as we were unable to make an appointment following the last round of interviews.

Speeding in Charlestown & Limekilns

On the 8th and 9th of May I put out our local Pop-Up Polis, PC Denise, in Charlestown and then in Limekilns. Speeding traffic, especially in our 20mph areas is still a big issue so I’ll continue to deploy the pop-up regularly and I’ll keep raising the issue with both the Police and the Council.

Supporting New Council Housing

Prior to taking part in Fife Council’s Cabinet Committee meeting on the 9th of May at Fife House in Glenrothes, I nipped along to High Valleyfield to see the four new build houses that the Council’s Housing Service were seeking agreement to buy to become new Council Houses. The purchase will be subsidised by the Scottish Government and each house will cost less to buy from the builders than it’s currently costing Fife Council to build its own new homes. The properties look fantastic and I had absolutely no problem supporting their purchase. This is exactly the kind of innovative approach to delivering more new affordable homes for rent that we desperately need more of in Fife.

New High School in Rosyth

On the 9th of May I was at the Fife Council Cabinet Committee meeting in Fife House when we agreed the final business case for the new High School to be built in Rosyth. SNP members there also made the strong case for the retention of the swimming pool and other community use facilities on the site of the current school in Inverkeithing.

Fire and Rescue Service Survey

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have launched an online survey as they consider future changes to their emergency service. They have issues they must address with their ageing estate while ensuring that they are best placed to meet the changing community risk across Scotland. There are areas they think could change which would allow them to use their resources differently. This could include changes to where firefighters and stations are based; how and when they staff their resources; and how they respond to emergency incidents. The survey, that’s called Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say, is open until 30 June 2024 and marks the first stage in their engagement with communities.

The views they gather during this process will help them to develop change options for full public consultation later this year. You can find more information and complete the survey via this link:

<https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/shaping-our-future-service-your-say/>

Kingswood Development - Open Meeting

On the 11th of May I posted on my Facebook page about the Open Meeting organised by Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Community Council, that would host a presentation from Stirling Developments regarding their Broomhall, now Kingswood, Development. This was held on Thursday the 23rd of May in Limekilns Church at 7.30pm.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as I was on holiday, but I’ve seen the presentations twice before as it had been given at both Rosyth and CL&P Community Council meetings.

Restoration Forth - Oysters

In the afternoon on the 13th of May I went out in a boat on the Forth with the Restoration Forth Team and other volunteers from communities around the Forth coastline. We re-introduced around 6,000 Oysters to the river that day as part of the project seeking to re-establish the Oyster bed, that was fished to extinction over 100 years ago. Last year I joined with other volunteers on a trip to Little Loch Broom in the North West of Scotland to collect and clean thousands of Oysters for this project and it was great to take part in the final stage of the process out on the boat as we dropped the oysters to the seabed at two top secret locations. The Oysters we deployed came from Loch Ryan in South West Scotland and were mostly around 6 years old, so almost ready to start breeding. Oysters are ecosystem engineers, if they get re-established then loads of other species can live in the habitat that’s created. They can also play a part in filtering the water and locking up carbon in the sediment below them.

Pest Control Pier Carpark, Limekilns

On the 14th of May I was contacted about the rat poison containers that had been placed by the recycling point in the Pier Carpark in Limekilns. There had been three of these unit in use there but they are now gone. Basically, the question was, had they have been removed or had they been pinched? I contacted the Council's Pest Control Team who told me that the Pest Control Technician for the area has confirmed that once the job was completed he removed these bait boxes.

Executive Director Education Interviews

Also on the 14th of May I was in Fife House as part of the Appointments Panel interviewing candidates to become the new Executive Director for Education in Fife. Around half of Fife Council's entire budget goes on education so this is a key role, reporting directly to the Council's Chief Executive. Due to candidate availability we could only interview two of the three shortlisted candidates on the 14th with the 3rd candidate's interview scheduled for Thursday the 16th May.

H&S at Fife Sport & Leisure Trust

Part of my duties as a Fife Sports and Leisure Trust Director is to engage with the process to inspect and improve health & safety processes at the facilities that the Trust operate. On the 15th of May I took part in an inspection focusing on Fire Safety at Carnegie Leisure Centre in Dunfermline. That's a Centre I was privileged to do the official opening of in 2012 after its massive refurbishment.

After the inspection I took the chance to get some more lengths in as part of my Swim 22 challenge in aid of Diabetes UK. I did 50 lengths of the 25 meter main pool.

Surgeries

In the evening on the 15th of May I held two Councillor's surgeries. One in Rosyth at the EATS Rosyth Community Hub and one in Limekilns in the Gellet Hall. My surgeries next month will be on the 19th of June at the same venues at 4pm and 5pm respectively.

Full Fife Council Meeting

The full Fife Council met in Fife House in Glenrothes on the 16th of May. I asked questions of the Labour/Tory/LibDem Administration about Dampness and Mould in Council Houses and the Council's approach to roof repairs and replacements.

I was also glad to see a motion agreed unanimously that day in relation to Flooding in Fife. I was highlighting to my colleagues the problems experienced in Rosyth where there have been flooding issues for more than 60 years, a problem that has gotten even worse in recent years, due to the impacts of climate change. I'll continue to raise this issue at every opportunity and I'll keep pressing for action to address this major concern for many local residents. There was also agreement today to a SNP amendments on speed limits. It agreed that any changes to speed limits in Fife should be informed by safety considerations and local demand. They should also involve consultation with local Councillors and other interested parties.

Executive Director Education Interviews (part 2)

After the full Council meeting on the 16th I joined the Appointments Committee, once again, as we interviewed the final of the three shortlisted candidates to become Fife's new Executive Director for Education. After a lot of consideration we made our choice and the appointment should be confirmed within the next couple of weeks.

Holiday

On the 17th of May I started my holiday, traveling by ferry from Oban to Tiree. After three days staying with an old college friend, who lives on the island, I set up my tent at a local campsite and this will be my home and office for 11 days. Thanks to great online connectivity on Tiree I've been able to continue to progress a number of bits of individual casework as well as taking up the issues that follow in the rest of this month's report. While on holiday I've also been able to use my Facebook page to promote a number of things including, The Gaza Ceasefire Motion agreed by Fife Council, Fife Golf Trust's Season Ticket Offers, Fife Sport & Leisure Trust's Learn to Swim Classes, Rosyth Gala Day, Epilepsy Awareness Week, Info on Voter Registration, Voter ID and Postal Voting for the General Election and Dementia Awareness Week.

New Council House Acquisitions

I continue to campaign for Fife Council to buy more homes, to become Council Houses available to rent, from the open market. Each of these purchases can attract £50K of subsidy from the Scottish Government and cost far less to buy than it's currently costing the Council to build new houses. I've been highlighting any suitable new properties that I see come on to the market within the Rosyth Ward area to the Council's Acquisitions Team, and while I've been on holiday I've been able to pass on info on a number of such properties, with a request that the Council tries to buy them.

New High School – Access Around the Playing Fields

Now that fences have gone up around the area where the new High School playing fields will be at the Fleet Ground, I've been asked what the access arrangements will be around the playing fields once the works are completed. There will be a gap between the finished School grounds and the houses to the south where the strip of woodland is and there will also be a new good quality public path running east / west that will connect the existing path that runs between the houses, connecting to Dundonald Road to the west and Wilson Way to the east.

West Road Railway Bridge

I've been contacted by local residents about the lack of any warning signage on the approaches to the narrow railway bridge on West Road Charlestown. There's nothing to warn that the road narrows to a single lane on the bridge and nothing requesting drivers slow down on approach to this hazard. I requested a review of the signage on both sides of this bridge as there has been a large increase in the numbers of visitors to the villages of Charlestown and Limekilns recently and of course anyone visiting infrequently or for the first time will lack the local knowledge required to

traverse this bridge in a safe manner. In response Fife Council's Transportation Service told me that this is something they are aware of because of recent damage to the bridge wall. They are dealing with Network Rail at the moment to get the wall repaired. They have been discussing advanced warning signage for the bends and the narrowness of the bridge, however the issue they are having is the lack of a verge to actually install the signs on to. They will now be looking further into what they could possibly provide. There are issues with staffing in this service just now, so it will be added to a prospective works list in the meantime, but I've told them that I hope a solution can be provided in the near future.

New High School - Catchment Areas

I've been contacted by some parents of children at Limekilns Primary School asking if there kids will be able to go to the new High School in Rosyth when it's completed. Currently kids from Limekilns Primary go to Dunfermline High School and there's no plans to change high school catchment areas. If this was to be considered in the future it could only be done after a full consultation process involving all stakeholders. The capacity of the new school is based on the numbers of children due to attend, following the significant drop in numbers two years after the school is completed, but for the first two years the new school will be operating over capacity. This is possible because of the amount of 'extra' space built into the school's design for community use.

So, the position on placing request for those first two years is not yet clear. It's something I've been asking about for a while, as I believe that some current Limekilns PS parents will want to explore that option once the new school is up and running.

Rosyth Gala Day

I was disappointed to have missed Rosyth Gala this year but I did what I could to promote it and encourage others to volunteer via my Facebook page while on holiday. It would appear that it went really well once again and the feedback from the First Minister's visit was very positive. John Swinney MSP will have been very impressed by the amount of effort that goes into making it such a great day. Well done to everyone who worked so hard to deliver this successful event.

Flooding in Rosyth (Again)

Following such excellent weather for the Rosyth Gala on the 25th of May things changed for the worse the next day with heavy rainfall bringing flooding once again to Rosyth. The area around Park Road Primary was badly impacted and Grampian Road saw massive amounts of water running off the nearby fields again. Unable to visit the impacted sites as I normally do, I emailed the Fife Council Area Manager, who chairs the local Flooding Forum and asked once again for action on this issue. I also posted the Council's Flooding Emergency contact info on my Facebook page as I always do. The time for talking is over, Rosyth needs action on flooding now. I'll be seeking a meeting with the Council's Chief Executive to get clarity on what's happening with the proposed Area Water Catchment Report and the staffing crisis within the Council that has seen the only flooding officer leave. I've also called for a multi service, Rosyth wide, site visit to bring together the relevant Council services with SEPA and Scottish Water to identify any early actions that can be undertaken to address the situation and to promote some urgency in the search for longer term solutions.

Broken Manhole Cover by the A985 & What3Words

I was recently contacted about a broken manhole cover on the grass verge next to the A985 near the Pitliver turn off. I reported this to Bear Scotland who have responsibility for this trunk road. I was able to do this as the local resident who got in touch about it had used the What3Words App on their phone to give me the exact location of the manhole. This App is a great way to pass on information about a location and is now widely used by a number of public services. You can download the App using this link.

<https://app.what3words.com/download>

Ongoing Diabetes UK Fundraiser

My latest challenge to swim 22 miles, the equivalent of the English Channel as part of a fundraiser for Diabetes UK is ongoing. You can follow my progress and make a donation at

<https://swim22.diabetes.org.uk/fundraising/brian905>