

Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Community Council

Agenda for Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday, 30th July 2024 at the Queens Hall, Charlestown

1. Present: Geoff Cartwright, Mandy Littlewood, Sue Hamilton, David Blyth, Moira Adams, Lesley Scott, Cllr Verrecchia, Cllr Jackson, Rosie Hopwood, (Digital Engagement Officer for Fife Council) Keir Hunter (Digital Engagement Officer for P&K Council). Also in attendance: Carol Williams, Malcolm Hamilton, Jean Hay, Ellya Gold, Steve Adam, Alex Lodge, Alastair Thores, Liz Hutchings, Irene Furguson, Maureen Sturton, Andrew Sturton, John Leiper, Lesanne Drummond, John McDonald, Lynne Wright, Lorna Gray, Robin Gray, Ian Wilson, Brian Machray.
2. Apologies. Lex Dunko, Jane Kilgour, Peter Hutchings, Paul Byford, Peter Wilson, Tom and Beryl Leatherland, Jo McFarlane, Cllr Goodall

Due to technical reasons associated with projection for item 4, some items were taken in a different order from that on the Agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting of 25th June 2024. Sue Hamilton asked that the various attendees be listed in a more logical order. Minutes were approved with this amendment. (Proposed by Lesley Scott, and seconded by David Blyth.)
4. Rosie Hopwood gave a slide presentation about Scottish Government funding for Broadband upgrades in specific areas of the villages which apparently suffer from poor Broadband service, (1 – 3 and 5 - 9 Haven's Edge, 32, 34 – 37, and 47 Charles Way and 9 Charles Court, and 2 – 5, 7, 8, 17, 19-23, 25-28 West Harbour Road). She gave helpful responses to audience questions and promised to provide a number of useful links to more detailed information.
5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
 - Steps at West Harbour, Funding now in place. West Fife Woodlands will do the work.
 - Speeding assessment in Charlestown. Lesley Craig of Transportation had sent the results to Brian Goodall. She said 'The survey was carried out from 6th to 11th July 2024. The survey returned the results of 22mph & 23mph for average speeds eastbound and westbound respectively. These are very much what we expect for within a 20mph speed limit. The 85th percentile speeds were 26mph & 27mph (e/b & w/b respectively). These are within the ranges that we typically see and I would not be able to propose any further speed reduction works as a result of these results. I hope this has been helpful.'
 - Playpark initiative, Fundraising activity continues with applications being submitted to possible grant providers, most recently the SW Fife Area Committee of Fife Council, and the Cooperative Society. Signs have also been displayed at the Playpark. The Kiln Singers have offered to hold a collection at their next concert, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are also making a donation. The Playpark Group is grateful to all supporters for their contributions. The Group will have a presence at the Gala, inviting local views on the choices of individual equipment.
 - Giant Hogweed, Massive plant at Ferrytoll Park and Ride has been treated. Mark Blackman of Fife Council Parks and Open Spaces is the person to contact.
 - Rusting street 'furniture'. Any faults – potholes etc – should be reported on line, at Fife Council/ / Roads/Report a fault. Then, in theory, they have a dated record of the fault. It is not clear what happens next. There is a new 'Network Condition Team Leader, Gordon Henderson.

- Scottish Water meeting 26th June. Excellent event. Attended by some 50 villagers. Good Q and A session. A promise was kept of a follow-up with answers to questions that couldn't be answered on the spot. Good relationship with SW established

6. Broomhall Estate

There had been no communication from the Estate. Hence, there were no updates on the Harbour, Kilns Grass Cutting programme, Laurel bush at Queens Hall, A985 cycleway progress, Biodiversity around in the land bordering Kingswood site. It was suggested that a letter of concern be written to the Estate

7. Interim Secretary's Report

- Contacting Fife Council is a nightmare compared with contacting Perth and Kinross Council. When you phone PKC, they ask you to say who you wish to speak to – and you are put straight through to that person!!
- Fife Green Freeport. Minutes of last meeting (in March) says *'More effort is required to engage Community Councils. Local Authorities are best placed to lead on this and in delivering positive benefits message' via Council committees.* This CC has heard nothing! Brian Goodall's allusion to confidentiality at the last meeting is of concern.
- Correspondence. In response to the letter brought before the June Community Council meeting by Premier Homes Scotland, a letter had been received from residents of Pattiesmuir and was read out by the Vice Chair. It gave an account of the disruption to residents and to the conservation area by the ongoing housing development. It catalogued how the houses built bear no resemblance to those approved in the original application and how residents' interests have, over a period of 7 years been ignored/sidelined/rebuffed, by the developers, their contractors, Fife Council, the Scottish Government Ombudsman, Health and Safety Executive and SEPA. The letter was signed by residents of eighteen households. Sue Hamilton then recounted how, about a year ago (when she was not on the Community Council), she had been approached by a Pattiesmuir couple who were keen to take up an offer by Premier Homes Scotland to meet to discuss their grievances. They were hoping to meet in a neutral location and have an observer attend the meeting. However, Premier Homes Scotland refused to meet them under these conditions, and insisted that any meeting be solely between Mr and Mrs Williams and the couple at the PHS site hut. So, no meeting happened.

8. Community Police Report. Very little information provided.

- 9. Councillors' brief Reports on relevant issues and developments. Extracts relating to us from Brian's 13 page report, will be attached to this minute. Andy Jackson reported on the lamp post at Charles Way, replacement of which was proving more complex than anticipated

10. Treasurer's Report. Verbal financial update had been provided. Invoices paid

11. Planning Matters. Written report provided. Planning sub-group keeping a watching brief.

12. Community Projects and Events. Nature Group. Gala. No reports

13. Environmental Issues.

- Jo McFarlane had organised a walk with John Darbyshire, the Kingswood ecologist. But only Sue H from the Biodiversity Group could attend. He shared his knowledge and expertise generously,

advising on how the woodland areas could/should be managed, and emphasising the importance of the influence of Biodiversity outwith the development area.

- Untrimmed roadside hedgerows are becoming hazardous. Pedestrians (and particularly runners) using the footway beside the road into Dunfermline are forced to divert onto the carriageway into the path of traffic. Access to Pattiesmuir is becoming difficult to negotiate as the road is narrowed by overgrown hedges on both sides.

14. Any Other Business.

- Scottish Gas Network are undertaking the massive task of replacing corroding iron pipework in the villages with plastic pipe. This has resulted in traffic disruption and some difficulties when the traffic lights have failed to red in both directions. There is one very large poster in the Sutlery window and apparently another in the Courrie. Secretary has been in touch with SGN, requesting information that is easier to display on noticeboards, or be available on-line.
- Although she didn't mention it at the meeting, Sue was pleased to have been handed some copies of Village News, published and distributed by the Community Council from about 1988 in her early days on the Community Council!

15. Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 27th August 7pm

16. Closing Remarks. Chairperson's closing comments

Councillor's Report - Brian Goodall - July Meeting - 30/07/24

Rusting Post on Limekilns Promenade

I've contacted Fife Council's Roads & Transportation Service to ask about the rusting post holding the letter box. I've messaged Royal Mail about this and also mentioned it to Transportation in they hope that they can also get in touch with Royal Mail.

Beach Clean - Limekilns

On Sunday the 30th of June it was great to be part of another local Beach Clean, in Limekilns. This time it was part of an event from the Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Nature Group and Fife Community Climate Action Network (FCCAN) to show representatives for some other communities just what's involved in organising a beach clean, where data is collected on the types of plastics and other waste that is being found on the beach.

Speeding in Charlestown & Limekilns

On Monday the 1st of July I put out the Pop-Up police officer on Main Road Charlestown and on Tuesday the 2nd I put her out on the Promenade in Limekilns.

Weeds At Roadside Kerbs

I've had a lot of complaints recently about overgrown weeds by the kerbs. I contacted the relevant services about this and I've had confirmation that the teams are currently working their way round the area to address this. Weekend overtime shifts have also been added to help the teams try to catch up with this problem.

SGN Roadworks in Limekilns

The Scottish Gas Network works in Limekilns have been going on for some weeks now and they have become increasingly impactful on local residents and visitors to both Limekilns and Charlestown. As a local Councillor I received no notice of these works and I've had no updates or explanations as the works have gone on, even though the main access road to Limekilns has had traffic restrictions placed

on it with traffic lights holding up everyone entering or leaving the village. So I've contacted Fife Council's Executive Director "Place" questioning what arrangements are in place with companies like SGN when they undertake major works like this.

Help Forth Hedgehog Hospital. On the 6th of July I was happy to help promote a financial appeal from the Forth Hedgehog Hospital, they hedgehog rescue charity based in Rosyth. Their licence was up for renewal and the charge for this has increased from £75 up to £200. They are licensed to take 60 hogs at one time and have often been operating at that capacity.

Last year alone they took in over 250 hedgehogs.

Railway Bridge Wall, West Road Charlestown. I am pleased to see that the repairs had been completed to the damaged wall by the railway bridge on West Road, Charlestown. I'd reported this damage some months ago but there had been a long delay in the response from Network Rail who are responsible for this bridge.

Lidl is coming to Rosyth after all

Village Gala

On the 19th of July I was very happy to be able to share via my Facebook page the fundraising page for The Limekilns, Charlestown & Pattiesmuir Gala Day 2024. The gala will be held on Saturday the 17th of August and here's a link to the fundraising page for this years event.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/limekilns-charlestown-pattiesmuir-gala-day-2024-1>

Funding for Event in Crombie. On the 24th of July I was pleased to be able to support, in full, the funding application from Crombie Residents Association for their planned "Go for Gold" Fun Day on the 10th of August. This group's events are always excellent and considering how few of them there are on the committee they do an amazing job and provide so much for the village.

Brankholm Burn Restoration

As a Director of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust I've been highlighting the suitability of the Burns in Rosyth for our next phase of river restoration work. At a Trust Board Sub-Committee meeting on Friday the 26th of July it was confirmed that funding from the Scottish Environment Protection Authority (SEPA) and from Fife Council has now been agreed for the initial feasibility phase of this work on the Brankholm Burn. This programme will deliver huge benefits for river health, biodiversity, fish passage, human health and wellbeing, and will also contribute to flood management in the area.

Greyhound Racing Ban I was delighted to hear that a Bill to phase out Greyhound racing in Scotland is to come before the Scottish Parliament. It's being introduced by a Green MSP but I'll be encouraging MSPs from my party to support it and I'd love to see the Scottish Government taking on the Bill and making sure it's well drafted and passed by the Parliament.

Contact info. As well as at my surgeries, mentioned above, I can be contacted anytime via email at Cllr.Brian.Goodall@fife.gov.uk or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/cllrbrian.goodall

Councillor Brian Goodall - SNP

Fife Council Ward 5 - Rosyth

(Covering Rosyth, Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown, Pitliver, Waulkmill and Crombie.)