

**West Fife & Coastal Villages Community Council Forum  
Comrie Community Centre  
Thursday 25 April 2013**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Discussion Points</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Present</b>	David Lord                      Carnock/Gowkhal Jim Hensman                      Saline/Steelend Marie Crane                      Saline/Steelend John Bonnar                      Oakley/Comrie Ann Macdonald                      Cairneyhill Willie Hepburn                      Kincardine Muriel Colver                      Blairhall John Duffy                      Torryburn/Newmills Cllr. Callaghan                      Fife Council Cllr. Ferguson                      Fife Council Cllr. Clelland                      Fife Council Cllr. Stewart                      Fife Council PC Alison Watson Sgt. Elaine Duncan	
<b>In attendance</b>	Hazel Jow                      Minutes	
<b>Apologies</b>	John Crane                      Saline/Steelend	
<b>Police Report</b>	<p>Sgt Elaine Duncan introduced herself to members of the Forum. She reported that, since the changes, it was business as usual and priorities have not changed at their level.</p> <p>There have been some diesel thefts from rural farms. They have an action plan along with DWP and HMRC and there will be officers on the A985 dipping tanks from 7.30am on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p>Rural Watch – a farmer recently reported a vehicle which had been at his farm selling tools. The vehicle number was circulated as these people are more likely checking out the property.</p> <p>Other priorities include speeding in Cairneyhill and in general. A speed gun was deployed in Cairneyhill however there were no offences.</p> <p>Blairhall and Cairneyhill are having issues with youth disorder. The CCTV camera will be in Blairhall in May.</p> <p>Problems with youths starting fires at the harbour area in Kincardine. The Fire Service has been visiting the identified youths. AM asked about a police presence at the youth club in Cairneyhill. She explained that the youth club has started up but there is no youth worker as yet and the volunteers are struggling as there were approx. 50 youths there last week. Sgt Duncan advised that they are in the area on Friday and will try to visit the youth club.</p>	

	<p>DL asked about Community Speed Watch. He has had feedback that this has been suspended however the police website says that it has recently started in Cowdenbeath. Sgt Duncan advised that she has asked about the possibility of extending this training to volunteers in this area. DL commented that he would like this to be brought back.</p> <p>MC asked if the Community Engagement meetings will continue. Sgt Duncan advised that they will and the next one is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May in Oakley Community Centre. Due to the transition period, some info is not on the website. DL will contact the police station and ask them to send the dates of the CEM electronically.</p>	<b>DL</b>
<b>Election of Vice Chairman</b>	<p>DL asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. AM nominated John Duffy, MC seconded this. John agreed to be vice chairman but explained that he can only attend every second meeting.</p>	
<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes</b>	<p>Previous minutes were amended to read that JB was present. WH stated that the meeting was not quorate however, because JB was there, it was.</p> <p>Re First Responders, WF advised that the Scottish Ambulance Service will provide equipment, training and a mobile phone. DL commented that the First Responder in Saline had to pay for all equipment and MC said that she had also been told this. WF categorically stated that the Scottish Ambulance Service have said that they will provide the equipment. He asked that the Forum watch the progression of Kincardine's First Responders and then they will have more ammunition. At the moment they are still in the process of getting volunteers. MC said that the First Responder in Saline would be keen to attend the Forum to discuss this further, DL will contact her.</p> <p>Re Citizen of the Year, DL thinks that it is too late to plan COTY for this year and it needs to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. WF asked if it really is too late, DL said that he feels personally that he cannot be involved as much this year.</p> <p>Re the WFVC Planning Group – MC advised that the name has now been changed to WFVC Project Group.</p>	<b>DL</b>
<b>Elected Members Reports</b>	<p>Cllr. Clelland advised that they have had the first meeting of the planning committee. There are 15 members on the committee so there is at least one member from each ward. This is important as it means each ward has representation from someone with local knowledge.</p>	
<b>Community Council Feedback</b>	<p>Re the school review – One school in the West Fife Villages has been put forward for further consultation. The consultation will last for 30 school days and will involve pupils, parents etc.</p> <p>Re the Comrie Castle estate – a motion was put forward on the 16<sup>th</sup></p>	

March to say that the council should not hold residents liable for the financial liabilities of the section 75 agreement. This was passed unanimously.

Cllr. Callaghan has concerns regarding the school in Crombie. She will be fighting alongside the residents, to change the views. It is still at consultation stage though.

High Valleyfield social club is struggling to stay open as they find it difficult to obtain grants because they are licensed premises.

There have been a lot of enquiries regarding the Social Reform.

Different housing associations are treating the rules differently.

Some are asking for a month's rent in advance, Fife Council ask for a fortnight. Some associations are turning down people who want to change from 3 bedroom to 2 bedroom properties because they would still be under occupied. Cllr. Callaghan fought this as it was unfair, and managed to overturn this decision.

Cllr. Ferguson has received enquiries regarding Osborne Drive in Kincardine. He gave some background to the site. There is a park there but, because it was never completed, it has fallen into disrepair. There are 3 planning applications submitted for the site. These include a care home and plans for 4 houses. Transportation has stopped this in the past because of access issues but since the bypass and the bridge have been built this has now been relaxed. If the access issue could be resolved this would be good for the site.

Re the Market Cross in the village, this has been reported as unstable. Area committee has committed £25k to the repair which is estimated to cost £60k. Scottish Power has agreed to fund the difference. Cllr. Clelland congratulated WF and commented that this is excellent news.

Cllr. Stewart advised that the car parking enforcement has changed and that the money will now go to the council.

Along with the Inner Forth Initiative, they are hoping to bring Heritage money to the area.

A new fitness initiative has started in Oakley in conjunction with Herbal Life. KS is taking part in this.

A new 'care home village' is being planned for Kirkcaldy. This will be day centres, care homes etc in one place. They are hoping to have this finished for January.

Regarding Welfare Reform overcrowding act, the council are not classing a boxroom as a bedroom but some of the housing associations do. Also, regarding the changes in DLA, everything has to be done online. Are there enough computers for people to access this? The Council needs to support this.

KS attended the Art Exhibition in Saline and commended John Crane and his group on a fantastic exhibition.

<p><b>Planning Issues</b></p>	<p>The Dementia Café has had 2 meeting in Valleyfield Centre. It is a very nice atmosphere. KS is helping to promote this.</p> <p>KS advised that she had attended the meeting with the residents of Blairhall. Although they are now not liable for this money, the residents have asked for another meeting to discuss their estate. They have concerns about it not being finished. KS wonders why Fife Council has not become more assertive on section 75s.</p> <p>Regarding the school review, KS commented that she was under the illusion that this was to make savings, the council will only save £750k by closing 38 schools. This does not seem to stack up. KS has asked the education officers to attend an area committee meeting to explain this.</p> <p>KS has spoken to the residents of Crombie and their community is devastated that they might lose their school. KS asked if the Forum could support them. DL said that he has spoken to Bill Welsh and Crombie has failed to pull together a community council. They have formed a residents' association. AM commented that this does not affect what is happening with the school.</p> <p>WH advised that at their last community council meeting, they had discussed getting plans for the Burnbrae development. However, he has been told by planning department that it was costing too much money so they have stopped issuing plans. Unfortunately this does not help when controversial issues arise. Planning department give a very poor service, a community council can ask them to a meeting but they will not attend. They very rarely answer their phones and never return calls.</p> <p>WF suggested that the Forum discuss the impact that Scottish Coal going into liquidation will have on the area. MC has spoken to Colin Ortlett, who is her contact for Scottish Coal; he said that he will continue to be a trustee. WF advised that he will now be working for the administrators. He went on to say that it is now up to Fife Council to take the next step regarding the bond. A trust meeting is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> May. WF suggested that this be an action on the Forum to contact Fife Council. This needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting. DL will send an email to Angus Dodds asking to be kept informed. KS suggested that he speak to Stewart Forbes from Kingseat CC as they will be in the same situation.</p>	<p><b>DL</b></p>
<p><b>Community Council Feedback</b></p>	<p>Outh Muir Wind Farm – RWG Windpower will be submitting a planning application but an adjacent site is also submitting a provisional notification for turbines, this could have cumulative impact. There is a potential community benefit of £6k per year.</p> <p><u>Saline/Steelend</u> the police are doing concentrated efforts on speeding at the school. They will be issuing warnings rather than fines.</p>	

	<p>There are plans for an eco friendly cemetery on the land at the back of the golf course. There are issues with lack of parking here. The land owner will be attending the community council meeting. The Art Exhibition went ahead as planned. Artwork was received from 12 primary schools, Queen Anne High School and Bandrum Nursing Home. There were 228 photographs, 165 paintings and 6 craft tables. 70 artists and photographers took part. There were 360 visitors over the 2 days but disappointingly, this was down on last year. Flyers should have gone out through the schools but they were not sure if they did. KS suggested that they email headteachers to ask if they did. There were over 50 entries for the calendar competition.</p> <p><u>Torryburn/Newmills</u> The work on the play park will not start until August. They are submitting project applications to the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative this week.</p> <p><u>Oakley/Comrie</u> The launch of the Community Action Plan will take place in Oakley Centre on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. £30k has been distributed to groups in the village and this will showcase who has received money and what has been done with it. Oakley has been designated as a Community Sports Hub. The co-ordinator of this will be attending the launch. Questionnaires will be sent out to local sports groups to find out what activities people want in the area. DL asked if this was just for Oakley or for surrounding villages. JB advised that it is for the surrounding area. DL commented that he had not heard about this and suggested that the co-ordinator speak to the various community councils about this. JB will feed this back to him. AM said it was good that it is coming to the West Fife Villages but asked why it is in Oakley. It is because of the facilities that they have there.</p> <p><u>Blairhall</u> MC commented that it is good that Blairhall is getting CCTV cameras as there have been a lot of problems with young people breaking into the top centre etc. The Blether Together lunch club is going really well. There are 12 old people attending each week and it is a really enjoyable day. MC advised that there are still 3 spaces on the bus so if anyone knew of anyone aged 65 or older, from the North villages, who would like to attend, to contact her. They are getting a village newsletter started. DL suggested that it is significantly cheaper to get it printed online and said he would send the contact details to MC.</p> <p><u>Cairneyhill</u> They are most concerned about the lack of a youth worker in their club. The volunteers who are running the youth club thought that this would be a temporary measure for a few weeks</p>	<p><b>DL</b></p>
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