

SALINE AND STEELAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A well-attended August meeting waded through a long but relevant agenda

Allanwater Site off Oakley

“Press” readers will be well aware of our elected members support for the community by being minded to refuse Allanwater's application against officials' recommendation. Nevertheless, most people did not oppose the development of the site but felt that the design did not reflect the requirements of the outline consent. In an effort to secure an acceptable outcome, the community council invited the company to participate in an open discussion with those attending the community council. Sam Sweeney from Bracewell Stirling attended.

Mr Sweeney outlined the background to the application and decision. Allanwater had considered appealing but had decided that it would be quicker to revise their proposals. He described the investigations of the local house types and forms that had influenced the revised designs.

The number of houses now proposed has been reduced from 81 to 61 properties but this has been achieved by deleting the 20 “affordable” houses. It appears that Fife Council had intended to buy these but changed its mind while it was impossible to agree an acceptable price with Kingdom Housing Association. As a result, Allanwater will be making a contribution to Fife Council for “affordable” housing elsewhere. This decision was met with some dismay by those present as affordable housing is a priority in the Community Action Plan.

A play area will not be provided on the site due to the proximity of the facility off Oaklea and Allanwater will be paying a contribution to Fife Council. It was felt that this should be used to address needs being investigated by the Playpark Group of young parents. It was also considered essential that the community is fully involved at all stages.

The conclusion of the meeting that the revisions were acceptable and the chair, David Chisholm, remarked that this progress demonstrated the value of proper consultation.

Former Hotel Site

An improvement in the appearance of the site has been noted and it is understood that the developers are proposing 2 cottages

Saline Post Office

Post Office PLC is unaware of closure of our post office and re-affirmed that it will keep the community council aware of any developments

Planning Department Consultation Meeting

David Chisholm attended this poorly attended meeting although he noted a healthy attendance by West Fife Villages community councils, perhaps reflecting dissatisfaction with the “service”. Development Services management considered that they were doing a good job but seemed to accept concerns about officers' accessibility and charges for consultations. They will investigate the appointment of a dedicated officer to liaise with community councils.

Saline Playpark Group

Melanie Mitchell advised that they had held an initial meeting, progress was being made towards formalising the group and that they had met Claire Lovett from Fife Council.

Parking

David Chisholm reported on a meeting that he and Cllr Clelland had had with the owners of Village Cars regarding the many complaints about cars being parked

throughout the community. The owners had been uncompromising and don't intend to do anything. There were concerns that the parking in the community centre car park will adversely impact on the forthcoming Horticultural Show.

SesPlan

The community council has been informed of a start to work on the replacement SesPlan that will set out the strategy for housing etc. in the Edinburgh City Region. Someone from SesPlan must have tried to get in to Edinburgh in the morning as they are considering a change to the effect that Edinburgh's housing needs will be met south of the river.

The consultation document can be examined on the Saline and Steelend web site. A number of drop-in events have been arranged but unfortunately the one in Dunfermline is past but anyone interested can drop in to Inverkething Civic Centre between 3 and 7 pm.

Kingdom Housing Association

KHA will shortly be submitting their planning application with a few to starting work soon. It is anticipated that Alan Henderson will attend the next community council meeting.

Turbines

The community council has learned that the application for a turbine on West Craighouse Farm, opposed by many residents, has been approved following appeal while the one proposed at Mains of Kinneddar has been approved by Fife Council. Both these proposals will generate income for the community and the community council will be contacting the developers to find a way to ensure that funds best meet community priorities.

Morag Aitken reported on the opposition to the siting of the proposed turbine at Killernie Farm. As reported in previous Bulletins, the community didn't object to the original site but felt that this proposal had too much of an impact on a wider area. However, it is understood that the proposal will not now be proceeding.

Heritage Angels

It has previously been reported that the community council proposed Saline Heritage Society for a Heritage Angels award. Unfortunately, it has been advised that our proposal did not proceed to the next stage due to the significant competition. While this is disappointing, the exercise did highlight the excellent work being carried out by the Society. It will shortly be starting its winter programme of talks so, why not give it a try. The talks are interesting and entertaining, fees are minimal and it's a chance to meet fellow residents in a pleasant atmosphere. Visitors from other communities will also be welcomed.

Flooding

Residents in the North Road area had complained about flooding in the play area to Fife Council who had closed it. Following further complaints the council fenced off the flooded area. Other residents have now pointed out that there is flooding in other areas north of Main Street and the feeling was that action is required to address these issues.

It was also noted that the boundary wall of an adjoining property is leaning into the play area and Fife Council will be asked to investigate.

Traffic Speeds

A Fife Council official has been spotted measuring up for signs through Upper Steelend. This is seen as a positive step following the meeting that Cllr Clelland organised between residents and Phil Clarke from Transportation. David Chisholm

advised that Phil Clarke was willing to meet with people to discuss a possible Action Plan to tackle all road safety issues. Watch the Bulletin and web site for future details. While the problem boy racer has received a warning from Police officers, residents remain concerned about bad driving through the chicanes on West Road. It seems that some see the chicanes as a challenge to speed through. Martin Cairns suggested community action such as carried out elsewhere and it appears that Police are supported. It was suggested that this be suggested at the next Police Liaison meeting on 16th September. Marie Crane reminds us that these meetings are open to ALL and that these meetings guide Police priorities.

Saline Glen

David Chisholm advised that Saline and Steelend Community Development Trust has been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery to appoint a consultant to advise on the feasibility of acquiring this valuable community asset. The consultant will be advising on a range of issues such as the consequences of acquisition, opportunities for improvements, costs, valuations and how the community could manage the facility. Local people will be consulted as part of the exercise

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th September 2015 at 7.30 in Saline Community Centre. All welcome