The Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council
Minutes of meeting 15 February 2018 at Forfar Community Campus.

Present:

Community Councillors: - Ian Whyte (IW), T. O’Brien (TOB), Catriona McNicoll (CMcN), Eleanor Feltham (EF), Avril Simpson (AS), Mrs L. Clark (LC)

Minute Secretary: - Joy Mitchell

Angus Councillors: - Cllr Colin Brown, Cllr Lynne Devine, Cllr Braden Davey and Cllr Ian McLaren

Guest Speaker - Item 2 Update on Recycling: - Stewart Ball, Head of Housing, Regulatory & Protective Services, Angus Council

Others present: - Sgt Vicki Crichton, Police Scotland & Graham Clark, a member of the public.

1. Welcome & Apologies
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Joy Mitchell as the Minute Secretary and Stewart Ball of Angus Council who had been invited to provide an update on Recycling Centres. The Chair also thanked Sgt Vicki Crichton of the Forfar Community Police Unit for taking the time to attend the meeting. Apologies have been received from Community Councillors Elaine Cruickshank (EC), Ian Dickson (ID), Charlotte Douglas(CD), Bill Golden (BG), James Gray-Cheape (JGC) and David R. Wardhaugh (DRW).

2. Update on Recycling
Stewart Ball thanked the Chair for inviting him to address the meeting and advised he was willing to listen and take on board any feedback and ideas from Community Council (CC).
Mr Ball advised that following Cllr Myles motion to amend opening hours, most Angus Recycling Centres would be open between 3pm – 7pm from April to September and this will be advertised on Council website. Arbroath Recycling Centre is the only exception because it already has longer opening hours. Usage during the new opening hours will be monitored and this could become a year-round arrangement.
Mr Ball confirmed that all Recycling Centres would be open at weekend and that advised that pedestrian access was banned due to Health & Safety Executive concerns adding that Industry guidance for recycling centres and civic amenity sites is to separate pedestrians from vehicles. Mr Ball acknowledges that this has not been a popular decision but pointed out that the shorter opening times would lead to centres having busier traffic when the sites are open and therefore more danger to pedestrians.

With regard to the issue of restrictions to 6ft trailers, the site attendants had highlighted dangers of trailers and Mr Ball had done an onsite survey himself. The reduction in opening hours means a significant change and safety of site staff and users has to be priority which was why a restriction on trailer size had been introduced.

There followed a discussion on the possibility of an extension or new site for Forfar recycling centre. Mr Ball advised that the main issue is to identify suitable potential vacant council sites which have not already been earmarked by Economic Development for other projects. Meantime, the plan for further amendments and closures of Angus recycling centres is on hold to see how contract with Dundee City Council works out. That arrangement has only been in place since September and a report will be written in due course.
Fly tipping
EF raised the issue of dumping of large items of rubbish and building material. Mr Ball advised that there has been a big increase in reported fly tipping in Angus on the border of Dundee City following Dundee Council banning commercial vehicles in recycling centres. New Apps to report fly tipping has also led to increased reporting. “Man with a Van” operators uplifting large household items at low cost are a believed to be the big cause of fly tipping because the amount being charged to uplift items does not cover the costs of using official sites. Mr Ball advised that it’s difficult to trace and prosecute those responsible. However, he assured the meeting that the Angus Council will prosecute offenders if there is enough evidence.

EF asked about a bulk waste option or reuse cabin to deposit large items, Mr Ball advised that Baldovie Recycling Centre in Dundee has one and that Transform Group Dundee also run projects to reuse household and office furniture.

Finally, Mr Ball asked for suggested improvements to current centres. EF suggested pedestrian only sessions perhaps 15 minutes start/end day and Mr Ball said he’d be willing to consider giving this idea a trial, although he cautioned that it would only be for hand held items as there have been safety issues in the past with pedestrians taking wheelie bins and other containers into recycling centre.

The Chair thanked Mr Ball for taking the time to come to the meeting.

3. Minutes from previous Meeting
Amendments to the draft January Minutes
Councillor Updates
Cllr Devine advised Pitstop on Saturdays does not offer advice to parents it's just an open space.
Cllr Braden confirmed that 59% of all respondents wanted speed humps in Taylor Street to be removed. However, 56% of Taylor Street residents wanted them to stay and that’s why Council decided to leave them in place.
AOCSB
NHS Services concerns were about whole care model not just the Mulberry Unit.

4. Matters arising
AOCSB Gowanbank residents
Cllr Devine advised that speeding surveys show average 31mph and that a further survey would soon take place at the east end of the village and dependant on the results a possible 40mph buffer zone might be implemented. The police may use vehicle active speed signs at the east end of village.
Tob advised that he is still trying to get a response from Gowanbank contacts.

5. Chair Report
Xmas lights 2018 – will meet with Kirriemuir Xmas lights design people soon.
Toilet at Loch – meeting with Ian Cochrane, Head of Technical and Property Services and planner next week.
Attended Arbroath CC meeting 7 Feb to find out more about PB. The Information Day is on 24 February and Voting Day is on 10 March.
6. Secretary Report
Angus and Tayside Council NHS Consultation – Tob to send out.

Crazy Golf and Pitch & Putt at Loch
Tob hopes to get funding from Community Innovation Fund and has been advised that for grants less than £10k have 21-day turnaround.
Tob has appealed for volunteers on Facebook and advised that Parks and Angus Council will continue to do maintenance.
It is hoped to get a vandal proof small building to be powered with small wind turbine or solar located where original hut used to be.
Aiming for the project to open on either the 1st or last bank holiday in May and then open April – Sept and possibly during school holidays.
Regarding costs/funding/subsidies, ToB advised that Crazy Golf used to be free on Be Active and it’s hoped that that the new facility will be free to use.

7. Treasurer report
CMcN advised that the bank account remains at £6244.26.
£240 is due to Toppers for 100 "Try Forfar First" window stickers and £101 is due for planning signage.
ToB mentioned that Liability insurance and Data Protection Fees (Approx. £100 each) are due soon.

8. Police & Fire Service Reports
8.1 Police Report
Community Unit
Sgt Vicki Crichton, in her new role as Forfar Community Sergeant, explained that the Community Unit consists of herself, Inspector Katie Chisholm and PC Scot Anderson with 2 other PCs to join the team soon.
Increased numbers mean they can be more targeted on local issues and aim for proactive instead of reactive policing.

Policing Issues
Vandalism
Sgt Crichton advised that it is mainly 2 or 3 individuals causing vandalism problems and that the police are working with other agencies and schools to tackle the problem.

Speeding and Road Accidents
The issue of boy racers is to be tackled. However, following reports of speeding, monitoring with a speed gun did not find a big issue but police are aware that antisocial drivers in rural areas is an issue.
Following a discussion on recent accidents at Welton Corner and speeding between Kingsmuir and Forfar, Sgt Crichton believes that most recent accidents were due to icy road conditions rather than speeding.
However, she will look at accident reports to find out if there is a common theme while acknowledging that not all accidents are reported.

Community Policing & Special Constables
Responding to a query from Graham Clark regarding the possibility of more "bobbies on the beat", Sgt Crichton advised that beat patrols take place when possible but due to lack of resources, policing is usually reactive and explained that if an officer is on foot they are not able to respond quickly enough to urgent matters.
Sgt Crichton is addressing the shortage of Special Constables. National Recruitment is ongoing, they are currently recruiting locally and plan to do more initiatives with Special Constables.
Sgt Crichton is looking at how recruitment works in Scotland. Some volunteers become Special Constables as a way to join the main police force but she would like people from a wide range of backgrounds to be long term Special Constables.
Police Report
Sgt Crichton advised that the local report is due by 21 February and that feedback is welcome. The report will be posted on CC Facebook page.

8.2 Fire report
No Fire report received.

9. Local Councillor updates

Cllr Brown
Cllr Brown advised that earlier that day, the council Budget had been passed unanimously.
Cllr Brown still wants trees cut down at Balmashanner War Memorial to broaden the view. He has spoken to Fred Connacher, Tree Officer, Angus Council who is not in favour.

Cllr Ian McLaren
Work on Chapel Park housing development (Academy Court) is nearing completion.
Viewmount housing redevelopment is progressing well and Cllr McLaren believes it will be a great asset to the town when complete.
Entry dates for both developments still to be officially confirmed.

Cllr Lynne Devine
Cllr Devine advised that the Tayside Joint Valuation Board is looking at new accommodation. The Dundee office is to close and the staff (who are not involved with electoral matters) will be based in William Wallace House, Forfar. The Perth & Forfar offices are to remain as they are.

Other items
Cllr Devine had attended lots of special meetings prior to budget being passed.
Castlehill Monument viewfinder has been completed.
"Try Forfar First" banners – Cllr Devine apologised that due to printing issues, "Supported by Forfar CC" had not been printed on the banners. She is still distributing banners which are being put up in windows of local businesses to help promote shopping locally.
Cllr Devine had visited Inverarity outdoor nursery where the children were happy playing outside.

Cllr Braden Davy
Cllr Davy confirmed that the Angus Council budget had been passed.
Webcasting of Angus Council meetings – idea has been approved and the Council is now sourcing the cheapest/best options and he’ll report progress at a later date.

10 AOCB

i - Empty Council Buildings
LC is new to the area and said that there seems to be lots of council buildings that are empty or underused. After a discussion on various buildings, their usage and ownership (Council, Common Good etc), it was agreed to set up a sub group to find out more.
ACTION - Set up a Sub Group to review Public Building usage.

ii - Council House Rents
Cllr Devine advised that an increase of 4% was passed, the Tenant Association had attended the meeting and no issues were raised.
iii – Litter issues
There was a discussion on litter problems near Tesco and the Academy which is causing unnecessary cost to the Council. General opinion is that there is possible less litter now because more pupils are staying at the Campus during breaks.
At a suggestion of getting people serving Community Payback Orders to pick up street litter, there are issues of HSE and supervision of personnel to be taken into consideration.
ACTION - Shop on Brechin Road to be asked to keep the area around the shop clean and try to reduce the use of polystyrene food containers.

iv - Adopt a Street – Angus Council Litter initiative.
AS advised that she has adopted the B1928 Welton Corner to Forfar and has picked up lots of litter and the council has collected 8 bags to date. She has also advised a landowner of bicycles dumped on his land and been assured that they will be removed.
There followed a discussion on various litter initiatives and sourcing volunteers. It was agreed that any CC initiative should link up with other initiatives ongoing, VAA, Year of Youth and piggyback National Clean Up Day or Keep Scotland Tidy in order to get more publicity. LC suggested the slogan 'Trash costs Cash'.
ACTIONS: Cllr Davy to ask Angus Council to promote Adopt a Street on social media and suggest a possible Forfar litter pick up day.
OTHER ACTIONS:
VAA to be approached to get volunteers.
Find out dates of national litter initiatives.

11. Sub Group updates:
11.1 Common Good Fund – Easier for asset transfer because the buildings don't belong to Council – ACTION - email to be sent out.

11.2 Planning/Consultations
Ritchies Wynd – erection of 2 storey extension and removal of existing garage.
Tesco Notice Board re Food Surpluses – looking for community group requests to donate to.

11.3 PB – nothing to report

11.4 Signage Group – Cllr Devine advised that Signage East High Street, wall has been power washed. Small paving stones to be laid, and planter & seats will go back New local information signs in both car parks – Greens and Myre.

11.5 Forfar Funding scheme – ACTION - Chair to arrange a meeting to discuss possible options.

12. Planning Applications
St Margaret’s Church – the demolition of existing building and erection of a new community church has been approved.
No other issues

Date and time of next meeting: 7.00 p.m. Thursday 15th March 2018 Venue Forfar Community Campus.