

Monthly Agenda – October 2012

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 1st October in the Burgh chambers of St Andrews Town Hall. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made. The meeting is audio-recorded to assist the secretary in producing the minutes.

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of 3rd September 2012

Read for accuracy in matters of substance – harangue the secretary for minor errors (spelling etc) outwith the meeting.

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.3. Keith McCartney

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Reports

Reports to be submitted to members by email and any matters arising for full Council will be presented by Planning Convenor.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Martyrs Monument Update

6.2. Craigtoun Update

6.3. Botanic Gardens Update

6.4. St Andrews Community Trust

6.5. Community Council Resignations/New Members

6.5. Standen Report – Appendix D

6.6. Reports from Representatives

6.7. Any Other Matters Arising

7. From Committees

7.1. Recreation

7.2. General Purposes

7.3. 200 Club

7.3.1. St Andrews in Bloom Committee –Request for grant

7.4. Health, Education & Welfare Committee

7.5. Rail Sub Committee – see Appendix C

8. New Business

8.1. Community Empowerment & Renewal Bill

8.2. Allotments in St Andrews – See Appendix B

8.3. St Andrews Festival – Request for Donation (Ceilidh Fund)

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.2. Treasurer

Hard copies will be available on the night if requested

9.3. Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – Appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

Please notify Chair of AOCB items before the start of the meeting or at the break. Hint: Given that the end of the meeting is often taken in something of a rush, unless items are urgent it might be better to submit them for next meeting's New Business.

Appendix A Correspondence

18/09/12	Frances Melville	Email about the work being done on the footpath at the East Sands this past month
19/09/12	Frances Melville	Email report re Suds Work on Lade braes St Andrews and lack of safety warnings and barriers?
19/09/12	Frances Melville	Email report re Caravans at end of West Sands

APPENDIX B: ALLOTMENTS IN ST ANDREWS – HENRY PAUL

Having worked on the response mentioned above, I realised that the problem with lack of allotments was a classic problem that we the CC could solve. The site at the Western Cemetery was identified for three uses, a Jubilee Wood, a Wildflower meadow and Allotments. We arranged and planted 600 trees to form a Jubilee Wood. The links have cut the grass twice and the St Andrews Orchard Group has acquired funding for Wildflower meadow seeds to be planted in the Community Orchard and the Western Cemetery site. Last year, FC officials produced an excellent plan for allotments on the site and sadly nothing appears to have been done to deliver this plan. See e-mail below and our local councillors are chasing up the officials to find out what is happening. If the officials are too busy to deliver this project I suggest we ask them to allocate us the funds and we will deliver it. The first thing we will need to do is submit a planning application for the site and I suggest we delegate this task to the planning committee - the committee that likes to say "we object". Then we will need tenders for ploughing/fencing/hard landscaping etc to establish the allotments. Allegedly, last year there was £30,000 allocated for this project. I think we could deliver it for less.

Email sent by Henry Paul to local Fife Councillors below

I am writing to request your support in providing allotments in St Andrews. Over a year ago a suitable site was identified at the Western Cemetery and council officials prepared plans for the site. The plan showed three parts to the site; a Jubilee wood, a wildflower meadow and allotments. The CC was given 500 trees by the woodland trust and the locality manager gave us £1,000 for stakes and tree guards. 120 local volunteers helped plant all of the trees in an hour last St Andrews Day and the event was on the local STV news. The St Andrews Orchard group has acquired funding of £2,777 for wildflower seeds and plug plants and we will start seeding the wildflower meadow this autumn.

But it would appear that Fife Council has done nothing to further the allotment's project. As a CC member, I am happy to oversee the establishment of this project and then to hand over the running to a properly constituted allotment group. This site is within easy walking distance of Younger Gardens and presently the people living at that end of town have no local facilities. Ideally, I would look to establish a community garden for those people who would like to grow food with other people

APPENDIX C : RAIL SUB COMMITTEE REPORT - OCTOBER 2012

Since the last report, the main event in the consultation process has been a meeting with the Director of Finance, Euan MacGregor of the Links Trust, and thanks are due to Henry Paul for arranging it and attending. Ian Goudie, Izzy Cordin and myself represented the Rail Sub-Committee.

The discussion could be described as 'full and frank' and can be summarised thus:

'The Links Trust are opposed to the proposals for a new St Andrews railway and can see no benefits at all in them. However, were a viable route to be found which did not impinge upon the Links in any way, they would not express an opinion.'

The particular concerns are the disruptive effects upon the Links property, such as the new storage facility, for which there is no alternative location, and the Strathtyrum and Balgove courses, as there is no room to relocate the affected holes, and also the relocation of the access road and the implications for HGV deliveries. They also urge that contact be made with the R&A, to ascertain their views on the equipment test centre and the tented village, as well as the implications for management of the Open Championship.'

While the lack of vision is disappointing, it is no worse than I expected. The concerns raised are valid, ones, worthy of consideration, and will be passed to the next stage of the campaign. Happily it is not for the Community Council, nor yet Starlink, to find a solution, though I have passed them to the consultant for comment.

I mentioned the offer of assistance from the University, and enclose a copy of their letter for information. Scotrail and one of the councillors have suggested the kind of information which would be useful, and these have been duly passed to Roddy Yarr.

Meetings still to take place:

- North East Fife SNP - scheduled for 15th October
- Fife Council; meeting with relevant officers still being arranged
- Strathkinness Community Council; a briefing has been offered and they will consider the matter at their next meeting on 10th October.

The Links Trust strongly advised a meeting with the R & A. They were invited to the initial presentation back in May, but no reply was received and neither did anybody attend. Nevertheless, if somebody on the CC has a contact, perhaps they could help set up such a meeting. I have also contacted the Students' Association President, to see if they would care to respond.

After the above items have been resolved, it will then have to be decided what if any further events are required before passing the findings on to SESTRAN.

APPENDIX D: StaAndEN Report for August 2012

The visit programme is now well underway and entries are being keyed into the database and regularly updated.

The dolls house is now ready although further slight alterations will take place in future.

Leaflets have been dropped in Leuchars, Boarhills and Dunino. A number of leads were generated for the project and these are being followed up.

A residential property in St Andrews has been identified to take part in a research project to install Infranomic Heating to replace storage heating. A second property has now been identified. It is a house converted to offices used by the University. This is one of three identical buildings, each fitted with monitoring equipment. One has gas heating, the other two have electric storage heating, one of these will be converted to Infranomic heating and data will be collected from all three for comparison. This will be a partnership project with StaAndEN, Direct Savings and the University of St Andrews with installations taking place in late September. There are no funding issues for this project as Direct Savings are supplying and installing the heating system for the domestic property and the University is funding the other. The University will carry out the monitoring and a report will be produced by StaAndEN using the University's research.

Meetings have taken place between StaAndEN and the Transition University of St Andrews group and arrangements are well underway for StaAndEN's involvement in Freshers Week.

StaAndEN staff attended a Green Deal information day to ensure that staff are up to date with current Government Programmes.

In August 4 lofts were insulated and a block of four flats had cavity wall insulation installed and we are following up on other referrals. The University has agreed to install cavity wall insulation in one of its purpose built student self-catering accommodation. This is a development of a number of blocks of such accommodation.

Transition has trawled for all their part-time staff and these should be in post later this month. Discussions have taken place between Transition and StaAndEN about the formal launch of the LETS

scheme and St Andrews Communities Working Together will be hosting the Fife Wide Transition Groups get together in October/November.

The Wednesday Drop-in Centre was used by 6 householders in August, a low number not unexpected at this time of year.

APPENDIX E : Councillor's Report (Keith McCartney) September 2012

Action taken in response to issues raised by constituents –

Potholes – the pothole just past the 20mph sign on the High Road as you enter Strathkinness has been filled in as have two potholes in Old Station Road (one at the entrance to Station Park, the other in the centre of the road where the cycle path exits/enters the carpark by the 17th green.

Four potholes in the car park at Madras College (front west) entered from the roundabout on South Street have been reported.

Signs – the first of the signs indicating a 20mph zone ahead on the left hand side of the High Road before Strathkinness has been knocked over at an angle as has the single track road sign on the Kincauld Road just after its junction with the Cupar Road. Both have been reported.

Broken Street Lights – In both Union Street and Lawhead Road West the plan is to replace the columns. The materials required have been sourced and the work will be programmed. The street lights out of action beside the Byre and in Lawmill Gardens have been fixed.

Queen's Gardens – reported that lines indicating disabled parking bays outside Town Hall are worn away. These are to be added to the next programme of disabled bays and the work is expected to be done by the end of October.

Other action taken –

Police – met with Sergeant Brian Poole. Raised concerns over pedestrians crossing roundabout beside Hope Park Church rather than using the crossings provided alongside putting themselves and drivers in danger. Issue was to be highlighted with students.

Graffiti Removal – I contacted the graffiti removal team and they have removed

- Stickers (Union Bears – No Surrender) from the 20mph sign outside Balnacarron Home, no parking sign on first lamppost after junction of Lawhead Road West with Craigtoun Road, green traffic lights at crossing on Craigtoun Road leading from Lawhead Primary to Ladebraes, sign for roundabout on Craigtoun Road before junction with Bogward Road/Younger Gardens, finger post for Spinkie Den on Bogward Road.
- paint from the Younger Gardens street sign and finger post for Town Centre beside Lawmill bridge.
- graffiti painted on gas regulator inside Kinburn Park over wall from Kennedy Gardens.
- stencils painted on green metal structure on path from Maynard Road to Ladebraes before bridge and grey metal box on post in Kennedy Gardens.
- 'tag' on cctv post at junction of Bell Street and Market Street (Beside The Vic).

Lawmill Duck Pond – the cause of problem of the falling water level was identified as being a blocked inlet pipe. This was cleared on 28th August and was to be checked every second day to make sure the water was running. On 30th August a Technical Officer visited the pond and, as a precautionary measure regarding the algae, put up warning notices on 31st August. A water sample was sent to SEPA for analysis on 4th September and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) were not detected but the signs left in place as a precaution. A further inspection took place on 24th September when it was reported that the pond was clear of the algal growth that was present before and the warning signs were taken down. The pond will be added to the list of sites that require checking as per the Blue-Green Algae Action Plan for next year. The Area Parks Team Leader has been asked to attend a future St Andrews Ward Meeting to look at how the long term health of the pond might be improved with a view to returning it to a state where it could once again sustain a variety of wildlife.
