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Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Agenda – June 2003

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm on Monday 2nd June in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made.

(Copies of Agendas and Minutes of the Community Council are held at Fife Council's Local Office, St Mary's Place and the Town Library, Church Square. Those from mid-1998 on are online at <http://www.louisxiv.demon.co.uk/standrewscc/>)

0. Co-options

There are two casual vacancies on community council to be filled by cooption. Appendix A: List of confirmed candidates and statements received from candidates. There will be a ballot.

1. Apologies

George Davidson.

2. Minutes of May 2003

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

3. Presentations

For anyone wishing to address the meeting on a matter relevant to St Andrews. Please contact the Secretary or Chair before the meeting. Priority will be given to those who have been invited to speak or have given advance notice.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

[April 4.1.1.] Appendix H: Letter re Hospital from NHS Fife.

[April 4.1.2.] Appendix I: Letter re Call Centre from Police.

4.2. Sheila Hill (South)

4.3. Bill Sangster (Central)

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

5. Planning Committee Report

Appendix F: submission re Computer Science Building redevelopment.

6. Matters Arising from previous meetings

6.1. Mrs Wilsher

Asks whether community council would be prepared to sponsor her historical book on 'The Story of the Societies of St Andrews' as this would ease making applications for funds. Appendix M for details.

6.2. ASCC AGM

Glasgow Caledonian University, 9.30-4, Sat 14 June.
Programme available. £15 per delegate.

Can anyone attend?

6.3. Doors Open Day

Appendix B: response to our suggestions from DOD coordinator.

6.4. St Andrews Signing Study

Appendix C: Our letter expressing concern and response from Fife Council.

6.5. Bulgarian Links

[May 7.2.] Appendix D: email to N Nadialkov, and the reply.

6.6. Ellice Place Post Office

[May 6.5.] Appendix E: PO decision.

6.7. Telephone boxes

Information, mostly repeated, received from Fife Council / BT.
Two South Street boxes proposed for removal.

6.8. Any other matters arising...

7. New Business

7.1. Taking a Pride in Fife

We are invited to send two representatives to Fife Environmental Network's Strategy launch on Tue 3rd June, Botanic Gardens. Programme 11.15am Welcome and view displays on the Strategy; 12 Strategy Launch; 12.30 buffet lunch; 1pm view displays and the Botanic Gardens.

Who can attend?

7.2. Scottish Civic Forum

Membership renewal: at least £20.

7.3. Planning Aid for Scotland AGM

10-2.30, Sat 14 June, Hutcheson's Hall Glasgow. (free).
Programme available.

Can anyone attend?

7.4. Leisure Centre

Appendix J: Joe Lamb raised some issues regarding the state of the Leisure Centre, which PL forwarded to Fife Councillors etc; Fife Council have responded.

7.5. Iain Smith MSP

Writes to let us know he hopes to visit every community council in NE Fife over the next few months to learn of local issues first hand, as he did when first elected.

7.6. Calor Community of the Year

Entry form and guidelines received.

8. Reports from Officers

8.1. Chair

8.2. Treasurer

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. Contact List: I took the opportunity of including an updated list when posting out the print of the Tourism Vision presentation. Please let me have any corrections for a final list, plus co-options, next month.

8.3.2. Keys: Who holds keys to the various community council notice boards, cupboards etc?

8.3.3. Planning Aid: £10 resubscription paid after email consultation of CC.

8.3.4. Deserting St Andrews: Your Secretary will be out of town over the middle of the month and busy with preparations beforehand. Basic mail processing services will continue as long as possible but nothing substantial will happen 4-22 June.

8.3.5. ToDo list: request further bus shelter information [May 6.6].

9. Reports

9.1. from Committees

Written reports of meetings are required by terms of the Scheme for Community Councils.

9.1.1. General Purposes: Appendix K

9.2. from Representatives

For any verbal reports of meetings attended etc. Issues requiring a decision by community council should be raised under items 6 Matters Arising or 7 New Business, as appropriate.

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 – Co-option Candidates

Laurel Birch Aguilar, 18 St Mary Street

After some thought, I would like to become a co-opted member. My husband, daughter and I have been residents in St Andrews for a decade, and this is now our home. Over these years I have been interested in the town, writing letters to Fife Council for the transportation strategies and community planning, and working in development and lecturing in the University.

More recently I have taken the past year out to organise a St Andrews based voluntary Trust to raise funds for the famine in southern Africa. I was able to travel five times to organise the famine effort in three villages communities, providing seeds and food for more than 1500 people through the year, leading to what is now a successful harvest.

Now that I am back from that work, I am ready to take on other commitments, as well as continuing efforts to assist the desperately poor people in those African communities.

After discussing the work of the Community Council with the Secretary, I can see there is scope to undertake any number of projects, and so I believe I can make a contribution to our community through Council membership.

James Docherty, 31C Market Street.

Some of the local features of St Andrews in which I take an interest: the fabric of the town; the Green Belt control over expansion; town centre security; commercial development.

Ian Hamilton, c/o Vineleaf Restaurant, South Street

Is a St Andean, educated at Madras College and has been in business in the town for twenty years. Resident of the town centre, Ian has three children aged ten and under. He has been involved in Tourism, Arts and Events Projects for many years and has no political associations or ambitions. Known to be Pro-

Active rather than Re-Active Ian, if welcomed to the Community Council, is keen to promote a "hands-on", non partisan, approach to the welfare of the town.

Dorothea Morrison, Baidland, 19 Lade Braes

I am interested in planning matters and during the time I chaired the Preservation Trust I was involved in several controversial planning applications. This gave me quite an insight in planning and a reasonable knowledge of policies. I am also interested in community issues. During the election campaign the part I enjoyed most was talking to people on the doorstep and finding out the issues which matter to them. It was quite revealing to find out just how often I was the only person they had spoken to that day. I am the pastoral care co-ordinator in my church and again I am aware of the need for community involvement. I was involved in the St. Andrews Tourist Management Committee while on the Preservation Trust and am interested in the interaction of the community and tourism. Living in the centre of the town I am also interested in community policing and in young people.

Most importantly we should all be aware of just how important St. Andrews on a global scale and that we, the temporary custodians, should do all in our power to ensure we have something worthwhile to pass on.

Carolyn Suchy-Dicey , 45c South Street

As President of the Association for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, I would like to be a voting part of the community council over the next year.

APOCH is dedicated to maintaining not only a level of student involvement in the town but promoting the town and its traditions and other important events alongside the university's. I would serve as a direct liaison between the town council and our society, bringing student interest into the council on a different level from the SRC, whose goal is mainly representation. APOCH's goals centre around involvement and activity, a vote of one of our council would help us to fulfil both of those 'remits' more efficiently. I have only one year at this University left, but for that year am very dedicated to trying to make this society, especially its link with the town, succeed.

Some specific events that this association are planning are a Freshers' Ball, clean-up on Raisin Weekend, Memorial and Martyrs' Day Services, helping with the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, promotion of Student Tutoring at Madras College, Gown Days, the Reading at the Pier, etc. APOCH (the Association for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage) considers its purpose to be upholding the traditions of the University of St Andrews, promoting involvement in the St Andrews community, and providing representation to both from all students in

democratic elections.

All of these goals are better fulfilled with a direct link to the community council.

Appendix B – Doors Open Day

From Rosemary Mann, Fife DOD Co-ordinator

Thank you for your suggestions for buildings in St Andrews for Doors Open Day.

We are having discussions with the University about which buildings they will open. Obviously the number they can open depends on staff and other factors, so it is very much up to them. We shall pass your suggestions to the University for future years.

Churches are problematic. They have their Scotland's Churches Scheme to promote their opening and we try not to poach on its ground. We include churches only when there is a particular reason to do so, such as building or restoration work being carried out. We find that without a significant factor, churches do not attract the numbers that other buildings do. There seems to be a perception that churches are open anyway. Do let us know if any churches in St Andrews are planning to undertake building work and we will consider them.

Again, many thanks for taking the time to answer our plea. And do enjoy the buildings we do get open in East Fife on 7 September.

Appendix C – South Street Notice Board & Signage Review

email to Fife Council etc

Community council was concerned to hear last month that a section of the St Andrews Signing Study calls for the removal of the heavily-used community notice board on St Andrews' South Street.

We are concerned for several reasons.

Firstly this is the only freely available notice board in the centre of St Andrews and thus supplies a uniquely valuable social function in information provision. We understand that it is dismissed as an untidy eyesore which would only cost around £70 to remove and 'improve' the area. We feel this misses the point.

Secondly we are surprised that while we have seen part of the study, the section condemning the notice board has not reached us either directly or through Penny Uprichard, our representative on the St Andrews Tourism Management Programme's Environmental Management Group and Infrastructure group. Instead we learned of this through a chance discovery by Cllr

Jane Ann Liston of a copy of the study in the Councillors' Lounge in County Buildings, Cupar. We would very much like to have a full copy to study at leisure for other such gems.

Finally, the notice board and its fellows in other parts of the town was the gift of the Hamada Trust to the people of St Andrews. It should not be lightly thrown away to just to improve the view. It may be that relocation would be possible; removal is not an option.

Response from Allan W Brown, Planner (Environment & Implementation)

St. Andrews Tourism Signage Review and Strategy

I refer to your recent e-mail copied to Nick Brian regarding some of the proposals contained within the St. Andrews Signing Study.

As you will be aware this study was undertaken on behalf of the St. Andrews Tourism Management Programme by Ironside Farrar as part of a proposed framework for the future development of tourism and transport in St. Andrews. The report by Ironside Farrar was submitted in two parts earlier this year – a Final Review and Strategy Report with proposed new signs and recommendations and an Inventory and Appraisal report of existing signs with recommended action. This report was referred to the East Area Services Committee on 12th February 2003 (copy Committee report enclosed) where I understand that the report was agreed in principle subject to further consultation on the proposals.

I have not seen the full details of the Inventory report, only the summary, so I cannot comment on proposals for specific signs. I believe the full report is very extensive (around 800 sheets) referring to each individual existing sign. A copy is held by Transportation Services and you will need to contact that Service direct to look at the full inventory and individual assessments (contact Peter Milne, 01334 412995). It is my understanding, therefore, that the proposals in the signing report have not been finally approved and that there is still opportunity to raise concerns over specific proposals. I believe that the consultation process is to be taken forward by Transportation Services.

I would also point out that other than traffic signs all new signs/interpretation boards etc., will require planning consent and thus the opportunity for further comment on the proposals.

I hope this response has eased your concerns and that there will be the opportunity to comment on the details of the signing proposals in due course.

Appendix D – Bulgarian Links

email to N. Nedialkov

Thank you for your letters and the CD of Bulgarian music which were considered, and the music listened to, at the May meeting of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council.

The community council is a mainly-representative body for St Andrews rather than an active layer of government. There is not, within the council, the expertise or experience in golf course development and management that you seek. However we have delegated our Golf Liaison Representatives to contact the clubs and official golfing bodies in St Andrews to find these contacts for you.

In the matter of EU practice we are even less experienced, as it rarely touches us directly but I am making enquiries at other local levels of government to try to find you some contacts better able to assist.

Finally, you ask about the possibilities of some form of relations between St Andrews and a Bulgarian town. We would be willing to help in seeking partners for cultural links between us. We have found over the years that such links work best if they start from the ground up, with links between schools and colleges, artistic and general sporting links (not only golf!).

If this matches your ideas perhaps we can discuss this in more detail, so we can put suitable groups in touch with you.

Reply

We discussed with mayors of several towns establishment of relations between schools and colleges from Bulgaria and Scotland. So I think in the last part of your e-mail is the essence of our idea. I addressed the community council of St Andrews because administrative structure of local authorities in Bulgaria. In Bulgaria municipalities have departments of culture and education, and they usually act as a representative body on international level. We are preparing a list with activities that might be interested for schools or local organizations from Scotland to start exchange of information. I would appreciate your efforts to put me in touch with suitable groups.

Appendix E – Ellice Place Post Office decision

From Sandy Stephen, Head of Area, Post Office Ltd

The Post Office® Ellice Place branch Ellice Place, St Andrews, KY16 9HU

Further to my recent letter to you, in which I advised you of our proposal to close the above branch, I am writing to let you know the final decision.

We have received a number of comments from customers and local representatives during the consultation period. Concerns centred mainly on the effect of the closure on the more elderly customers within the local community and the convenience of

nearby alternative branches.

We believe the area to be well served by local Post Office branches. Indeed, there are a number of branches near to the above closing branch, as detailed below.

While we fully appreciate using a different branch a little further away will be a major change for some, we have carefully considered both the local terrain and the facilities available within the area, particularly parking and public transport, in arriving at our final decision. In addition to this, a member of our network team has personally visited the area and 'walked the ground', with a view to ensuring that all aspects of customer accessibility have, as far as possible, been taken into account.

It might be helpful at this stage to explain our main criterion for access to our network, which is that we aim to ensure that, even after the Network Reinvention programme is implemented, 95% of our customers live within a mile of their nearest Post Office branch, with the majority residing within half a mile. Currently, 96% of our customers nationally live within a mile of their nearest Post Office branch, with the majority of these residing within half a mile.

We have carefully considered our original proposal and taking into account the overall branch resources in the area, we have decided that permanent closure of the above branch is the correct action to take.

As a result, this branch will close permanently on 23 June 2003.

Appendix F – Lammas Market Charities Stall

Letter from Alistair Barnard, Contract Manager, Community Services

St Andrews Lammas Market 2003

At a meeting of the Lammas Market Officers Working Group held on Wednesday 7th May 2003 it was agreed that I write to you to see if the Community Council had any suggestions as to possible St Andrews based charities who might be considered for the free charity stance available at the Lammas Market.

In the past few years this particular stance has been allocated either to Pilgrim Care or the Cats Protection League, both of which are worthwhile charities but it is my view that there are other charities in the St. Andrews area that might also benefit from this high profile event.

The Lammas Market will take place on Monday and Tuesday 11th & 12th August 2003 and operating hours are all day Monday until 12 midnight and all day Tuesday until 11pm. The size of the stall is 10 feet wide with a depth of approximately 15 feet.

There is only one stance available so if you have a number of

charities in mind then we would have to undertake a ballot to see who has been successful.

As you know the Lammas Market attracts many thousands of visitors and I feel this is an ideal opportunity for a charity to raise much needed funding.

Plus some clarification when I asked how long we had to think about this and suggesting the fairest route might be to advertise for local charities – PL

Thank you for your reply regarding the Charity Stall. I was hoping that I could have some indication of local Charities who might be interested in taking up the space available within the next 3/4 weeks. [now 2 /3 weeks – PL] This would then give the successful charity time to make arrangements. I have already been approached by Pilgrim Care for space who have taken the space for a number of years now. Although I have no problems with Pilgrim Care I feel the opportunity must be given to other worthwhile causes. Any suggestions you may have would be appreciated so that I can make contact. Failing this then an advert in the local press as you suggest would be required.

Letter from David Weekes, Pilgrim Care

Charity Stall at the Lammas Market, St Andrews

We understand that St Andrews Community Council has been asked by Fife Council to recommend which local St Andrews Charities should be offered a Charity stance at this year's Lammas Market. Pilgrim Care, a local Charity supported by all the local Churches, would like to have a Charity Stall stance at the Lammas Market again, if one is available. We have been grateful that Fife Council has made a Stall available to us in previous years for this local community project. Until today, we had not been aware of the new system of allocating stances this year, and had already written to Fife Council to make formal application for a Charity stance. Perhaps you would kindly let me know whether we can be provided with one of the Charity stances again, so that we can make the necessary preliminary arrangements.

The stance beside Rose Lane would be most helpful to us, since donated goods for sale are stored in the Baptist Rose Lane Centre and can be more easily carried to the stall from there.

Appendix G – CompSci Redevelopment, North Haugh

Submission by Ian Goudie, Convenor, Planning Committee.

Proposed Computer Science Building, North Haugh, St Andrews.

I write on behalf of the Planning Committee of the Community Council to object to the above application. Our major objection concerns the impact that this proposal would have on the

transportation problems of the town. Specifically we see the reinstatement of a rail line to the town as central to the long-term solution of those problems, and believe that the erection of a building on the proposed site may well thwart what may well be the most appropriate alignment. The indicative proposals in the accompanying master plan would have even more serious ramifications for any such project. We also have objections to some aspects of the design of the building, and reservations about parking provision.

Design considerations

It is not uncommon for applicants who wish to secure rapid planning permission to pay close attention to the views of officials, and our impression is that this has happened in the present case. We understand that the officials' view is that the older buildings on the North Haugh (Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry) are unsightly and should be concealed, but the newer buildings BMS (Biomolecular Sciences) and the Gateway Building are worthy of imitation. This is in stark contrast to the view of the majority in the town. Most of us see the 1960s buildings as architecturally undistinguished, but they are set well back from the main road and, with the exception of the ironmongery on the top of Chemistry, tend to be relatively unobtrusive against the background of the raised beach and the houses in Kennedy Gardens. Whilst there is a range of views on the Gateway Centre, the BMS building has had a generally bad press within the town. It mars the view of the town as one approaches past Strathtyrum, and the member of the Community Council who discussed with the former Principal how much it would cost to change the colour of the glazing was reflecting a widely held opinion. We therefore read with some concern in paragraph 2.7 of the supporting documentation that "The first floor will be clad in a complementary style in tone and proportion to the Biomolecular Science Building to the west.". We would also wish to express our usual reservations about the suitability of wooden cladding in salty air of St Andrews.

Parking

If the current parking provision were adequate, we would have no problem with the applicants' argument that further parking provision is not required as no new personnel will be using the building. The reality on the ground is that in recent months demand for spaces has often outstripped supply, and, as a consequence, the amount of parking in unauthorised places on the North Haugh has risen sharply. One major factor here has been that, under the new centralised booking system, more Arts faculty lectures have been scheduled on the North Haugh, with students driving in from the centre of town and beyond. Given the experience of other developments, it is hard to have much optimism about the likely success in the short-term of the policy of car substitution under the Transport Plan mentioned in

paragraph 2.11 of the documentation. Any major switch will need much greater investment by the public authorities than we have yet seen in greener alternatives – bus, rail and cycle.

The need for a rail-link

Those who attend meetings of the TMP (Tourist Management Programme) in St Andrews may have noted that the two questions which often dominate the agenda are “How can we get more tourists to come to St Andrews?” and “How can we solve the traffic problems of the town?”. While the TMP may display most clearly the inherent contradictions in the long-term planning for the town, the tourist industry is not, of course, solely responsible for the growth in traffic. Golfing developments, housing developments and the gradual expansion of the university have all exacerbated the problem. The Community Council has for many years believed that the most effective way of attempting to square the circle is the reinstatement of a rail link.

The role of the Gateway Building

Although Fife Council failed to designate land for a rail-link in the Structure Plan, we understand that the route postulated by consultants is on the southern side of the A91, entering St Andrews between the Gateway Building and that road. At the time when planning permission was being sought for the Gateway Building, much was made of its likely role as a first point of call for visitors to the town. At last week’s Community Council the Secretary of the University, Mr Corner, made part of a presentation on behalf of St Andrews Tourism Task Group, which focussed in particular on increasing visitor spend in the town. A suggestion to him from Dr Riddell that the Gateway Building could play a pivotal role in that endeavour was not refuted.

Impact of the applicants’ site on the rail-link

There is thus an urgent need for a coherent overview of the intended uses of the Petheram Bridge area and the eastern end of the North Haugh. In particular, it makes little sense to have a building intended as a first point of call separated from the main road by a railway line and only accessible by a level crossing or bridge. The presence of railway infrastructure in front of the building would also do little to enhance its setting or to improve the oft-discussed “visitor experience”. It would make much more sense to take the railway behind the Gateway Building. The position proposed for the Computer Science Building in the present application would significantly restrict the scope for any such move, bearing in mind the continuing need for parking at the Gateway Building and the obvious impossibility of rail tracks negotiating tight bends. If the chosen site in this application is, at least in part, a further reflection of officials’ desires to hide the Mathematics Institute, then they have wielded an undue

influence in a manner which is not in accord with the public interest.

Competing land uses

The indicative Master Plan for the North Haugh is more worrying. It is very hard to square the proposed density of building at the eastern end of the North Haugh with the transportation needs of the town. To make a meaningful contribution when an Open Championship is being played in St Andrews, a station of more than minimal capacity will be required. A railhead will also need appropriate parking in excess of that currently available at Petheram Bridge, together with provision for taxis, park-and-ride, etc. Land at the eastern end of the North Haugh should therefore be viewed as a scarce resource which should not be squandered. Indeed, there is a serious argument that, in this day and age, it would not be appropriate to have the railway crossing the North Haugh access road. A terminus would then need to be constructed on the site of the possible future building shown to the north of the Physics Building on the Master Plan. This would then impinge all the more on the site of the present application. Whilst it is acknowledged that the re-establishment of a rail-link is not going to happen overnight, a Council with any claim to "green" credentials should avoid planning decisions which render it impossible. There is no other plausible solution to the problem of reversing the ever-worsening traffic congestion of the town.

Inconsistency of the application and the Master Plan

The present application and the Master Plan appear mutually contradictory in some of their goals. Paragraph 2.3 of the "Design Statement" says "The new and existing building (John Honey) are linked by means of hard landscaping. In the future a physical link is possible." In contrast, instead of a physical link, the Master Plan indicates the demolition of the John Honey building. No explanation is offered on how this accords with the accommodation needs of the Computer Scientists. This would, however, appear a more appropriate solution. If the Computer Scientists need three floors of accommodation, having them in two separate buildings hardly accords with good use of scarce land. The "Wester Langlands solution" of declaring the 30 year old single storey John Honey Building 'life expired', and replacing it by a three storey one would make much better use of the available land. The public meeting on this application was told that no agreement was forthcoming on using spare capacity in the Technology Building on the North Haugh. We note that that is also demolished under the Master Plan.

Cutting IJG down to size?

Paragraph 2.13 of the documentation notes that "the longer term plan for the North Haugh includes for either the re-cladding or reduction in storey height of buildings currently occupied by

Mathematics and Computer Sciences". The primary building currently occupied by Computer Science is the single-storey John Honey Building, so the "reduction in storey height" option appears to be a further statement of the possibility of demolition. As one with a room facing the internal well of the Mathematics Building, I previously felt I had little personal interest in this application. If you believe that slicing the top off this building is anything other than a left-over from a Monty Python sketch, you may feel I now have an interest (if not a pecuniary one) to declare, as my room is also on the top floor. For my part, my belief that this sentence was only included to humour the officials will be retained until the bulldozers move in!

Appendix H – Hospital

Letter from Esther A Robertson Chair, NHS Fife, to Cllr Frances Melville

New Community Hospital St Andrews & East Neuk – NHS Reorganisation

Thank you for your letter of 8 March 2003 to George Brechin and myself. I am replying for both of us.

As you say, the history of the proposed new St Andrews Community Hospital and Health Centre has been rather chequered. Over the past two years, however, Fife NHS Board has demonstrated its full commitment to the new building, both in the strategic decisions resulting from the Right for Fife process and in the subsequent approval of the Outline Business Case.

NHS Fife continues to support the project wholeheartedly, through the Primary Care Trust's leadership of the detailed planning process and George Brechin's personal involvement in the Project Board which oversees the whole project.

I can reassure you that the changes to the NHS structure set out in the White Paper "Partnership for Care" are very different from those resulting from the last restructuring process. Instead they build on the collaborative and more integrated approach which we in NHS Fife have been implementing over the past year. We do not, for example, expect wide ranging changes in senior personnel within the NHS system in Fife, although, internally, some individual jobs may change. The guidelines issued to us by the Scottish Executive Health Department on implementation make it clear that, whilst NHS Trusts will be abolished and accountability arrangements thus simplified, Trusts will become Operating Divisions within the unified NHS Fife system.

In particular, Local Health Care Co-operatives (like North East Fife LHCC) will be strengthened and will develop into Community Health Partnerships. This recognises the maturity of LHCCs and

also the increasing joint working with Council colleagues and local communities, especially in implementing the Joint Future agenda.

There will, therefore, be no delays to the St Andrews project as a result of the new management arrangements, either at Fife-wide or local level. The planning processes we are pursuing for procurement of the new hospital are both complex and sensitive, and your positive comments on these are much appreciated. Please be assured that NHS Fife will continue to drive forward the project with enthusiasm and rigour.

Appendix I – Police Call Centre

Letter from Peter M. Wilson, Chief Constable, to Cllr Frances Melville

Fife Constabulary Call Handling Unit

I am in receipt of your letter of 15th March, 2003 regarding concerns around the new Call Handling Unit.

The Call Handling Unit is based with Kirkcaldy Police Station and took its first call on 31st January, 2003, taking calls from Central Division. In subsequent weeks, Eastern and Western divisions were added. The Unit was staffed by new employees who obviously took time to learn the geography and telephony system, but as experience has grown so has the performance of the Unit.

As you may be aware, the impetus for the setting up of the Unit was due to a large number of complaints about members of the public being unable to contact their local Police Station. It was apparent that our service delivery was suffering and the solution lay in adopting a central call handling facility which achieves a number of benefits.

1. The staff at Police Stations can concentrate on their core tasks without continually being abstracted to answer telephone calls.
2. Calls for advice which do not necessitate a Police response can be directed to the Force Crimedesk or to another agency if relevant.
3. The introduction of a centralised system allows the organisation to accurately assess its service delivery.

As an example of the improved service that the Call Handling Unit has achieved, the period 15/2/03 to 28/02/03 revealed that in that period during 2002, the Force created 6127 call cards in response to calls received. During the same period this year, the Force has created 7206 call cards, an increase of 17.6%. Projected over the year, it is anticipated that the Force will create an additional 28,000 call cards this year in response to telephone calls from the public. Additionally the Force

Crimesdesk which handles historical crime not requiring a Police response has seen a 32% rise over the same comparative period.

I believe this illustrates that the Call Handling Unit is making a difference to service delivery to the people of Fife but this should not detract from the local contact that is so important to policing in Fife. That service will not be diminished, but it may require some minor changes to operating procedures. For example, when trying to contact a specific officer, if he is not available, an e-mail will be left for him to make contact when he next is in the Police Station or on duty. Similarly, it is necessary for the Call Handling Unit to ask the nature of the call to direct the call appropriately.

Having said that, the Call Handling Unit is principally about public contact and it is appreciated that there are customers with whom we are in regular contact with such as elected officials. Staff are therefore being encouraged to release their direct dial phone numbers to such customers to maintain and develop the personal contact that is so important to Policing in Fife. Supt Maich is under the impression that he had already given you his direct dial number and E-Mail address, but asks that you contact him on 01334 418702 to obtain the necessary details.

You should be assured that the Call Handling Unit is there to improve the service to the people of Fife, both in the way telephone calls are answered and by allowing Police Officers and Support Staff to concentrate on their core roles.

The figures are improving week on week but the staff are still on a learning curve and I would therefore ask for your patience and understanding in this "bedding in" phase.

Appendix J – Leisure Centre

Joe Lamb:

The changing rooms lockers and cubicles at the East Sands Leisure Centre are in a poor state of repair-doors missing or broken, locks broken or dysfunctional, bands for holding keys onto your wrist while you swim not working. In addition most of the showers at the pool require one to keep your hand on the knob continuously in order to get any water making effective washing near impossible. Yesterday I had to hold the adjacent shower knob down all the time to allow a little girl to have a shower – she could not get any water herself even though she could reach the knob – it went off instantly when she let go.

For a major tourist attraction and local facility this is not good enough – can we do anything about it?

Response from Glen S Rorrison, Contracts Manager, Community Services

I have been given a copy of your e-mail, concerning East Sands Leisure Centre, by Jim Hooton.

By way of update I have checked the situation regarding the issues raised and can comment as follows:

- * No complaints have been received either verbally or in writing concerning any of the issues raised.
- * I have personally checked the showers and agree that there is a problem with 6 not staying on long enough. I have raised a works order for them all to be inspected, repaired or replaced, and serviced as necessary.
- * There is one cubicle door missing, this is to prevent people using the cubicle as the seating bench is broken. We are awaiting repair.
- * We have 219 lockers in the pool changing room and currently 6 are out of action. These locks will be replaced in the near future. 97% of locks work satisfactorily.
- * As part of our weekly checks 5 wrist straps were identified as being faulty on Monday 26/05/03 and were replaced that day.
- * Every cubicle door has a fully operational lock fitted and there are none out of action.

I would like to thank the Community Council for raising these issues and please be assured that we will carry out the necessary works as quickly as possible.

If there are any other issues relating to the Centre I would be pleased to hear them. I can be contacted at the Centre, 476506, or via Linda Scott on the Fife Council's e-mail system. Please give me a ring if anything comes up in the future.

Appendix K – General Purposes Committee Report

A meeting of the GP Cttee was held at 8 Dempster Terrace on Tues 20 May.

Apologies: A Strachan, F Riddell

Present: P Lindsay, P Uprichard, M McDonald, D Macgregor (chair)

1. Members welcomed to new GP Cttee.
2. Chair indicated that all Cttee chairpersons should remember to file written reports with Secretary well in advance of CC meetings. Committees might consider appointing someone within the cttee to do this. At the full CC questions were welcome but comment on reports by chairs should be as brief as possible.

Action: chairs of committees

3. M.McD reminded meeting of existence of Town/Gown Liaison Committee he had helped set up. He intended to contact

relevant people so that it met soon.

Action: MM

4. DM mentioned he had had informal discussions with Rachel Hay (town centre management), Sir Clement Freud (univ Rector) and had approached new MSPs inviting them to discuss St Andrews' matters with/at CC when appropriate. Some replies (all positive) received to date.

5. DM raised the question of possible CC liaison with other NEF CCs – to be discussed at CC.

Action: PL to put on agenda for June or later.

6. Lammas Charity Stance – to be discussed at full CC.

Action: PL

7. PL to attend Parking Strategy Exhibition on 21 May, though it was noted that we had been omitted from invitation list, no doubt by inadvertence.

Action: PL to report at June meeting.

8. Tourism Vision Project returns: only 1 had so far been received by DM – it was agreed that CC might respond to offer backing in principle and stressing that the community (including CC) would wish to be kept involved and informed.

Action: DM/PL to write letter

9. Common Good Fund – PL said some applications had been received.

(What did we decide on this?)

10. At June CC enquiries are to be as to current holders of keys to CC notice boards. DM suggested they could be brightened up a bit.

Action: PL to put on June agenda

11. Publicity: this committee needs someone to replace DM. Action was needed on supply of photographs of Town Hall paintings so that booklet commissioned last year could at last be issued. PU suggested a summary of planning applications decided and other relevant FC decisions might be included in the Bulletin. Consideration of best method of distribution is needed. Various suggestions can perhaps be explored.

Action: FR/Publicity Committee

12. Role of CC in new FC set-up. DM stressed how important he thought it to achieve good working relationship with FC so that CC is automatically a partner in discussions affecting St A. We might write to FC on these lines.

Action: DM

13. CC charitable trust: DM had approached Mrs Moffett who

expressed willingness to stop being a Trustee. MM/DM to consult Mr R Inch for advice on steps necessary to make progress on updating Trust so that it functions more effectively.

Action: MM/DM

14. Coat of Arms: MM reported that progress is being made re sales in the UK and US.

Action: MM to keep CC informed

15. PL reported on applications to fill vacancies on CC. Members would be advised before June CC of election procedures to be followed.

Action: June agendum 00

DFMacgregor 29 May 2003

Appendix L – Letter to MSPs

By Donald Macgregor

I write to congratulate you on your election as one of the MSPs for our area. I am sure you will do your utmost to further local interests and to represent all your constituents to the best of your ability.

As Chairman of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council, I would like to invite you to contact me, or our Secretary Mr Pete Lindsay, 5 Whitehill Terrace, if you should at any stage wish to come to talk to us at one of our monthly meetings – held the first Monday of each month in the Council Chamber, St Andrews Town Hall, Queen's Gardens – on a specific subject with relevance to St Andrews.

I would also be interested to hear from you what specific support you intend to offer in regard to local problems like the overcrowding at Madras College- several political parties have expressed support for a new school in North Fife, but we want to know what real pressure you as an MSP are able to bring to bear on Fife Council or other agencies to complete full consultations, get decisions made and action taken before the school bursts at the seams.

Similarly, what concrete help can you bring to expediting and realising the results of the consultation process currently being carried out by the St Andrews Tourism Vision Group (information on it from Mr Alan McGregor, General Manager, St Andrews Links Trust) which gave a presentation to us on May 5th?

Peripheral parking, for instance, is needed before the number of vehicles can be reduced in the central area; a properly linked public transport system is needed; when can we expect to see direct bus and train links to and from Edinburgh Airport? In the last respect we lag decades behind the rest of Europe.

What action can you as an MSP take to at last make the new St Andrews Hospital a reality?

How are you going to help the University get more money to maintain its proud record of achievement?

These are just a few of the concerns that are regularly brought to our attention. I hope that in your busy schedule you will find time to respond positively to them so that at the end of this Parliament there will be visible and tangible progress. The reputation of the Scottish Parliament – which I personally strongly support – depends on results.

With good wishes for your period in office.

Appendix M – Request from Mrs Willsher

Mrs Wisler writes:

Thank you and the Council very much for the help you have given me over trying to get a grant towards expenses for contribution to publisher for my ms. 'The Story of the Societies of St Andrews'. As I explained, I spoke to Neil Brown at Cupar, and he seems to think I have no chance of getting a grant either from the source to which I applied through Kate Hughes, Community Grant Schemes or from the Common Good Fund. He seems to be the boss of both now. The grounds he gave are that they will not be awarded to an individual. I think one way of getting round this might be to ask the Community Council if they would sponsor me? Of course this may not be possible, Meantime I have written to the following to ask for small donations which would certainly help. I could give a certain amount myself, but would have to aim at raising say £600. St Andrews Rotary, The Burns Club, Inner Wheel, The R & A, Freemasons Lodge. St Andrews Rotary Kilrymont has kindly indicated it will give £100. I enclose the letter I will send to each to explain the situation.

Letter to societies etc

I am writing to ask if you could help me about getting a small grant to subsidise a publisher for a book which I have researched and written. He would need about £700. The Community Council here thinks it may be able to help me, and I have applied to two sources suggested by them. From a conversation with the Fife Council member at Cupar who deals with grants, it seems I may have difficulties in applying as an individual, although if there are any royalties I have undertaken to give them to the St Andrews Common Good Fund (or whatever). Rotary Kilrymont has very kindly offered to give me £100, if I can get other donations.

I had a book out in March, 'St Andrews. Ancient City in the Twentieth Century', I had to find a publisher who used the internet and who had the printing done on the new digital

system, which means that any number of copies can be printed on demand, and the publisher does not run the usual risks of having stock left out of the 1000 normally printed initially. This entailed my forwarding a contribution. I may or may not retrieve the amount, and don't feel I can repeat it. My previous publishers (I have had nine books out now) did not like to undertake a book solely about St Andrews.

I would like to get this one out in the Autumn, otherwise it might be out of date with Society news. I enclose a list of the societies/clubs/associations whose history I have compiled from minutes in the archives and from contributions and interviews with members themselves. I do not like to ask in view of the demands on societies now, but I spent three years research on the two books, and little of this has been covered previously. It seems that the huge amount of public-spirited work done in the past by St Andreans needed to be recorded and recognised.

Correspondence Received

Date	from	subject
09/05/2003	Warmburgh	Newsletter May 03
09/05/2003	Police	Community Newsletter may 03
10/05/2003	Fife Health Council	Raising the Issue: NHS complaints reform
10/05/2003	Calor	Calor Scottish Community of the Year entry pack
12/05/2003	Chief Executives Service	BT Payphones
12/05/2003	Donald Macgregor	Letter to MSPs
14/05/2003	Mrs Willsher	Publication Assistance
14/05/2003	St Andrews University	David Russell Hall – cyclepath
14/05/2003	NHS Fife	St Andrews hospital & NHS reorg (to FM)
14/05/2003	Police	Call Handling Unit (to FM)
16/05/2003	Loches Alliance	Newsletter – April 02
16/05/2003	Post Office	Ellice Place PO
17/05/2003	Byre Theatre	Summer Programme
17/05/2003	Community Services	Lammas Market Charity Stall
17/05/2003	NHS Fife	Forth Park Open Day
19/05/2003	NHS Fife	Right for Fife – next steps
22/05/2003	Planning & Building Control Service	St Andrews Tourism Signage Review & Strategy

22/05/2003	St Andrews University	DRH: Cycle path
23/05/2003	Fife Council	Fife Coastal Path
23/05/2003	Pilgrim Care	Lammas Market 03
23/05/2003	ASCC	Conference Agenda
24/05/2003	Scottish Civic Forum	Membership renewal
24/05/2003	Law and Administration	CCTV Advisory Group minutes
24/05/2003	Fife Council	Coastal Path Celebrations
29/05/2003	Colin Buchanan & Partners	Parking Review invite details
29/05/2003	Volunteer Development Scotland	Spectrum – volunteer development magazine
30/05/2003	Friends of the Earth	Cash Appeal: Harris super quarry
30/05/2003	East Fife Area Services Committee	Agenda 4 June
30/05/2003	Iain Smith MSP	Visit to Community Council