

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### 0. New Members

#### 1. Attendance

##### Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Howard Greenwell, Iain Munn, Penelope Fraser, Greg Newman, Iain Munn, Alistair Newton

##### Students' Association Representatives

##### Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

##### Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Brian Thomson, Ann Verner

**Apologies** –Neil Cunningham Dobson, Jamie McLeod, Gerry Beaulier, Lewis Wood, Dominic Nolan, Dita Stanis-Traken, Hannah Raleigh

### 2. Minutes of Meeting – November 2017

Minutes agreed as a correct record with minor amendments noted before meeting.

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1. Waste Management

Cllr Vettraino and Fife Council staff were introduced by Mr McLeod. Cllr Vettraino described himself as the Councillor with responsibility for waste management in Fife. He acknowledged that the issue to be discussed was very important to the people of St. Andrews and he wanted to ensure that he fully understood the concerns of the town. He then passed on the task of describing the service to the Fife Council officials present.

Martin Kingham the senior officer present introduced his colleagues and their roles and responsibilities. He introduced Mr Sandy Anderson a recycling advisor from his team and talked about himself and Sandy representing the waste operations team for household collection. Collections locally include sack collections and bulky item uplift. He explained that Sandy Anderson was one of only 3 recycling advisors covering Fife. He then introduced colleagues from the Safer Communities Team who carry out mobile patrols in problematic areas to delivered a targetted response, to increase public confidence and reduce antisocial behaviour. This work can be varied from dog fouling to abandoned vehicles.

He then introduced Mr Andrew Jones whom he described as an enforcement officer and also Vicky Jones from the same team whose role included workplace safety as part of their remit. They visited businesses and helped them understand their duty of care as well as inspecting premises. He added that a couple of services weren't present, such as staff who dealt with waste management in parks, streets etc and REFSOL which would deal with commercially based collection.

Mr Kingham then went on to discuss the main issues in St Andrews, which included household bins being left on the pavements in the town centre. These caused obstruction and affected visual amenity. He said that this was a root problem in that many of the flats and

businesses in the town centre didn't take their bins in soon after being emptied. His service was looking at the issue, which partly related to collection routes and times. Another issue for many town centre properties was a lack of space for bins so sacks had been issued in those circumstances. One solution was to provide sack collection in such areas. He mentioned that seagull proofing of such sacks with Hessian covers to reduce chance of damage had been started in the last year or two. Another issue in the process of being resolved is that some flats have been getting both a bin collection and sack collection but he was hopeful that this wouldn't happen for much longer. Some service users who have been getting seagull proof sacks have been inappropriately putting loose waste in the Hessian sacks instead of in a bag inside the seagull proof outer sacks. He felt that this was due to ignorance of the purpose of the Hessian sacks. Educating anyone doing this was viewed as a task for his service.

The service had also been putting yellow stickers on bins to encourage and remind owners to move the bins back into their storage areas after being emptied. They have also been removing bins where there is no storage space and sending letters to householders to inform them they're being given sacks to use instead. He informed the meeting that the number of such places has reduced from 34 to 12 and he hoped that this would be further reduced after contact with the remaining householders. If the householders don't actively respond to letters the bins will be removed and sacks given out.

They have also been writing to HMOs at the beginning of each semester to try and tie in with the intake of students to try and educate the Freshers especially with the need to properly manage their household waste. Linking with the appropriate social media was also being used to try and help get the message across.

Mr Kingham then went on to look at the commercial side of the issue. He began by acknowledging that the numbers of waste containers on the streets was the main issue. The introduction of the Waste Scotland Regulations in 2012 had resulted in increased recycling and a large increase in the number of containers used for different recycling. Issues he said for these containers was that of storage space when not being put out for collection and the presentation of the containers for collection could be haphazard causing obstruction. He acknowledged that the removal after collection often wasn't prompt enough. Some of his colleagues had been trying to address these issues. Actions taken included issuing leaflets giving advice and which detailed legal aspects as well as what was good practice. He had heard that the response had been very good. His colleagues had been building up working relationships with businesses trying to have a partnership approach rather than going early on for fixed penalty notices. A website had been set up to give businesses easy access to information, advice etc on waste management practices.

Another issue identified has been that businesses have sometimes had more bins than they require so have been encouraged to get surplus bins uplifted. He felt that a lot more commercial bins were being returned to premises more quickly as a result of the work of enforcement officers. He also thought that food premises in particular were responding to avoid the unsightly appearance of bins close to their outdoor seating. Bins will also be marked with business names.

Mr Kingham praised the effective work of Dave Angus and the Clean and Green team and his service were very grateful for their efforts.

He then went on to discuss the possible use of the same scheme as the City of Edinburgh in its main commercial centre in the Old Town. He didn't think it would be easy to transfer such a scheme to Fife for a number of reasons. First of all he said that in setting up the scheme the City of Edinburgh had stopped their own in-house commercial waste service to ensure there was no conflict of interest. He didn't think that Fife Council was in a position to drop its own commercial waste collection service at this time. He added that the advantage for the City of Edinburgh was that it could jump straight to an enforcement approach with the businesses. He didn't think that this approach in a small community like St Andrews be effective unless there were a lot of businesses not prepared to interact with the Council. He would like to see more of this collaborative working and with the presence of the Clean and Green Team already embedded in St Andrews who have created a certain momentum and who have a good

relationship with officers on the ground means there is a real opportunity to come from that to make some good progress.

Mr McLeod thanked Mr Kingham for his comprehensive introduction and said that he knew the Council officers were as keen as the CC was to see St Andrews as clean as possible and not blighted by unsightly bins.

Mr Howard Greenwell thanked Mr Kingham for his presentation and was delighted to know that something was eventually being done. He acknowledged that the number of domestic bins sitting out in the street had reduced but he had noted a few instances of householders and businesses not complying with guidance. He then commented about some ongoing problems starting with noting that Mr Kingham had said about reaching out to the HMOs in September, which he agreed was a significant move. He then informed Mr Kingham that there were a significant number of two bedroom student flats, which wouldn't be on the HMO list and wouldn't be known to Mr Kingham and his colleagues unless they liaised with the university. He commented upon problems for students living above him taking ten years to get a sack and then a further year for the Council to start emptying it. He felt that it was necessary for the Council to work with the university on such properties to ensure their waste is properly collected. Mr Greenwell also felt that the Council should issue some fixed penalty notices as he thought that this would be a very effective way of solving the problem and wondered why the Council wouldn't use them. He cited the example of a former place where he'd resided, Newbury in which bins were emptied before 9 in the morning and businesses had to have the bins off the street by that time. He wondered why it wouldn't be possible to have a similar set up in St Andrews?

He finally wondered why bins couldn't also be identified as to which day of the week they were emptied? He felt that it might help to name and shaming businesses not following the guidance about bin management.

Mrs Harding talked about living next door to students so she knew the issues they faced when new to the town. She mentioned that Fife Council had issued a bin calendar on-line, which she thought should have been easier for the students to use but she didn't feel she'd seen much change. She still needed to remind them about taking out their bins. She thought that the Council should approach the agents for the flats to ensure that they'd given students instruction in putting out their bins timeously. She suggested that there should be a responsible student in each flat in charge of taking the bins out and in. She then mentioned about the fact that there weren't recycling bins in her block of flats due to the small size of the garden so they only had a blue bin. She also noted that there were less recycling facilities at the Students Association thus reducing the option for recycling.

Mr Jardine commented upon the fact that he had his bin out before 9 but it wasn't getting emptied before the evening. He then commented upon the fact that HMO students were generally 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards so should know the system of waste management. He then reminded the meeting that the university had no responsibility for students living in private rentals. He thought that a harder line was required from the University.

Mr Marks asked on behalf of cyclists about the problem of commercial bins often blocking cycle parking areas. He cited the area between Church Square and the Adamson Restaurant as a particularly problematic area for bins with the area in front of M& Co having the cycle parking often blocked. He suggested that there might be a case for having a specific area for commercial bins on the road in what are currently parking areas to which commercial bins users can take their bins, also making it easier for the bins lorries to access the bins for uplift.

Mr Roberts commented upon the fact that a couple of businesses in Market Street were placing their bins in parking spaces. He asked if the businesses should be paying the parking charges? Mr Greenwell added that the businesses, Mitchell and Forgan were parking 4 bins in a parking space and wondered why they were able to do it? Mr McLeod wondered what power the parking wardens had to deal with these items? Mr Kingham in reply said that there were powers under the Road (Scotland) Act in relation to instructions on the public road as they weren't self powered but technically if authorisation has not been given by the roads Authority an offence was being committed.

Mr Kingham commented that his colleagues in enforcement could answer the questions posed more effectively. Mr Andrew Jones outlined the remit of himself and his colleague, Vicky. He made members aware that they covered an area from Glenrothes to the Tay Coast at Tayport. He thought that the problem in St Andrews was storage space because of its age and the make up of the buildings. He explained that a lot of businesses didn't have places to store their bins in the old buildings. He went on to say that some businesses had too much capacity for the amount of waste produced and he felt that many could have smaller bins. He talked about the ways to make more efficient use of bin space by doing things such as crushing cans and having increased uplifts to take the waste away. He then commented upon the fact that businesses sometimes had different deals with different firms about uplift. This could affect time of collection and despite being advised to put out bins first thing in the morning bins were sometimes not collected until later in the afternoon. Mr Kingham and his colleagues were trying to advise businesses on waste reduction and get a better solution to the type of uplifts required. He added that they were keen on educating businesses on using less packaging and better ways of preparing waste for recycling or disposal. An ongoing problem is the frequent turn over of staff necessitating businesses to educate new staff in this area.

Miss Uprichard was concerned about the length of time domestic bin users could be leaving their food waste out before collection in the town centre. Mr Kingham explained that it was tricky in the town centre as uplifts depended upon the Council's own service and these were organised around a shift system, but if anything went wrong uplift times could be affected, so they encouraged people to put out bins first thing to ensure collection even if the lorries didn't turn up until later than planned. He added that they did try to get into St Andrews first thing in the morning if they could, aware of potential for problems if seagulls opened unprotected bags of waste. Early uplifts at St Andrews were also easier before the town became busy. The service also changes bin routes if there is windy weather to empty the green bins as these are the most likely to be blown over and this might necessitate temporary changes of routes to other householders bin collections. Mr Kingham acknowledged that this might catch out people but there had to be ways to prioritise bin collections in such circumstances.

Mr Newman asked if there was any possibility that private contractors could sub contract with one another to reduce the number of companies sending lorries to maybe pick up just a small number of loads? Mr Kingham replied that the Council couldn't influence private business deals. St Andrews he added presented a number of lucrative business opportunities, which even the Council's, own arms length waste collection service REFSOL would compete to obtain. Mr Kingham also said that his officers did have conversations with businesses about the management of their waste and this could include suggestions about sharing a contract. He explained that some businesses had contracts, which were not suited to their needs, and his officers could make businesses aware of how to get better waste collection deals with containers suitable for their needs.

In concluding remarks Mr Kingham said that he and his colleagues would take away the points raised in the meeting and look at how these could be addressed, particularly in relation to the relationship with the University. He also felt that behavioural change in relation to the time bins were on the streets could be achieved with collaborative partnership working with local businesses. Mr Kingham also mentioned the idea of businesses, especially those beside each other sharing contracts for bins as a way of reducing costs and clutter. He thought that this was beginning to occur and his officers were keen to encourage businesses to go down that road if it could meet their needs.

Mr McLeod thanked the Fife Council staff for attending and explaining the issues around waste management and answering members' questions. He also thanked Cllr Vettraino for attending the meeting.

Cllr Vettraino said he'd made a note of all the issues which had been raised and would review Council procedures and discuss with officers to ensure that they could tackle the issues raised as best as they could. He would be happy for Council staff to return to discuss again with the CC how things had progressed in the coming few months. He felt that a more robust approach was required to tackle some of the issues raised.

The Council presentation was followed by some input from the Clean and Green Team of David Angus with Jane Kell St. Andrews Environmental Network and Bid's Rhonda McCrimmon. Jane gave members a brief background history of the Clean and Green setup, informing the CC members that Rhonda and Dave had identified the need for Clean and Green then the St Andrews Environmental Network became the delivery partner. BID funds the Clean and Green Team who work under the St Andrews Environmental Network banner. Jane explained that the Clean and Green team has been working in the town for the past 18 months and she felt that progress was slowly being made. The team is tackling the issues on several fronts not all of which Fife Council has yet reached but she thought it would eventually. Things they've done include looking at the waste collection in the public bins and well as looking at the commercial bins and household bins and regularly raising issues with Fife Council. They've also been looking at waste reduction and in the past year had been trying to get businesses to share waste management an issue now being worked on by Fife Council. They are also looking at the possibility of having a byelaw. In this area they've been looking at the issues facing the enforcement officers and have started to look at what byelaws might be beneficial. This might include looking at setting time limits for commercial bins to be on the street like they do in Edinburgh. At present Thorntons are going through the law and seeing what powers Fife Council already have and what might need to be changed. Then they will bring the results back to Fife Councillors to see if they can get them enforced. She commented that the bye-law if applied would force waste contractors to look at whether they could meet the times and if not Jane thought that businesses would have to go to a contractor able to manage the times.

They've also had a survey done on the public bins and this has found that some are in a poor state and that there are too many. Initially the idea was to retrofit the current bins but after the survey it was decided that it would be a waste of money. They have identified a type of bin, which might meet local requirements, namely the GLASDON bin. This bin can be bought in with Seagull flaps on it thus reducing one source of problems and the number of bins needed will be less than at present. These bins will cost £424.21 with seagull flaps etc. BID has allocated £4000 towards purchasing some of these bins and Jane added that if 10 bins were purchased they'd get an eleventh one free. She informed the meeting that the sum of about £250 would allow this purchase to go ahead. She added that she knew this would be the tip of the iceberg but would be a start to replacing all the older bins where necessary. For an additional £14 the St Andrews town crest could be put on to the bins.

Mr Greenwell in relation to waste management sought Jane and Dave's views on his desire to see the streets bin free after they have been emptied. He wondered about getting the refuse vehicles in first thing in the morning before shops opened. Could the businesses be lobbied on this matter? Dave thought that the byelaw might help enforce bin users and the firms emptying the bins to rethink their timings etc. Mr Greenwell related how in Newbury the restrictions on waste management times along with pedestrianisation could transform a major shopping street in that town and he wondered why the same idea couldn't be transferred to St Andrews. Jane felt that part of the problem was the reluctance of Fife Council to use their powers and having to put pressure on them to be more willing to take action under any byelaws.

Mrs Fraser suggested that instead of telling people what not to do the reverse should be tried. In reply Jane said that shopkeepers were regularly told what should be done both by talking directly to businesses and sending out a newsletter. Two of their staff will also go out and show businesses how to line up their bins neatly. She acknowledged that their advice and guidance wasn't always followed up!

Dave Angus informed the meeting that there were 72 commercial waste operators working in Fife and 18 of those worked in St Andrews.

Mr Greenwell asked Jane whether there had been any thought to seek match funding for bins from the Community Trust?

Mr McLeod proposed that the CC make up the balance of the money required to purchase the 10 bins and some money for the crests to go on the bins. It was agreed to contribute the total required of £400 for the bins and crests. This was agreed by the meeting.

Dr Shepherd wondered why the BIG BELLY bins couldn't be used? Jane informed the meeting that these bins were much more expensive, well into 4 figures.

Mr McLeod thanked Rhonda, Dave and Jane for attending.

## **4. Fife Councillors.**

### **4.1. Jane Ann Liston.**

#### **4.1.1. Queens Gardens**

Cllr Liston reported that the proposals for Queens Gardens would be coming up to Planning Committee in the coming week on Wednesday. The recommendation would be to go ahead with the scheme favoured by the "residents" but the ins and outs of the situation would be discussed at the forthcoming committee.

#### **4.1.2. Tay Cities Deal**

Cllr Liston reported the ongoing progress of the Tayplan, which was getting to a particular stage with various projects planned with names like Inclusive Tay, Innovative Tay, International Tay and Connected Tay. These were supposed to be ways to improve the local economy. Items mentioned included smart buses, the Eden Campus, Tay Adventure. Under the label of connected Tay, the Newburgh to Ladybank rail link was one project to be further developed amongst several looking at better connectivity in north East Fife. Cllr Liston added that there wouldn't be definite news about which projects might be given funding until around June next year.

#### **4.1.3. Zebra Crossings – Church Street**

Cllr Liston reported that there had been a suggestion about putting Zebra Crossings at either end of Church Street. She advised that if there were any delays the idea could get put back for the remainder of the financial year. Mr McLeod asked about the timescale for the crossings to be installed? Cllr Thomson replied that the work would take place in the 2018-19 financial year if accepted. He added that if there were reluctance to consider the need for the crossings they would get put well down the list of future work. Cllr Thomson suggested that the CC could consider the matter at the January meeting and he'd advise Mr Stirling to hold any plan to put forward to the Area Committee until the CC responded. Mr Greenwell commented that traffic coming out of Church Street was usually going quite slowly so he didn't see the junction as particularly dangerous at the Bonkers end but could be persuaded at the need for one at the Holy Trinity end of the street because of the greater footfall along South Street.

#### **4.1.4. Marriage Registration**

Cllr Liston was still pursuing this topic in which the function of the local office for registering civil marriages would take place at the local office. She informed the meeting that very few people seemed to have been aware of these changes, particularly those who might be most needy of registrars to conduct a civil marriage. It was felt that this change was purely money saving and the public hadn't been properly consulted despite the economic value of these events. She added that the students, a major market for marriages locally hadn't been aware of this decision.

#### **4.1.5. Bus Framework Consultation**

Cllr Liston reported that she'd become involved with the Bus Framework Consultation a government initiative. Cllr Liston in her response to this consultation had pointed out that the bus companies had to make things better than they'd already got. The key criteria should be the needs of the service users. Issues she raised included integration with train services, though when Stagecoach had been contacted they'd said that they couldn't set up their services to meet the timings of other operators.

Cllr Liston also noted that there are issues in relation to the bus information put up on the illuminated board in the bus station in that the information only relates to Stagecoach buses.

Other operators don't appear on the board. She hoped that this would get sorted out. She also felt that the Traveline service was a mess as it omitted key services such as the 99s, X24 and X59 buses for no clear reason. She was concerned that if people couldn't find information about the best services they would be less inclined to use the buses. She was hopeful that the Council would include her concerns in its submission to the consultation.

#### **4.1.6. West Port/City Road Crossing Query**

Mr Marks asked why there was no crossing at the end of City Road by the West Port across to Gibson House and Argyle Street? Cllr Liston said she was happy to ask about the possibility of a crossing at this location. There was a view that because there was a traffic island in the middle of the road this suited most users, but as Mr Marks pointed out elderly persons must struggle at times when the traffic is heavy.

#### **4.1.7. Queens Gardens**

Dr Goudie wondered whether Councillors had looked critically at the evidence in relation to appropriate traffic management flow. He disputed the claim that the street was a rat run given the difficulty cars had passing when going down the street from opposite ends. He said that at the local Housing group meeting recently they had noted that there were only a small number of permanent residents on this street. He felt that the case for the proposal wasn't in his mind convincing as it was based on the representations of a small number of residents and he thought that the wider community hadn't been consulted adequately.

#### **4.1.8. Bin Storage Facilities**

Miss Uprichard mentioned that there had been a number of queries in the past ten years about the lack of bin storage facilities and the appropriateness of the positioning when planned. Cllr Liston said she'd be asking questions of officials in relation to this matter.

### **4.2. Dominic Nolan - apologies**

### **4.3. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.3.1. Bus Stop near Gateway Centre – possible crossing need**

Cllr Thomson reported that officers were working up a proposal for a crossing near this bus stop which is used regularly mainly by passengers going to the University buildings across the road. He acknowledged that it was a busy and therefore potentially hazardous crossing for anyone alighting from the bus services.

#### **4.3.2. Buchanan Gardens – Traffic Calming**

Cllr Thomson reported that officers were working on proposals for traffic calming on this road. Proposals would be brought to the CC in due course for consideration.

#### **4.3.3. Staircase – New Park /Ladebraes**

Cllr Thomson reported that after investigation officials who had initially believed the staircase had planning approval didn't. There appears to have been a bit of confusion as there was permission for a path/steps from the communal area of the development but the steps constructed are to a private residence and not for public access. He advised that the owner would be informed that they have to have planning permission.

#### **4.3.4. St Andrews Space for Cycling Group**

Cllr Thomson reported that SASCG were keen to have a traffic free day next September in Market Street. He will be speaking to officers on the logistics of such an event. It was hoped that this might show how the place might look if pedestrianised.

#### **4.3.5. Malfunctioning Uplighters**

Cllr Thomson reported he was pursuing officials about various Uplighters at West Port, Blackfriars Chapel and other locations, which haven't worked for a long time.

#### **4.3.6. Market Street Fountain**

Mrs Harding asked for an update on what was happening to the fountain. Cllr Liston replied that she'd managed to get hold of the officers designated to be in charge of the fountain's management and she will be having a meeting with them. Mr Stanis-Traken has been researching other fountains around the country and their functioning. Cllr Liston hoped that she and Mr Stanis-Traken could exchange information with the officials and that progress could be made to getting the fountain fixed properly and then working properly. Mrs Corbin mentioned that she, Mr Stanis-Traken and Ms Adams of Bonkers had been working on the fountain issue for several months. They have a key for controlling the water, which is stored in Bonkers.

#### **4.3.7. Argyle Street – Proposed Bollards**

Cllr Thomson had had a further discussion with Mr Stirling about the proposed bollards in Argyle Street Car Park looking at reasons for the proposal. He and Cllr Liston were convinced it would be worth pursuing and Cllr Nolan was against the proposal. Mr Newman informed the meeting that the group representing the residents of Argyle Court were not keen now on the proposal. The poor state of the junction with Argyle Street was more of a concern. There was also a suggestion that the road through the car park could be adopted as a highway then a 20 mph limit could be implemented. He also mentioned the need for a pavement on the Argyle Court side of the car park. Cllr Thomson replied that there wouldn't be funds available for a pavement at this time. He would take Mr Newman's other comments to officials for further consideration.

#### **4.3.8. Provision for NHS Coverage in event of the Western Extension being built**

Miss Uprichard asked about how increased NHS provision would be provided in the event of the western extension being built and the influx of new patients as a result of that development. Cllr Thomson thought that the NHS should be fully aware of the plans and planning accordingly for the impact of the increase in population. He was confident that the NHS would be planning for such an increase. Mr McLeod suggested that Miss Uprichard write directly to NHS. Mr Greenwell thought that the increase in population might be more than expected given the continuing growth of the University on top of any planned increase in non-University residents.

### **4.4. Ann Verner**

#### **4.4.1. Loss of Crossing Light - South Street**

Cllr Verner had spoken to Mr Colin Stirling about the loss of this crossing light. He thought it must have been removed at the time of the Lammas and never put back. He undertook to get it put back and Cllr Verner is to be informed when this will take place.

#### **4.4.2. Kinburn Play Area**

Cllr Verner confirmed the imminent opening of this new play area beside the Kinburn Museum.

#### **4.4.3. Light at West Port**

Cllr Verner reported on a light not functioning by the West Port. She'd contacted officials who'd indicated that it would be fixed within five working days.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Reports**

Miss Uprichard reported that the Planning Committee had two meetings in November during which it had looked at 27 applications and decided to object to 3.

Miss Uprichard also showed the meeting an article from the Courier about the University plans for the Grange Road where the proposal is for mixed style housing for university staff etc.

The committee are still looking at the proposal for the link road and the roundabout and have been given an extension so can finalise views at the next planning meeting.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.0. Reports from Representatives**

Mr McLeod mentioned that the Police report had been received and circulated. No additional comments in relation to that report were made.

### **6.1. OSMA Application**

Mrs Fraser asked about the OSMA application. Mr Marks had received a request from Mrs Fraser following the previous meeting about registering to let the CC have access to OS maps. Mr Marks agreed to make this application on behalf of the CC.

### **6.2. Any Other Matters Arising**

#### **6.2.1. New Flag Pole**

Mr McLeod noted that a new flagpole had been erected on top of the town hall. Mr Jardine advised that the job wasn't complete and that the present flag was in a temporary location. The main job would be completed early new year, weather permitting.

#### **6.2.2. Town Signs at Gateway Entrance to St Andrews**

Mr Greenwell informed the meeting he'd been doing some research on the issue of appropriate signage at the entrance to St Andrews following discussion at a previous meeting. He'd found signs, which managed to incorporate more wording than Dr Shepherd had considered possible. He passed round copies of his report and advised that he'd be continuing with Dr Shepherd to try and take forward the project. He felt that Fife council would be unlikely to give replacement signage any priority so it would be up to the CC to progress and seek possible funding sources. He'd estimated that it might cost about £4000 for the signage before any other costs such as labour.

He asked members for their views on the content of the signs and how this might be incorporated into the signs. He suggested that additional wording could be placed on the main sign or as part of a separate sign below the town sign. He was keen to have members' views on this or whether they might not want any additional wording at all. He'd also recently spoken to Euan Loudon and Danny Campbell of the Links Trust and both were happy to have a mention about golf as part of the signage. If acceptable the Links Trust would be happy to do proper art work.

He then asked members three questions about the proposals. The first was whether members were happy to have THE HOME OF GOLF in the signage. Mrs Harding suggested that members should have a bit of time to consider their views and not be rushed into making a decision.

Dr Shepherd was asked for his views by Mr McLeod. Dr Shepherd in reply said that he was passionate in protecting the unique nature of St Andrews and he thought there was a great opportunity to have a sign that demonstrates that quality. He wasn't keen on any subsidiary signs and commented on the various possible additional wording. He felt that the golf wasn't appropriate as it was a commercial business and adding it would be advertising. Likewise he didn't think that the Loches twinning should feature viewing it as a vanity project. He also questioned the validity of Fairtrade being on a sign with the town sign as he wondered about the true value of the label and would like to see statistics relating to its status in local businesses.

Mr Newton thought that any new town sign should be uncluttered. Mrs Harding said she disagreed with Dr Shepherd in his dismissal of the Loches Twinning and reminded him that other twinned towns and villages all had mention of their status at town and village entrances.

Mr Greenwell said he'd continue to research the various aspects of such a project, as he needed to be clear about the extent of Fife Council's input and what the CC could do. He added that the project was not going to add additional clutter to the town entrances but would merely be replacing a sign, which was already there. Dr Goudie thought that there was a case for signage as could be found outside many French villages and small towns. He also felt that if there was going to be a sign with a list of St Andrews attractions/merits it needed to include the University, which he claimed was more important for the town than the other aspects mentioned.

Mr Marks wondered about the best way to take forward matters given the diversity of opinion within the CC. He wondered both about an internal survey and perhaps involving the wider community perhaps using social media to express an opinion before any final decision was made. He reminded the meeting that consulting the public was part of the CC role, something that has been criticised in the past on other more weighty matters.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation Committee**

Mr Jardine reported on recent Recreation Committee activities with the Civic Reception a success in his opinion. He quoted some stats in relation to the evening relating to attendance. He said that 210 invitations had gone out and 102 attended, 57 declined and 51 didn't reply. He thought that the invites should be reviewed to check that the appropriate people were invited and some removed from the list. He thanked Mr Greenwell for his work on the invitation cards and Mr Roberts for his advice and stewarding of the event and Mrs Corbin for her work on the catering side. He wasn't convinced that Holy Trinity was the right place to hold the event but would accept views on the matter. He thought that St Salvators Quad or Lower Parliament Hall might be other possibilities.

He informed the meeting that he had 149 acceptances for the Senior Citizens Treat at this time. The Very Reverend Professor Ian Bradley would be saying grace and singing a couple of songs, then the Glee Club would follow and eventually the duo providing the main musical entertainment. He said that he hoped to have a good student input but would welcome assistance from all available CC members getting the town hall ready and helping on the day. He reminded members to bring raffle prizes. Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that there were spaces on the Recreation Committee.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

No meeting

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs E.Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs J.Harding 3<sup>rd</sup> Rev M.Moffett

### **7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee**

Mrs Corbin said that there was a lot going on in Health but she didn't have a report this month.

### **7.5. Rail Committee**

No report

## **8. New Business**

## **9. Reports from Office Bearers**

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr McLeod reported that he'd attended the COSMOS AGM, then the Remembrance Service and wreath laying on the 12<sup>th</sup> November then a meeting with Rhonda McCrimmon of BID. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> he attended the launch of a new book on St Andrews by Peter Adamson and Lorne MacIntrye. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December he'd attended the Student Association's Xmas Market then the open air Ceilidh with the honour of leading the march through the streets. He'd also recorded a message for a local Spanish Radio station at the request of a Spanish Journalist. This was because the town's patron saint was St Andrew. He'd also submitted the CC article for the January/Feb 2018 St Andrews Focus.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Mr Munn reported that the accounts for the previous year had been formally signed off on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The CC is now awaiting its annual grant of roughly £2500. He reminded members they could see latest expenditure on the website. It was also agreed to give the auditor a voucher from M&S for his service to auditing the CC accounts.

### **9.3 Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

Mr Marks said he'd be happy to answer any questions on the correspondence received.

### **9.4. Membership Secretary**

No report.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business.**

There was no formal AOCB.