

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Agenda – November 2005

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 7th November 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.

The meeting of community council will be preceded at 6.15pm by a presentation and reception for St Andrews area participants in the 2005 Special Olympics. All members are asked to attend.

(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 late 1997 on are at <http://www.standrewscc.net/standrewscc/>)

1. Apologies

Ken Fraser

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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.

3.1. Community Wind Turbine

Gordon Pay

3.2. South Street

Transportation Service on revised proposals for South Street improvements.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.2. Sheila Black (South)

4.3. Bill Sangster (Central)

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Minutes

Appendix A

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Honoured / Honorary Citizen

Carried over from October: Discuss and agree a set of guidelines for this award. Appendix G is the recommendation from the General Purposes committee August meeting.

6.2. Scouts

Appendix B: Carol Drysdale, Secretary, 8th Fife (St Andrews) Scout Group on the spending of the grant [October 7.1].

6.3. Awards

Appendix C: Outline principles from meeting 17 Oct

6.4. Bus Station Notice Board

[October 6.3] Pete Lindsay has had some further exchanges with Gary Moyes, Transportation Services. The notice board will go into store until the new bus station building is finished and a location agreed for it once sites can be viewed in context of the new building, in the new year.

6.5. St Andrews Day Holiday Bill

[October XXX]Appendix I: Ken Fraser's report. He suggests we should write to our MSPs to praise or question them depending upon how they voted.

6.6. Any other matters arising

7. New Business

7.1. World Class Initiative Representative

WC have heard that Joe Peterson will not be continuing as the community council representative, as indeed he said when he first took the job on. Dennis Macdonald agreed to stand in on occasion, but do

we have anyone prepared/able to act representative/liaison/observer on a regular basis? NB WC meetings are at 2.30pm on weekdays – probably monthly.

7.2. Rural/Scotland

Annual Subscription is due: £15.

7.3. Review of Community Councils

Scottish Executive have sent a discussion paper *What Can We Do To Help Community Councils Fulfil Their Role?* downloadable from <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/10/31132008/20088>, for comment by 28 February 2006.

7.4. ASCC AGM

AGM of the Association of Scottish Community Councils, 19th November, Pitlochry, £10/head. Sessions:- *The Scottish Parliament*: John Swinney MSP; *Modernising the Planning System*: Siobhan Sampson, Planning Development Officer, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Allan Lundmark, Director of Planning Communications, Homes for Scotland; *National Review of Community Councils*: Ann Callaghan, Head of Civic Governance Team, Local Government Constitution & Funding Division, Scottish Executive; *Your Hidden Assets – recovering commonties and common good funds*: Andy Wightman, Director of the Caledonia Centre for Social Development; *General Discussion*; *AGM*.

7.5. Core Path Plan Consultation

Appendix G: Community Services' letter. Executive summary: display in the town library 21 Nov-7 Dec, project team on-hand 4.30-7.30pm, 7 Dec.

7.6. Planning System Reform

Iain Smith MSP wrote to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the submission on the white paper *Modernising the Planning System* [October Appendix A] and draws attention to a recent speech in Parliament supporting third party right of appeal and questioning the city regions proposal.

7.7. Raisin Weekend

The University's Student Support Services write to tell us this falls on 20/21 November, Sun/Mon.

7.8. Special Funding Thanks

Mr Braid writes in thanks for the financial support (presumably from the 200 Club) for members of the Special Olympics golf team which gained 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 fourth place.

7.9. HMOs

Appendix H: as a sort of counterpoint to Will Watson's letter [September Appendix E], an objection from Richard Olver, Chair of the Queen's Gardens & Queen's Terrace Residents Association, to an HMO licence application in that area.

8. Reports from Office Bearers

8.1. Chair

8.2. Treasurer

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. Gonfannon

Mark Denis has very kindly leant me the part-complete gonfannon (or gonfalon) for information to community council, before it is sent for finishing by the Needlework Makers Guild, ready for the heraldry conference (August 2006) of which he spoke in October 2003 3.2.

8.3.2. Tree Roots

Martin Jeffcott, Community Services, wrote to ask if we had a problem with the replacement, at the rear of 11 Crawford Gardens, of a flowering cherry tree with problem roots by a rowan or flowering crab apple. No one (contacted by email) had any comments so I told him to go ahead.

8.3.3. Meetings 2006

The Burgh Chambers have been booked: 9 *January*, thereafter the usual pattern of first Monday in the month; 6 Feb, 6 Mar, 3 Apr, 1 May (AGM), 5 Jun, 3 Jul, 7 Aug, 4 Sep, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec.

8.3.4. Secretary's Core Tasks

- Central point for incoming post and email; distribute as practical and appropriate
- Central point for (copies of) outgoing correspondence
- Keep members informed of relevant correspondence
- Prepare monthly meeting papers – minutes, agenda and any other relevant papers
- Circulate them before the meeting
- Note attendance and apologies in the meeting
- Keep the Chair on track in the agenda, whispering prompts as necessary
- Note decisions and agreed actions from the meeting
- Book CC meetings (committees/special events should book their own)
- NB the secretary is *ex officio* a trustee of the community council trust fund
- Standing Orders say: *'The agenda list is prepared by the Secretary in consultation with the Chair'*.
- Standing Orders also note *'The minutes should record decisions taken, summarise important*

information given, eg. by guest speakers or Fife Councillors, and note who is to take any action decided on – they are not a transcript of debate.’

- See also Appendix F, guidance for secretaries by the Association of Scottish Community Councils. Not all of it applies here but it is a good overview.

9. Reports

9.1. From Committees

9.1.1. Recreation

Appendix D

9.2. From Representatives

9.2.1. Fairtrade

Progress report and St Andrew's Day reception and related matters

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 – Planning Minutes

1. Minutes of Planning Committee, Monday 10th October

Present: Ian Goudie, Bette Christie, Richard Douglas, Bruce Ryan, Pete Lindsay

1. Convenor: duties are

- Contact point
- Obtaining documents for regular meetings
- Chairing meetings
- Speaking to minutes at full CC meetings

no decision, pending all regular committee members being present.

2. Tennis court	Making present 5-year planning approval permanent.	Continuance of portakabins to be queried/objected	PL
3. St Regulus Hall	Retrospective permission for windows		NC
4. 169-173 South Street (Wilson's)	Alter/extend shops and flats.	Concern about possible underlying paraffin tank. If much excavation to occur, archaeologists should be allowed in prior to building	RD
5. Brooksby (Queen's Terrace)	Change of use from dwelling-house to guest-house.	No sign of wheelchair ramp or other disabled facilities	BMR to enquire/object
6. Green Belt Alliance	questionnaire re SPP21 (green belts)	A series of leading statements about the draft policy and an exhortation to tick many of them, then send it in to the consultative process. Committee agreed with about half of the points but felt the whole piece required much further thought and a detailed submission.	PL to draft if time allows
7. Letter in Citizen	Criticising planning committee/CC for not opposing something	Longer-serving members of committee recalled that we had – and that the minutes of this are on our website, which is searchable with Google	PL to respond (see below)

2. St Andrews Citizen Letter Column: Response

By Pete Lindsay, Secretary.

I wonder what point P Rogers of Winram Place was trying to make in his letter? (Hospital Site, 7 Oct 05).

It could be read as trying to imply that the community council did not oppose the John Knox Road development; that community council's position then on development on the hillside south of St Andrews is inconsistent with its position now. This isn't quite the case.

The community council had already notified planners of its intention to object to the John Knox Road development in question even before the Winram Place Residents' Association's made its presentation in July 2000. According to the minutes, an individual member of community council expressed concern, using the N-word, about the Association's position as presented by a Peter Rodgers [sic], AND about a community council letter questioning the development, which was being reported to the same meeting. This was in the context of some question over Special Needs accommodation, not development on the southern hillside as such.

In view of the planning issues raised in the general community response to the proposals the Fife Council East Area Development Committee of the time rejected the plans, but were overturned on appeal by a Reporter unsympathetic to the local issues in the various objections.

The community council as a body has consistently opposed development up on the southern hillside, seeing long-term negative consequences to St Andrews as a whole. This opposition has included the John Knox Road site and sites eastwards to the sea, from at least the time of Muir's 1000 house proposals in the early 90s, until the present day Largo Road hospital site.

Appendix B – Scouts

From Carol Drysdale, Secretary, 8th Fife (St Andrews) Scout Group.

Re £500 Donation to the 8th Fife Scout Group Hall Renovation Project

On behalf of the 8th Fife Scout group, I would like to thank the St Andrews Community Council for their kind donation of £500 towards our scout hall renovation project.

The 8th Fife Scout group aims to provide an economically viable and functional hall, which is suitable for the use of all members of the community. We have spent £500 of our budget already on a new range cooker (cost £399) and stainless steel splash back (cost £99) for the refurbished kitchen. These essential items were purchased during the summer sales. We hope that you would view retrospectively this generous donation as the means for this purchase.

Appendix C – Disbursements Meeting Minutes

Report by Bruce Ryan

Disbursements Meeting, 17 October

Present: Ken Fraser, Carole Tricker, Ken Crichton, Pete Lindsay, Richard Douglas, Bruce Ryan

1. Initial discussions

1. PL explained the status of the trust fund and why it may well be best to shut it down. What happens to it is up to the trustees (PL, Donald Macgregor and Marie-Louise Moffat). However PL hopes to make it more accountable to CC.

2. BR explained status of Coat of Arms sub-account. CC received an initial £9000, less legal fees, for setting up marketing agreement with St Andrews Ltd, from SAL. However CC has not yet received details of any sales they've made because 'there haven't been any yet'. SAL is soon meeting potential investors and BR has suggested to them that the potential investors might like to meet some CCilrs.

Budget

1. Meeting was curious as to how CC came to have so much money. BR provided summary of accounts he'd pulled together from last few years' treasurers' reports.

2. Meeting also queried whether all this was available to spend – some came from FC admin grants. BR has checked with FC. So long as CC's total spend (no matter what it's on) exceeds that year's FC grant and CC submit audited accounts for FC to check, CC will get the full grant next year. FC appear to have never questioned CC's spending so it appears all the money in CC's account can be spent as CC wishes, provided such spend is in line with FC's rules for CCs.

3. Most of meeting was concerned that CC shouldn't spend its funds recklessly. Therefore meeting recommends that in any financial year CC should only disburse the interest paid to us by the bank the previous financial year. (For the £25,000 currently in the bank account, CC receives around £400 interest.) Exceptionally, CC could disburse more but should remember that this will reduce the interest we receive.

4. Meeting also recommends that if CC doesn't disburse the full amount in any year then the remnant should be added to the capital that's gaining interest rather than being disbursed next year. [BR notes that this will happen naturally: whatever CC doesn't spend remains in its account.]

5. Meeting recommended that Treasurer be able to tell full CC meetings the amount available to be disbursed. [BR notes that all interest payments CC has received are noted in the accounts spreadsheets. It should be no problem for the Treasurer to sum them and then subtract any disbursements made under this 'scheme'.]

Guidelines for receiving a grant

1. Meeting recommends that CC does not give grants under this 'scheme' for purposes outwith St Andrews because it might then be acting outside its remit.

2. Meeting recommends that awardees must have a 'strong connection' with St Andrews. (Some further research may be needed here.)

3. Meeting recommends that people seeking grants should be aware that their request may well be discussed in public meetings of CC. (CC can go in camera during such discussions.)

4. Meeting recommends that awardees must be told that all grants are one-offs. Application for further grants would be allowed but not necessarily awarded.

5. We can create a form which notes all the details above.

Guidelines for amounts of grant

1. Since we can't set up hard-and-fast rules, amounts are at discretion of full CC. [BR points out

recommendation in item 3 of 'Budget'.]

2. Meeting recommends that CC beware historical inertia (*i.e.* be aware that any amount we award for any type of need is likely to be the minimum the next person with that need will request.)

3. Meeting recommends that CC ask that if an award is not spent (for example, the awardee may also receive funding from another source) then the awardee should be asked to return the unspent remnant. This request should be made on the 'request form'.

4. Awardees should be made aware that all grants are one-offs. Application for further grants would be allowed but not necessarily awarded.

Who makes the decisions?

1. Full CC – apparently we can't set up a standing set of rules to devolve this power to a committee.

2. Also spending our funds – which are public money – should be open to discussion by all of CC to be as democratic as possible

Appendix D – Recreation Committee

From Joe Peterson

Recreation Committee Report 11.10.2005

St Andrews Week Exhibition

Open 30th, 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Monday 28th November

Acceptance of Art Exhibits: downstairs, Victory Memorial Hall, 10am to 5pm. Last day for entries for photographs at Ian Joy's.

Tuesday 29th

Hanging of exhibits. Help needed from Community Councillors.

Evening Reception and prize giving. 7pm, all welcome.

30th November

Exhibition 1st 2nd 3rd December 11am until 5pm

Art Categories:

- Seniors aged over 18 years.
- Juniors 1 Secondary Schools.
- 2 Primary Schools

Photographic Categories:

- Seniors aged over 18 years.
 - Black and White.
 - Colour.
- Juniors
 - Secondary Schools
 - Primary Schools

Exhibition will include work by Robert Moyes Adam from St Andrews University archives.

Old folks Christmas Treat

In conjunction with St Andrews University Students will be held in the Students' Union on Tuesday 20th December.

St Andrews in Bloom

Gateway Centre. Letter to St Andrews University re landscaping.

Lamas Market Working Group Report.

Appendix E – Honorary / Honoured Citizen

Recommendations by the General Purposes Committee meeting (10 Aug)

1. Honoured/Honorary Citizen Scheme

(hereafter Hon. Cit.)

This was examined in four parts, with close reference to the original intentions of the award scheme (March 2000) and vote procedure (July 2000), and a working paper by Pete Lindsay summarising the various proposals from June and July.

1.1. Awards

The questions discussed were:

i) whether any awards should be considered at all in future

It was felt that to abandon the overall scheme because of one upset would be an over-reaction and could

be seen as dishonouring the previous recipients.

ii) whether there should be one scheme with two titles, or two separate schemes under the Honoured and Honorary titles, with separate criteria.

This was felt to be closely intertwined with the next major item, the question of eligibility – if there are two separate schemes and titles there could be two levels of eligibility. If a common eligibility was agreed then there is only one scheme, with two titles for the sake of pedantic correctness.

It was clear from the original proposal that the intention was for one scheme and two (pedantic) titles.

1.2. Eligibility

After a wide-ranging discussion it was agreed as a clarification that any candidate must have a credible connection, by residence or deeds, to St Andrews. To attempt to award Hon. Cit. to world figures with no connection to St Andrews could be seen to be acting outwith our remit as a community council.

It was agreed that a form of words based on the Young Citizen scheme would be a fruitful place to start, ie a candidate should have:

1. enhanced the environment of St Andrews in some way, or
2. brought credit by some action or deed to the name of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews, or
3. initiated and/or carried out a scheme which has proved to be of benefit to the citizens or group of citizens, of St Andrews.

(Young Citizen award 2003)

These criteria arguably do not exclude any previous candidate, but do set definite limits on the scheme.

NB it seems to be assumed generally, but not stated, that candidates must be living.

1.3. Procedure

A-1, based closely on the July 2005 suggestion by Pete Lindsay, taking into account suggestions at that meeting.

There was concern at the possible problem of 'leaks' during the month between the initial proposal (C) and the vote the following month (D); however the view of those who spoke at the July meeting was in favour of this gap, and it seems inescapable if all voting members are to be given the opportunity to vote on a proposal.

Suggestion that a fixed, annual date for considering proposal were felt to be too inflexible to deal with situations where a potential recipient's health might impose a literal deadline. There was also concern that setting an annual date would tend to impose the expectation of an annual award, which would go against the original intention that the award be made 'only on rare occasions'.

[A fixed date might also lead to two proposals arising in the same year being seen as competitive – PL]

A. Proposer is strongly advised to canvas opinion of the voting members of community council on the suitability of the candidate before any formal move is undertaken.

B. Proposer notifies the Secretary of the nomination for inclusion on the agenda. Only the fact of a proposal will be included. Any information supplied on the candidate will be circulated on a separate sheet.

C. At the meeting it is strongly advised that the Hon. Cit. item be taken in private in accordance with section 9.4 of the Fife Council's Scheme for Community Councils. (Note that this must be done by formal resolution of the meeting; it is not automatic.) The candidate must be formally proposed and seconded for an Hon. Cit. (counter proposals will not be accepted as pre-empting the agreed procedure).

D. At the following meeting, in a private session again (it is strongly advised), following any further discussion that seems necessary, a vote is taken.

E. The vote will be by a paper ("secret") ballot. The result is determined by whatever method has been agreed for these things.

F. The decision is final. A candidate may not be reconsidered* within the session of community council, i.e. until after the next community council election.

(*excepting major procedural flaws in the vote, of course).

G. The simple fact that an award was not made / is to be offered (delete as appropriate) is minuted, without names.

H. It is the proposer/seconders' job to establish that the candidate will accept the award. Acceptance should be announced, with the name of the Hon. Cit., at the next full meeting. If the award is rejected the bare fact of the refusal should be notified to the next full meeting, again no names.

I. It is the proposer's/seconders' job to make the arrangements for any formal presentation, reception or whatever.

1.4. Voting

The question was discussed of Hon. Cit. being awarded by a low proportion of community council members if a simple majority vote at a meeting is adopted.

It was agreed that continuity is important and that it would be undesirable to adopt a change to the voting system that could change previous results if applied retrospectively. A further aim is to avoid an individual member having privileged information of voting and potentially being subject to pressure to reveal it.

It is therefore proposed that the basic requirement for 16 votes For be retained (69.6% out of 23 voters).

As no one could remember the full justification for the veto provision of the original system it is proposed that this be dropped. This clarifies the voting to simply needing votes *For*.

Given the high bar for success some system of absentee vote will be necessary. This will also maintain the broad basis of the decision by the whole of community council. This will likely involve votes being accepted from absentees in sealed envelopes to be opened at the voting meeting. There should also be provision to suspend the vote if substantial new information comes to light immediately before the scheduled vote, so that information can be communicated to the absentees in case their decision is changed. Of course the decision to suspend must be taken before the envelopes are opened.

Despite these provisions it is for the proposer to consider when to launch the process – a vote scheduled for August is hardly sensible.

Appendix F

Guidance from the ASCC for new secretaries of community councils (It is a bit old, 90s I think, but the principles look reasonable – PL)

The Effective Secretary

The position of Secretary is the most interesting and rewarding office to hold on a committee. However the job of secretary can be difficult and demanding and frequently goes unrecognised.

Correspondence and Records

All correspondence both in and out must be noted on the agenda for the forthcoming committee meeting. Take the correspondence to the meeting for discussion, reading out any important letters. No filing of current correspondence should be done until after the committee has received and approved both inward and outward mail. Conclude all letters by typing your full name above the designation, Secretary and sign in your usual way.

All old correspondence such as letters, which give factual information about dates of meetings or apologies for absence, or the like can be discarded after one year.

Correspondence about setting up specific events, awards of policy, constitutional or internal management letters should not be removed before two years and they should then be stored in a safe place, not destroyed.

Membership List

This should be kept up to date and include full details of all members. Convening Meetings and Preparing Agendas (In Consultation with the Chairman)

If the meeting date is established for a definite day and time in each week or month may not need to be reminded. When meetings are held infrequently it is necessary to post a notice enclosing an agenda with it to reach members about a week or so before the meeting.

Preparing the Agenda

The Secretary will need to check through the minutes of the previous meeting to ensure all instructions from that meeting have been carried out.

Consult with the chairperson and treasurer as to any business which they would wish to have included on the agenda.

The Secretary may have suggestions or comments from other committee members.

The Meetings

Record the names of all those present, possible by circulating a list, which members sign. Check that a quorum is present (see Constitution) before any business is done.

Take the minutes – where a minute secretary is used, the secretary must ensure he or she is well briefed.

After the Meeting

Write any letters, obtain any information or take any action on matters decided by the committee.

Other Responsibilities

Prepare a secretary's annual report. Make arrangements for the Annual General Meeting. Publicity.

Appendix G – Core Paths

From Community Services: Alison Irvine, Access Officer, Graham McLean, Countryside Ranger. 01592 741212

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
Consultations
'Proposals for a draft Core Path Plan'

We would like to inform the Community Council of the consultations that will be taking place in your area in the coming months. The consultations concern the Draft Proposals for a Core Path Plan for that will serve communities including St Andrews, Guardbridge, Strathkinness, Peat Inn, Stravithie & Boarhills (please see attached map), and are part of a Fife-wide programme to develop a Core Path Plan.

An 'unmanned' display of the draft proposals will initially run at St Andrews library from 21st November to 7th December 2005. Comments sheets will be available alongside the display.

A consultation 'drop-in' session will then be held at St Andrews library on the 7th December, 4.30-7.30pm.

At the drop-in session participants will be asked to record their comments and suggestions about the proposals, and will have the opportunity to find out more about the function of the Core Path Network.

Promotion for the consultation and display is being delivered by way of mail-outs, posters, local radio, internet and local newspapers.

If you would like any further information about the consultations please do not hesitate to get in touch. In addition we would be very grateful if you could help us to spread the word to any who may be interested. I have included some posters for this purpose.

Further Information

'Core Paths' are defined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and describe the network of key paths that will be developed across Scotland in the coming years for walkers, cyclists, horseriders and pushchair/wheelchair users.

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – Section 17(1) It is the duty of the local authority; not later than three years after the coming into force of this section, to draw up a plan for a system of paths ('core paths') sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area.

The process of developing the plan has several stages that include consulting with both the landowning community and the wider public, including walkers, cyclists, horseriders, pushchair users, wheelchairs users and other groups. Further information about this process can be provided at your request.

The development of the Core Path Plan strives to achieve a balance between the 'right of access' and the privacy and land-management needs of landowners and rural residents.

For further information about the 'right of access', the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, including 'Core Paths and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code' please visit the web site – <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/default.asp>

Appendix H – HMO arguments

From Richard Olver, Chair of the Queen's Gardens & Queen's Terrace Residents Association. Copied to community council for information.

I write to object to the granting of an HMO licence at the above address on the grounds that it will further skew the balance between short and long term residents in this street and, because of the increased population density resulting from multiple occupancy, give rise to additional noise and nuisance and add to acute parking difficulties already being experienced by residents.

This is the third such application in Queens Gardens in the last month and the issue of HMOs is now critical. I understand that draft proposals in the local plan suggest that the proportion of properties in multiple occupancy should not exceed 5% and would point out that this figure was exceeded in Queens Gardens some time ago and that that currently some 30% of properties are in this form of occupancy. Furthermore, I estimate that the number of people living in HMOs in Queens Gardens now exceeds 60% – excluding those living in St Regulus.

Whilst it is true that the majority of short-term residents in HMO accommodation are students, this objection is in no way anti-student. Rather, it is anti this particular pattern of occupancy which has grown disproportionately in recent years to the extent that it now threatens the sustainability of a mixed community of residents in the centre of town. Fuelled by buy-to-let investment by absentee landlords there is a real danger that some streets will become mere university accommodation annexes (albeit privately owned) thus changing forever the character of the centre of town.

HMO legislation is essential for the protection of those living in multiple occupancy. However, the Council is not responsible for the provision of student accommodation and should not be pressured into granting additional HMO licences to make good the shortfall in university accommodation, brought about in part by university policies.

For the reasons given above I believe that an HMO licence for the above property should be refused and that no further licences in Queens Gardens should be granted until an appropriate balance is restored. Lastly, although perhaps not a valid reason for objection, there can be little doubt that a low threshold for the granting of HMO licences generates an upward pressure on house prices in St Andrews.

Appendix I – St Andrew's Day Bill

Report from Ken Fraser

The St. Andrew's Day Holiday Bill

As arranged, I represented the Community Council at Dennis Canavan's press conference in the Scottish Parliament. It was attended by about 20 representatives of various bodies supporting the holiday, e.g. the Church of Scotland and the STUC, and a few prominent individual supporters eg Elaine C Smith. Rather unexpectedly, everyone was invited to speak. I made a short statement explaining what was done in St Andrews at that time of year, and suggesting that our experience showed that a national holiday would be successful. Later I was interviewed by Radio Scotland for about half a minute, but I do not think they used the extract.

Dennis Canavan gave an explanation of his bill. He remarked that he had received the support of three-quarters of voters in a poll, and that he had pledged of support from 75 MSP's which, if a free vote were allowed, would be enough to pass the bill. It did not prescribe whether the proposed holiday was to be an extra one, or a substitute for an existing holiday, as there were differing views on that matter.

For future reference, it should be noted that, although carrying the Council's invitation letter, I had great difficulty in being admitted to the meeting, because the parliamentary authorities had not been notified of my name in advance (I got in because the official in charge happened to be a St. Andrews graduate who remembered me from the University Library).

In the event, as you will know, the Executive did not allow a free vote, and their amendment, sending the bill back to the Committee, was passed instead. It speaks of celebrating St. Andrew's Day, but not of a holiday. In practice, it is not clear whether this vote effectively puts an end to the Bill, though in theory it does not. It emerged during the debate that (as Dennis Canavan recognised) the Scottish Parliament has no powers to enforce a national holiday (this being a reserved matter) and the bill uses the power the Scottish Parliament does have in that area, which allows banks to take a holiday, and implicitly hopes others will follow suit. SNP and Conservative members spoke in favour of a holiday, Labour members against it. Liberal Democrat members (led by Iain Smith) spoke in favour of a holiday in principle, but against the Bill.

If we wish to pursue our support of the Bill, I should make the point that St Andrews is represented not by one MSP, but by eight (one in fact abstained). The Council might wish to consider two letters; one to those who supported the Bill (Ted Brocklebank and Murdo Fraser (Con), Bruce Crawford and Tricia Marwick (SNP) and Mark Ruskell (Green)) congratulating them for voting for it, and asking what they thought could be done to keep the proposal for a St. Andrew's Day holiday alive; and one to those who opposed it (Iain Smith and Andrew Arbuckle (Lib Dem)) inquiring, since they favour a holiday in principle, what proposals they intend to put to Parliament to bring it about.

Correspondence

Post received

Date	from	subject
5 Nov	Postwatch Scotland	Pricing in Proportion seminars
4 Nov	Scottish Executive	CC discussion paper
4 Nov	Student Support Services	Raisin Sunday
4 Nov	Transportation Services	Langlands 20mph zone
3 Nov	Community Services	Core Path Plan
3 Nov	Rural Scotland	Subscription
31 Oct	Iain Smith MSP	Planning System Reform
22 Oct	East Dev Committee	Agenda 25/10
21 Oct	University	9 The Scores
21 Oct	Development Services	East Dev Agenda 25/10
19 Oct	Fife Council Finance Service	Invoice: Town Hall Let
17 Oct	ASCC	Conferance AGM 2005
16 Oct	Lauder Dev Trust	Royal Burghs Convention
16 Oct	SEPA	SEPAview Newsletter
16 Oct	Local Office	St Andrews Street Access Audit
16 Oct	Transportation Services	Largo Road crossing (by Tom Morris Dr)
16 Oct	Volunteer Centre Fife	eVOLve Newsletter
16 Oct	Beautiful Scotand in Bloom	Bloom Campaign Seminar
15 Oct	CPAC	Fife CPAC vacancies
15 Oct	Boundaries Commission	Acknowledgement
15 Oct	Prof R Olver	HMO correspondence (copy)
15 Oct	8th Fife (St Andrews Scout Group)	Donation
10 Oct	Community Services	Tree - Crawford Gardens
10 Oct	Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	Trust Fund
