

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes –6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Kyffin Roberts, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Iain Munn, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Henry Paul, Harry Stewart, Ken Crichton, Penny Uprichard, John Jardine, Jamie McLeod

#### Students' Association Representatives

Charlotte Andrew

#### Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

#### Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Dorothea Morrison

**Apologies** - Keith McCartney, Frances Melville, Niall Scott, Howard Greenwell, Zara Evans, Aine Bennett

### 2. Minutes of Meeting –May 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the May meeting apart from a clarification in relation to 4.2.1 and the sentence: “These had been agreed by Fife Council on the grounds of economic benefit and tourism, which she thought were dubious”. Miss Uprichard said that her main concern had been that the proposal was in the Greenbelt and at that time and tourism wasn't a reason for allowing development”.

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1. Possible Cycle Path – St Andrews – Crail

Presentation by Mr Alistair McLeod of Transition University St Andrews & Christian Haines.

Mr McLeod started by explaining the nature of Transition University, which he said was made up of a group of local resident, university staff and students who were working on sustainability issues. They were trying to tackle climate change through practical action. The transport theme was one of their areas of work and was very popular and had included bringing an E Car Club to St Andrews as well as a Bike User Group. This group brought together a diverse range of people from Fife Council, the community and university to look at transport issues. They have managed to bring in funding for some of their work on various aspects of the subject. Improving cycle routes came out as a major area of interest for local cyclists. The route to Crail came out as the most obvious one to try and progress for a range of reasons. Last year they'd been given funding by Sustrans to check out in a sort of pre-feasibility study as to whether there was a need and interest in local communities and amongst the landowners about the idea of a cycle track.

Mr Haines then presented a PowerPoint outlining the main findings of this study. He started by making the meeting aware that there had been a previous study done by Fife Council in 2007 looking at Kirkcaldy to St Andrews in four sections. The Crail – St Andrews section had at that time been costed at £3.2 million. This report he added hadn't been published. He suggested that if members wanted to see that study that they contact Fife Council Transport Department. The new study had been built on the unpublished study. The new study was done

in three parts, a route assessment to scope the various options and to look at current opportunities, public consultation and landowner consultation.

Mr Haines informed the meeting that the routes considered were mostly former railway routes and they were focussing on off road routes and trying to minimise roadside paths. He then described the proposed route, which was a bit different from the Fife Council study route. In relation to the route he said that much was useable by mountain bikes but not for road cycle users as it was a bit rough in places. However there would be surprisingly little construction work required because of the extent of the surviving parts of the former railway. He also talked about the flow of traffic on the A917 at peak being about 600 cars an hour and on the A9131 about 3-400.

Public consultation was with individuals and organisations and there were 387 responses. The majority nearly 350 strongly supported the creation of the cycle path. Respondents were predominately Crail and St Andrews but with a scattering of others from around the area.

In another question many respondents said they'd switch their mode of transport to bicycle. Leisure and exercise were the key reasons for this response with work a factor but on a smaller scale with about 100 saying they'd use the route to get to work.

There was also a strong and clear view that the current main roads were dangerous and this frightened many cyclists and stopped more regular use.

Opinions were also sought along the route of landowners. Most he said would accept the idea if it had to occur with only a couple quite negative. They have managed to get several written memorandums of understanding from landowners on the route. Further development work on the project is now required with further engagement with stakeholders. They were particularly interested with engaging with local representative organisations as part of the process.

Key issues he said were landowner consent and creating a maintenance framework in order to help secure funding. He commented that Fife Council weren't keen to take on the responsibility but with political pressure this view might be changed.

Dr Shepherd commented that there was also the Fife coastal Path and the proposed Pilgrim Route, so he wondered whether there might be an excess of paths? Mr Haines replied that these other paths did quite different things. He reminded the meeting that the coastal path was predominately a walking path and difficult to cycle. He felt that there was a different rationale for new path in part creating an alternative to using cars thus enabling utility journeys whilst acknowledging the considerable leisure use likely to take place. He also thought that the Cycle path was entirely different from the Pilgrim Path.

Dr Goudie said that the CC had always been very supportive of off road cycle routes, however he felt that they might need data on how often people were going to use it. He agreed that the use by those who wanted to use it as a daily commute was a useful figure but the leisure use was more difficult to measure. He added that there might be a need to establish that this idea had greater viability than other possibilities in terms of satisfying existing need. He thought that the use of the old railway route was a sensible thing to do. He queried why that route stopped at the top near the Kinkell Braes Caravan Park? He wondered why it wasn't possible to use the old railway line a bit closer to St Andrews as finishing nearer Kinkell Braes was putting it up a hill which might be less easily used by less enthusiastic cyclists? He acknowledged that some parts of the old railway line close to St Andrews might not be viable now but felt that there might be a possibility of a route near the old line in a nearby field, which might be more user friendly. He also reminded the meeting about a past commitment by the Bay Hotel to put in a path from town to the hotel. This commitment didn't take place in the end, but he thought it might be worth approaching the company to look even at a possible financial contribution.

Mr Haines in reply in relation to the chosen route showed members on his power point the way the old railway line ran. He explained that the railway went south a bit and west before coming back into St Andrews and this added quite a bit of distance to the route if the project had followed it. He said that the route was possible but queried whether it would attract the

same amount of use compared to a more direct route. He acknowledged that the route was a compromise.

In relation to Dr Goudie's query about data he said that they did have a lot more data but hadn't presented it at the meeting because of time constraints but would be happy to forward the eventual report with all relevant data.

Mrs Corbin wondered who would maintain the new cycle paths? Mr Haines admitted it was a good question and a thorny issue. The problem partly centred on the unwillingness of the local authority and possibly FCCT to take on responsibility because of budget cuts. One possibility was community benefit from renewable energy developments could feed into it or commercial sponsors. At present there was no real answer, but he welcomed suggestions.

Miss Uprichard reflected on the past commitment to a path by the Fairmont Hotel under its original ownership, which never materialised, but she made Mr Haines aware of the Fairmont Liaison Group set up recently following their announcement of further proposed development on their site. She informed Mr Haines that she was the CC representative on the liaison group and wondered if there had been any preliminary contact with the hotel. Mr Haines said he'd met a couple of representatives from the hotel involved in operations and marketing and he felt that there had been quite a positive response. They could mainly see a benefit for their guests if they could hire a bike then and cycle on the route to St Andrews. He added that there is a plan to back to the Fairmont with a written proposal.

Mr McLeod (Chair) thanked Mr Ali McLeod and Mr Haines for their presentation. He asked members whether they wished to support the next stage of the study. Members agreed unanimously to support the idea. Mr Marks agreed to be the CC contact with the Transition University group in relation to the project when this would be required.

### **3.2. Police Report**

PC Crichton was the officer present who gave his report. He gave an overview of the past month in terms of crimes recorded in St Andrews. Some 59 crimes were reported in the St Andrews area in the past month, most of which were petty dishonesty, thefts or break ins. Two males were arrested and charged for many of the recorded crimes.

Thefts of bicycles have also been taking place but PC Crichton admitted that they didn't have any leads on who was behind these thefts. The previous year he added there had been an organised group from Glasgow targeting bikes but he couldn't assume it was the same group this year.

An initiative to tackle abandoned cycles has been launched in which bikes reported as abandoned are tagged and if not removed within 21 days are removed by Fife Council and taken into storage initially.

PC Crichton announced that he and PC Peddie were cycle trained and might be seen more using bikes for their part of their local patrolling as community officers.

Finally he reported that there had been good feed about the realistic cardboard cutout being used to deter speeding motorists. Unfortunately this model has to be shared around North East Fife and isn't for exclusive St Andrews use.

PC Peddie was asked about the response in relation to people claiming back bikes, which had been tagged and stored by the Council? PC Peddie replied that the initiative had just started and they'd be liaising with the university to spread awareness of the initiative to ensure students had a chance to remove bikes before the Council removed them.

Mr McLeod asked PC Crichton about the possibility of St Andrews having its own pop-up policeman and asked about the cost. PC Crichton thought the models cost about £40. Mr McLeod suggested that the Community Council might consider the possibility of sponsoring one if that was acceptable.

## **4. Fife Councillor.**

### **4.1. Frances Melville - apologies**

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Cycle Parking**

Cllr Thomson reported that there was still no progress with sorting out the bike parking issue in the town centre. He is to meet with a Mr John Mitchell of Fife Council who is responsible for parking and have a walk round the town centre with him and discuss the local issues. Cllr Thomson added that the racks had still not been put back outside Nardinis or W.H. Smith.

#### **4.2.3. Open Banners**

Cllr Thomson reported that banners left over on lampposts from last year's Open Championship have finally been taken down.

#### **4.2.4. Kinnessburn Path**

Cllr Thomson reported that he was still pursuing planners to clarify where responsibility lay with footpath maintenance on this path by the burn at the back of St Leonards Fields.

#### **4.2.5. Private Lock-up near former Post Office on Pipeland Road**

Cllr Thomson is still awaiting an outcome on this lock up which is causing some concern due partly to blocked gullies. Ownership still hasn't been determined. He added that the gullies might be able to be cleared if Transportation Services get a request from housing to put the job on their list.

#### **4.2.6. Church Square Toilet**

This toilet is in the process of being refurbished and Mrs Adam had pointed out that there was a lack of signage to redirect people to other public toilets. Cllr Thomson has requested that signage be put up to tell people where the nearest public toilets are located. Miss Uprichard wondered who had suggested closing the toilets in June? Cllr Thomson acknowledged that he didn't know and didn't remember being consulted about the closure. He agreed to try and find out why it had happened.

#### **4.2.7. Bins near Trespass**

Cllr Thomson is trying to get large commercial bins owned by a nearby restaurant moved as they are obstructing the noticeboard and cycle racks. He also hoped that another business might have space to accommodate the bins as well as their own bins.

#### **4.2.8. Grange House**

Cllr Thomson reported that there are two extant planning permissions for the property because the access works have commenced. He didn't know where these lay in relation to the alleged proposal to demolish Grange House. He had also written to the owner expressing concerns about vandalism and about what proposals there are for the site but he hasn't received a reply yet. Miss Uprichard asked how she could find out which permissions are extant and what is happening at the present time. Cllr Thomson replied that it was very complicated but he had a full explanation but which was too detailed to go into at the meeting.

#### **4.2.9. Recycling Centre**

Cllr Thomson said that there was an ongoing review of the use of the recycling centre. There has been some concern about some traders coming from even outwith Fife and dumping non-recyclable waste in the centre. Resource Efficiency Solutions, which runs the recycling centres for Fife, is reviewing all the centres. Some small businesses have expressed concern to him about the possible outcome of the review and how this might affect their ability to recycle using the season ticket they can purchase at present. Cllr Thomson is to have a meeting with the Chief Operating Officer of Resource Efficiency Solutions to discuss matters.

Miss Uprichard told Cllr Thomson that she'd damaged the underside of her car at the recycling centre due to the high-speed hump. She'd written to Fife Council and she'd had a reply from a firm Gallagher Bassett (?) saying that unless she could prove that Fife Council had acted unlawfully and without a duty of care Fife Council wasn't liable. She can no longer go to the recycling centre as a result. Cllr Thomson agreed to add her concern about the hump to the list of matters to discuss at his meeting. Mr Jardine complained that when the recycling centre was closed the sign was put on the gate, which was a distance from the roundabout and out of sight of drivers. He thought that there should be a sign closer to the roundabout to stop drivers unwittingly driving up to find they have to reverse back to the nearest turning point. Cllr Thomson agreed that it was a good idea in light of the recent spate of temporary closures and he'd suggest that as well at his meeting.

#### **4.2.10. Waste Bins**

Dr Shepherd commented on waste bins feeling that they made St Andrews look like a dump and many weren't seagull proof helping to create a real mess in some locations. He wondered why St Andrews couldn't get the type of bins used in Anstruther, which have a compacting function. He added that there were plastic waste bags, which were getting ripped up by the seagulls and crows. Bins near Greggs he said were covered in bird guano. He wondered if there was any way that this problem could be resolved? He also wondered whether Fife Council could insist that the commercial wheelie bins had to be back into the premises they served within a few hours? Dr Shepherd also wondered about ways of identifying the wheelie bins with a form of tag to aid identification of culprits. Dr Shepherd also suggested that perhaps bin owners could be encouraged to label their bins instead of waiting for Fife Council to get round to it. Cllr Thomson was sceptical that this would work and reminded Dr Shepherd that bins could be owned by not just shops but absentee landlords etc so any scheme he felt would be better set up by Fife Council. Mr Crichton suggested that bin owners could just paint the ownership details on their bins.

Cllr Thomson acknowledged that the bins issue was an ongoing saga. He thought that the suggestion about tagging bins with their owner's details was a good one. Councillor Thomson had requested a look into that possibility last year and hadn't received any response to date but would chase it up. He felt that there needed to be better enforcement of bin management and he looked forward to seeing how successful the new seagull proof bags might be. If commercial properties were putting out plastic sacks the availability of seagull proof sacks might be a positive move.

Mrs Adam commented on the large number of commercial bins littering Church Square and felt that the increase in such bins was becoming ridiculous. Cllr Thomson in reply said that when officers visited commercial premises they could give advice on waste management and he couldn't see why any business would need a large number of bins.

Mr McLeod commented that it wasn't just the bins and bags which were an issue and he felt that the pavements were in a poor state of cleanliness and suggested that some action by the community might be appropriate. He recollected how in the past housewives were proud to scrub and keep clean their doorsteps and thought that the pavements in town could do with a good scrub more often than Fife council might be able to clean them. Cllr Thomson agreed with Mr McLeod's general concerns and reminded the meeting about how different the pavements looked about the time of the Open when the Council had cleaned them. He also thought that BID might be looking at such a project. Mr McLeod suggested that there might be a case to fund a power washer or two which businesses in the town could use.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney - apologies**

#### **4.3.1. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that potholes were found at the following locations and, following inspection, repairs were actioned –

Craigtoun Road – potholes (2) on the south side of the road immediately west of the entrance to Craigtoun Holiday Park.

Hepburn Gardens – potholes (2) on the north and south sides of the road across from the roundabout sign to the east of the Hepburn Gardens/Buchanan Gardens roundabout.

Hepburn Gardens – potholes (2) in the centre of the road across from lighting column number 30.

Hepburn Gardens – pothole on the north side of the road at the edge of the cycle lane outside house number 51.

Lawmill Gardens – pothole in centre of road across from lighting column number 6.

Strathkinness Crossroads (Low Road) – potholes (2) on east side of road leading to Magus Muir immediately south of junction with B 939.

#### **4.3.2. Street Nameplates**

Cllr McCartney reported that an order was due to be issued this month for the replacement of missing street nameplates, one of which was the Kinnessburn Road sign missing from the south side of the road by the BB Hall. It is likely to take about three months before the work is completed.

#### **4.3.3. Ponding**

Councillor McCartney reported that water appears to be ponding over the drain on the south side of Canongate just before its junction with Largo Road when it rains. This was reported for inspection.

#### **4.3.4. Graffiti**

Cllr McCartney reported that ‘tags’ were reported for removal at the following locations –

Abbey Street – ‘tag’ on grey junction box on west side of pedestrian crossing by house number 4.

North Street – ‘tag’ on telephone box on north side of road west of Murray Place.

Pilmour Links – ‘tag’ on grey junction box on south side of road by pedestrian crossing.

St Mary’s Place – ‘tag’ on bus shelter on south side of road west of Bell Street.

South Street – ‘tag’ on telephone box on north side of road east of Bell Street.

South Street – ‘tag’ on grey junction box on north side of road outside Holy Trinity.

South Street – ‘tag’ on telephone box on north side of road outside number 43.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Bins Issue**

Cllr Morrison reported that she’d been dealing with aspects of the bins issue. She’d received a complaint that public bins at the harbour didn’t have flaps, which would make them a target for scavenging birds. She’d contacted Ian Barbour in relation to this matter. She was aware of the solar powered bins in Anstruther and thought that these might have been paid for from the local office budget for that area. She thought that it might be possible to invest in a few such bins for St Andrews depending upon reports about how well they worked.

In relation to the bin problem in town, Cllr Morrison recollected when there had been discussion about a restaurant proposed for the premises now occupied by the Burger Bar. She’d asked that permission should only be given if there was storage for the bins off the street. The previous applicant who didn’t in the end go ahead with their proposal accepted this idea. She felt that Planning should be taking more heed of such matters when looking at applications for restaurants.

#### **4.4.2. Church Square Toilets**

Cllr Morrison reported that she'd contacted Kate Hughes. Cllr Morrison hoped that the sign to tell the public where alternative toilets were located would go up very soon. Cllr Morrison also agreed that the Councillors weren't always being told of things happening.

#### **4.4.3. Rod Cox**

Cllr Morrison reported on the death of Mr Cox who had been a transportation officer who had been very good in dealing with local issues. Cllr Morrison commented on some of his work and said he'd be a sad loss to the town and he'd be difficult to replace, as he was so dedicated to transportation issues in the town.

#### **4.4.4. Mini Golf Proposal for East Sands Area**

Cllr Morrison commented on this proposal for a mini golf business on the area of the former putting green on the East Sands. She said that when members realised the land was Common Good they told the proposer that he would have to satisfy the local community in relation to his proposal. Mr Marks informed the meeting that he'd just received emails from the proposer and would be circulating the email with attached details. Mr Crichton commented that there had been a previous attempt to run the putting at the East Sands but the person running it had been unable to make it a going concern due partly to the cost of liability insurance.

#### **4.4.5. Criterion Bar - bench**

Mrs Corbin informed the meeting that the Criterion had a fixed bench in the front of it. She said that she couldn't remember them getting permission to set it up as a fixture.

#### **4.4.6. Tree by Aldi/Carpet Shop**

Mrs Corbin also noted that a small tree planted between Aldi and the Carpet shop had been badly damaged but had not so far been replaced. She wondered if this could be replaced?

#### **4.4.7. West Sands Toilet Closure & other issues.**

Mr Munn raised the issue of the closure of the West Sands toilets. He asked about news about the replacement, which had been proposed. Cllr Morrison wasn't certain about the reason for closure but Cllr Thomson said that there had been a blockage in one of the toilet blocks hence their closure. These toilets would be reopened until the date scheduled for demolition and replacement by the portable toilet block. The second toilet block further along has been refurbished according to Cllr Morrison, so will be available after the other toilets have been demolished and before the portable toilet block has been installed by a date in July. She added that all Councillors in Fife believed that there weren't enough public toilets, but Fife Council still continued to close them claiming it couldn't afford to keep them open. She also commented that St Andrews, which Fife Council declared to be the economic driver for Fife should have toilets, fit to match its status. Mr Jardine said he disagreed with Cllr Morrison's assessment of the capability of St Andrews to be the economic driver. He felt that Fife Region assumed that St Andrews could look after itself, but he felt it couldn't. He felt that St Andrews was missing facilities, which he'd seen in other seaside towns such as Arbroath. He felt that there was little to do in St Andrews for those who were non-golfers. He thought that Fife Council did little for St Andrews. He cited the failed attempt to get the FCCT centre built as an example. He was concerned that if new toilets were built there should be a guarantee from Fife Council that they would maintain them given the large number of visitors who would want to make use of such facilities. He was sceptical about Fife Council's ability to ensure proper maintenance of decent facilities. He felt that action was needed to ensure decent facilities, citing the example of the harbour as an area where the toilets had been an issue. He was also critical of the imbalance in the type of local shops saying that there were lots of cafes and restaurants but hardly anywhere that he could buy a pair of trousers due to the loss of shops. Mr Jardine cited a number of other concerns such as the nature of the parking in the town centre. Cllr Morrison explained the logic behind the right angle parking and also rebutted his claim that there was nothing for non-golfers to do in St Andrews, reminding him about facilities such as Craigtoun Park. New facilities she added were being developed in Kinburn Park for families. She acknowledged that there wasn't the money to deal with every

local need and in some areas such as the replacement of the play facilities at the West Sands some fundraising might have to take place. She reminded the meeting that there sometimes had to be a choice made between the various demands upon the budget and in such circumstances some projects might not get funding as soon as might be wished unless funded independently of the Council. Cllr Morrison concluded by citing the good work of St Andrews in Bloom to illustrate what could be done when there was a determination by local people to improve an area but which wasn't affordable within the Council budget.

Mr McLeod briefly commented on the concerns of Mr Jardine and the response by Cllr Morrison. He acknowledged that Mr Jardine had made some good points, but agreed with Cllr Morrison's view that local people could still achieve results if they had a project about which they were passionate. Mr McLeod said that there were sources of funding for community based projects and he urged people to think about community-based projects, which could be channelled through the Community Council where it was appropriate. Mrs Corbin suggested that people could do little things to help improve the local environment. She mentioned her initiative to wash down some seats in the town centre, which had bird guano on them and thought that these were small things which anybody could do at little expense but which could have a bigger impact.

Cllr Thomson in response to Mr Jardine thought that St Andrews was fantastic and that there were great opportunities for everyone reminding the meeting of the cultural and non-golfing sporting opportunities available. He gave a number of examples of such opportunities. He added that there were a number of organisations in town, which had access to funds to award to good projects.

#### **4.4.8. Vans in Church Square**

Mr Munn said that there was still parking taking place of vans in Church Square and wondered about the progress of the proposal to ban most vehicles due to the damage being caused. Cllr Morrison related how she'd recently been to Church Square on other business and had seen several vans parked in the area. She felt that all Councillors wanted to try and get this matter sorted out. She said that the delay in dealing with the matter related to unsatisfactory wording from officials in relation to the proposed traffic regulation. She hoped this would come to the next area meeting. Unfortunately there had to be a period of consultation for a proposed order, which would set back potential implementation by several weeks. Miss Uprichard suggested that bollards at Church Square would stop unofficial parking. Cllr Morrison advised that this would be the plan to have bollards which could be moved by the Church officer as required primarily for funeral and wedding vehicles.

#### **4.4.9. Electric Charging Station Sign**

Mr Munn asked for an update on his query about the size of the sign. Cllr Morrison had no specific news about the charging station sign but would check with officials.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Report**

Miss Uprichard reported that there had been two meetings during May and there had been a considerable number of applications. She listed the planning applications to which the committee had put in objections (see planning minutes).

Miss Uprichard also mentioned the Fifeplan and ongoing part of the planning process and one, which has been subject to frequent information requests sent to the planning committee for information and comment. Miss Uprichard acknowledged that there hadn't been any real discussion about the Fifeplan at the committee as it is a very large and not easily digestible document, much of which is not relevant to St Andrews. She felt that it must be hard for Fife Councillors given only a few days' notice to get to grips with this plan and having to consider whether they could approve it. She concluded that it remained to be seen what the Reporters would make of this huge collection of information.

She informed the meeting that notification had been received about an appeal in relation to Feddinch Mains an ongoing saga of some 14 years. The developers in this case said they'd spent several million pounds although there is little to show apart from the landscaping of the planned course.

Miss Uprichard mentioned that a response had been put in to the appeal about 63 St Nicholas Street and that there were three appeals about Kinnessburn flats, which are due.

She went on to comment that there were two other things, which had arisen which she said demonstrated the very restrictive nature of the planning system as it applied to residents and voluntary bodies. She described situations, which had arisen in relation to two site visits to two listed buildings. She had written to Fife Council to request that neighbours and objectors could be notified about the site visits so that they could attend. She had received a reply which had implied that the Council didn't like to have others attending viewing their presence as potentially problematic for the officials and Councillors. She recollected a previous visit to such a site when officials had told her and others attending that they weren't allowed to speak to the Councillors or Developers. She felt that there was a lack of transparency and involving the public didn't happen.

Miss Uprichard in response to a comment by Mrs Corbin about the weekly lists issue and the timing of putting in requests to be statutory consultee said that recently she'd received word that Fife Council would be issuing their weekly list on Sunday evenings and the CC would have until Tuesday of the following week to try to be a statutory consultee. Following that the CC would have 15 days to put in a response, objection or comment.

Miss Andrew wanted some clarification about the objection to the ducting at the Students Association building which has been put on the outside causing neighbours to object and also about the CC objection to the wind turbines planned by the university. Miss Uprichard in reply said that she'd understood that the offending construction was originally supposed to be inside the Students Association building so its position outside without planning permission was unlawful, apart from the complaints by nearby residents affected. She noted that an application had since been put in which was partly retrospective. She added that the plan of the construction received was not helpful, as it contained no scale to allow people to judge how high it would be and it wasn't clear whether it would do the job of concealing the external duct.

Miss Uprichard then explained the history of the CC concerns about the wind turbines from their visual impact to the impact during construction and the recent announcement about the route chosen to send the cabling for the electricity generated. She also noted that the permission was currently dependent upon a radar mitigation to be agreed with the Ministry of Defence. She understood that the MOD was happy with everything else in the application except for the turbines themselves and the issue of radar mitigation.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.0. Fire Evacuation at Last Meeting**

Dr Shepherd commented on the way members responded to the evacuation at the previous CC meeting and didn't think it had been done very well. He thought that the CC needed instructions and added that the official assembly point was over in Church Square. He'd spoken to the building staff on the matter and added that one of the things needed would be the meeting signature list to establish that everyone could be accounted for. Mr McLeod agreed that the matter needed to be taken seriously. Mrs Corbin pointed out that there were signs around the building about evacuation procedures.

### **6.1. Reports from Representatives**

Mr McLeod in his initial comments urged that an email report with a summary of salient points might often be the best way for representatives to report back unless they required some response to a matter they might raise in their reports.

### **6.1.1. St Andrews Partnership**

Mr Roberts reported that the BID and St Andrews Partnership had been talking to each other. One outcome was a decision that BID would deal with the Xmas lights while the Partnership would concentrate on its idea to light up St Andrews Cathedral.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation Committee**

Mr McLeod started by said that he'd like to "resurrect" the Recreation Committee with a Convenor and several members meeting possibly every 4/6 weeks with a number of short term working groups. Mr Greenwell had approached Mr McLeod in relation to being the Convenor and hoped that that would be agreeable to members. He hoped to get several members to join the committee. Mr Roberts agreed that there needed to be several members involved to make the committee viable and help to spread the workload. Mr McLeod added that there could be the possibility of co-opting people with particular interests or skills who weren't CC members.

### **7.2. General Purposes Committee**

There has been no formal meeting recently.

### **7.3. 200 Club**

Winners for June were 1<sup>st</sup> Mr Sangster 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss Cantley 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Rowe

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

No report

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Young Citizen Award**

Mr Marks noted that this had been requested by Mr Wallard. Mr Roberts commented that the Rotary Club who annually award a Citizen of the Year were also going to be giving awards to 6 young citizens. Mr Roberts thought that while the CC Young Citizen of the Year was a good idea he thought that it lost some of its credence if there were too many awards. He felt that the CC needed to be careful if it went ahead with its own Young Citizen of the Year Award if the Rotary was making wards as well. Mr McLeod suggested that this was an idea, which the Recreation Committee could consider, and invite Mr Wallard to participate. Mr McLeod concluded by suggesting that the idea could be brought forward to the next meeting when Mr Wallard might be present to speak to his idea.

### **8.2. Defibrillators**

Dr Shepherd advised the meeting that the Heartstart group were in the process of drawing up a map of the locations of defibrillators. Mrs Harding thought that it would be a good idea for shops to have such maps. Mr McLeod wondered if the CC could sponsor the production of these maps? Dr Shepherd said he could get a map from the tourist office and add them on while waiting for the official maps to be produced. Miss Uprichard was keen to have a demonstration of how to use a defibrillator. After some discussion Mr Paul told Miss Uprichard that there would be a demonstration at the Craigtoun Country Fair at the beginning of July. He added that the Heartstart Group were always keen to be approached to set up demonstrations if asked.

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

### **9.1. Chair's Report**

Mr McLeod reported that he thought the membership of the CC stood at 19. He advised that Zara Evans had moved away following the completion of her University degree. He added that he was anxious to get the CC up to full membership if there was going to be an increase in activity.

Mr McLeod also talked about responding to the press looking for comments on local issues. He felt quite happy to respond in general terms unless the issues were more controversial at which time he might seek advice from the Vice-Chairs and Secretary and members. However because press requests had such a quick turn around he thought that members would have to trust him not to make controversial statements.

Mr McLeod on a lighter note said that he'd got the Provost lights switched on to indicate that the Council were meeting and he'd also asked for the Town Hall bell to be rung at 18.50 but it had been discovered not to be working. The reason for this is to be checked out and if it can be fixed it will be rung in future. He also showed members the Chair's chain presented by ex-chair Mary Freeborn that had names of former Chairmen on small bars but these hadn't been updated until about the year 2000. He hoped to get the missing names added though each bar would cost about £30 and would get a valuation. Mr Marks confirmed that Zurich insured the CC through an arrangement with Fife Council.

## **9.2. Treasurers Report**

Mr Munn reported on the state of the CC finances. He confirmed that the Ceilidh Account had been closed. There had been no transactions in May and the statement could be viewed on the CC website.

## **9.3. Secretary's Report**

Mr Marks commented briefly on the emails and correspondence received which he forwards to members for appropriate action or response.

## **10. Any Other business**

### **10.1. Email problem**

Mrs Corbin reminded members that her main email account had been compromised in May so she would be using an alternative email account.

### **10.2. Gardens Problem**

Mr Jardine informed the meeting that there was a garden in Tom Morris Drive, which he said, was well overgrown. He said that this was causing problems for some of the neighbouring properties. He wondered if anything could be done to get the garden sorted out given that it was in private property? Cllr Thomson said that the main two things might be possible depended first of all on whether the vegetation was encroaching the pavement when the Council could cut it back and invoice the owner, otherwise it might be only if the garden posed a health and safety risk that the Council could take action. If there were no identifiable risks then little could be done by the Council.

### **10.3. Visitor Centre West Sands**

Mr Stewart commented on the rejection of the previous plans for the proposed West Sands Visitor Centre last year, but had noted that FCCT appear to have funds available again to possibly look at a new plan. He wondered about the possibility of the Visitor Centre idea being revisited with the money, which they have, plus funds from the CGF and other sources to make it possible to built a new centre? Mr McLeod suggested that Mr Stewart should put together a proposal to bring back to the CC. Cllr Morrison didn't think the CGF could pay for that and reminded the meeting that the reason the original idea was turned down was because of the inappropriate nature of the plan. However if FCCT were to come back with more acceptable plans there might be a more sympathetic response as she recognised that everyone

was in agreement about the need for better facilities for the area. Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting about the original plans which were rejected and thought that there might be a more sympathetic hearing if FCCT were to come back with more appropriate plans.