

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Agenda – June 2006

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 5th June in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made.

(Copies of Agendas and Minutes of the Community Council are held at Fife Council's Local Office, St Mary's Place and the Town Library, Church Square. Those from late 1997 on are on line at <http://www.standrewscc.net/>)

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of May 2006

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

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.2. Sheila Black (South)

4.3. Bill Sangster (Central)

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

5. Planning Committee

Appendix K – notes from meetings

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. World Heritage

See Appendix F for correspondence

6.2. Ship to Ship Oil Transfer

See Appendix G for correspondence

6.3. Removal of BT Payphones

Letter Appendix H

6.4. St Andrews, Victoria, Australia

Letter sent – see Appendix I

6.5. Reports from representatives

6.6. 200 Club – Annual Report

(from AGM)

6.7. Appointment of new Treasurer

(from AGM)

6.8. Fife Structure Plan

Article for St Andrews in Focus by Ian Goudie – see Appendix J

6.9. Any Other Matters Arising.

7. From Committees

7.1. Recreation

8. New Business

8.1 Byre Theatre

Carole Tricker to introduce issue of Byre Theatre and financial situation.

8.2. Blue Flag Awards 2006

See Appendix A: suggestion from Pete Lindsay.

8.3. Small Awards

See Appendix B: another suggestion from Pete Lindsay.

8.4. Letter re Loches Alliance

See Appendix E.

8.5. Local Holidays 2007

Fife Council propose the 2007 May Day holiday to be Monday 15 May. May 15th is a Tuesday. Everywhere else seems to take May 7. (Response required for East Area Services Ctte meeting 14 June)

8.6. Scheme for Community Councils

This fundamental document has been amended to include a complaints procedure covering complaints against both community councils and individual community councillors. Some copies will be circulated at the meeting and can be downloaded from <<http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication.pop&pubid=3DB75A60-E7FE-C7EA-00CB6E2EB2743603>>

8.7 Community Council Seminar

Fife Council are arranging a seminar on community council topics for 10am-4pm Sat 2 Sep 2006 at Fife House, Glenrothes; they invite suggestions by 30 June for subjects to be covered in presentation or workshop formats.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.1.1. Licensing of St Andrews name

See Appendix D.

9.2. Treasurer

9.3. Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

see Appendix C.

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 – Blue Flag Awards

A suggestion from Pete Lindsay

This pre-empts this year's awards, so may be rendered academic if there is not a good outcome for St Andrews this year. However last year [minutes 7.5 July 05] we discussed our concern that the Blue Flag awards seem to have been centralised to Burntisland, with no local recognition of the awards by Fife Council. There was some discussion of community council perhaps hosting a reception for representatives from Fife Council and Scottish Water whose work contributes in so large part to the cleanliness of the beaches. Another suggestion last year was for involvement of local schools in some way. By the time we were discussing it though the awards had been made and time slipped by...

Should we:

- formally raise the question of where the FC makes/celebrates the awards?
- decide to do something ourselves?

Appendix B – Small Awards

A suggestion from Pete Lindsay

Following Ken Fraser's query over commemorative certificates recently, could we extend this idea slightly to undertaking an active campaign of recognition of, well, anything we think is worthy of recognition at the level of a letter of congratulations and a commemorative certificate?

We have made ad hoc awards on these lines in the past e.g. to a pub's staff and customers for raising over £1000 for charity. The award should be formally presented by the Chair – in full regalia – or a Vice, with opportunity for suitable media coverage, either at a community council meeting or at the recipient's site. Community councillors would be on the lookout for suitable cases to bring before community council. In these cases of what is simply a small gesture of support, presumably a quick debate and if necessary a show of hands would suffice to make an award or not, rather than any lengthy, more formal procedure.

Appendix C – Correspondence

Date	from	Subject
27/04/2006	Scottish Planning Policy 21: Green Belts	3 booklets on Scottish policy on this subject and recent amendments in Town and Country Planning legislation (2 copies of 3 booklets)
28/04/2006	Fife Council Law and Administration	List of Local Holidays 2007
03/05/06	Planning Guidance: Assessing Development Plans...	Scottish Executive
03/05/06	Consultation responses	Scottish Executive

	summary: Fish farming boundaries...	
04/05/2006	Ted Brocklebank MSP	Reply to Community Council letter about World Heritage Status
11/05/2006	Fife Constabulary	Call Grading Leaflets
11/05/2006	Fife Council Development Services	Doors Open Day 2006 letter re numbers of posters/leaflets sent
11/05/2006	Fife Council Development Services	Re: Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006
15/05/2006	Fife Council Transportation Services	Road Safety Strategy for Fife – Update April 2006 – loose leaf A4 booklet
16/05/2006	Fife Council Law and Administration	Community Council Seminar – Saturday 2nd September 2006 – advance notification.
16/05/2006	Fife Constabulary	Letter from new Inspector for St Andrews, Bruce Thomson
16/05/2006	Marine and Coastguard Agency	Letter acknowledging letter sent about Ship to Ship Oil Transfers in the Firth of Forth
17/05/2006	Ted Brocklebank MSP	Letter re WHS status for St Andrews debate in Scottish Parliament
18/05/2006	Letter from Bette Christie	Re resignation from Community Council Support Working Group
23/05/2006	Ted Brocklebank MSP	Scottish Parliamentary Update – Spring Edition
??/05/06	eVOLVe newsletter	Volunteer Centre Fife
24/05/06	Membership renewal reminder	Friends of the Earth Scotland
24/05/06	Youth Volunteering showcase 2 June, Kirkcaldy	Volunteer Centre Fife
??/??/06	Conditions in a Fife Park Flat	Residents

Appendix D – Commercial Use of St Andrews Name

from Mr John Carter

I was told that it is possible since a few years ago to license the St Andrews name, for commercial purposes in Europe and internationally. Is this correct, and who or what organisation can I contact to receive more information about the opportunity?

Comment from Chair *in absentia*, “At the moment of writing, I await information from Mr Bob Inch re a possible meeting with the existing licence holders. A meeting was suggested for the 31st May or 1st June, but I don’t at the moment know if that meeting will have taken place. Tonight’s Chair will have any information that is available”.

DFM, Chair

Appendix E – Loches Alliance Letter

From Virginia Fowler, Chair, St Andrews–Loches Alliance

It would be appreciated if you would bring the following to the attention of the Community Council at its next meeting.

Members of the Community Council are well aware of the nature of the St Andrews-Loches Alliance. Over the past ten years the Alliance has developed cordial relationships with the town of Loches in France through a series of exchanges, both cultural and sporting, involving a wide range of age groups, from schoolchildren to senior citizens. It is also widely known that in 2005 an agreement to form a Cultural Partnership was signed in Loches, with a supporting letter from the Community Council and the intent is to ratify the agreement in St Andrews later this year.

The Alliance is very aware of the sensitivity of some members of the community to the notion of twinning and responded by the following route towards a Cultural Partnership, acceptable to all concerned, thus avoiding any question of there being a twinning agreement between the two towns. There is no intent on the part of the Alliance to go beyond a Cultural Partnership. Our friends in Loches understand this and are happy to accept the *status quo*.

During recent discussions with Fife Council re funding for future exchanges and the forthcoming celebrations to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Loches-St Andrews Alliance, we were made aware that the application form bore the heading “twinning”. The EC is now made up of twenty five member states and for ease of translation, any applications for funding that fosters links between towns and cities in Europe will from now on come under the generic term of “twinning”. Whilst the Alliance wishes to explore the possibility of securing such funding it wishes at the same time to re-iterate that there is no intent whatsoever of moving beyond the status of Cultural Partnership. In addition, the European Commission are aware of the unique position of the St Andrews-Loches Alliance. Twinning could only be sought were the Community Council to be clearly supportive.

The Alliance is anxious to be totally transparent on this matter and is at the disposal of the Council should it have any questions.

Appendix F – World Heritage Status Correspondence

Between Secretary Patrick Marks, for community council, and Ted Brocklebank, MSP.

F.1. To Ted Brocklebank**World Heritage Status for St Andrews**

My apologies for not writing back to you sooner on the above matter, which was discussed by the St Andrews Community Council at its April meeting. Thank you for the copies of letters of support and information you sent on the proposal.

After discussion the St Andrews Community Council is well aware of the need to become involved in steering group which you are proposing to set up to further study this proposal and its viability. One of our Community Councillors, Mr Stuart Holdsworth has indicated his willingness to become involved in a steering group. If you wish to contact Mr Holdsworth directly his address is on the Community Council website.

If you wish to discuss the proposal any further with the Community Council please let me know in advance and I can put it on our agenda.

F.2. Reply from Ted Brocklebank, MSP.

Thank you for your recent letter regarding World Heritage status for St Andrews.

I am very pleased that the Community Council has given this proposal its backing. I have also secured a debate in the Scottish Parliament towards the end of May when I will be seeking the support of all MSPs, regardless of political affiliation, for this idea. I will continue to keep the Community Council fully involved in developments. I am grateful for Mr Stuart Holdsworth's involvement in the campaign and I have already corresponded with him.

F.3. follow-up from Ted Brocklebank, MSP**World Heritage Site status for St Andrews
Debate in the Scottish Parliament – 1st June, 5 pm**

I am aware that you have indicated an interest in this initiative in the past and am grateful to the many people who care about St Andrews who have shown such enthusiasm for the campaign.

I am delighted to say I have now secured a Members' Debate in the Scottish Parliament on the subject and I am now writing to you to invite you to watch proceedings in the Public Gallery when this motion comes to the floor of the house next week. Patricia Ferguson, the Culture Minister, has already indicated Executive support and she will respond to next week's debate.

If you are able to attend, please advise my Parliamentary Aide, Dominic Heslop, who will book you a ticket. Although any member of the public can attend any debate in the Parliament, I would of course prefer to help those with a special interest in this matter to secure their seats first.

Appendix G – Ship to Ship Oil Transfer Correspondence**G.1. To Daniel Hunt, Maritime and Coastguard Agency****Ship to Ship Oil Transfer in Firth of Forth Consultation**

I am writing on behalf of the Community Council of St Andrews to express our concern about the proposals for the transfer of crude oil in the Firth of Forth. The Community Council has been concerned since the original announcement by the Forth Ports Authority and its commercial partner that this proposal will have potentially devastating effect upon a coastline of national, European and International importance, as well as the local and Scottish economy.

A recent incident when a tanker with aviation fuel was disabled off the East Lothian coast only highlights the inadequacy and complacency of the bodies proposing this venture in the opinion of the Community Council. It must be clear that the protection of the marine wildlife and environment for which this area is famous requires a more rigorous response than that recently exhibited by FPA.

While recognising that there are limitations on what can be done to constrain a business venture of this nature, we would urge your agency to recommend in the strongest possible terms that government put pressure on the FPA and its associates to act more responsibly and find a safe way to conduct this business or to abandon its plans altogether,

G.2. To Kennoway Community Council

Patrick Marks, to Mrs Simpson (Kennoway Community Council Secretary)

Ship to Ship Transfer of Oil in the Firth of Forth

Thank you for your letter relating to this matter. St Andrews Community Council have every intention of supporting your protest about this rather arbitrary attempt to impose upon Scotland a commercial process which will have little benefit economically, but could cause economic and environmental problems.

The recent tanker problems in the Firth of Forth off East Lothian add to the concerns, as I believe that the Forth Ports Authority didn't alert local councils of a potential disaster. This seemingly casual attitude to a stricken vessel does not make us confident in the response if this ship to ship oil transfer goes ahead.

We are concerned at the seeming complacency of the Forth Ports Authority, and hope that recent events will spur on both Westminster and the Scottish Executive minister Rhona Brankin MSP to force the Forth Ports Authority to ditch these plans.

We should also be reminding the politicians about European and International Directives on environmental protection of marine life and environments which could be breached by a lack of preventative measures. Perhaps Europe might be a real help in this case after all !

All the best for your continued campaign

Appendix H – Letter re Payphone Removal

to Sir Menzies Campbell MP.

Removal of BT Payphones / Lack of Public Consultation by BT

At the May meeting of the Andrews Community Council the removal of payphones in St Andrews was discussed. BT had informed Fife Council of its intention to remove a payphone in Langlands Road, St Andrews. This was not a precursor to any form of public consultation on the suitability of this proposal, purely a form letter to Fife Council, presumably because of its planning remit. The first that the Community Council were aware of any proposal was via Fife Council's Chief Executive's office.

While the Community Council might accept that the particular phone box doesn't justify retention, it objects to the lack of public consultation. A phone box may in some instances be a vital public resource, but might not be used heavily thus potentially being considered uneconomic by BT and removed before the public are aware.

I have been asked to bring this situation to your attention and wonder if you could ask BT for its policy on public consultation and OFFCOM for their view as to whether BT has more of a responsibility to consult before such a removal.

Appendix I – Relationship with St Andrews, Victoria

Letter from Patrick Marks to Mrs Kenney, St Andrews, Victoria

Thank you for your email with the suggestion about a sister city relationship with the original St Andrews. We are always delighted to hear from other St Andrews around the world and appreciate your interest in contact. For some form of cultural exchange. I would say first that we have a general policy of not twinning with other towns but are more than happy to receive visitors and encourage the form of exchange between young people in local schools as you suggest.

The Royal Burgh of St Andrews CC would be delighted to receive the booklet mentioned in your email. If the folk who are visiting happened to be in St Andrews on the first Monday of any month we would be happy to have them attend our meeting to present the booklet. If their visit doesn't coincide with the first Monday of the month an alternative might be for us to help them meet one of the local primary schools to further the suggestion of an email exchange as it would be very educational for the children in both towns to learn about each other's towns and environments. I would be happy with the Chairman to receive the booklet on your towns history if your friends can't make the community council meeting. Please send details of when they hope to visit and I will advise the Chairman and colleagues of the council to confirm a meeting with them.

Appendix J – Fife Structure Plan Article

By Ian Goudie, for St Andrews in Focus magazine.

The press has portrayed the Fife Structure Plan as a tale about houses, including 1200 for St Andrews alone. But it is also a tale about a bridge, a tale about tunnel vision and a tale of illusion, incoherence and environmental destruction.

For centuries those approaching St Andrews have appreciated the open views of a small town, set in its green bowl, with a mediaeval skyline against the backdrop of the North Sea. If the proposed Structure Plan is approved, these attributes cannot survive. The Council will be legally required to identify sites for all these new houses. In all probability, the proposed Western Development will block the view from the Strathkinness High Road, and the Muir Group, already granted vehicular access to their land by the planning consent for the hospital on the Largo Road, will build houses over the southern hillside. A Green Belt without these areas would be pointless.

For those seeking housing, the Plan's requirement that 30% be affordable looks alluring, but is an illusion. Trying to get such provision will be a losing battle until there are mechanisms to ensure it stays affordable. The scarce housing land in St Andrews should not be squandered until affordable means affordable in perpetuity.

At first sight, the Plan appears to have tunnel vision, focussing on the needs of Fife alone. The reality is worse. This is an unnecessary Plan, not required by legislation, comprising strategic manoeuvring by a small group of Fife's leading officials, alarmed by the prospect of City Regions. With few exceptions, the huge public response to the Plan has been ignored.

The plan's vision is blind to the needs of other parts of Scotland. Any major expansion of Fife's population can come only at the expense of the rest of the country. In particular, the population of Dundee has been falling for years, and attempts to lure people south of the Tay will further undermine their Council Tax base.

Despite frequent allusions to sustainability, the proposed plan is also blind to the needs of the planet. The media have emphasised that any serious attempt to tackle global warming requires individuals to fly less frequently. Yet the tourism strategy for St Andrews has focussed on attracting high-spending American golfers and the Plan continues highlight the international dimension.

The Scottish Executive will take the final decision on the Structure Plan. If they decide the proposed new Forth bridge is inevitable, they may back Fife's expansion to make that controversial decision appear more justifiable. But does it really make sense to build in West Fife more dormitory settlements for Edinburgh? Fife's proposal looks all the more anachronistic given the broad consensus that land use planning policies should seek to minimise the need for travel (Royal Commission on Environmental

Pollution, 1994).

The word plan implies forethought, but this Plan is neither feasible nor coherent. Fife Council blithely assumes that health and transport services will cope with this huge expansion, and does not see the closure of Langlands School as inconsistent. A more imaginative approach would have examined how far, in the sensitive St Andrews context, associated developments – of a type that the town does need – could be used to provide partial funding of a reinstated rail link.

Once Fife Council submits the Plan, the public will have just six weeks to submit objections. As I write this article, it looks highly probable that the submission will be in mid-June, ensuring that the consultation will coincide with the main holiday period. Before your holiday, please write a brief letter of objection to the Scottish Ministers (The Community Council's website <http://www.standrewscc.net/> has the address.)

Appendix K – Planning Meetings

K.1. Planning Meeting Notes – 8 May 2006

Present: Ian Goudie (chair), Bette Christie, George Davidson, Pete Lindsay (minutes). Apologies: Penny Uprichard.

1. Applications

1.	3d Gillespie Terrace, The Scores	internal alterations, subdivide into 2 units, replace dormer, install rooflights	Changes minor, improvements or not visible	-nc-
2.	29 Kinnessburn Rd/Fleming Place	Demolish outhouses, build 2 storey extension		-nc-
3.	170 South St Westport Hotel	Listed building, part retrospective: signs, lighting, canopies	Some concern over signs and lighting, but not sufficient to comment	-nc-
4.	Whey Pat, Bridge Street	Form outdoor beer garden and alter garage to seating area		-nc-
5.	169-173 South St, Wilson	Form 2 retail units, 2 dwelling houses, 6 flats, incl part-demolish store (amended)	Previously (Oct 05) passed informal comment on possible paraffin store, archaeological interest	-nc-
6.	19 City Road	4 person HMO		-nc-
7.	76-78 Bridge St	4 person HMO		-nc-
8.	101a Market St	3 person HMO		-nc-
9.	101b Market St	3 person HMO		-nc-
10.	6 Tulloch Place	Conservatory extension	Outside conservation area	-nc-
11.	35 Bell St	Repaint & new signs for 'Jack Wills'		-nc-
12.	Knockhill	Proposed caravan site	Approx 4 miles from St Andrews, concern over possible visibility due to height	PL investigate

2. Other matters – Reminders & Updates

2.1. Ottakars Aircon

Proposals for re-siting seem to be in limbo between Environmental Health and Planning Services.

2.2. Grange departure hearing

6.30pm Wed 11 May Madras Kilrymont Hall. PU to speak to CC objection.

2.3. St Andrews Bay Departure Hearing

Expected after summer recess.

2.4. Fordel Hill

Concern about extent of development in the countryside, but seems to be too far out of area to comment.

K.2. Planning Meeting Notes – 29 May 2006

Present: Penny Uprichard (chair) George Davidson, Richard Douglas, Pete Lindsay (minutes).

1. Applications

1.	16 Wallace St	Erect dwelling house (change)		-nc-
2.	3d Gillespie Terrace, The Scores	Internal alterations	Reviewed previous meeting's conclusion following letter from neighbour – no change	-nc-

2. R&A Clubhouse

Penny Uprichard, Richard Douglas and Patrick Marks attended an informal briefing by the R&A on proposed changes to the clubhouse.

3. New Park School Site

Proposal for 80 'executive' houses: not yet a formal application.