

## **Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Agenda – January 2006**

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 8th January in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm.

*(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 December 2006**

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

### **3. Presentations**

#### **3.1. Update on St Andrews Fair Trade Campaign**

By Alice Curteis, preceded at 18.45pm by presentation to St Andrews Fairtrade Group of £50 grant from 200 Club.

### **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**

### **6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

#### **6.1. Recycling Centre Opening**

Appendix C.

#### **6.2. Seminar on University Towns**

Appendix F.

#### **6.3. Reports from representatives**

##### **6.3.1. "Cities and their Regions" Conference**

Appendix B.

#### **6.4. Any Other Matters Arising.**

### **7. From Committees**

#### **7.1. Recreation**

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

#### **7.3. 200 Club**

Appendix L.

### **8. New Business**

#### **8.1. Consultation Meeting with Fife Police @ Burgh Chambers – 31/01/07**

Letter to Donald Macgregor from Superintendent W Lawrie, Fife Constabulary, announcing consultation meetings with elected reps and community orgs – one is at 7pm on Wed 31 Jan in the Burgh Chambers, the second at 7pm Wed 7 Feb in Cupar Police Station. We are asked to let Inspector Andy Edmonston ([eastern.division@fife.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eastern.division@fife.pnn.police.uk)) know if we are coming and if so to which venue.

#### **8.2. St Andrews World Class – St Andrews Audit Report**

Appendix D.

#### **8.3. St Andrews Parking Plan**

Appendix E.

#### **8.4. Waterwatch Scotland**

Appendix K: North East Panel – Public Meeting – Fife.

#### **8.5. Notification of Public Consultation Exercise**

Appendix J: Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy.

**8.6. Eastern Division Community Newsletter**

Appendix H.

**8.7. New Pilot Scheme for the Determination of Planning Applications**

Appendix G.

**8.8. Community Council Support Working Group Meeting**

Appendix I.

**9. Reports from Office Bearers****9.1. Chair****9.2. Treasurer****9.3. Secretary****9.3.1. Correspondence**

Appendix A.

**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 – Correspondence**

Date	from	Subject
08/12/06	Fife Council, Transportation Svc	Meeting Proposal – St Andrews Parking Plan
21/12/06	Fife Council, Development Services	New Pilot Scheme of Delegation for the determination of Planning Applications (January – March 2007)
12/06	Fife Council	Notice of Meeting: East Fife Area Services Committee 06/12
12/06	APRS	Notification of APRS Council Meeting 18/01/07, Scores Hotel @ 2.15 pm.
06/12/06	Fife Council Development Services	Notification of Public Consultation Exercise – Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy
06/12/06	Fife Council	Notice of Meeting: E Fife Area Development Cttee 19/12
21/12/06	Waterwatch Scotland	Waterwatch Scotland – North East Panel – Public Meeting – Fife
21/12/06	Fife Council, Development Services	New Pilot Scheme of Delegation for the Determination of Planning Applications (January – March 2007)
20/12/06	Fife Council, Policy & Organisational Development	Funding and Monitoring Team – Funding Information and Advice for Community Councils.
12/06	Scottish Exec, Development Dept	PAN – Control and Management of Fly-Posting
04/01/07	Bo Larsson, University of Lund	Reply on Conference on Smaller and Middle sized university towns in Lund, June 2007
22/12/06	Fife Council, Law & Admin	Community Council Support Working Group Minute
12/06	Fife Constabulary	Eastern Division Community Newsletter – December 2006

**Appendix B – Conference on “Regions and their cities”, Dunfermline, 5/12/06**

*Report by Ken Fraser*

About 100 people attended, mostly officials from Fife and neighbouring councils, with a small number from Community Councils, and a few academics and business people. There were eight principal speakers, nearly all from government – sponsored bodies or unofficial organisations with an interest in planning. The contributions were substantial and I can only summarise the most important points here: I have copious notes if anyone wants to see them.

**1. City regions in general.**

It was pointed out that City Regions were an inescapable geographical fact, but they did not correspond to existing administrative boundaries. They could be objectively defined by observing such factors as travel-to-work areas, housing market areas, retail catchment areas and public transport networks. Scotland's city regions (based on the 4 traditional cities) were small by European standards, but had to compete with these much larger European regions. Consequently it was vital that the Scottish city regions should collaborate with each other. Transport would have a central role to play in that. It was an important example of the kind of major strategic issue that would have to be planned at a city-region level.

**2. The new planning system**

(summarised from speeches by Scott Barrie, M.S.P. for Dunfermline, and Jim MacKinnon, Chief Planner

at the Scottish Executive)

The Planning (Scotland) Bill is awaiting the Royal Assent. It was passed by a large majority of all parties. It enacts that in future, most local authorities will only be obliged to produce Local Plans, but the 4 City Regions will have Strategic Plans also (covering matters of general importance like transport and land use). The boundaries of these regions are not in the Bill; they will be fixed by agreement between the local authorities involved. In case of disagreement the Executive will be able to adjudicate. The City Region plans will be administered through Joint Committees and officials seconded from existing councils. It is intended that the new system should give greater primacy to Local Plans and therefore to local communities. The Executive should be less involved than at present. Mr MacKinnon spoke rather confusingly to non-expert ears, about "Development Plans"; it was not clear to me if these were to be the same as, or part of, Strategic Plans. It was believed that in rural areas where there was no pressure for development, these would not be needed (so presumably St Andrews would need one). These plans would be preceded by extensive public participation (the expression now to be used instead of "Consultation") with local communities at an early stage in the process, but its manner would be determined by each Council (it was not stated how this would be done in City Region areas where by definition several councils were involved).

### 3. Sustainable Development.

The new Bill would for the first time make "Sustainable development" a duty on planners. The White Paper actually states that it should be the first priority. Plans must in future address the long term and reconcile economic, social and environmental interests. Mr MacKinnon referred to tackling climate change as "An environmental imperative". It will involve, e.g., energy efficiency, renewable resources, and attention to the relationship between transport and development.

Stuart Hay of Friends of the Earth gave a list of the sort of measures which he considered would have to be taken if global warming was to be brought under control. These were also on the agenda of the "Take a pride in Fife" environmental conference, and are far-reaching indeed – if actually carried out. They included: Lower CO2 emissions to be generated by using less energy more efficiently.

Public transport to be encouraged (on a system of hubs and spokes with exchanges between different modes) and private cars discouraged: perhaps road use to be rationed. Parking spaces to be charged for, and congestion charging introduced wherever appropriate.

Towns not to be allowed to sprawl. Low density developments to cease. House footprints to diminish. New housing to be near local facilities (i.e. not involving car journeys) and near public transport routes. Out-of-town retail facilities to be discouraged.

Energy generation to be more local, e.g. by Combined Heat and Power, District Heating or biomass. Microgenerators to be installed on all new buildings.

Waste to be reduced, not just recycled.

No building to be allowed on high-class agricultural land.

In general, all projects, on a large or small scale, ought to be "climate-proofed". (by which I think he meant designed not to increase global warming)

### 4. Particular Implications for Fife

I was on the lookout for any hints about how the new system would affect our local area, but these turned out to be few. A map of Regional Transport Partnerships was shown, but on such a small scale that it was difficult to make out. It appeared to place the whole of Fife with the Lothian Region, although Dundee and its immediate area might have been overlapping with the Tayside one. A map of the Edinburgh Housing market area showed it extending to Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes but unfortunately no corresponding map of the Dundee area was given, so we were not told if there would perhaps be an area of Fife left out of the Edinburgh and Dundee City Regions. Scott Barrie and Jim MacKinnon both stressed that the City Regions were not supposed to be a matter of "Edinburgh and Dundee carving up Fife" because the whole system was meant to work by co-operation (a word frequently used by most of the speakers). Nor was it a forerunner of a re-drawing of local government boundaries.

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## Appendix C – Old Waste New Centre

### *Fife Council press release*

Recycling in St Andrews is now even easier with the opening of a brand new recycling centre in the town.

Householders will be able to recycle over 16 different materials from bricks and bushes to wood and washing machines. Helpful assistants will be on hand to advise visitors and answer any queries they may have.

The new centre, located behind the petrol station of Morrison's Supermarket, on Largo Road is the tenth of its kind in Fife and is a major step forward in helping householders to recycle their waste. Between 2005 and 2006, householders recycled 30% of their waste, well above the national average.

Peter Lang, the Recycling Co-Coordinator for Fife Council highlighted the importance of the new site "Previously, residents of St Andrews would have had to drive to the Recycling Centres in Pittenweem, Cupar or Ladybank to recycle bulkier items. The opening of this new Recycling Centre will make it easier and more convenient to recycle – a bonus in these days of busy lifestyles. "

Local Councillor, Jane Ann Liston, who was at the official opening, was pleased at the completion of this project "The completion of the Recycling Centre for St Andrews is a great achievement for all involved. Local residents have been anticipating this site for quite some time and it will allow them to recycle more materials whilst reducing North East Fife's impact on the environment"

The site will be staffed and open 7 days a week, 8am to 6.30pm Oct. – Mar, and 8am to 7.30pm Apr. –

Sept. The site is open all year round only closing on 25th & 26th Dec and 1st & 2nd Jan.

Another handy service for the busy householder is the new online bin collection calendars. Householders can find out their bin collection dates, including changes over the festive period at [www.fifedirect.org.uk/wasteaware](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/wasteaware). To find out which days your bins are collected, simply type in your postcode.

For more information on recycling and waste, please contact the Recycling Helpline on 08451 55 00 22, email [waste.aware@fife.gov.uk](mailto:waste.aware@fife.gov.uk) or visit [www.fifedirect.org.uk/wasteaware](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/wasteaware).

## Appendix D – St Andrews World Class meeting, 7 December 2006

*Report by Donald Macgregor*

On Thursday 7 December I attended the latter part of the monthly meeting of St Andrews World Class in Pilmour Cottage. I had asked Dennis Macdonald (who in the event was absent due to ill health) and Patrick Laughlin if I might attend to hear the report of Jura Consultants which had been commissioned in the summer.

An oral report was given by consultant Dr Colin Smith, who identified a number of aspects of St Andrews which he found good and a number of others that he didn't. I can't go into specifics, as the written version is still to be issued, but in general the conclusions were that

- (a) St Andrews is in a 1970s time-warp especially as regards traffic management;
- (b) because of the town centre's deficiencies users of town centre shops (not just visitors) spend much less per head than in Kirkcaldy or Dunfermline;
- (c) St Andrews World Class, by its failure to enlist the support of elected councillors, the CC, etc, has aroused suspicion, whether justified or not, from organisations and individuals in the town and needs to 'roll back' a bit.

Here is the Minute of the Item I attended for:

### Item 10. St Andrews Town Audit

Colin Smith of Jura Consultants joined the meeting and gave an extensive illustrated presentation of the findings from the Town Audit. This was followed by discussion and questions, and the following actions were agreed:

Actions –

- (a) the report, currently at draft final stage, would be finalised by Jura prior to Christmas;
- (b) it would be discussed again at the next meeting;
- (c) discussions with local Fife Councillors and Community Councillors would then be arranged;
- (d) wider publicity about the audit and its findings would be organised (ideas included press releases, a public meeting jointly arranged by SAWC and the Community Council, putting copies of the report in the library, etc).

Patrick Laughlin has offered to present the audit and its findings to a special meeting of the Community Council some time in January, on a date to be arranged. I propose that we should hold such a meeting.

My personal view is that the members of St Andrews World Class are well-intentioned and that the organisation is here to stay. If as a result of this report St Andrews World Class is prepared to become more democratically accountable and takes steps to do so, I would propose that the CC should move towards supporting it wholeheartedly.

The chance of St Andrews projects being prioritised by Fife Council are otherwise remote. What we lack here, as in many small towns since the ill-considered local government reforms of 1975 and 1996, is a heart to the community. This contrasts with the whole of the rest of Europe, where more or less every settlement has the equivalent of a provost and a council. Lacking this, an organisation such as St Andrews World Class (though perhaps under another name such as St Andrews Aspirations) could possibly fill the gap, especially as St Andrews University, Scottish Enterprise Fife and Fife Council are represented on it.

## Appendix E – St Andrews Parking Plan

*Letter from Peter Milne, Traffic & Transport Team Leader*

At the East Area Services Committee meeting of 6 December, members approved a report to proceed to the public consultation phase of the draft St Andrews Parking Plan.

You will be aware that members of St Andrews Community Council attended in September a Fife wide seminar on 'National Standards for Community Engagement'. This included the role which the Community Council can take in promoting full Community consultation. The St Andrews Parking Plan would be a good opportunity for the Community Council to become involved.

I would like to arrange to meet informally with key representatives of the Community Council to discuss how you can assist in forwarding the public debate on the Parking Plan. I will also invite Susan Muir from Policy & Organisation Development Service who is closely involved in the promotion of the national standards.

## Appendix F – Middle-sized University Towns Conference

*From Bo Larsson, Organiser*

Cordial thanks for your e-mail. I also wish you all the best for the new year!

St Andrews is the most classical, old, middle-sized university town of Scotland, best suited to participate in our seminar. We would therefore be very content, if St Andrews is represented at the seminar.

Dr Brian Lang, principal and vice-chancellor at the University of St. Andrews has confirmed that the University of St Andrews could contribute to our planned seminar and that one of his senior colleges would like to attend. I have not yet been informed who will come, but I hope this will soon be settled.

I also hope that you could find a contributor from the Community Council or the urban planning authority. Our seminar should not in the first place be understood as a prestigious gathering, but a meeting with people who have interesting experience or knowledge of relations and integration between the city and the university. I enclose the preliminary agenda. There you will find a variety of speakers from different cities. There are researchers and geographers etc, there are city planners, advisers to cities and universities, there are people from the building department of universities, there are leading administrative persons, also rectors and mayors and officials from the leading administrations. There are also persons specially working with international contacts. This mixture could be very interesting and give many aspects of the themes for discussion. This also indicates that you could feel rather free in your choice of contributor to our seminar. The most important thing is that the chosen person has interesting knowledge and experience and is interested in these questions and would like to give a contribution. The organisers of the seminar have possibilities to pay a remuneration for spoken and written contributions, if wished.

Perhaps it would be possible for you to co-ordinate this matter with Mr. Brian Lang? I will contact him again.

### **Appendix G – New Pilot Scheme of Delegation for the Determination of Planning Applications (January-March 2007)**

*From Jim Birrell, Development Manager, Fife Council*

I am writing to you regarding the new arrangements which will come into affect in the New Year following the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee on 30th November 2006 to approve a new scheme of delegation regarding the determination of planning applications and ratified at Full Council on 14th December 2006.

If there is an application, which previously would have been presented to the Area Development Committee, but under the terms of the new scheme can be determined under delegated powers, my staff will write to you. You will have 7 days from the date of this letter to confirm you are happy with the delegated decision to approve with or without conditions, or refuse the application. The letter will be accompanied by the officer's assessment report, including key consultation responses. You can also request the application be referred to the next Area Development Committee. Councillors who are not on an Area Development Committee will be invited to a briefing workshop/discussion forum in January to be briefed on relevant planning matters and material considerations. If we do not hear from you within the seven days it will be assumed you are happy for the application to be determined as indicated in the letter.

An officer/councillor working group is also being set up to monitor the progress of these new arrangements but I would be more than happy to discuss any experiences you have on the pilot scheme as part of our monitoring process.

### **Appendix H – Extract from Police Community Newsletter – Eastern Division**

#### **St Andrews – December 2006**

Fife Constabulary and St Andrews University are very aware of the Town/Gown issues in the town and while they support University traditions, it was agreed that the much-publicised anti-social problems by students during the 2005 Raisin Weekend could not be allowed to continue. St Andrews University and Fife Constabulary agreed a strategy to allow this year's event to go ahead only after a number of procedures were put into place to prevent similar degradation in Town/Gown relations. University Principal, Dr Brian Lang sent a very strong letter to all students outlining their social responsibilities and this was supported by a 'road show' of University Support Services Staff, St Andrews Police Inspector Bruce Thomson and members of the Students Association. They did a presentation to every University residential hall, during which Inspector Thomson emphasised that police would adopt a zero tolerance approach with students being arrested, if required. This was especially so with regard to Raisin Receipts, (gifts given between first year students and their academic parents – which are often stolen items from the town) the thefts of which have historically left a very expensive legacy to many local businesses. Students were told that all would be stopped en route to the Quad and their receipts checked and any student found to be in possession of a possibly stolen receipt would be taken into custody at Cupar police station. Mobile CCTV and officers located at all key points leading to the Quad were also deployed. The whole event was generally very well behaved with no arrests made during the weekend, and only one later for the theft of a Raisin Receipt. While there was a lot of work put into this by all agencies, it was felt that this was required to ensure that the tradition was able to continue without impacting severely on the residents of the town and it is intended that similar robust actions will be repeated for 2007.

The residents of the small North East Fife village of Peat Inn are using an innovative approach to reducing speeding through their village. They are displaying miniature '30mph' stickers on the side of their wheelie bins. The speed limit in the village has recently been lowered from 40mph to 30mph and these signs are thought to create a visual multiple reminder to drivers passing through the village of the new speed limit. The initiative was started by Inspector Bruce Thomson, St Andrews, who said:- "When speed limits are reduced many drivers who break the limit may do so because they have missed the change in the signs, despite extra signage being erected by Fife Council. The location of Peat Inn means that many of the drivers who pass through it do so daily and by ensuring that these drivers are reminded of the new limit

weekly on bin day, this should become a reminder to them that the limit has been reduced and cause them to observe the new limit at all times.”

While various designs of anti-speed messages have been used before on wheelie bins, this is believed to be the first time that stickers replicating the actual speed limit signs have been used anywhere in Scotland. The initiative is in response to the Fife Constabulary Objective of ‘Safer Roads’ and in particular the aim to ‘continue to develop effective multi-agency solutions to reduce road collision injuries’. The speed limit reduction will also be supported by speed checks carried out by St Andrews Officers. The stickers are also available for 20mph and 40mph areas and Inspector Thomson hopes that the use of these stickers will expand to other areas if residents wish them and he will shortly be contacting all Community Councils and Neighbourhood Watch Associations in his Locality area to offer them the stickers but residents can obtain them beforehand free of charge from St Andrews Police Station or from the Road Safety Unit at Police Headquarters by phoning 01592 418511.

## **Appendix I – Community Council Support Working Group Minutes**

### **Note Of Meeting Of Community Council Support Working Group – Glenrothes**

6th December, 2006 10.00 am – 11.45 am

#### **1. Cameron Ritchie, Area Procurator Fiscal, Fife.**

Mr Ritchie thanked the Working Group for the opportunity to attend the meeting indicating that it was useful for him, in identifying priorities, to be aware of the matters which the public and public bodies felt to be of importance. He outlined the responsibilities of the Procurator Fiscal's office advising that within Fife the Procurator Fiscal, Police and Local Authority had coterminous boundaries which assisted greatly in enabling cross-authority working. He advised that although he managed a budget the majority of this was ring-fenced for staffing costs. National guidance and instruction from the Lord Advocate required to be adhered to particularly in relation to the priority given to addressing certain types of crimes although he had some discretion in determining the approach to prosecutions and investigations within the area. He provided statistics in relation to crime within Fife and highlighted the future strategic priorities of the Service as being to prosecute crime; implement reforms; to improve quality of life; and provide support to victims. In conclusion he indicated that he or one of his colleagues would welcome the opportunity to meet with Communities/Community Councils to discuss any issues or concerns.

Mr Ritchie responded to a number of questions from members, noting that the reforms to be introduced by the new Act due in December, 2007 would result in fewer prosecutions in court, resulting in less publicity and the public being less aware of action being taken. Ways to address this were also discussed. He highlighted a pilot scheme currently running in Tayside as part of the forthcoming reforms, provided an indication of why on occasion no further action would be taken regarding reported crimes and confirmed that a decision to prosecute would not be affected by external influences such as the current position within prisons. It was accepted that the majority of crime within Fife was of a fairly minor nature which was more likely to cause difficulties within communities.

Decision

The Chair thanked Mr Ritchie for his extremely interesting and frank input to the meeting and it was agreed that Community Councils be advised of the Procurator Fiscal's willingness to meet with them and that consideration be given to inviting the Area Procurator Fiscal to attend and address the next Fife-wide annual seminar for Community Councillors.

#### **2. Note Of Meeting of 31st October, 2006**

The Group considered the note of Meeting of 31st October, 2006.

Decision

The Group approved the minute as a correct record.

#### **3. Planning Seminar, March 2007**

Susan Muir circulated a draft programme for the “Planning With People” seminar for Community Councils which would take place on Saturday, 10th February, 2007. In discussion the importance of ensuring effective community involvement, particularly in relation to the debate on City/Region boundaries was highlighted and it was agreed that reference to this should be made at the seminar.

Decision

It was agreed that the deadline for reservations be extended to 31st January, 2007 to enable the majority of Community Councils to consider the programme and attendance at their January meetings and that Chris Cunningham or David Cowling be invited to sit on the Panel for the question and answer session.

#### **4. Community Council Elections 2007**

Iain Grant advised that this would be a standing item on the agenda at future meetings to enable a plan for the promotion of the October, 2007 elections and means of encouraging individuals to stand to be considered and implemented.

In discussion it was noted that there was a need to raise the profile of the work carried out by Community Councils and that efforts should be concentrated on establishing Community Councils where currently none were in place. It was agreed that local members had an important role to play in the promotion of Community Councils and that it would be useful to invite representatives from Glasgow Council, who had previously attended a meeting, to discuss the action they would be taking to promote the elections.

Concerns were raised regarding the name and address of Candidates/Community Councillors being advertised, however it was agreed that there was a need for communities to be aware of their representatives on the Community Council and that accordingly names and addresses required to be in

the public domain.

Decision

It was agreed that a timetable in relation to the elections be submitted to the next meeting and Members of the working Group give further thought to how the elections might be promoted.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

##### **(a) Law & Administration Service Restructure**

Iain Grant advised that in January, 2007 the Law & Administration Service would be brought together in Fife House and a new structure would be implemented. He indicated there would be no reduction in staff numbers, however support for Community Councils would be provided from the new Local Services Team, which would be led by Linda Purdie.

Decision

It was agreed that a letter be sent to all Community Councils advising of the changes and providing the necessary contact details.

##### **(b) City/Regions Conference**

In response to an enquiry regarding expenses for attendance at such events, it was considered that it was for individual Community Councils to decide whether or not they should meet the expenses incurred by their Members. It was also noted that the event had been well organised.

#### **6. Date Of Next Meeting**

Decision The Group agreed that the next meeting take place on Tuesday, 20th February, 2007 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2, Fife House, Glenrothes.

### **Appendix J – Notification of Public Consultation Exercise**

#### **Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy**

#### **Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Renewable Technologies other than Wind**

*From Jim Henry, Planner (Plans and Policy), Fife Council*

Fife Council is aware that well planned use of renewable energy technologies can contribute to reversing global warming. It is therefore seeking to provide a framework of planning guidance which will facilitate well planned renewable energy developments.

The approved Fife Structure Plan 2002 and the emerging Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006-2026 provide strategic planning guidance, implemented through the emerging Area Local Plans. The Local Plan timetable creates a gap in the introduction of Fife wide guidance on renewable energy technologies. The Supplementary Planning Guidance is intended to bridge that gap.

Fife Council Environment and Development Committee on 31st August and 2nd November approved the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance mentioned above. These documents will be the subject of a public consultation exercise between 22nd January 2007 and 19th March 2007.

The Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance will be available online at [www.fifedirect.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk) before the end of December 2006. You will be sent paper copies of the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance prior to the start of the public consultation.

You will be able to speak to Development Services staff at the Fife Energy Fair in Glenrothes on 3rd February 2007 and at Film shows in St Andrews on 10th February, Kirkcaldy on 18th February and Dunfermline on 25th February. Full details will be sent with the paper copies of the Guidance.

### **Appendix K – Waterwatch Scotland – North East Panel Public Meeting – Fife**

*From Ian Smith, Convener, Waterwatch*

On the 1st April 2006, the five former Water Customer Consultation Panels in Scotland became Waterwatch Scotland. The new organisation has greatly increased powers and has now assumed responsibility for dealing with complaints against Scottish Water, in addition to its broader customer representation role. Waterwatch Scotland also now has powers to make statutory recommendations to Scottish Ministers, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Drinking Water Quality Regulator and the Water Industry Commission for Scotland.

Waterwatch Scotland's North East Panel is piloting a new format of public meeting on the 25th January 2007, where there will be high level representation from Scottish Water, SEPA, Drinking Water Quality Regulator and the Water Industry Commission for Scotland as well as, it is hoped, relevant Councillors, MPs and MSPs etc.

Fife has been chosen in particular for this pilot due to the high level of water issues we have been made aware of from both the public at large and their elected representatives. I would, accordingly, encourage you to support the meeting by your attendance where possible – an invite list is enclosed for your perusal. The meeting will be an opportunity for all water issues relating to the Scottish water industry but in particular with reference to Fife to be discussed with key stakeholders and have all questions or issues dealt with and addressed.

The meeting will be held at the Dunniker House Hotel, Kirkcaldy. Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance and, if possible, notice of any questions / matters you would like raised, with particular reference to issues in Fife our greater North East Panel Area, by

completing the attached pro-forma and notifying our Corporate Office on 01259 725335 or email to info@waterwatchscotland.org.

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## Appendix L – 200 Club Report

### 200 Club Management Committee meeting 11-12-2006

Present: Pete Lindsay, Ken Crichton, Joe Peterson, Donald Macgregor

#### 1. St Andrews Rail Link Campaign

Award: £100 to survey questionnaire.

*Pete Lindsay withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item due to his wife's involvement with the campaign.*

#### 2. Scottish Photography Exhibition

Award: £250 to publicity and lecture.

#### 3. Fairtrade Guide

Award: £50 to Fairtrade leaflets.

#### 4. Merchants' Association Christmas Lights

Referred to full community council.

#### Merchants Association letter re Lights

*From Edith Rendle, Secretary of the St Andrews Merchants Association*

I understand from Jude Innes that the 200 Club of the Community Council may have some funds available for local use and I wonder whether the fund might be in a position to donate to the Merchants Association to help meet the cost of the Christmas Lights in St Andrews. Last year, the Merchants Association paid slightly more than £13,000 to meet the cost of the erection and maintenance of the lights, the dismantling of the lights at the end of the festive period and the insurance cover which was required. Individual members of the Merchants Association paid for the electricity which powered the lights. There was a sizeable donation from Fife Council but the Association paid for approximately half of the total cost of lighting St Andrews for the festive season.

This year, the Council has agreed to meet the insurance costs and also to run the lights from the street lights but it is still estimated that the Association will require to find approximately £4,000 or £5,000. Obviously, all donations would be welcome but I wonder whether you would be in a position to donate perhaps £200?

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## Papers circulated at the meeting.

### Planning Committee

Planning Com, Meeting 11th December 2006

Attendance: Penny Uprichard, Ian Goudie, George Davidson, Richard Douglas

Apologies: Ben McLeod

20 Howard Place	Listed building Consent	N/C
3 Howard Place	Listed building Consent	N/C
70 Hepburn Gdns	Conversion of Attic	N/C
82 Hepburn Gdns	Replacement Windows	N/C
7a Grayfriars Gdn	Change of use, Flat to Shop	P.U. to Investigate
11 Windmill Road	Extension, Garage, Conservatory and Dormer	N/C
8-10 Bell Street	Demolish existing Building & Erection of Ground floor Shop and 2 Flats above	R.D. to Object on Window Details and Ventilation

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## Mr Buchanan's Paper on HMOs

### The St Andrews' HMO Moratorium is dead: where now ?

Priority needs : explanation, accountability, open discussion, elections, new mandate, a fresh start.

Some years ago, when I last addressed the Community Council, I posed the question: Is the growth of HMO properties in St Andrews a plague on all your houses? There was press interest at the meeting but the story was not published. The heir to the throne had announced his engagement and almost all other stories were consigned directly to the dustbin of history. It was a good day to bury news good or bad. There are hints that the same may happen this week - like father like son!

Nevertheless the HMO concern, so crucial to the future of St.Andrews, did not go away and HMO

management continued to be of public concern, month after month.

Some months later, very much at the last minute, there was a dramatic U-turn from Chancellor Gordon Brown and he withdrew tax breaks for buy-to-let investments from the new pensions deal. However, interest in this market does not seem to have abated here in St Andrews.

Locally, the record of the HMO Licensing Authority and planners was more muddled and less sure-footed. When challenged by wily property interests in the courts, such test cases have resulted in several defeats for the public authorities. To lose first time could be just unlucky but twice hints at carelessness, ill-conceived strategies and a failure to seek appropriate expert advice, so as to present the cases on the strongest grounds.

Those developing new public car parking plans for St Andrews benefitted from retained consultants. Why did the HMO Licensing Authorities not do likewise when faced with a much more challenging task - conditioning the use of about 800 properties worth perhaps £200M in all - a very heavy responsibility involving market forces and many stakeholders?

Advice could have been sought on ways to mitigate adverse impacts of HMO growth and to reconcile the need for student accommodation with other aspirations such as those represented by the World Class and World Heritage Status movements, to say nothing of the ordinary sensibilities and needs of minorities such as aged owner-occupiers and first-time buyers.

In the present climate, the HMO growth phenomenon has become a plague. Locally, it has proven uncontrollable, feeds on itself and defeats efforts at containment in perhaps unpredictable ways (e.g. serial non-compliance). I hope elections and new mandates will herald a fresh start and the adoption of a well-resourced and more robust and effective approach for the benefit of all in St Andrews, including the fine University and the thousands of students chosen to study here.

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Further (lightish) reading:

Stevenson, Buchanan et al., 1972, 50 Million Volunteers, HMSO.

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