Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Monthly Agenda – October 2007

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 1st October in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made. The meeting is audio-recorded to assist the secretary in producing the minutes.

(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. Attendance

Community Councillors

2. Minutes of September 2007

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
- 4.2. Bill Sangster
- 4.3. Robin Waterston
- 4.4. Dorothea Morrison
- 5. Planning Committee
- 5.1. Minutes of Planning Meetings Appendix G & H
- 6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings
- 6.1. The Proposed Medical Sciences Building

Ken Fraser and Ken Crichton attended the meeting on 10th September - see report in Appendix C

6.2. Kinness Burn Flooding/Clearance

Letter to Mike Thorpe and reply with respect to a query raised at the August meeting - Appendix E

6.3. Parking Charges

Letter from Mr McLellan in reply to query raised about reason for large increase - Appendix F

- 6.4. Reports from Representatives
- 7. From Committees
- 7.1. Recreation
- 7.2. General Purposes
- 7.3. 200 Club
- 8. New Business
- 8.1. Erection of Signs for Alcohol Free Zones

Report from Mr Reed.

- 8.2. Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2007
- 8.3. Fife Volunteer of the Year Awards 2007
- 8.4. Consultation on the 2007 Revision of Fife's Community Plan 'A Stronger Future for Fife'

This is a document seeking to update a plan first published in 2000. The plan is a multi-agency look at Fife's community needs over a wide spectrum of areas.

8.5. Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Service Delivery Plan 2007 - 2011

See Appendix D for brief outline of what this document covers.

8.6. Planning Aid for Scotland's "Reach Out" Project

Questionnaire on ethnic minorities and Gipsy/Travellers' involvement in the Scottish Town Planning system - passed to Planning Committee.

8.7. Centenary of the Death of Old Tom Morris

Email from the great, great grandson of Old Tom Morris, Melvyn Morrow, asking about plans to celebrate anniversary of his death: I'm enquiring if St Andrews Council and it's members are arranging any special celebration on the 24th of May 2008. This is the centenary date of Old Tom Morris' death and as his great, great grandson, I was wondering if you have or are going to organize anything to celebrate his life.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

- 9.1. Chair
- 9.2. Treasurer
- 9.3. Secretary
- 9.3.1. Correspondence

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 Received

Date	from	Subject
Sept 2007	Volunteer Centre Fife	Volunteer of the Year Awards 2007 - 26/10/07
17/09/07	Tim Kendrick, Fife Partnership Manager	Consultation on the 2007 Revision of Fife's Community Plan
13/09/07	George Cunningham, Health and Social Care Partnership Group	Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Plan 2005 - 2011
26/09/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	NEF Area Committee - Meeting 26th September - Agenda
17/09/07	Oatridge Ltd	Letter about Master Plan for proposed Fordelhill Village
12/09/07	Fife Council - Transportation	Letter about Kinness Burn, St Andrews - Clearance
14/09/07	Fife Council - Transportation	Letter about Parking Charges Management St Andrews
07/09/07	Fife Council - Law & Admin	Licence Application - Remembrance Day Parade - 11 November 2007
10/09/07	Iain Smith MSP	Letter about St Andrews Post Office
13/09/07	Fife Council - Development Services	Letter about Ordnance Survey Map Extracts
10/09/07	Planning Aid for Scotland	Letter re Planning Aid for Scotland's "Reach Out" Project
14/09/07	Royal British Legion for Scotland St Andrews Branch	Form for participation in Remembrance Day Parade
14/09/07	Fife Council Development Services	Weekly List of Planning Applications 14/09/07
30/08/07	Melvyn Morrow	Email about centenary of death of Old Tom Morris
31/08/07	Email from "Jacquie" a disgruntled tourist	Email about toilets by Golf Museum.

Appendix B - General Purposes Committee - 12th September 2007

The main points discussed at the September Meeting of the Committee were as follows. All would be subject to the agreement of the Council.

- 1. "St Andrews in Focus". The Committee was in agreement with what seemed to be the consensus of the Council meeting, that it would not be practicable to give financial assistance to the forthcoming Christmas supplement, given that the Council was already purchasing space in the magazine itself.
- 2. Bobby Jones Commemoration. The Committee felt that as Fife Council was the legal successor of St. Andrews Town Council, who presented Bobby Jones with the Freedom of the City, they ought to be asked to take up this point. If they declined to do so, it might be appropriate for the Community Council to do so.
- 3. Press Reports. Mrs Frances Humphries has suggested that the Council ought to send in summaries of its business to the "Citizen", as there are sometimes occasions when points it might wish to see reported are not picked up. It was thought this suggestion was worth considering, if a volunteer could be found for the task.
- 4. St Andrews Hospital. Prof. Sam Taylor had recently telephoned Ken Fraser to make two suggestions:
- (1). He was anxious to keep the Council informed about the progress of the Hospital but felt that ordinary meetings might not be the best forum for the sort of dialogue he had in mind. Ken Fraser suggested that if the Education, Health and Welfare Committee could be re-established, it might be an appropriate channel of communication. The Committee concurred with this.

(2) He wished to promote a consensus of views between the interested parties on what would be the best arrangement of bus services when the new Hospital was in use. The Committee agreed that the Council ought to assist this process in any suitable way, perhaps by helping to organise meetings. (It should be noted that the Hospital Newsletter for July states that the NHS intends to organise a Hospital Travel Planning Group towards the end of this year and that stakeholders, including Community Councillors, would be invited to attend meetings. A Chair of this group was expected to have been appointed by August).

Appendix C. The Proposed Medical Sciences Building

Mr Crichton and Mr Fraser attended the meeting held by the University on 10th September to announce this proposal. The general lines of it have been reported in the Press, but a few extra points may be useful. Principal Lang stated that it was hoped that the building would be ready by Autumn 2010. It is therefore likely that planning permission will be sought soon. The site is immediately to the north of the Physics Building, and is intended to fit into a new plan for the whole of the North Haugh site, on which other buildings may require to be replaced before many years have passed. The Medical Sciences Building is expected to be about the same height as the Physics Building. The architects are the same who recently designed the Arts Building next to the University Library, and its style is intended to be a restrained one.

Mr Fraser asked if any consideration had been given to the risk that the University's plans might block the identified route for a restored St Andrews railway if that were ever built. The answer was that it had not been thought of at all. However, a later examination of the plans revealed that this particular site would not block the route of the railway. But the University's more far-reaching plans will have to be kept under review in this regard. Mr Fraser had a word with the architect to make that point. It was stated that no extra parking spaces were to be provided to accompany the new building, on the grounds that it was not being proposed to employ any extra staff when it was erected.

Appendix D. Fife Health Care and Social Care Partnership Service Delivery Plan 2007 - 2011 - Draft for Consultation

- 1.1. Fife Health and Social Care Partnership is a joint Fife Council and NHS Fife Board group, which has responsibility for the strategic development and management of health and social services. This plan sets out how the Partnership will deliver services for:
 - · Older People;
 - · People with a learning disability
 - People with and affected by drug and alcohol dependency
 - People with and affected by mental ill health
 - People with a physical or sensory impairment
- 1.2. This sets out the common Fife-wide priorities for the care groups, giving guidance for the operational work of the Local Management Units within the joint resource allocation to ensure best value from our combined resources.
- 1.3. This Plan is the overarching plan for health and social care services provided in this community. It is supported by more detailed action plans for each care group. This plan follows on from the previous Joint Community Care Plan and Health and Social Care Partnership's Extended Local Partnership Agreement.

It is possible to view this document online at www.fifedirect.org.uk/getting_involved and complete an online questionnaire on the subjects detailed. This letter was only issued 13th September and received several days later, with an expectation of a response by 12th October!

Appendix E

Dear Mr Thorpe,

Re: Kinnesburn Clearance

I have been asked to write on behalf of the Community Council with respect to this issue. As you will be aware there is ongoing concern about the problems, which take place, when heavy rain has swollen the Kinnesburn. Flooding has taken place in local properties and residents have complained about the accumulation of materials obstructing the flow of the burn.

I believe that there have been difficulties in Fife Council with planning clearance, due partly to objections by SEPA, which has responsibilities to oversee the responsible management of watercourses. However I believe that SEPA are now happy to let Fife Council proceed with maintenance work on the Kinnesburn watercourse. I would be grateful if you could advise the Community Council about plans to proceed with any work to alleviate the potential for future flooding.

I look forward to your reply on this matter,

Patrick Marks

Kinness Burn, St Andrews - Clearance - Reply from Mike Thorpe

Thank you for your letter regarding concerns relating to the flooding of properties, which in the opinion of local residents is due to the accumulation of materials obstructing the flow of the watercourse.

As you may recall I presented an Executive Summary of the Kinness Burn Flood Study to the St Andrews Community Council on the 6th March 2006. Whilst indicating that 136 properties were theoretical within the flood envelope it also stated that the removal of the silt berms would have minimal benefit with respect

to the number of properties affected by floodwaters. The main reason for this is that the Kinness Burn is tidal up to Greenside Place and therefore if the tide is in then the fluvial flow cannot discharge into the North Sea and will therefore back up resulting in possible flooding of properties.

We are currently working towards the promotion of a flood prevention scheme to mitigate flooding and have therefore been in discussion with both the Scottish Government and SEPA regarding the findings of the Flood Study. Our Consultant based upon comments received from the Scottish Government is currently undertaking further works. Unfortunately, to date, we have not received a formal response from SEPA although we have met with them. At this meeting with senior SEPA officials they did not indicate that they would permit removal of the silt berms; indeed they intimated they would wish them to remain with respect to ecological aspects. I would therefore be obliged if you can advise as to who within SEPA has advised that they would permit the removal of this silt. At present Fife Council Parks and Amenities are appointed to undertake regular maintenance of the Kinness Burn with regards to removing debris and cutting back overhanging vegetation to prevent blockages obstructing the flow.

Furthermore in accordance with Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997 Local Authorities are required to publish a biennial report which amongst other things details incidents of flooding. With regards to the Kinness Burn we have very limited historical records of properties being flooded; it certainly does not correlate with the findings of the flood study. If you are aware of any properties that have been affected, including specific dates, please forward details and I will add them to our database.

I trust that the above is sufficient for you to advise the Community Council of our current position with regards mitigating flooding within St Andrews with respect to the Kinness Burn

Mike Thorpe

Infrastructure Team Leader (East)

Appendix F - Parking Charges Management, St Andrews

Dear Mr McLellan

Parking Charges Management, St Andrews

At the August meeting of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council meeting, the issues of parking charges was discussed. A number of concerns were raised and it was agreed to write to Transportation Services to seek some answers on the concerns raised. Hopefully you are the right person to answer these questions.

- 1. One issue relates to the income derived from car parking charges in St Andrews and what happens to that income. It is felt that income from the charges should be invested in St Andrews in some way to benefit local users. Can you clarify how the income from car parking, which must be quite significant is spent? How much income is derived from the car parking charges?
- 2. There is also concern about the substantial hike in car parking charges, well above any inflationary rate. Does your department view the income derived, as a means of traffic management, or as a source of income to supplement the costs of maintenance outwith St Andrews? How has the price increase been worked out and justified given the low rate of inflation?
- 3. The Community Council also feel that local residents should receive some benefit in the form of free access to an area such as the West Sands which they use year round. It appears possible to keep access free in the winter, so it should be possible to set up a scheme for local residents to gain free access in the summer. It does in the view of the Council and many local residents seem unfair that a charge is made to access the beach. Surely income from non-residents would be sufficient as a means of raising income to maintain the facilities?
- 4. Why has Fife Council not kept up the Park and Ride Scheme for this coming year? This decision will not help traffic management in the town and will disadvantage those less able citizens who used the scheme and might have difficulty if forced to try and find parking in the town which is always busy.

I look forward to your comments on these queries and hope that you can provide a constructive response, which will dispel the local feeling that St Andrews is viewed as a source of additional revenue to bolster council maintenance elsewhere is Fife.

Parking Charges Management, St Andrews

I thank you for your letter on behalf of the Community Council and note the four questions you raise regarding the ingoing management of car parking in St Andrews.

For clarity, I will answer the questions in the order asked:

- In financial year 06/07 some £2.84 million was derived from car parking income, which following
 expenditure yielded an excess income of £1.26 million. The excess income contributes to the
 provision of a wide range of transportation services on a Fife-wide basis, which includes traffic
 management, maintenance, support of public transport services and. Walking and cycling
 measures etc.
- 2. The decision on how charges should increase was taken by Fife Council in December 2005, within a new policy on charging. The policy requires income from charges to increase on average by "inflation plus 1% per annum". For 2007-08 the level of inflation has been assessed as 3.5%. It is anticipated that the proposed increase in income (at approximately 11%), should meet the required increases for financial years 2007/08, 2008/09, and part of 2009/10. The new policy is focused on standardising charges; moving away from annual decisions on charges; promoting service accountability for managing charges and moving towards cost recovery

for the delivery of services.

The income derived (as stated in point 1) is used to support the provision of transport services across Fife. The management and distribution of spending on transport is based on a range of factors including usage, condition, traffic volumes, priorities and policy etc. The level of spending is not determined by area boundaries. This management approach is used to ensure Fife's network is maintained in a balanced manner.

- The West Sands Car Park is under the control of Community Services. I have relayed your question to the Head of Community Services and he will respond accordingly.
- 4. The free Park and Ride service at Petheram Bridge, which was supported by Transportation for most of the 8 years of operation, was discontinued this year because of severe budget pressures. We have sourced alternative short term funding from a variety of sources for the most recent phase of the free service, however this funding is now exhausted. We continue to investigate the potential for reintroducing the service from an alternative economically sustainable funding source, for the reasons you state.

Dr Bob McLellan

Appendix G: Planning Minutes: 11/09/07

Ref No. Purpose of Application		Address	Decision
07/2849/EFULL	Change of use of dwelling to HMO for 5 persons	12 Queens Gardens	No drawings available, no comment
07/02727/EFULL	External and internal alterations to St Andrews Fire Station	19 Largo Road	No comment
07/02862/EFULL	Listed building consent for alterations to dwelling house	East Castlemount, North Castle Street	No comment
07/02861/ELBC	Listed building consent for installation of replacement facia sign and new hanging sign		St Andrews Community Council object to this on the grounds that it is using non traditional materials, which is not in keeping within a conservation area
07/02849/EFULL	Change of use of flatted dwelling to HMO	12 Queens Gardens	No comment

Letter of Objection to Planning Application 07/01989/EFULL

The St Andrews Community Council wish to object to the planning application 07/01989/EFULL - 101-103 Market Street, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9NX - Reposition of Air Conditioning Units.

The existing units were installed without planning permission and have caused no end of disturbance and grief to the residents in the adjacent flats surrounding the shop. The positioning and the incessant noise is particularly disturbing to the elderly couple living directly behind the shop on the 1st floor fat whose living room window looks directly onto the Units at eye level positioned 15 feet from their property.

There was an Enforcement Order lodged in August 2006 due to breach of planning control stating that all of the air conditioning and ventilation units were to be removed.

Our decision to object is based on the above points and the long-term inconvenience and disturbance caused to the surrounding residents over the past three years.

Appendix H

Ref No.	Purpose of Application	Address	Decision
07/02857/EFULL	Replacement of street lighting columns and replacement of underground cable network	South Street, Bell Street and Church Street	No comment
07/02933/EFULL	Change of use from residential to children's nursery	Lawhead School House, Lawhead School Wynd	Objection There are current problems and complaints from residents of congestion and parking difficulties at the start and end of the school day. The drawings submitted did not show additional parking and drop off areas therefore there are concerns for the access of emergency vehicles into the school and increased vehicular danger to scholars. If the additional traffic generated is comparable to that generated by the nursery at David Russell adequate parking will be required
07/02973/EFULL	Installation of replacement 2nd floor windows	50 The Scores, St Andrews	Objection white upvc on the 2nd floor is out of character with the existing dark wooden frames on the ground and first floors, this will look extremely

			out of place on such a prominent building within the conservation area. Upvc is a non traditional material which is not in keeping within a conservation area.
07/02983/EFULL	Single storey extension to dwelling house	Errinwell, St Andrews	Location to be investigated
07/02938/EFULL 07/02940/ELBC	Installation of replacement windows to rear conservatory and internal alterations	114 North Street, St Andrews	No comment