

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

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

2. Minutes of October 2007

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

5. Planning Committee - Appendices B & C

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Remembrance Sunday - November 11th

6.2. Community Council Election

6.3. Waterstones Book Store Air Conditioning Application - Appendix F

6.4. Reports from Representatives

6.4.1. Links Trust Meeting - see Appendix E

6.5. Preservation Trust - Letter & Reply - Appendix G

7. From Committees

7.1. Recreation

7.2. General Purposes

7.3. 200 Club

8. New Business

8.1. APRS - Subscription renewal

8.2. Cosmos Community Centre - Minibus Appeal - Appendix D

8.3. New E-Communication Strategy and Future Planning Publications

Letter from Scottish Government on how they plan to send out future Planning Directives etc.

8.4. Conference - What does the future hold in playing out?

Conference in Dunfermline on 11th December on the future of Children's Play Areas in Fife - Free to attend but only one rep allowed - see Secretary for flyer.

8.5. St Andrews University Fair Trade Debate - 7th November

Invitation to attend this debate in the Lower Parliament Hall, preceded by a drinks reception. Debate is between 8 - 9.30 pm.

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

Date	from	Subject
03/10/07	Cosmos Community Centre	Minibus Appeal 2007 - letter and leaflet.
25/09/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	Review of Polling Places letter
Oct 2007	Scottish Landscape Forum	Report of the Scottish Landscape Forum
04/10/07	Friends of the Earth Scotland	Training for Change - letter about training in relation to the new planning system
11/10/07	The Scottish Government - Planning Directorate	New E-Communication Strategy and Future Planning Publications-Letter on use of electronic publication for PANs, Planning Policies and consultation papers in future and how to get hard copies.
01/10/07	University of St Andrews - Office of the Principal	Letter about proposals to build an Institute for Medicine and the Sciences on the North Haugh - Exhibition from 5/10 to 31/10.
01/10/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	Letter about request to have a sponsored walk by Waid Academy on 30/11/07
18/10/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	Licence Application about Launch of St Andrews Annual Festival on 24th November 2007
Oct 2007	Fife Council Law & Admin	Notice of Meeting - Planning Committee 09/10/07
Oct 2007	Marine Conservation Society	Strandline Newsletter
24/10/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	Notice of Planning Committee, Fife House 30/10/07
24/20/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	Letter & posters about Community Council Election
Oct/07	Fife Council Law & Admin	Notice of Planning Committee - 09/10/07
Oct /07	Scottish Landscape Forum	Scotland's Living Landscapes - report booklet on the future well-being, management and use of Scotland's landscape resource.
03/10/07	Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland	Annual Subscription Letter
19/10/07	Fife Council Development Services	Letter in reply to Community Council letter about Wtaerstones Bookstore Air Conditioning Application from Alastair Hamilton
31/10/07	Fife Council Community Services	Notification of Conference - What does the future hold for playing out? -

Appendix B - Planning Committee Meeting Notes - 8th October

Ref No.	Purpose of Application	Address	Decision
07/02507/EFULL	Partial change of use of retail unit to form hot food takeaway	67 Lamond Drive	Objection to the proximity of the vent servicing the cooking facility due to close proximity to the neighbouring residential accommodation. To avoid pollution to the neighbouring residents the vent should be through the wall on the west side towards the rear of the building next to the access road and the open field. An efficient system to contain the cooking smells and disperse the fumes should also be installed and regularly maintained and inspected
07/03019/EFULL 07/03020/ELBC	Listed building consent for replacement conservatory, alterations to dormer, install rooflights, replacement windows and repaint dwellinghouse	34 North Street	N/C
07/03093/EFULL	Installation of replacement windows on front elevation of Dwellinghouse	Nethan House 17 Murray Park	Objection - Inappropriate use of materials. uPVC is a non traditional material which is not in keeping with a conservation area.

07/03061/EFULL	Erect business units and 8 flatted dwellings (demolish car showroom), form access and parking	37 Largo Road	Objection on the following grounds: 1. Ideal location for aAffordable housing none included 2. Accommodation entrances are onto the main road which is a poor design for family safety - rear entrances should be considered. 3. The height of the building is overbearing in comparison to existing. 4. Consideration should be given to widen the existing narrow pavement so as to maximise the safety and the distance between pedestrians and the 40 ton refuse and supermarket lorries now using this road. The road will soon be a main trunk route for emergency vehicles, bus services and increased hospital traffic imminently
07/03096/EFULL	Single storey front extension to dwellinghouse including replacement porch	30 Scooniehill Road, St Andrews	N/C
07/03069/EFULL	Formation of hardstanding	67 Boase Avenue, St Andrews	N/C
07/03078/ECLC	Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for use of flat as HMO (3 persons)	106 Lamond Drive	N/C
07/02909/EFULL	See below	Westburn House, West Burn Lane ,St Andrews	See below
07/02909/EFULL	Erection of shop and office building at Botanic Gardens	Botanic Gardens, Canongate, St Andrews	N/C

St Andrews Community Council wishes to lodge an objection to Planning Application No: 07/02909/EFULL

Proposal: Erection of 8 flatted dwellings and 5 houses at Westburn House and West Burn Lane

1. The design, architecture and external finishings are not in keeping with that of the surrounding buildings raising concerns of the visual impact entering the town from the coast road.
2. The density of the number of rooms and subsequently the occupants leads to concerns over the number of possible cars versus the number of available parking spaces within the development. This will result in an overspill into an already over parked area. Furthermore, as the development is close to the University and town centre the chances of the increase of car density will increase due to the 'Buy to Let' possibility. Therefore the housing should be designated for family homes only.
3. Traffic in West Burn Lane is currently restricted to 'Access Only' and therefore provides the pedestrian a pleasant walk between South St and Queens Terrace. Concerns are raised over the increase in traffic using the Lane and the safety of pedestrians when vehicles are exiting into South Street due to the buildings restricting the drivers' vision.
4. There are also concerns over the lack of current sewage facilities in the town, as experienced in St Mary's Street during the summer rainfall which was due to over capacity.
5. The location of this site is ideal for affordable homes. Due to the close proximity to the town's amenities occupants would not require to run a car which is exactly the people who require affordable homes, therefore there are concerns that no affordable homes are included in this development.

Appendix C

Ref No.	Purpose of Application	Address	Decision
07/03297/EFULL	conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation	1a Maynard Road	N/C
07/02981/EFULL	Change of use of flatted dwelling to	44 Largo Road	N/C

	HMO 3 persons		
07/03067/EFULL	Extension to dwelling house	31 Irvine Crescent	N/C
07/03191/EFULL	Erection of dwelling house in garden ground	2 James Robb Ave	N/C
07/03912/EFULL	Install 28 parking meters	South Street, Queens Gardens, Bell Street, St Mary's Place, Market Street, Greyfriars Garden And North Street	<p>Objection on the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual destruction of an internationally renowned historic conservation area • The size of the meters 1750mm (5feet 6inches) high, 290mm (11.5 inches) wide, 290mm (11.5inches) deep • A slimmer and less obtrusive design is required • Positioning on the pavement would cause further obstructions for pedestrians on already over cluttered pavements. Fife Council should focus on removing the clutter of 'A' boards and industrial waste bins before proposing further obstacles of parking meters • 1750mm high meters would be detrimental to the visual landscape of the town centre. • The community council were informed that electricity was being provided in the new paving, slim line electric meters should be in the proposal • No attempt to position them against a wall in an attempt to maintain the visual aspect and make them less obtrusive • The plans didn't indicate the colour of the proposed meters • The number of meters seem to be relatively high in some areas
07/03211/EFULL	Installation of double glazing to front of dwelling house	9 Murray Park	Objection: Inappropriate use of materials. uPVC is a non traditional material which is not in keeping within a conservation area
07/03187/EFULL	Erection of gas meter housing	Old Course Hotel	N/C

Appendix D

Cosmos Minibus Appeal Letter

As you may have seen in the local press, the Cosmos Centre is trying to raise funds to replace our minibus.

The acquisition of the Cosmos Minibus in 1997 has made a huge impact on the Centre's ability to provide services for groups where transport is a barrier to participation in community services:

1. We have established one of the most successful After School Clubs in the region and our minibus can collect children from all primary schools in St Andrews. Over 100 families are registered each year.
2. The minibus is used by around 30 community groups, many of which cannot afford to buy their own bus or pay commercial transport rates (eg the Scouts, East Fife Womens Aid, Special Needs Groups etc)
3. The minibus has facilities for wheelchair users so several members of the CHAS Club are now able to attend the Monday meetings, often their only outing of the week.

The original funds came from the Lottery however they no longer accept requests for minibus purchases. Luckily our local fund-raising campaign has had a fantastic response and we now have nearly £26000 towards our target of £40000. The Cosmos Centre itself has built up a reserve fund for the bus so we really are on the final leg of the campaign.

I appreciate that the Community Council has recently donated money to the Cosmos Centre to help create the Library area for the After School Club so was hesitating about contacting you again so soon. However if the Council would like to help us in the final stages of the appeal we would be very grateful,

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Gill Joy

Chair, Management Committee

Appendix E

Links Trust Information Meeting 30/10/07

I attended this meeting on behalf of the Council. In 2006 the Links Trust had an income of £12m., and (with associated companies) employed 250 people. 200,000 rounds of golf were played on its courses, and 4m. balls were struck at the Golf Practice Centre.

Bookings began to be taken last month for the new Castle Course, which opens in June 2008. Its clubhouse will be a distinctive circular building with a copper roof.

A Capacity and Population Working Party is calculating the likely future demands on the Links. It is taking account of the growth in St. Andrews as envisaged in the Fife Structure Plan, the percentage of houses likely to purchase tickets, and the number of rounds likely to be played by local golfers. The highest projection shows these to represent an extra 20,000 at the end of 20 years; this is the number of rounds to be provided at the Castle Course for local golfers.

From April 2008 there will be a charge of £100 for being placed on the waiting list for tickets. It has been imposed to keep out applicants who are not serious, and thereby to reduce the waiting list. Successful applicants will have it refunded when they reach the top of the list and buy a ticket.

Appendix F

APPLICATION REFERENCE 07/01989/EFULL AIR CONDITIONING UNIT, WATERSTONES BOOKSTORE, MARKET STREET, ST.ANDREWS

Letter to Fife Council

Re: Air Conditioning Unit: Waterstones Store, Market Street, St Andrews

I have been asked to write on behalf of the Community Council with respect to the above planning application.

This application which has been around for over a year, relates to the installation of air conditioning units on top of this book store. As a result of the installation of these units, elderly neighbours living close to these units have suffered from their noise. I believe that there has been a reporter dealing with the enquiry on this matter. I will not go into the details of this matter as you may be aware of it. I am however writing as it has been noted that the company have again applied to operate some form of air conditioning units. Advice given to Fife Councillors from your officials has been that there is a "material difference" in the current proposals to what had been previously envisaged.

If the proposals do not demonstrate a significant reduction in the noise and other problems which affected the elderly couple living beside the units, I have been asked to find out what exactly is considered to be different in the new proposals that have allowed the company to make a new application. It appears extraordinary that an elderly couple can be allowed to suffer the stress and other problems they have experienced, because of a policy of using air conditioning.

Thank you for your assistance with this query,

Reply from Alastair Hamilton

Thank you for your letter submitted on behalf of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council enquiring into the context of the submission of the above noted application.

The application was registered on the 12th June 2007 and is currently being assessed with regard to a number of matters. Principally these issues relate to the impact the proposal may have in terms of residential amenity resulting from potential noise and visual impact of the units. You note in your letter that the application has been around for over a year, while the proposal may have been ongoing for a year the current application relating to the relocated air conditioning units has only been valid since 12th June 2007. This is an entirely new application.

With regard to the main area of concern in your letter which relates to the status of the application and why Fife Council Development Services have accepted an additional application for air conditioning units at this location. It is not clear from your letter whether or not the Community Council has yet had a chance to view the plans submitted for this proposal, however on comparing the current plans with the previous submission it can be clearly seen that while the proposal is for a similar subject i.e. air conditioning units, the current application is for an entirely different design of units in a different location further away from the location of the original air conditioning plant towards the rear of the building. In this context this is an entirely different proposal and therefore the Council is quite justified in accepting another application. In accepting another application however you can rest assured that the issues of concern, particularly relating to noise and visual amenity, will be considered afresh and a full assessment required to determine whether or not the new proposal is acceptable.

I trust the above information clarifies the position and is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Chris Smith (08451 555555450513) who is the case officer for this proposal should you require any further information with regard to this application.

Appendix G

LETTER TO MR WINTER ABOUT PRESERVATION TRUST PLANNING ROLE AND REPLY.

I write on behalf of the St Andrews Community Council with respect to the above organisation and its role in planning matters. At the October Meeting of the Community Council it was agreed that the Preservation

Trust was worthy of the role of being a statutory consultee in planning matters. The Community Council because it is an official organisation set up through legislation, already has that right to receive information, and have its concerns and objections brought to Planning Committee.

It is however recognised by most St Andrews residents that the Preservation Trust occupies a valuable position in St Andrews, and has contributed much to campaigns about inappropriate planning proposals, as well as leading in the preservation of parts of the old town. Its expertise in these matters should be recognised by Fife Council and even an honorary role as a statutory consultee would be welcomed by most local people and the Community Council.

I would like to ask if it would be legally possible under current legislation for Fife Council to urgently consider giving the Preservation Trust this right with respect to planning applications. I am certain that such a right, will aid the Planning Committee in its deliberations. The Community Council alone can not always claim to have the range of specialist knowledge, which the Preservation Trust must incorporate in its membership. St Andrews can only benefit from the additional statutory input from the Preservation Trust.

I would be grateful if you could consider this request as an urgent matter given the wide range of major planning issues being considered by Fife Council now, and in the near future,

Patrick Marks

PLANNING CONSULTATION - ST ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

I refer to your recent letter undated, received on 15th October 2007.

It is without doubt the case that this Preservation Trust, along with a whole host of other similar and community based bodies, provide a valuable input at appropriate times into the planning system. The expertise, contribution and commitment of such bodies is fully recognised by Fife Council.

Under the planning legislation Community Councils are specifically recognised as statutory consultees on planning applications. Thus they have a unique status which is recognised through legislation and the activities of the Council as planning authority, and Scottish Government through appropriate initiatives and processes.

The fact that a body such as St. Andrews Preservation Trust is not given such status through legislation in no way impacts or affects its ability to influence or the weight which is attached to its contributions to planning applications, or on occasion wider planning policy matters. I know from Jim Birrell and other colleagues how valuable they believe the relationship with the Trust is and always has been in the past.

Thus at this time there is no basis in reviewing the statutory status or otherwise of bodies such as the trust but we should continually remind ourselves of the quality of contribution they make on different planning applications.

Keith Winter
