

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Edinkillie Hall

**FCC members present :**

Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Stewart McCracken (SMcC),  
John Finch (JF), Tony Pinner(TP)

**Also present:**

Andy Munro (AM), Juli Salt(JS), Scott Lawrence (SL), Lindsay Gale

**Apologies:**

Shirley Munn (SM)

**1) Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed.

**2) Matters Arising**

**a. Unadopted road at Lyneside**

It had previously been suggested to contact Rhona Gunn at Moray Council, to query whether the Altyre Estate or timber extraction company should bear the cost of repairing the road. SC has contacted Rhona Gunn but no response as yet. **(Action: SMcC to follow up)**

**b. Community Consultation**

The survey questionnaire has been completed, and printed with the help of Martin Robertson (CSO). Members of the FCC got together and printed address labels and stamped and posted out copies of the survey. To save costs surveys in Rafford were hand delivered, and boxes put up at Rafford Village Hall and Edinkillie Hall for collections of completed surveys. SM also created an on-line interactive version of the survey. Cut off date for responses has been set for 9<sup>th</sup> July, after which FCC members will analyse the results.

**c. Edinkillie Cemetary**

HD reported that he had heard back from James Hunter at Land and Parks department has placed a contract for remedial works to the cemetery access road and car park, which will be completed later this year. **(Action: HD/AM to monitor the situation)**

**d. Liaison with FDT**

SMcC reported he has spoken with Brian Higgs (FDT chairperson), in order to enhance communications between the 2 groups. SMcC is in the process of applying for a position as an FDT Director.

**e. Fly Tipping Bill consultation**

HD reported he responded on behalf of FCC and had received acknowledgement

**f. Minute Secretary**

SMcC again noted that we are looking for a community member to assist the FCC by taking minutes at our meetings. Debra Duke will advertise this opportunity through tsiMoray.

**g. Dava-Lochindorb road closure**

Although this road is not in Moray, SMcC reported he contacted Rhona Gunn, but has still to hear back. **(Action SMcC to follow up)**

**h. Edinkillie Viaduct road drainage**

HD had sent the photos of the area on to Elaine Penny. AM reported that some drainage improvements had been made, but warned that the ditch may quickly fill in again. AM had also raised concerns about roads department markings which seemed to indicate some plans to change the junction. Elaine Penny had responded to say the roads department had been on site, and that the markings were just preliminary ideas to improve safety at the junction.

**3) Current Standing Items**

**a) Traffic Safety in Rafford**

- **Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford**

SM had reported that Elaine Penny had not yet contacted the households affected by the proposed pavement on the East side of the village with detailed plans. She has been talking to Planning about the height of the proposed replacement fencing.

- **Village Entrance Signage**

HD clarified that we are looking for enhance signage at the location for the 30m.p.h speed limit signs at both Upper and Lower Rafford. There was some discussion on what message would be put on the signs, should the signs differentiate between Upper and Lower Rafford? (Should Upper Rafford be subtitled Moor of Granary as per the OS maps?)

It was noted that FCC members need to get together and make a recommendation for the wording on the signs. **(Action SM/HD organise a separate meeting).**

HD had attempted to contact the landowner of the field on the south west side of the village to ask permission to erect a sign there, but is yet to hear back. **(Action HD)**

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

HD reported that Elaine Penny had recommended fixed solar powered signs, and was happy with the choice of Elan City as provider. HD had also contacted Brian Higgs of FDT with an update. HD reported that both Brian and Elaine had been thinking about just one pair of signs for Upper Rafford, however after some discussion in the meeting, it was decided to pursue 2 pairs of signs for both parts of the village. HD also reported that Elaine Penny had recommended that the FCC

contact the householders in the locations where she has recommended the signs in Upper Rafford are placed. **(Action: HD,SM)**

- **Traffic Calming Measures/Twenty's Plenty**

SL reported that the Moray Council had approved a policy of introducing more 20 m.p.h. speed limits. HD requested details. **(Action: SL to provide details)**

- **Police Speed Checks**

It was reported that there had been a Police presence in the village last month to do speed checks. Also the Council roads department had been monitoring traffic. **(Action: SM to request feedback from Police and EP.)**

- **Unrestricted Speed Area in Rafford**

It was suggested in the meeting that the area between Upper and Lower Rafford be restricted to (say) 40 m.p.h. to avoid traffic having to slow down again on re-entering the built up part of the village. HD reported that Elain Penny had said previously that this would be outwith policy, but the meeting requested we go back again on this. **(Action: HD/SM)**

b) **Community Broadband**

It was reported that several residents had requested information from Openreach engineers who had been surveying in the Rafford area. They had be told that the R100 Fibre network would be in place within the next 6 months, and that some properties who were not on the original R100 list would get connected.

For some of those not covered by the R100 scheme, Richard Allan of External Reality has been working on extending the Altyre Fibre network to some properties in Lower Rafford.

One resident from the Damhead Road had specially attended the Rafford Village Hall Café in order to see if something could be done to improve broadband in that area. HD had put him in touch with Richard Allan.

AG reported that although residents in the Lyneside road area had signed up with Eternal Reality, and cables had been laid, she was waiting for an update on when she would be connected

JF volunteered to follow up with Richard Allan for information on current plans. **(Action: JF)**

c) **Brochloch Field Development**

No further update.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

**Cairn Duhie**

HD reported that this development had been opposed by Highland Council and would go to Public Inquiry. We have been invited to make a representation in writing to the public enquiry, but as our original submission would be taken into account, it was decided not to make further representations.

**Clashgour/Rothes 3**

Still awaiting a decision on the Public Inquiry from Scottish Ministers.

**Berry Burn 2**

Planning approved by Scottish Government. It was agreed that FCC should make an approach for some direct funding under the Community Benefit scheme. **(Action: SMcC to contact developer)**

**Lethen**

Planning Application was submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> December. FCC had submitted comments.

**Ourack**

Planning application not yet submitted. An updated layout is expected to be presented at an online Public Exhibition scheduled for "this Spring".

**Craig Watch**

TP reported a planning application by Statkraft for a proposed 11 wind turbines with a maximum 200 metres tip height to the south west of Dufftown straddling the Moray-Aberdeenshire border.

**Energising Moray**

It was agreed that FCC should ask for regular updates of their activities. **( Action: SMcC/TP)**

e) **Joint Community Council**

SM reported that she was unable to attend the last JCC meeting, but would attend future meetings.

f) **Resilience Planning**

SM had reported that we would hear about the application had been made to SSEN for emergency generators for both Rafford and Edinkillie Village Halls, before the end of August. Post Meeting Note: A request has come from SSEN for further information on FCC, which has been provided.

The need for a resilience plan is agreed, following the template previously provided by Jim Patterson. At the core of this would be a communication network of community members, and an understanding of the possible help required by vulnerable people within the community. The community survey should provide more data on who would like to be involved. **(Action: SM to lead on this)**

g) **Forres Health Services**

JF reported he has written to Forres Health Centre identifying 3 main concerns identified by attendees at our last meeting:

- That waiting times for appointments is 3-4 weeks
- That patients have been unable to contact the Health Centre by phone, being cut off a long wait
- That prescriptions were not available for 3-4 days after being prescribed.

A reply had been received, containing the following information:

- Like all GP services, Forres Health Centre is trying to cope with unprecedented demand.
- There is a range of options and encourage patients to use eConsult, or NHS Inform to reduce demand on the GPs.
- There will always be opportunities for patients with urgent needs, including contacting the Forres Treatment and Care Hub, also located at the surgery.
- NHS Grampian run the phone lines and report and average wait time of under 5 minutes.

- Without specific information it is difficult for the practices to look into delays to prescription availability.

They also enclosed a copy of their complaints procedure and identified that as a last resort patients have the option of contacting the Scottish Public Services ombudsman.

It was agreed that that the complaints procedure should be made available on the FCC website  
**(Action: HD/TP/JF)**

#### h) Pending Items

##### i) A96 Dualling

It was noted that an “A96 Corridor Review Feedback Survey” has closed. Information is available on the Transport Scotland website.

##### ii) Wild Fires

We are still waiting for the Scottish Government report on improvements to current practices.

#### 4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported that no further applications of any concern in Finderne had been raised.

#### 5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported correspondence received by email:

- Andrew Mieklesham, Local Police Inspector has been in touch with a newsletter. HD invited him to attend future FCC meetings.
- TP and JS reported they had attended the Moray Energy Fair. There was a lot of good information available and we should watch out for any follow up.
- The JCC “Speeding in Communities” Subgroup is restarting. SM has volunteered to attend on behalf of FCC
- Forestry and Land Scotland (formerly the Forestry Commissions) has launched a consultation on their draft strategy, which will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.
- We have had contact from Tilia Maas Geesteranus, who is Sustrans/Moray Council Active Travel Officer. She is mapping Active Travel routes in Moray, and is looking for information on any gaps in the network which should be addressed.
- We received a request from Rafford Village Hall for sponsorship of the Finderne Calendar, in return for some publicity. After discussion amongst FCC members, it had been decided that we do not have sufficient funds to sponsor this.
- A series of draft community council policies have been received from Debra Duke. These include Social Media, Complaints Handling, and Protection of Children and Vulnerable People. It was agreed members should review these with a view to adopting them for FCC. **(Action: All members)**

#### 6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balance: £399.78, after expenses for Community Consultation Survey.

**7) AOCB**

- **List of Meetings**

AM requested a list of meetings to put up in Edinkillie Hall, to try attract more attendance. **(Action: HD)**

- **Parking on pavement at Castle Hill Road, Forres**

AM identified that, with the road closure at the Orchard Road/St Catherine's road junction, increased traffic was using the diversion up Castlehill Road. As such the ongoing practice of some vehicles parking on the High Street pavement opposite the end of Castlehill Road was especially dangerous. SL volunteered to take this up with Police. **(Action: SL)**

- **Passing Places on Rafford-Dallas Dhu road**

SMcC reported that he was nearly run off the road by a large van on the section of road between Lower Rafford and the Dava Way railway bridge. There are "Passing Place" signs, but are dilapidated, and the passing places overgrown. SL volunteered to take this up with Roads Department. **(Action: SL)**

- **Pigfarm on Damhead Road**

Post Meeting note: a resident along the Damhead Road complained about the state of the road due to pigs being herded along the road. He identified that it should be the responsibility of the Pig Farm operator to clean the road. FCC to discuss next steps. **(Action: All FCC members)**

**8) Next meeting**

Next meeting 7:00 pm - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, at Rafford Church Hall.