Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council

Thursday 25th June 2015 @ 7.30pm – Fort Augustus Memorial Hall

**Present:**

Stuart Findlay (Chair), Johnny MacDonald (Treasurer), Carol Pritchard (Vice-chair), Julia King, Rachel Hayes

**Apologies:**

Deirdre MacKinnon (Secretary), Iain MacKnocher (Vice-chair), *Councillor Margaret Davidson, Jennifer McArthur*

**Minute Secretary**: Katie Roper

**Guest Speaker: Keith Mackie, Scottish Canals**

SF welcomed Keith Mackie from Scottish Canals, to speak regarding the ongoing planning applications on the canalside.

Keith Mackie discussed the differences in proposals between last year's draft and this year's planning application - newest plan is smaller: the link building had gone and they have gone from 5 retail units to three. There will be 30 covers in the café and Keith mentioned if it is financially viable, there are aspirations to open in the winter season.

Keith is also aware that there are a number of cafes in Fort Augustus, so the challenge is to differentiate it.

Keith mentioned the conditions that were agreed in response to planning objections: restrictions on opening hours, no fried food, repairs to the boundary wall, restriction of access outside of opening hours.

They are working with Highlands and Islands Enterprise to reach out to new businesses for the retail pods. These will change over time as there are short term, flexible spaces for businesses to get a retail presence.

Currently partnered with two outdoor activity providers, the aim is to get more people to stay longer and spend money. The exact design of the pods and access routes haven’t quite been ironed out. This is the next stage of development which involves consultation with architects and contractors.

SF brought forward the community concerns:

* Good fencing and proper screening for the residential properties nearby
* The waste water sewerage system which impacts on residential properties gardens
* SF asked for an assurance that Keith would liaise directly with the affected residents to reach a satisfactory outcome to the issues raised.
* Response from KM: Drainage systems are an issue for the building warrants, not planning. We will not get a building warrant unless they have a drainage solution.

KM exchanged contact details with the residents for further consultation on the issues of repairing the wall, screening and drainage. KM - No work will be happening until 2016

RH suggested approaching the school for involvement in community activities/use of space.

SF thanked Keith for his time, input and attendance at the meeting

1. **Previous Minutes for Approval 28th May 2015**

Proposed: CP
Seconded: JK

1. **Matters Arising and Action**
* Telford Centre- the wood chip delivery vehicle is creating a problem for locals SF to contact the delivery company..
* Free ATM - answered by DM - free cash withdrawal service for most UK bank debit cards is available from the Post Office counter.
* Car Park - SF to contact THC for an arrangement for locals to use the car park when in the shop/post office. CP - to check signage of the car park to

establish whether it gives information about the first 20 mins being free.

1. **Treasurer's Report**
Opening Balance: £11853.81

Incoming: Nil

Outgoing: £80.00

Closing Balance: £11,773.81

1. **Community Amenity Issues and Police Report:**

 **Police Report June 2015.** See Appendix 1

* Forestry Commission - A. MacLeod (manager of the A82 project) to be invited to the August Council Meeting. Forestry also having a drop-in session in the Invermoriston Millennium Hall - 30th July.
* IM play park - Children’s Committee to amend constitution before they continue.
* Free Church Road - THC to complete repairs.
* School playing field - awaiting meeting with Maria Gibbons.
* SSE resilient fund - ongoing.
* Balfour Beatty – defibrillators ongoing.
* Medical Centre wall - ongoing
* First Responders - ongoing with Cllr MD
* Adopt a phone box - ongoing.
* Scottish Canals litter bin - SF had no response and will chase up
* Community Council elections due 2015 - information to be released in August. The current CC will stand down on the 17th November. SF- reminded all that the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston area needs and deserves a strong, active Community Council.
* Service Point update - response from consultation - on the website FA is not listed as a Service Point in danger, due to its location and the geographic area it covers.
* Cllr MD - as Cllr MD is now leader of the Highland Council,she is unable to attend on the last Thursday of the month. MD would like to continue attending FA&GCC meetings and has suggested a change of day for Community Council meetings.

There was some discussion and suggestions which SF will take forward and will check if we need a constitutional change.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

***Report on the developments within 15km circumference of Fort* Augustus *and Glenmoriston***

 ***Millennium Windfarm 10 turbine extension*** – The 4x4 track is removed from the application CC notified and asked if this changed our representation. Answer NO.

Now awaiting decision from Scottish Office.

***Beinneun windfarm*** - 75 to 85MW, 25 turbines.

Construction on consented windfarm has now commenced. The CC to consider liaison group membership.

***Bhlaraidh windfarm*** - 108 MW -

SSE meeting on 17th June on wind farm updates. Bhlaraidh planning conditions being discharged, construction due to commence.

Liaison group to be agreed.

***Stronelairg windfarm*** - 240MW

Verdict expected in July on the Judicial Review. Planning conditions being discharged in preparation for construction.

Both Bhlaraidh and Stronelairg have grid connection dates for 2017.

***Moriston windfarm*** **- 54 MW**

No update

***Dell windfarm*** **- 42 MW**. Awaiting decision from Highland Council. No update

**C*oire Glas*** - 300 to 600MW pumped storage system.

On hold.

***Culachy project*** 25 turbine site RES developer.

Community council objection submitted.

***Bhodaich project*** - 5/6 MW. SSE hydro scheme.

SSE have withdrawn from the project. Another developer may be Interested. Remove from list until an application is received.

**Gamesa Energy UK – Aberchalder Wind Farm**

No update ??

**SSE Grid Connections –** Auchteraw sub station Liaison meeting on the 18 June 2015 was cancelled. Awaiting a new date.

* SF and JDM attended the SSE meeting re Stronelairg and Bhlaraidh
* Bhlaraidh Liaison group: Suggested CP and RH go onto the Liaison group. Also places for another two people - ie. hall committee, senior citizens or individuals who are interested.
* Stronelairg Liaison group: two people from CC who will be able to attend. Tried to condense so meetings will take place on the same night. SF will put forward two -suggests JK, DM
* Beinneun liaison group: another community member needed to be involved.
1. **Planning:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Application | Name | Location/Development |
| 15/01833/ful | Church Board,Church of Scotland,Fort Augustus | Replace all windows in the Manse |
| 15/02226/ful | Mhairi GrantBalintombuie | Convert existing barn to residential property 360m NW of Myrtle Cottage, Dalchreichart |
| 15/02430/pno | JJO Moristonc/o Robin Dixon & SonTarbert | Phase 2 hill track extensionGlenmoriston Estate, North of Levishie |

Bidwells cancelled their meeting in order to work on environmental statement before the next consultation.

The CC discussed the above applications and have no concerns.

**7 - Correspondence**

CC correspondence list for June 25th 2015 meeting.

By email

30-5-15 Service Point consultation feedback

5-6-15 B851 Road management arrangements

8-6-15 Bidwells cancellation of public consultation meeting 22nd June

11-6-15 THC Community Council elections

15-6-15 E-planning notification of decision on 15/00731/ful

16-6-15 Scottish Office- MWF South S36 planning change.

1. **AOCB:**

JDM:

A887 is in a bad state. SF- this concern would be best to be passed onto BEAR, will ask if DM can chase up.

CP:

Extra litter bin in car park in IM?

Along A82 the bins are often full of rubbish and not a lot seems to be happening to prevent this.

JK:

The tracks in the woods still haven’t been rectified after the rally - seems to take them a long time to get it back to normal

RH:

Pot holes outside Dundreggan and the Invermoriston shop.

Public -

1. Recycling Area - Why have the tin collection bins been removed? As not everyone has a blue bin.

2. South road out of the village, when they did the dam work, there was a temporary speed limit of 30mph. Nearly all signage has gone except 30 flashing lights going down but there is nothing to say that it is restricted on the other side going up.

SF- the B862 is due to be upgraded and signage will hopefully be looked at as part of this.

**Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 26th August - 7:30pm @ Fort Augustus Memorial Hall**

**Appendix 1: Police Report June 2015**



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORM**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Command Area | Inverness | Community Group | Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston |
| Station | Fort Augustus | Officer  | PC N104 Jones |
| Date of Meeting | 25/06/2015 | Location  | Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus |
| Meeting Attended | PC N104 JonesPS N936 Stuart  | Meeting Not Attended (Contact Made) | N/A |

Meeting Preparation

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| --- | --- |
| Ward and Local Policing Plan Priorities.  | Activities conducted over the reporting period to support those priorities. |
| 1. Road Safety

2. Public Protection 3. Drugs / Alcohol Misuse   4. Crimes of Dishonesty | 1.- Numerous drivers charged with speeding offences within Fort Augustus village. - Driver charged with speeding on A87.- Driver charged with numerous motoring offences on A82. 2.- No incidents reported this month.3.- No incidents reported this month.4.- Theft of dinghy from pier at Inchnacardoch Hotel. Enquiries ongoing. - Stolen vehicle from Aberdeen traced near Fort Augustus by local officer. Driver arrested regarding the theft and road traffic offences. Stolen vehicle recovered.  |
| Update on Previously Agreed Actions – See previous OP 55/8 & Relevant Reference on the Area Command Action Tracking Table  |
| None |
| Update on any local community safety issues / trends within the community and any assistance / information requested from the community. Review IMPACT / intelligence etc |
| None |
| Any local / Area Command / Divisional / Police Scotland updates / key messages |
| As attached, Aird & Loch Ness Policing Team Multi Member Ward Plan for 2015. This can also be found on the Police Scotland website. PC William Jones has now taken up his post at Fort Augustus Police Office. Another officer has recently been successful in his application for the vacancy of the third permanent officer at that station. It is anticipated he will take up this role within the next two months. This will return the staffing levels at Fort Augustus to three permanently officers based there.  |

Meeting Outcomes

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date Raised | Issue | Agreed / Proposed Actions | Area Command Action Tracking Table Reference | Remarks |
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Intelligence - SID Log References (If submitted)

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Next Meeting

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date  | Thursday 27/08/2015  | Time | 1930 hours | Location | Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus  |

Area Commander Review

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Initial  |  | Date |  |

Distribution:

Forward to DCU, Highland and Islands Mailbox.