

FORT, SEAFIELD AND WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: J Norman McLean

38 Seafield Drive

AYR

KA7 4BH

Tel: 01292 286400

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : May 2018 – APRIL 2019

As annually reported, yet again a year of activities throughout our town and in keeping with last year, we have had a busy year with well attended meetings and plenty of discussion. The dedicated attendance of our Councillors, Chris Campbell, our Link Officer and Angie Pinkerton of AHEAD as other regular attendees is greatly appreciated. The Press has not been as well represented as would have been hoped, mainly due to the changed roles of Catherine Hunter (Ayr Advertiser) and Sarah Hilley (Ayrshire Post).

We say farewell to members retiring this years in Election year. Our thanks go to Robert Singer, Peter McCall, Eileen Munro, Judith Paterson, Liz Martin, and Frank Ward. Also to Yolanda McCall our Minute secretary and Angi Pinkerton, our special co-optee for Wallacetown who both served the community well in their extra positions. We welcome our new members, Allan Dorans, Ian Henderson, Elizabeth Morrison and Alison Logan with two new co-opted members for Fort Sub Ward, Murray Buchanan and Catriona McNichol waiting in the wings for nomination at our AGM.

The redevelopment of the Winton Buildings (former Clydesdale Bank) in High Street seems is still becalmed however we are assured of a completion and we await the completion soon.

The Town Centre Christmas shop window display competition was again successfully held under our auspices and looks like continuing.

Great concern has been voiced regarding the deteriorating condition of the Station Hotel and its long term use and how any works will impact on Ayr Railway Station. A Dangerous Building Notice has been served and it is rumoured that prospective purchasers are showing interest.

The new Ayr Academy building at Craigie is now complete and occupied with the proposal to relocate Ayr Grammar School in the Academy site well advanced.

Belleisle Park now has moved forward and tangible result are there for all to see. The new play park has been greeted with great acclaim and is now being enjoyed by countless children (and their parents). The Conservatory is now open and taking bookings. The hotel, project still sits in a state of limbo and it is galling to continually have to report no progress at all for another year, however there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Unfortunately I cannot say more at the present time. The Visitor Centre, formerly the stable block, is now under construction with completion due in November while the rockery in the walled garden is complete. The Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Deer Park now has six special breed sheep to accompany the six young deer which have been successfully introduced to add to the ageing deer population. Things are very encouraging with well over 3500 members on Facebook (over 5000 including the Conservatory) and we look forward to real progress with the Hotel in the near future.

A new Policing presence to our Council has been in place and regular updates from police in attendance is appreciated.

SAC have responded to our efforts in deterring the travelling people from camping on the Bents at Seafield Drive and Blackburn Drive by installing bollards along the edges of the road. This has been a welcomed success.

Our Council successfully objected to the planning application to build three houses in Auchendoon Crescent on land designated in the Local Development Plan as open space and a wildlife site at Cunning Park however the Application was granted on Appeal.

Please use our Community Council web site (fswcc.org.uk) and again our thanks are again due to Forbes Watson for his company's sponsorship.

The lunch-time Town Hall organ recitals continue to be organised by Michael Hitchon MBE on our behalf and is greatly appreciated by the ever growing number of attendees. The continuation is now assured for the tenth year with a growing programme. This gives regular playing of the much admired old Lewis organ. From now and for the remainder of the programme until 26 November, the concerts will be held in Ayr Town Hall at 12 Noon on Mondays.

We were able to donate yet again to three charities, the Belleisle Conservatory Ltd, The Ark, and the Salvation Army from our modest resources this year and again wish them success.

Once again, I must thank our Community Councillors for the exceptionally well attended meetings and unstinting support of Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council in the last year. It is reassuring that I can repeat this last paragraph year on year.

J Norman McLean

Chairman

4 May 2018