

FSW Community Council meeting via Zoom 10th February 2021 @ 7pm

In Attendance : Norman McLean, Forbes Watson, Michael Hitchon, Olena Stewart, Iain Henderson, Katherine McNab, Eric Armstrong, Alan Roseweir, Denise Somerville, Gordon Kelly

Councillor : Derek McCabe

Public : Chic Brodie

Minute Secretary : Trina McNicol

Apologies : Alison Logan, David Petrie, Libby Morrison, Sandy Crawford, Martin Dowe

Siobhian declined to attend

Lee Lyons accepted invitation however failed to attend

No apologies received : Phil Martin, Chris Campbell

Dympna Gardiner, no computer access

Norman welcomed those attending. Newly co-opted member Alan Roseweir is now seconded by Olena Stewart and Gordon Kelly (specialist co-optee) proposed by Denise Somerville and seconded by David Petrie.

Concerns persist over speeding traffic in Doonfoot Road (should have been included in January minutes). Forbes Watson has since spoken with Police and ARA. Police passed to their traffic department. A short term solution may be reintroduction of regular speed traps at Belleisle and old Seafield Hospital. A survey planned by ARA has been delayed due to Covid.

Forbes attended a meeting concerned with Community Buy Out/Leasing. It appears unclear where funding comes from in buy outs and how is ongoing funding sustained. Strict rules exist; group interested in acquiring a property must be constituted and can only purchase from the council (common good land included)

Eric, Trina and Gordon are investigating possibility of community running existing Seafront kiosk. Approach will initially be made to SAC, business plan drawn up if response from council favourable and committee formed (possibly constituted as SCIO) Norman lent his support to this pilot scheme.

Katherine McNab had Zoom meeting with Chris Fallen who is managing South Ayrshire Active Travel Strategy on behalf of ARA and SAC. Consultation timescale: key stakeholders responses submitted by end Jan, online public survey over 3 weeks Feb/March, stakeholders online workshop (FSWCC members invited) April, redrafted strategy to ARA and SAC May and final strategy made available June.

Proposal to list Riverside high flats in a bid to prevent demolition has been turned down.

Derek McCabe confirmed that Kyle Centre has closed. No definite plans for it though discussion and speculation continues.

Town Centre pool proposal presented to Leadership Panel by Siobhian Brown and passed subject to review however no decision is imminent and a change of leadership would almost certainly reverse this initiative. During a recent meeting with FRA, Siobhian Brown emphasised that even before public consultation takes place, no PlanB will be considered. Chic Brodie informed us that further to FOI request, it was confirmed that no contractor or architect have been appointed. Eric highlighted

and all agreed that a pool situated in the High Street would be unlikely to increase footfall in shops and restaurants. Public leaving pool with wet hair generally head straight home. Chic Brodie added that Ayrshire Post's Bob Shields has said he will resign if pool goes ahead.

Use for the old Ayr Grammar was discussed. Norman of the opinion windows too large to make it suitable for flats and proposes a museum housing local artifacts. Michael and Denise showed support for this idea, Eric asked type of museum envisaged..Norman to speak to Jimmy Begg.

Norman asked for twinning suggestions for town of Cherveux in France. The town has a number of historical Scottish connections. CC members are invited to offer suggestions.

Michael has annual £50 donation to divide equally between two local community groups/charities. It was agreed Newton PS would again benefit and Broken Chains (if presently operating)

Forbes asked we make objection to excessive amount being spent on painting socially distanced footsteps in town centre. Derek not aware and will investigate.

Chic Brodie gave an update on Station Hotel. Negotiations are ongoing with a prospective buyer who already owns a number of international hotels and a golf resort. Buyer is involved in discussions include Network Rail, Scot rail and SAC. Proposed use would be term time student accommodation adjusting to boutique style hotel during holiday periods.

Eric commented on disappointing turnout of councillors at FSWCC meetings (Siobhian Brown has attended two of the last sixteen meetings) Suggestion was made to publish annual Councillor attendances in Ayrshire Post.

Forbes offered vote of thanks and Norman expressed hope that IT issues would be ironed out before next month's meeting.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday 10th March @ 7pm.