

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

In Attendance: Norman McLean, Forbes Watson, Michael Hitchon, Olena Stewart, Alison Logan, Katherine McNab, Eric Armstrong, Alan Roseweir, Gordon Kelly, Phil Martin, Trina McNicol

Councillors: Martin Dowey, Lee Lyons, Derek McCabe Link Officer, Chris Campbell

Public: Chic Brodie, Gordon Bingham

Apologies: Sandy Crawford, Ian Henderson, David Petrie, Denise Somerville

Jamie Cree and Geraldine Cannell – Police apologies

Dympna Gardiner, no computer access, Not heard from Libby Morrison

Siobhian Brown sent word that she was unable to attend due to a back injury. Eric pointed out that SB has attended twice in seventeen meetings.

Minutes of previous meeting: in section reporting on Town Centre pool proposal, 'change of leadership' should read as 'change of administration'

Matters arising: a girl has been knocked down and seriously injured on Doonfoot Road. Investigations will clarify whether vehicle involved was travelling over the speed limit. If this proves to be the case, police were forewarned in writing by Forbes and speed control measures should be put in place as a matter of urgency.

Active Travel Consultation: Katherine has been in touch with Chris Fallen who will invite members of community councils to take part in a workshop at the end of March to discuss active travel proposals. Details will be given on FSWCC Facebook.

Kyle Centre: the Centre remains closed however expired planning permission for a cinema could perhaps be revived.

Co-option: Trina McNicol was proposed by Norman and seconded by Olena as special interest member for Ayr Seafront Consultation and asset transfer proposals.

Martin Dowie reported that * with reference to town centre pool proposal, no drawings exist, no planning application has been lodged and no contractor chosen although South West Hub have been appointed to investigate the preferred bidder. This is before public consultation takes place *Rozelle Park to receive £400k *Seafront Consultation Response has unanimously rejected proposals to build a new Esplanade restaurant. If voted in, Conservative administration would spend the 40m presently ring fenced for new pool on Esplanade and town centre improvements* Grain Exchange is undergoing repairs to poorly fitted lead flashings *plans for single storey buildings in High Street gap site will not be supported by a Conservative administration who propose two storey flats with exhibition space to the rear * council tax remains the same this year, 6% rise next year.

Burns House: plans will proceed to demolish the building. Norman commented that simply 'throwing some grass at it' was an inadequate council suggestion for the resulting gapsite.

Proposal to erect a 20m high radio mast (to replace the one on Burns House) on Beresford Terrace (adjacent to Tudor restaurant) was discussed and it was agreed that an alternative site, nearer the Odeon would site mast away from oncoming traffic. Norman to query.

Seaford Development: building continues despite ground consolidation work raising the ground level above that stipulated by planning. Phil reported this had also been the case at Cunning Park and

amendment to original permissions had been passed 'by stealth'. Forbes pointed out that a Stop order should be issued. Norman will query Planning as to whether this constitutes a fundamental change or an amendment.

Belleisle House: Chic in talks to identify buyers. Previous plan unworkable as no developer interested in investing in partnership deal with SAC. Hotel in present state should be sold for £1 reflecting the fact that Historic Scotland has ruled against demolition and the high costs attached to developing it into a hotel again.

Station Hotel: Chic reported that talks between buyer and council are at a critical stage and that Feasibility Study questions being raised by Ayr Development Trust risk jeopardising the sale.

Scottish Government held seminar recommending greater community empowerment laws making it possible to become involved in decision making in cases such as high flats and also allowing the right to appeal decisions.

Esplanade Kiosk: although minuted by SAC that lease had terminated, present tenants continue to operate erratic opening hours and provide sub-standard service. Norman to enquire if lease still running. Katherine advised any community run facility should have a robust business plan and be set up as a CIC/SCIO. Trina advised that SCIO application was being considered. Chris suggested forming a Community Association and gave various examples eg Ballantrae, where under the wing of the Community Council, they successfully run fund raising local events and projects. New guidelines (blue book) are about to be published empowering community councils. It was decided to wait, read through new guidelines and then decide if forming a CA would be a better option. Updated guidelines also recommend CC benefit from IT equipment, website expenses etc.

High flats: planning department have not received application for proposed 90 houses. David Petrie reported work has commenced dismantling interior of first block. Norman to make enquiries.

Forbes drew attention to the dilapidated/possibly dangerous state of curved fronted building in Fort Street. Owners have been made aware but have failed to take steps to repair. Norman suggested sending photos to relevant council department recommending a compulsory repair notice is issued.

Facebook and Website: Olena encouraged members to read and interact with FSWCC Facebook page and website (www.fswcc.org.uk)

Gordon Bingham expressed concern over pot holes and general poor state of SA roads and added his desire to see Ayr Seafront given a makeover.

Financial report: FSWCC donated £50 to Newton PS and Broken Chains. Michael is preparing accounts for submission.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th April @ 7pm.