

FSW Community Council meeting via Zoom 14th April 2021 @ 7pm

In Attendance: Norman McLean, Forbes Watson, Michael Hitchon, Olena Stewart, Katherine McNab, Eric Armstrong, Alan Roseweir, Trina McNicol, Gordon Kelly, Phil Martin, Denise Somerville, Libby Morrison, Ian Henderson

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

Public: Chic Brodie, Gordon Bingham, Karen Lloyd

Apologies: David Petrie, Alison Logan, Siobhian Brown

Police: Jamie Cree and Geraldine Cannell – not heard from

Dympna Gardiner, no computer access. Sandy Crawford, – not heard from

2) March minutes were proposed by Phil, seconded by Forbes.

3) Matters arising: Katherine suggested that as minutes in public domain items should be numbered according to agenda.

4) Chris highlighted that councillors must remain non political within the community council. New guidelines (blue book) completed however still to be passed.

5) No police report submitted

6) Community Council AGM has been postponed until September when Norman believed elections would take place. Chris said it was his understanding that there were to be no CC elections this year. Will check if the case and if constitutional.

Lee(Lyons) congratulated Norman on remaining in post for another year. Norman expressed his wish to retire within foreseeable future.

7)&8) Alan presented Cares Report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Charitable status would ensure compliance to Cares criteria and access to possible funding streams. Chris suggests forming a Community Association which would report to the Community Council may be the best route to follow (approach to be made to Ballantrae and Girvan re their experience of setting up Community Associations and Burntisland re producing a local energy plan) Funds could be sought for a study identifying feasibility of projects such as outdoor pool, solar panels on Wallacetoun flats. At present although every region must reduce its carbon footprint, there is a large renewables' underspend. As councils are ineligible for this funding, working in partnership may prove the way forward.

Seafront: Trina reported that just prior to meeting Siobhian Brown forwarded Seafront consultation findings. 56 responses not representative of number taking part as Residents Associations and Community Council speak for many thousands of residents. Beachfront restaurant will not go ahead though Trina expressed doubts as to whether with 40m+ leisure

centre scheme swallowing the budget, it was ever a possibility. Concerns over confusing merging of issues in question 4; 'Do you agree to generally enhancing the Seafront including changes to improve pedestrian priority'. By supporting enhancements and improvements respondents have unwittingly agreed to a pedestrian only Esplanade. Eric, Alan, Gordon and Trina await word from Tom Burns on forming of a Seafront working group.

Derek (McCabe) reported that 20 bays are being created in Blackburn Carpark as overnight (24hr) parking for motor homes and caravans. Cost £5 payable at parking permit machine. This nominal charge is unlikely to cover extra expense for warden and evening/weekend overtime. Martin said site visits are restricted to one 24hr period per year. Fines will be imposed for non payment though non paying foreign visitors will not be pursued. No barrier as could lead to people being unable to leave overnight. New scheme will become active in five weeks after potholes repaired and demarcation of bays completed.

No other parking is allowed on Esplanade overnight.

Iain asked if 'boy racer' problem in the area is being addressed.

Norman suggested the scheme was rushed and ill thought through.

Seafield Development: Derek said SAC planning dept to investigate raised ground levels. Having looked into it, Norman is of the opinion that it falls within acceptable parameters.

Phil commented that planning rules wouldn't be so loosely interpreted by developers if demolition notices were served for non compliance.

Residents want removed trees replaced.

High flats: Norman pointed out that if high flats had been (in his opinion, correctly) categorised as falling within a high priority area, refurbishment costs would have been made available. Replacement figures inaccurate on many levels eg cost of demolition not included.

Station Hotel: confidential paper on the fate of the Station Hotel will be released Monday 26th.

Telecommunications Mast: various sites proposed and rejected; preferred site remains in Beresford Terrace.

Wallacetoun: Martin reported further decline in the area since lockdown. Increase in drug use, alcohol dependency, fly-tipping, littered/dirty entrances and stairwells causing intolerable conditions for most residents.

Denise said that council interventions ie euro bin placements were 'set to depress'; mental health issues are reaching worrying levels with residents being threatened by addicts looking for drugs. An immediate improvement would be fitting of security doors - radical solution would be to demolish Wallacetoun, rebuild and rebrand.

Martin pointed out that with the Revenue Account overflowing, action needs to be taken now to address the issues and that what is missing is a joint approach between local and national government (latter making 88k available for new house built in priority area)

Forbes wants SAC questioned on lack of spend in the area.

Present allocation of two community police officers falls woefully short of what's required.

Space at bottom of High Street: Martin encourages members to respond to consultation. Existing single storey proposals (described as a 'swanky scout hut') inappropriate in appearance and purpose. Preferred plan would be for building similar in size to those around it with tourist info/retail on ground level and flatted accommodation above. Plans along these lines were put forward by Ayr Renaissance then abandoned.

Hourstons/Citadel: consultation responses (on 'what' people want to see in the leisure centre not 'if' it should go ahead) should be submitted by 30th April. Trina disagrees with SAC tactics of encouraging schoolchildren to make a wishlist before planning permission granted.

Eric pointed out how the Citadel not only fulfils its brief on the leisure side but has also fulfilled its purpose admirably as a safe and spacious vaccine venue. He also highlighted how with renewables to the fore, the building is ideal for placement of solar panels and installation of ground source heat pumps.

Darlington Church and Belleisle House situation remain unchanged from last month.

Station Hotel: Chic will submit proposals (28th April) involving renowned architects and major construction company. If accepted, repurposing into student accommodation could start soon, boutique hotel more of a long term plan.

9) Phil had nothing major to report although recommends planning objections be made about Arran Mall, telecommunications Mast in Beresford Terr and High Street gap site.

10) Olena paid £40 to register with ICOR.

11) Concerns raised over boats 'parked' in Racecourse View. It would appear a number are owned by one individual. Council to investigate.

12) Olena shares correspondence on an ongoing basis

13) Michael reported that funds were sufficient to allow donation of £50 to be made to Salvation Army.

14) Katherine believes voting should be carried out on each matter arising which Chris agreed on main issues is constitutional. Norman expressed the view that timescales often made this unworkable eg if responses were required within a very short period of time.

15) Date of next Zoom meeting Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7pm.

