

**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE MONTRAVE HALL,
LUNDIN LINKS AT 7.00 PM ON THE 16TH OF OCTOBER 2017**

Those present were; Chairman Mr Aitken, Mr Fyfe, Mr Wood, Mrs Green, Mrs Aitken, Mr Clark, Mr Paterson, Mr Stacey, Mrs Young, Mr Millar and Mr Green.

In attendance were Mr Hall and Mr Hagan.

Last month's minutes were moved for adoption by Mrs Aitken and seconded by Mr Clark.

Proposed Golf Course at Dumbarnie Links

Presentation outlining the plans for a 'Pay per Play' golf course at Dumbarnie Links was given on behalf of ITP Energize by, Robin Matthews - Project Manager, Paul Kimber - Golf Course Designer, Jenny Hazzard and Alex Gardiner - Environmental Consultants and Paul Triseliotic – Engineer.

The proposed course would be 18 holes, 165 hectares sited east of Largo and south of Colinsburgh (part of Balcarres Estate), pay per play with a screened club house with player's restaurant, access road off the A 917 (a possible priority junction still has to be agreed) and landscaping. There would be no associated accommodation so that players would be encouraged to stay locally.

The plans are supported by the land owner who wishes to see an increase in wild areas and biodiversity. This would be achieved by planting a significant proportion of the course with native species which was previously used as permanent pasture. There are assurance that the development would run alongside the 'Special Site of Scientific Interest' and should not affect the wildlife within it. A bird survey will be carried out and it is hoped to create further habitats for the birds, as well as reintroduction of indigenous flora and fauna with Scottish Natural Heritage involved to discuss possible environmental benefits.

The club house which would include a restaurant, bar, pro shop and changing facilities, would be in the style of an agricultural building to be in-keeping with the surrounding area. It would have a slate roof and stone finished walls.

There would be efforts made to use local labour in the development of the course and buildings and also in the club house, course maintenance and caddies

Funding is in place from UK and American investors. This capital led investment of around £11 million is expected to have a substantial income spend to the local economy.

Local Concerns – There were several concerns put forward over the increased traffic on the already very busy coast road. It was stated that the estimated traffic would be 120 cars per day, some of the visitors would come in shared vehicles from St Andrews and the traffic would not be necessarily at peak times. Fife Council have not stated that there is an issue with the extra traffic using the road.

- There seems to be already an excessive amount of golf courses in the area and a new course would put added pressure on existing local courses. The reply was that the advanced bookings for the courses round St Andrews are high and that the Scottish Government states that there is an unmet demand for golf courses in Scotland.

- There were fears that access along the coastal path and along the old railway would be restricted, however we were assured that there would be no restrictions on access along the existing paths.

- There was a question over the cost of playing and it was suggested that the cost may be around £100 with a possible reduction for local players and that there may be special child training days with links to the local schools.

A further consultation exercise will be held on the 26th – 30th of October in The Old Manor, Lundin Links, 2-9 pm there will be presentation boards with consultants available for questions and comments will be welcomed.

Once this non-statutory consultation has been completed Fife Council will have 4 months to come to a decision and this should be March 2018. The plans for the golf course are available on the Fife Council Planning web site. Members of the public can make individual formal submissions.

Mr Aitken thanked the representatives from ITP Energize for coming to talk to the community.

Retiral

Mr Morris Wilson has retired from the Community Council and we would like to thank him for his contribution during his time as a member of the Largo Area Community Council. Mr Aitken would also like to extend this grateful thanks to Morris and all those Community Council members who joined us when our member numbers were such that the Community Council was at risk of not being able to carry on.

Phone Mast Planning Submission

A formal planning application has been submitted for a 15 metre high phone mast to be erected next to the Phone exchange on the Cupar Road opposite Penrice Park. The mast is necessary to supply mobile phone coverage to Lower Largo and the area round Emsdorf Road. The residents of Penrice Park and Mr McBride (who's house would be very close to the mast) are very unhappy with the planned site. A new site has been suggested in the field next to the old drive up to Largo House. It would be next to the tree line and away from the road which would make it less obvious. The land owner will have to be approached as well as the phone mast company 'Galliford Try' and the residents of Toll Court. There would also have to be a repeated consultation process. The first task is for the Community Council to submit representations objecting to the mast being erected next to the telephone exchange due to its close proximity to Penrice Park and the resident at the telephone exchange.

The Mill Footbridge

Following the improvements to the path next to the Mill leading to Keilburn, it was agreed that we should purchase bulbs and have them planted in the area at a cost of £150.

The footbridge has been inspected although we have not had a report sent. Due to the urgency of the need to have the bridge open for children to get safely to school Mr Aitken even contacted the Army to get a solution to the problem. Mr Aitken will write again to Fife Council to get an accurate report on the condition of the bridge.

Largo Pier

The sub-committee met with Mr Dykes and he was pressed to have another meeting to find a constructive way forward. At the next meeting Mr Aitken will not attend but the other sub-committee members will take it forward.

Lundin Links Hotel

It is still hoped that a meeting will go ahead with Councillor Davidson.

Website Development

It was agreed not to go ahead with the quote from of £720 from Buzz Computers and we are waiting for a quote from Fife Digital. Meanwhile the minutes can be found at the Library in Lundin Links.

AOCB

- There is to be an exhibition showing the future of the Wind Turbine off the Methil coastline at the Energy Park, Methil. Mrs Fyfe will investigate further.
- Councillor Sutton was due to hold a surgery in Upper Largo and no one turned up much to the dismay of the residents who had come along for the meeting. Also there were no Councillors in attendance at tonight's Community Council meeting despite it being an important public meeting.
- It was suggested that we make a map of Largo Area and put on all the locations where the Community Council have been effective in their actions on behalf of the community.
- The group campaigning to improve the playpark at the Common in Lundin Links are now constituted.
- A 'Give Way' sign and road markings are needed at entrance to the Durham development site as vehicles are pulling straight out onto Durham Wynd without stopping.
- The bus stop at the bottom of Harbour Wynd needs attention. There is no sign, no timetable and the bus shelter needs to be cleaned and graffiti removed.

THE NEXT MEETING OF LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM IN THE STABLES UPPER LARGO