**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF MARCH 2022 AT 7.15 PM AT THE SIMPSON INSTITUTE, UPPER LARGO**

Those present were: - Chairman Peter Aitken, Mrs Green, Mrs Aitken, Mr Fox, Mr Cargill and Mrs Young.

In attendance was Councillor Ritchie

Apologies were received from Mr Allan, Mr Barker, Mrs Brown, and Mrs Stewart, also LCT Chair Louise Robb and LCT Development Officer Priya Logan.

Last month’s minutes were moved for adoption by Mrs Aitken and seconded by Mr Cargill.

It is hoped that, when the minutes are forwarded to Mr Morrison, he will be willing to put them on our website.

Mr Aitken declared an interest for the Largo Road Trial.

**Ukrainian Refugees**

The UK Government has come up with a scheme to help house Ukrainian Refugees who come to the UK called ‘Home for Ukraine’ of which the Scottish Government have sponsored 3,000 places, and Mr Aitken suggested that there may be something that our community may be able to do to help, possible in a coordinating role such as demonstrated in Aberfeldy.

The questions would be what type of help could we give? e.g. being a go between for Fife Council and the local schools or/and GPs. The more information people who are thinking about offering accommodation have the better. It is known so far that homeowners have to make a commitment for at least 6 months and that there will be financial help available. It was decided to put a statement on the local Facebook page to gather information on how many rooms are available so this could help in deciding what health and education requirement would be needed.

**Fife Local Plan and Possible Housing Development**

Mr Fox declared an interest as a resident of Selkirk Grove.

Several members of the community attended the meeting with concerns over any potential new housing in the field north of Selkirk Grove. Mr Fowler, representing a number of affected residents asked that Largo Area Community Council puts forward the case for the field opposite Durham Wynd and north of Selkirk Grove to be classified as a Special Landscape Area for the following reasons

1. To ensure that the greenfield entrance to the village is kept intact.
2. The flooding issues on the A915 are not made worse.
3. To stop linear creepage towards Upper Largo.
4. To discourage the possibility of housing development in the field in front of Largo House.

Mr Fowler also asked the Community Council to ask that the rubbish be removed from the field and that the temporary road be closed off. The builders and landowner seem to be reluctant to get the work done and unfortunately enforcement costs a lot of money and there is no danger to public health.

Other concerns mentioned were the mains gas pipe running through the field and the number of vehicles already using the road down into the village, Mr Fox also mentioned the question of whether there was a need for more housing when the Scottish population is in decline.

Mr Aiken stated that the consultation for the Fife Local Plan has been put forward till 2023 and what is needed now is to gather evidence which represents accurately the wishes of the whole community, including the feeling of the representatives who attended the meeting. It is known that there is a need for affordable homes for local young people which may suggest that not everyone is against development. The post card issues to all residents in the Largo Area was a method of consultation and just one part of the Local Place Plan which will include drop-in sessions where people will get another chance to voice their views, people should try their best to go along and participate. Also, more articles will be put into the Largo Links magazine.

Councillor Ritchie stated that he was unable to speak on the subject as he is on the Planning Committee however, he did say that no one can decide on the merits or otherwise as there has been no planning application yet.

If we want the character and identity of the village retained, we need to speak up.

Mr Fowler’s letter, which includes 32 signatures, will be passed to the Local Development Plan Team at Fife Council.

**Temple Car Park Toilets**

For some time now the Community Council have been campaigning for the toilets to be upgraded to allow for disability access and Fife Council have stated that money may be available for the work to be carried out. There has been a request from The Largo Friendship Group and Homelands for the toilet to upgraded to a ‘Changing Places Toilet’ which caters for disabled adults. A site meeting has been suggested. David Patterson, Area Services Manager for Fife Council will be contacted.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

Fife Council are to resecure and reboard the hotel to prevent further damage and as this has been under a court order the work will be carried out with a police presence.

The long-term issue with the development is still Scottish Water’s insistence that any surface water is drained over the road into Fir Park. MSP Jenny Gilruth is to meet with Mr Punler at the end of March.

**Speed Cushions, Lundin Links**

There are a lot of unhappy drivers using the A915 along Leven Road due to the new speed bumps which seem to be a problem particularly for cars with low clearance, and a lot of drivers are crossing to the middle of the road to avoid the damage to tires etc.

**Traffic Lights Trial**

Residents in the dip next to the bridge are extremely unhappy that the trial is not going ahead and plan to contact their MSP. The next step is to contact The Lead Traffic Consultant and invite them to attend a Community Council meeting or/and have a site meeting with Mr Aitken.

**Queen’s Jubilee**

The Crusoe Hotel have offered to host the Jubilee event on the Pier and car park, however it was thought that this would be too much of a risk to public safety and after discussion it was decided to hold the gathering and beacon on the beach next to The Crusoe Hotel, allowing people to get refreshment from the hotel if they wish or bring their own food and drinks onto the beach. The event will be held on the 2nd of June, time to be arranged.

**Tree Planting in Durham Field**

Mrs Crichton has thanked us for the offer to pay part of the cost of the tree planting and will get back to us after discussing the plans with the estate team.

**Twinning with VILLENNES - SUR – SEINE**

We have heard nothing back as yet.

**MPF4 Consultation**

The consultation period for the Draft National Planning Framework will end on the 31st of March

NPF4 will, when adopted, set out the Scottish Governments priorities and policies for the planning system up to 2045.

**Cemetery Consultation**

A consultation is to be carried out due to the lack of space in Fife cemeteries.

**Noticeboard Upper Largo**

The noticeboard will cost £279.40. It is ordered and paid for.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Account stands at £6198.41p. The Black Watch were refunded the amount over the agreed cost of the restoration work that they gave us.

**John Ripley VC**

The work has been carried out to restore the headstone and Mrs Young will take photos which were required for the Black Watch.

**Local Place Plan**

The Local Place Plan post cards (artwork done by Iain Green) were distributed by volunteers along with the Largo Links magazine to every household with responses being collected online as well. The response has been modest so far but more have to be collected. The children at both primary schools were also involved.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE DURHAM HALL, LOWER LARGO AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY THE 18TH OF APRIL 2022 AND ON ZOOM.**

Dear Graham

Following the meeting of the Community Council this evening on behalf of the Community Council:-

(1) The location of the beach bonfire/beacon could be moved from the beach at The Temple to the beach near the Crusoe Hotel

(2) The public would still be invited to bring their own food for a beach picnic

(3) However the public would be able to come up from the beach to the Crusoe Hotel for hot food (and/or alcohol)

(4) The risk of holding the event on the pier or in the car park/harbour was considered to be too great I shall be glad to hear from you Best wishes Peter Peter Aitken Chairman Largo Area Community Council

01333-320574