**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20th OF JUNE 2022 AT 7.00 PM IN THE DURHAM HALL LOWER LARGO**

Those present were: - Chairman Mr Aitken, Mrs Green, Mr Cargill, Mrs Young and Mr Barker. In attendance were Councillor Alexander and Councillor Clarke also Mr Green representing Largo Communities Together.

Apologies were received from Mrs Low, Mr Allan and Mrs Aitken.

Correction to last month’s minutes – Mr Cargill was present.

With this correction last month’s minutes were moved for approval by Mr Cargill and seconded by Mr Barker

Mr Aitken declared an interest for the Largo Road Trial.

Thanks to Mr Drew Morrison for setting up the Zoom facility once more. We are continuing to use the Community Zoom platform shared between Largo Church, LACRT and Largo Area Community Council.

The AGM Treasurers Report is adjourned till next meeting as the Treasurer is not present.

**Corona Virus**

There are not restrictions now however, in theory, masks should still be worn in a public place.

**Zoom**

There has been a request to carryon hosting the meetings on Zoom as well as face to face to enable Community Councillors access if they can’t attend in person. It was agreed by the meeting that there would be a 6-month trial. Only Community Councillors could be invited due to it being unmanageable with large numbers. It was agreed that the Chairman is unable to monitor the Zoom participants as well as Chairing the meeting, so Mr Allan has agreed to keep an eye on the monitor. One problem which may prevent continuation of the Zoom meeting, is the lack of mobile signal or internet connection in the halls.

**John Hutchison**

Mr Aitken declared an interest.

The dispute between Mr Hutchison and The Boat Club is now in the public domain and can be discussed, but, as per the agreement at the last meeting, it was agreed that the Community Council cannot mediate or get involved. The advice given was for both parties to use a mediation service.

A Press article suggested that Mr Hutchison was being denied access to the harbour via the private slipway west of the harbour bridge.

Mr Aitken will advise Mr Hutchison that this is a legal dispute and a solicitor should be consulted.

**New Gilston to Woodside Path**

There was a request at the last meeting that there should be a discussion about the possibility of having a path from New Gilston to Woodside. This connectivity should be encouraged between communities however the member of the community requesting the discussion was unable to attend so the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

**One Way Lower Largo Main Street**

The summer one-way system in Lower Largo has been a problem for many years, however with the increased tourist traffic and hardly noticeable signage it is an increasing problem with drivers going along the Main Street the wrong way. This will be a particular concern with Largo Arts Week coming up soon. Fife Council have been asked to make the signage more visible or review the system as it stands.

Councillor Clark will take this back to Fife Council.

**Milk Path, Upper Largo**

There has been a request for a resident to have the path cut. This has in the past been done by the farmer. Mr Aitken has contacted the farmer who is reluctant to have to commit to this job and it was suggested that pedestrians using the path would trample down the grass. This may put off users when the grass is long and wet which would in turn mean less traffic and more overgrowth.

Mrs Young will ask the opinion of pedestrians using the path and also the resident who requested the cutting back.

**Bus Journey Survey**

Fife Council are carrying out a survey to see how bus journeys could be improved in Fife with a view to being more convenient and reliable and therefore encourage the use public transport to help with climate change and sustainability.

Suggestions included the bus to Edinburgh being more direct and more buses stopping in Upper Largo. These and any other suggestion should be submitted online.

Fife Council only has influence over the subsidised service they provide to the bus company.

There is an App for your phone which tells you when the bus is on its way and when it will arrive.

**Queen’s Jubilee**

To celebrate the Community Council with a lot of support from The Crusoe Hotel, had a bonfire on the beach with Adele (not the famous one) leading the singing of the national anthem and the Jubilee song as well as a few other songs. There were refreshments at The Crusoe and a good number of people turned out to celebrate. Every safety aspect was covered and there were no accidents. Disabled access was difficult although when advice was given as to the best place to view the proceedings satisfaction was had all round.

Thanks again to the army of volunteers, The Crusoe for all the safety equipment and organisation and Donaldson’s Timber, Upper Largo for the timber for the bonfire.

**Homes for Ukraine**

Things are progressing. A public consultation was held on the 28th of June in the Simpson Institute to ask what the community thinks what could or should be done to help. Points for discussion were, refugees in homes, a meeting hub, teaching English, interpreters Ukrainian or Russian and Aberfeldy’s approach. Mr Aitken has approached SES Wind Turbine who have turbines near Aberfeldy to ask for possible donations for things like trauma councillors and welcome packs. They have no turbines in this area so Mr Aitken approached Forth Wind. They are only at the demonstration stage at the moment but may have a community fund in the future. They were able to give us alternative companies who may be able to help meanwhile. There was also a suggestion to apply for the environmental enhancement fund but other grant funding is required. Grants are available from Fife Council for things like school uniforms.

A Resettlement Officer has been communicating with LCT and The Resilience Group. She has suggested that free travel for the refugees is important as they would have no other means of getting about.

We don’t know as yet how many people will be coming, 6 people have offered accommodation in this area. Homes are now being inspected for possible use and interviews are being carried out.

There are Ukrainian and Russian speakers working on local farms who may be able to help, but unfortunately the farm caravans are not up to the standard wished for by the Council for homes.

**Housing Consultation**

The first of two consultation meetings was held in The Durham Hall on the 14th of June and was very well attended with residents showing an interest in what may happen with a large number of comments being posted on the information boards. The consultation was brought about as a collaboration of Largo Communities Together and Largo Area Community Council with the main aim being to gauge the feeling of the community to further housing in the area. The questions asked were, do you think there is a need for more housing? where do you think more housing should go? Questions being asked were, how big is the area being looked at for houses and how many houses will there be? Campion Homes, who are the most likely developer to build the houses were asked these questions but declined to answer.

This consultation was partly due to objections by local people to any possible housing development in the field north of Selkirk Grove and it is felt that any community views should be taken into account.

Another meeting will be held next week in New Gilston village Hall to get their opinion.

The information from the consultation will be collated and can be fed into the Local Plan Consultation.

The subject of second homes was brought up. This is a problem with need serious consideration which may have to be resolved politically. Fife Council have not yet got the powers to control the problem. The Community Council can only discuss the issue in that how it impacts the community and must remain non-political

**Twinning**

The Community Council were approached a while ago by an official from the French town of Villennes-sur-seine to ask about the possibility of twinning with Largo/Lundin Links

Mr Aitken and Mr Allan took part in a Zoom meeting with officials from the French village and it was decided to explore the possibility. Mr Aitken contacted the local schools with the suggestion of starting a pen-pal scheme with the primary schools, which the Head Teacher was in favour of. It was also suggested that pupils may be able to visit with their parents. Waid Academy already have a town in France they are twinned with and take part in exchange visits, although this has been suspended due to covid.

A further Zoom meeting is planned.

**Beach Designation**

STV News asked if they could interview a representative from the village about the beach bathing water designation and as Mr Allan wasn’t available Mr Aitken and Louise Robb from LCT spoke to STV. It has not yet been aired and may be waiting for a quiet news day.

The designation is not yet operational until the water quality has been improved. Scottish Water need to come up with a plan to this effect but they are committed to improve the situation.

SEPA were also interviewed and they are currently carrying out the first of 18 water quality tests

Mr Allan has put forward the suggestion of using green energy to pipe the sewage along the beach to the treatment plant at Methil.

A second suggestion was to increase the capacity of the sewage plant in the Serpentine as at the moment several lorries remove the excess sewage which is not environmentally friendly. The third suggestion was to extend the sewage pipe which would still involve polluting the Forth which is at the moment undergoing an extensive restoration scheme.

**Hillhead Street**

Mr Aitken had a site visit at the request of Community Councillor Mrs Low following posts being knocked down and cars damaged. At a public meting some time ago a significant number of residents attending were in favour of the road being made one way, however one resident felt that due to his property being on a steep hill and having to reverse the wrong way along a one way section of road into his drive he was against the idea. Fife Council stated that, due to it being a private road, all the residents had to agree before it could be changed.

There was a suggestion that only Hillhead Street might be made one way and not Mill Wynd allowing people to reverse into their property. Fife Council have been sent his suggestion and been asked to consider this option.

**Largo Communities Together – LCT**

Pier update – There is a lot of things happening behind the scenes and a statement is proposed to bring the public up to date. Plans have been prepared by engineers so that a quantity surveyor can prepare costings which has been done which is over a million pounds. The next stage is funding and grant applications have been drafted. Small funding applications have been successful with the public also contributing and now large grant applications are being considered which require matching donations which is problematic.

LCT have also been looking at Crail Community Trust which set up a Common Good Fund using land for an income. It is particularly problematic if there is no revenue stream.

We have a number of engineers and an architect as part of the group which is very useful as well as using firms of engineers and surveyors to do the drawings.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

Fire details – 3 boards were removed by vandals and a fire was started and fortunately the smoke was spotted and the fire brigade was able to put hie fire out. The chief Fife Officed stated that the hotel was full of flammable material such as mattresses, beds and bedding etc and this is a risk for future fires.

Fife Council were able before to get a court order to get on the premisses to board up the hotel and make it secure, however boards were removed to allow access to start the fire and although the firemen did replace the boards they have been removed again. This has been reported to the Police.

Mr Aitken has asked Mr Punler if he could give permission for access to the property to make it secure.

A zoom meeting has happened with Scottish Water to resolve the issue of the drainage water having to go across the road to Fir Park. Mr Aitken suggested that if the problem is not resolved that the Ombudsman should be brought in to resolve the issue.

Is there a case for looking at the legislation which allows communities to take over abandoned and neglected land?

**Speed Cushions**

There are still problems being caused by drivers going into the middle of the road to avoid the worst effect of the cushions when there is traffic coming the other way and it has been noted that buses and large vehicles are not sticking to the 20 mph limit. It is felt that cameras are also needed.

Our speed watch training will be resurrected and we have a new volunteer from Leven Road willing to get trained.

**Traffic Lights Trial**

It is now known the Fife Council’s Traffic Manager is against the traffic light trial due to the risk of tail backs. Mr Aitken has proposed a multi-agency site meeting to include the Police, Stagecoach, Fire Service, Ambulance Service and possibly a road haulage company eg Walker and Son from Strathkinness.

Speed is one concern as well as large vehicles going into the middle of the road to get round the corner.

Fife Council stated that measures were put in place to prevent another accident.

**New Woodland Lower Largo**

Mr Fox has arranged to meet with Alexandra Crichton, the landowner to discuss the possibility of planting trees in the field between Boutree Brae and The Serpentine.

**Planning**

1 Pilmuir Road, Lundin Links – creation of a turning area and lowering walls for visibility – It was felt that there was no community interest and that the resident with concerns should object themselves if they find it necessary.

BT building in Church place is overgrown – Mr Aitken will email BT and ask that the problem be rectified.

**AOCB**

At Durham Wynd there are several potholes in need of repair and the roadside grass exiting onto the A915 needs cutting back to help with visibility.

Also at Durham Wynd, the crossing will be looked at again by Councillor Clarke who will put the suggestion to the Lead Traffic Consultant and it is hoped that it will be discussed at the next Area Committee Meeting.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 15TH OF AUGUST 2022 AT 7.15 PM IN THE SIMPSON INSTITUTE UPPER LARGO**