**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 15th OF AUGUST 2022 AT 7.15 PM IN THE SIMPSON INSTITUTE UPPER LARGO**

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

Apologies were received from Mr Barker and Mrs Aitken.

Mr Aitken declared an interest for the Largo Road Trial.

Thanks to Mr Drew Morrison for setting up and manning 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.

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

**Corona Virus**

It is hoped that the situation is now improving although the virus is still with us. A new vaccine is about to be rolled out which covers the old strain of Covid and the new Omicron.

**Big Picnic**

The Big Picnic was held on the Common, Lundin Links on Sunday 14th of August. It was a great success, helped by the good weather. It was nice to see so many community groups attending, along with Councillor Eugene Clarke. MP Wendy Chamberlin was invited to attend and present the prize which was to encourage members of the community to contribute ideas for The Local Place Plan. The prize was kindly donated by The Green Room.

Thanks to Jan Kerr for organising the event.

**Defibrillators**

The East Neuk first Responders who were also present at the Big Picnic informed the Community Council that the defibrillator cabinets installed 10 years ago around the community are not up to standard and need to be replaced with cabinets which are more weather-proof and more stable in sunlight. Each cabinet will cost £500 including fitting. It was suggested that, as Largo Area Community Council has £6000 in the bank, we would donate £1000 to the First Responders towards the cost of the necessary replacements in the Largo Area. This suggestion was proposed by Mrs Low and seconded by Mrs Green.

**Traffic Calming Upper Largo**

A resident of Upper Largo attended the meeting to voice his concerns over the lack of traffic calming measures in the village and the speed of vehicles entering the village especially from the east. It was suggested that a starting point would be laying monitoring strips which log the speed of the traffic. It was suggested that the strip should be placed between the Buckthorns Farm entrance and the 30mph sign on the St Andrews Road. Also, there was a suggestion to deploy ‘Pop-up Bob’ the cardboard Traffic Police officer.

Councillor Clarke will bring the concerns to Fife Council and ask what measures can be taken.

**Homes for Ukraine**

An open meeting was held in the Simpson Institute, Upper Largo, organised by LargoAreaCommunityResilianceTeam to gauge the level of support the community might be able to give and to form an executive to take things forward and get an idea of the skill set required. 40 people attended and a brainstorming session took place with several experts in attendance sharing their experience. The idea is that this executive and LACRT will be taking on the responsibility should there be any requirement.

**Twinning**

Both a Zoom and actual meeting have taken place between Mr Aitken and Mr Allan and Michelle, an official from the French town of Villennes-sur-seine. The meeting was very positive, with Michelle keen to have the villages connected. Mr Aitken mentioned that he had contacted the primary school Head Teacher who was in favour and spoke about email pen-pals, however Waid are not interested in further twinning at this time. Mr Aitken also contacted the modern language department at St Andrews High but is still wating to hear back.

Nothing happens in France in August due to holidays but it looks like the twinning will be taken forward. Mr Aitken and Mr Allan will continue to pursue this.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

Kapital Residential has put itself into voluntary liquidation. The Liquidators have been in touch with Mr Aitken and they have replaced fences that were pushed over Mr Aitken took the opportunity to mention the flammable material in the hotel. The liquidators will inspect the building and see what can be done.

There are people already coming forward willing to buy the building with the original plans. The majority of the loan from the Government during the pandemic for the hotel is still to be paid back but the Liquidators will get the money when the hotel is sold if the company is unable to pay back the loan immediately.

**Housing Consultation**

A second Drop-in session was held in New Gilston Village Hall. This was not so well attended however the residents who did attend were very interested and talked about several other concerns they have.

Over the two consultations, including online submissions there were 151 responses, which is only a 4.92% turn out.

Looking at the results there were 47 for the development in the Durham field and 91 against with a few people not deciding.

Some of the comments on the objection side included, poor infrastructure, sewage, flooding, separation of the villages, impact on the landscape, impact on services etc.

There was some discussion about alternative sites in the Largo Area and it is hoped that they were included in the consultation or can be next year.

All the responses were collated and put into a spreadsheet and this along with the raw data will be sent to Fife Council.

Fife Council are in the process of gathering evidence for the Fife Local Plan and we are ahead of that with this consultation and the resulting evidence of our community’s opinion will be sent as a proposal into Fife Council. Next year there will be another consultation as part of the new Fife Local Plan.

**Bathing Water**

A meeting was held with Scottish Water, Jenny Gilruth MSP, Louise Robb LCT and Mr Allan LACC. Jenny Gilruth wanted to see a progress report.

Water testing is ongoing by SEPA.

Scottish Water is obliged to come up with a programme to improve the water quality if the testing proves to be below the legal standard. Their preferred idea is to lengthen the existing pipe.

Mr Allan is against this idea as it still involves putting sewage into the sea and has written a paper outlining a suggestion of using an energy storage solution to pump the sewage to where it can be properly treated. Mr Allan’s suggestion has been passed to Louise Robb LCT for possible consultation in the community. The main aim and outcome of any plan is to have a pollution free beach that allows the eco system to flourish in its natural state, the human impact is reduced and people can enjoy water sports in that pollution free environment and reap the benefits by having good physical and mental wellbeing.

**New Woodland, Lower Largo**

There has been lots of correspondence with the Crichtons, who are the landowners and one face to face meeting with David Crichton. They have been given the Woodland Trust report and are interested in the planting. They are happy that LACC will contribute towards the cost of the trees and that 75% of the tree cost will be covered. There has been no commitment as yet possibly due to the uncertainty over the housing development although the SuDS area should not be affected by any housing development and could go ahead asap with an agreement from Mr Crichton.

**Milk Walk**

The path has been cut and walkers are using it.

**Hill Head Street**

The problem with changing to a one-way system is that the residents of numbers 2 and 4 would have to reverse up a steep hill the wrong way to get into their properties. Mr Aitken has suggested a compromise solution of only having Hillhead Street made one-way. This is being looked at. There has also been a request for a sign to be put up on Emsdorf Road at the entrance to Hillhead Street saying ‘Suitable for Light Vehicles Only’.

**Largo Communities Together LCT**

* The Largo Place Plan is still ongoing, six months into a two-year project. Although the information from the postcards which were distributed has been collated, further postcards and comments would be very welcome.
* Disabled access to the Fife Coastal Path – Mr Allan initially approached the Woodlands Trust and after some negotiation has succeeded in getting the path from the old railway up to the Eagle Gates resurfaced and Fife Council resurfaced a length of the Coastal Path next to the Serpentine.
* A site meeting was held with Mr Allan, Robbie Blyth from the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, David Patterson our Area Services Manager, Councillor Clarke Jill Miller LCT and Jan Kerr local disabled access campaigner in order to discuss extending disabled access all the way along to the site of the old salt pans. One of the many problems is the gate at the north end of the Serpentine is very difficult to open in a wheelchair. The lack of a disabled facility at the Temple toilets is also being looked at.
* A new Disability and Inclusion post has been created on the LCT board and anyone who has problems or issues they should get in touch with Jan Kerr.
* The lane leading from Victoria Road in Lundin Links to the Sports Club is quite inaccessible due to potholes etc and needs resurfacing, however the ownership of most of the lane is in question. It was suggested that the lane may still be under the ownership of Montrave Estate.

**Planning**

Nothing to report

**AOCB**

* The problems of haphazard parking in the Temple Car Park are on-going. This has already been raised with David Patterson. There was a suggestion of countersinking paving blocks which would indicate spaces without being intrusive.
* There has been a site meeting at The Station Car Park and it is now on the schedule to be extended past the bin area, with the bins being moved further in.
* The parking in Penrice Park is still causing problems with a lot of cars in the past being vandalised. There have been incidents of drivers using private parking areas.
* Fife Council’s Traffic Service is very over stretched at this time our issues are all being looked at but they may take time.
* There are still vehicles going along the one-way system on the Main Street in Lower Largo, can the signage be looked at to make it more visible?

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 19TH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM IN THE DURHAM HALL LOWER LARGO**