**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21st OF SEPTEMBER 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 Barker. In attendance were Councillor Clarke and Mr Green representing Largo Communities Together.

Mr Aitken requested that a minute silence be held for the Queen who passed away on the 8th of September 2022. This Community Council meeting was postponed due to the Queen’s funeral as a mark of respect.

Apologies were received from Mrs Aitken, Mr Fox and Councillor Alexander. Mr Morrison also apologized for being unable to attend and set up the Zoom meeting.

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

**Corona Virus**

The virus is still with us but hopefully reducing in its severity. Letters are now going out for the latest round of booster jabs for those eligible, also you can go to the NHS website and book your booster jab yourself.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

A public meeting was held at The Old Manor Hotel on the 29th of August 2022 to discuss all issues involving the disruption caused by the fire which destroyed the Lundin Links Hotel. At the meeting were the Police, Councillors and Claire Middlebrooks from the Liquidators, who were called in when the hotel went into voluntary receivership. Around 160 people attended the meeting and a heated discussion ensued. The Liquidator suggested that the delay was the responsibility of the Scottish Government who is the secured creditor. This was refuted by the Scottish Government who were not told about the meeting.

Within 24 hours of the meeting, action was taken and demolition began on the 1st of September. The road was reopened although the planned roadworks between Lundin Links and Upper Largo starting on the 5th of September meant further delays.

Mr Aitken contacted the Liquidator to ask if any interested parties in the site could be informed of the Communities interest in the future of the site due to the recent history of non-communication and its prominent and central location in the village. Mr Aitken also asked that his contact details be passed on to any interested parties. In reply the Liquidator stated that only the successful bidder would be in touch so it is hoped that the Community Council will be in a position to liaise with the new developer and let them know that the community wishes to have an input during the consultation process.

Councillor Clarke stated that the Community Council would only be involved when the planning application comes in.

Mr Aitken had informed the Liquidator of the findings of the Fire Service with regards to the previous fires and flammable material which was needing to be removed. A risk assessment should have been carried out and it is thought that an investigation may be carried out by the insurance company.

**Water Supply**

Mr Aitken wrote to Scottish Water following the fire at The Lundin Links Hotel, at which the Fire Officers had to collect water from the Ladies Golf Club and The Old Manor Hotel, as well as relying on a water tanker which had to be requested. On the night in question senior Fire Commanders stated that the main problem was the shortage of water. There was not enough water in the Keil Burn for it to be used.

The Community Council have raised their concerns before when there was not enough water for a fire on Links Road and at a previous fire at the Lundin Links Hotel and there is a worry that if a multiple occupancy building such as Peacehaven was to go on fire there may be loss of life due to delay in getting a sufficient water supply. Scottish Water stated that they had no record of our previous complaint.

Scottish Water stated “Scottish Water have an agreed standard operating procedure with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) where they ask for assistance if they encounter low flows. We are committed to providing support to them and have regular liaison with the fire service where any issues can be discussed. Our network is designed for ensuring a reliable water supply to local communities and we will always provide as much water and support as we can in emergency situations. However, the network is unlikely to be able to provide the peak flows required during significant fires like this one, which require multiple fire-fighting units.

Dramatically increasing the pressure and flow in our network runs a high risk of causing pipes to burst, which would harm our ability to provide water for the fire-fighting effort.  If the network were run at a higher pressure at all times there is a risk of more frequent bursts and leaks.

To supplement flow, we can deploy tankers to provide extra water if needed and, in some cases, can increase flows by reconfiguring the network. The fire service has specialist high flow pumps which enable them to pump from other sources, further aiding in their ability to fight fires.”

The Community Council feel that an investigation needs to be carried out and the community needs to be reassured about the availability of sufficient water supply. It was suggested that water tenders should be based more locally for future emergencies and a high-volume pump should be based in Fife and on standby 24/7.

Following any reply from Scottish Water, perhaps The Care Commission should be contacted to look into the issue.

**Traffic Problems Upper Largo**

A resident in Upper Largo has brought to the attention of the Community Council the problem of oversized vehicles exiting North Feus onto the Main Street. As well as the danger of these vehicles going passed the primary school there have been several incidents of cars and houses being damaged, of which there is video evidence to pass onto Fife Council if required.

This road and junction are not suitable for large vehicles and in 2013 the Community Council was asked to get a No HGV sign put up. This was done at the Blindwells crossroads however, the sign has been removed and needs to be replaced. The problem has been worse during the recent road closures. Councillor Clarke will continue to try and get this problem solved. It is also hoped to inform the Sat Nav company so the large vehicles are not directed along this route.

Also mentioned at the meeting is the problem of traffic speeding coming into the village on both Main Street and St Andrews Road. Speed monitoring has taken place with the average speed being below 30mph. With this result Fife Council are not looking to put in speed restrictions, however the monitoring strips were not placed as requested between the 30mph sign and Buckhorns Farm road end. Fife Council will be asked if the monitoring can be repeated further out.

**Stagecoach Proposed Cuts**

Stagecoach have intimated that they intend to withdraw the 97 service between Leven and St Andrews via Largoward. This is a crucial service for those living in Largoward and areas of the countryside between Upper Largo and St Andrews who have no other bus service. Mr Aitken has written to Stagecoach to ask that the decision be reversed, with the suggestion that a smaller bus be used on the route. There has been no response as yet.

**St Andrews Community Hospital**

In 2019 Fife Health Board proposed to remove the Out of Hours Service at the hospital and due to a campaign of support from many groups in the St Andrews area the decision was reversed. Now it is intended to reconstitute the St Andrews forum this autumn and, with its backing, undertake a wider action regarding St Andrews Community Hospital, not only to preserve the hospital against further reductive moves but to regenerate and expand it.

Largo Area Community Council has agreed to lend its support.

**Playpark Lower Largo**

Recently in the Durham Park a child was chased by a dog and a concerned resident contacted the Community Council to ask if a fence could be put up round the play equipment area. Mr Aitken contacted Fife Council with this request, however Fife Council stated that it is a very large area and it is not their policy to fence in play areas. A sign will be erected to the effect that dogs should be kept under control at all times.

**Vandalism at Kirkton of Largo Primary School**

In August the staff at the primary school were devastated to find that there had been a number of acts of vandalism in the playground, including their football goals been ruined. Mr Aitken contacted the Community Police who visited the school and the staff have put out an appeal to members of the community to report any unusual behaviour.

It was agreed that the Community Council should contribute £50 towards the cost of replacement equipment as a goodwill gesture from the community.

**Twinning**

Progress has been made towards the twinning of Largo/Lundin Links with the French town of Villennes-sur-seine. The representatives from the French town have sent a brochure and have asked that we sent information about our area. Photographs have been taken and schools have been approached. The primary schools are very interested as well as St Andrews High, Madras and Bell Baxter high schools.

Our objectives would be for email and pen-pal exchanges to take place and if possible to have exchange visits.

**Housing Consultation**

Mr Aitken has sent all the relevant information to Fife Council and LCT will put the consultation information as a PDF on the Website.

**Largo Beach and Temple Car Park**

A meeting was held with Jenny Gilruth MSP on the 15th of September and once all the data from Scottish Water is collated there will possible be a meeting held in October. The shower facility in the Temple Car Park has not been given the go ahead yet and following several meetings organised by Jan Kerr to discuss a disabled toilet facility Robbie Blyth from The Fife Coast and Countryside Trust suggested a separate modular ‘Changing Places’ unit. Jan has also requested a beach wheelchair store.

**New Gilston**

The Community Council have been approached by a New Gilston resident who also represented the general view of the community with a number of concerns over a new development in the village. This includes protected trees which have been felled, domestic waste filling up the village bins and habitation on site which has not be authorised by Fife Council Planning. Mr Aitken has contacted David Patterson, Area Services Manager to ask for comments and also the Refuse and Council Tax Department of Fife Council.

Mr Aitken will ask the residents of New Gilston and Woodside again if they could put forward a representative to be on the Community Council.

**LCT Report**

* The focus for the Largo Place Plan at present is to get feedback from businesses, local groups, farmers and landowners on their needs and offers for a community action plan.
* The Pier Group are focusing on the problem of getting approval for grants but things are progressing and bricks are being sold to raise funds. A trial wall is being proposed to test how it would perform and consultation is being organised to keep the community informed and get feedback. Engineering stage three has been reached.
* There has been dialogue with the Polish Consulate who are looking for some expression of community engagement. There is a proposal to create a walk between Leven and Elie to be known as the Sosabowski Way named after Stanislaw Sosabowski, a highly decorated Polish General. There is also a planned day to highlight the proposal, including a sponsored walk along the route from Elie to Leven, a reception in the Upper Largo Hotel and a talk by Sosabowski’s Great Grandson Professor Hal Sosabowski in the Simpson Institute.
* There has also been mention of a plaque to commemorate the Polish Paratroopers on the War memorial
* A beach clean and survey will be held on Largo beach at 10.30 on Sunday 25th of September.

**Rail Campaign**

Two exhibitions are to be held showing the design and layout of the new stations – Methil Bowling Club on the 3-4 of October and Leven Community Centre from 3-6pm. People will be asked to comment and it is hoped that lots of questions will be asked e.g., where are the toilets and will there be bike storage.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE SIMPSON INSTITUTE ON THE 17TH OF OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.15PM**